



Observer report for MCR Russian Open 2019 (MERS 2,5)

Observer: Anton Kösters

Date: September 14th – 15th, 2019

Place: Moscow

Website or other source(s) of information: All information was available on the website of Russian Mahjong Association: registration, program, list of participants.

Participants: 52 players

Represented countries

RUS	ITA	NED
		
49	2	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 120 minutes.

Location: A large playing room in a former institute building in the centre of the city, nearby several metro stations.

Equipment: Various sets of tiles of good size. Tables with cloths were OK, although the absence of a upright edge around the tables caused that regularly tiles dropped off the table during mixing. Cautious mixing required.

Refereeing: Vitaly Novikov was non-playing referee and was assisted by three playing referees (Aleksei, Petr and Denis). Not very much issues for as far as I could notice.

Complaints: None received.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected on a large TV screen. A gong to start and end the sessions. Ranking promptly updated between each session and projected on TV screen. Arslan did a great job as interpreter during the opening and closing ceremony.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, and thanks to all Russian players for their efforts to communicate in English.

For the first session, players were seated ad random and for the next rounds table seating according a 'best against best' schedule, where you never met anybody twice.

Catering: Coffee and tea and snacks available during breaks. Lunch was served in the canteen belonging to the institute.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and number last. And a special price for Galina for playing mahjong on the North Pole.

Conclusion: Good and well organized tournament. Although Moscow seems a remote location for Western European players to go to it is well worth the effort to go there. Apart from some extra effort to obtain a visa getting around is as easy as in other European cities and there is an awful lot to be seen. And damn good mahjong players too !