



Observer report for the Furitenya Riichi Tournament 2019

Observer: Luc Debrun








Date: 21-22 September 2019

Place: Bordeaux, France

Website or other source(s) of information: The tournament was hosted by Furitenya, the mahjong club in Bordeaux France. All information on the website of the Furitenya club at <https://furitenya.wordpress.com/>. The club also has a facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Furitenya/>

Participants: 36 players, including 1 substitute, from 7 different countries.

Represented players:

FRA	BEL	SUI	POR	POL	NED	GBR	—
							-
28	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 75 minutes

Location: The event was held at what is referred to in France as a neighbourhood house or youth house, a venue usually upkept by the city hall, where local associations, often targeting youth, can have their clubs and hold events. The Maison de Quartier Saint Jean is a particularly well-equipped multi story venue with a large meeting room with projectors, an adjacent kitchen/bar, a sofa area, and a small theatre stage area. The venue has large bay windows on one side providing good lighting to the meeting room. The venue has several toilets, including some which are accessible by disable persons on the ground floor – at the same level as the meeting room. It is very well located only a couple minutes walk from the main train station in Bordeaux. It can thus be accessed by bus and tram. Hotels in all price ranges abound near the train station. Rumour has it that the sofa area was so comfortable, one person slept there following social play on the evening before. Whether the rumour is true or not, the sofa area was appreciated by all who wanted to rest and allowed people to interact in a relaxed setting. The venue also has benches and tables outside for those wanting fresh air; and a clearly designed smoking area for those wanting not so fresh air.

Equipment: 9 nearly identical standard square tables, most with mat sets with integrated counters holders. Some had trays on a side chairs. All tables also had at least one side chair to hold the scoring and all last sheets. The table were comfortably spaced and the venue could hold a couple more tables if participation is higher in future years. The equipment was of a good quality. A player noticed a 5 pin tile with a very slight discoloration, which was immediately replaced.

Refereeing: A non playing referee (Mathieu Chambe) who continuously and tirelessly walked around the tables during game play ensuring fair play, and at times helping tables with the counting – only if it was required. It was a well noted and appreciated approach compared to some referees who sometimes stay at their desk and only get involved when called.

Complaints: No formal complaints.

The host deserves some credit. She went great lengths to address any concerns regarding the comfort of play such as getting the A/C working on the second day (30 degrees centigrade on the first day) and looking on how to improve lighting which was a small concern when the weather was not cooperating (cloudy rainy on the morning of the second day). The host also went the extra mile to find aspirin for a player, and a taxi company for another player – well actually the same player – who had to leave immediately after the last hanchan to catch a plane.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from an overhead projector on a wall clearly visible from all tables equally. The referee clearly informed players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session projected on the screen.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun). The host ensured that all sessions started on time.

Catering: Lunch in the same place (super sized sandwiches, with chips and drinks on both days). Some would have preferred smaller but more diverse sandwiches. The location offers outside tables which players could enjoy thanks to the weather cooperating during lunch time. The host also offered water/coffee/tea to drink and fruits, cakes and other niceties to nibble on during breaks.

Prizes: Trophies and some local wine for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd).

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in a wonderful location in Bordeaux and with a great playing atmosphere. Particular credit goes to a great host who did her best for the players and to ensure quality and competitive play.