



Observer report for Vienna Riichi Open 2023 (Riichi, MERS 3,5)

Observer: Łukasz Grzybowski












Date: 1st-2nd July 2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of riichimahjong.at: registration, schedule, list of participants, fee cost, competitors number, deadline for registration, the adres of the venue

Participants: 52 players

Represented countries

AUT	GER	POL	FRA	UKR	SVK	BEL	POR	NOR	HUN	DEN
										
21	8	6	5	4	2	2	1	1	1	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 hanchans (4+4) of 75 minutes + finish current hand and one more

Location: Youth hostel's conference room had enough space for 52 players. People could also choose to sleep at the venue for low costs.

Equipment: Standard riichi mahjong sets and mats of various sizes

Refereeing: Peter Hamilton was non-player referee.

Complaints:

- the Pantheon app was displaying wrong timer of 60min instead of 75, even though it was working properly

-There were complains about the app giving North seat to a few players a lot in a row

-We started 10 minutes late due to one player being late

-Some players complained that some people are too loud while playing on the table like laughing or talking too loudly, Peter did try to make people quiet though constantly reminding about it

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen, which was necessary as the Pantheon app's clock had a bugged display to 60 minutes despite counting normally. The results were then visible on the pantheon app after all tables are finished and the organisers confirmed the results. There were also paper score sheets in case the backup is needed.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun).

Catering: Lunch in the same place (buffet), drinks and snacks

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), and chocolates for the rest of the top 10

Conclusion: As always, excellent tournament in Vienna organised by Lena, I think it is the future of the tournaments to use an app to make the counting points and displaying them easier, however Pantheon app needs to have few changes regarding the more fair seating, and few bug fixing, It does show excellent statistics that I like. I think we also need to think which way we should go towards the future regarding the friendliness, as it is definitely fun to meet friends on a tournament and be talkative because of that, however it does disturb some players on the other tables, We need to think what should be allowed and what should not.