



Observer report for Poteto Riichi Taikai 2019 (Riichi, MERS 2)

Observer: Daniel GAHLER





Date: June 1st – 2nd 2019

Place: Poznań, Poland

Website or other source(s) of information: All information are found on the specifically created website poteto2019.riichi.pl including registration, agenda, the referee-seminar and other information.

Participants: 27 players + 1 Substitute (due to one player falling ill)

Represented countries

POL	ESP	UKR	GER	---
				-
23	2	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 90 minutes

Location: The large conference room in the Hotel Moderno had a size of 100 m² and was very adequate.

Equipment: Games were played with clean sets on junk-mats on square tables, including one Riichi-Stick for each player. Scores of hands and games were recorded with the Mahjong Tracker app.

Refereeing: Marta Binkowska was non-playing head referee; Jakub Bacic was non-playing assistant referee.

Complaints: One player noted that the lunch on Saturday might have been too heavy on the pickles.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen, as well as mirrored in the app. A countdown clearly informs players of the start, and a gong and message from the app, as well as the organizer informs of the end of sessions. Ranking up to date after each individual finished table, visible through the app. A minor technical problem as well as a drop-out due to illness were handled expertly by the organizers.

Sessions: Tables and Seats were predetermined for numbers, which were then drawn randomly by the players when registering, leading to quite possibly the fairest and most balanced seating design. Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

Catering: The lunch in the hotel's restaurant (traditional polish cuisine) was covered by the registration fee. The organizers provided a very good advice for Saturday evening's food and drinks, which was followed by many players and the organizers.

Prizes: Trophies and sweets for individual ranking (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th), and a small towel for the last place. Furthermore, three puzzle prizes were given to randomly drawn players (to incentivise returning lanyards and name badges). Furthermore, notable results were summarized in the "Trophies"-section of the Mahjong Tracker app.

Conclusion: Great tournament in Poznań, always worth a visit. Good organization, everything taken care of. Preceded by a successful Referee Seminar, concluded with a joyful ceremony.