



**Observer Report for Riichi Dutch Open 2023 (RCR, MERS 2.5 [Days=2, Countries=0, Players=0,5, Extra=0])**

**Observer:** Arnaud RENARD

**Date:** November 4th-5th, 2023

**Location:** Copenhagen, Denmark & Berghem, Netherlands

**Source of Information:** All details available on the Riichiclub Niji website: <https://niji-riichi.nl/rdo-2023/> - including registration, program, list of participants, etc.

**Participants:** 52 players

**Represented Countries:**

Netherlands	Belgium	Germany	Romania	France
				
33	13	3	2	1

**Playing Schedule:**

The tournament spanned 2 days, featuring 9 rounds (5+4) of 90 minutes each.

**Location:**

Slazenger Padel Centre, Berghem

**Equipment:**

The 13 mahjong sets used were uniform, featuring identical tiles (size and color), junkmats, and tables. Table dimensions, slightly larger than the junkmats, provided an optimal combination. Each table was equipped with identical point sticks—1 500-point sticks and 3 5000-point sticks.

**Refereeing:**

A non-playing referee oversaw the proceedings. At the commencement of the first hanchan, the referee established a clear 20000-point penalty (5000 per person) if the scoresheet failed to reconcile at the hanchan's conclusion. Fortunately, no penalties were incurred, as participants meticulously conducted their counts.

**Complaints:**

During the initial hanchan, some tables faced visibility issues with the clock while seated. The matter was promptly addressed, with the referee elevating the clock after being informed.

No water bottles were unavailable. In return goblets and complimentary tap water were provided at the bar.

An online scoreboard was not accessible.

**Information/Communication during the tournament:**

A visible digital timer clock, raised for clarity, initiated each hanchan. Audible dongs marked the hanchan's commencement and, after 75 minutes with the referee mentioning that every table had to finish their round and play a last one. Referees instructed all tables to conclude their rounds and play a final one. At the end of each hanchan, scoresheets were printed and prominently displayed on two walls.

**Sessions:**

All hanchans commenced punctually, with no tournament delays.

**Catering:**

Both days featured a consistent menu, offering:

- Dutch croquettes
- Vegetable bouillon
- Bread with butter, cheese, ham, and salami
- Salad with eggs and cucumber
- Vegetarian ham alternative
- Cheese croquettes
- A specific gluten-free dish

**Prizes:**

Trophies were awarded for individual rankings (1st, 2nd, and 3rd). The 1st-place winner also received a trophy as the reigning champion, to be returned next year. Beers were provided for the assisting team and the ema observer.

**Conclusion:**

The tournament offered an excellent playing atmosphere characterized by Fair-play, Friendliness, and Fun (FFF). Sessions progressed smoothly, and no major complaints were reported.