



Observer report for 6th Open Italian Riichi Championship Bologna – (Riichi, MERS 3,5)

Observer: Sérgio Matos Lima

Date: 9 & 10 December 2023

Place: Bologna, Italie

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of Federazione Italiana Mahjong : registration, program, list of participants...

<https://www.fimj.it/>

Participants: 48 players

6xAUT ; 1xESP ; 8xFR ; 5xUK ; 1xGER ; 16xITA ; 5xPOL ; 1xPT ; 1xROM ; 1x SWITZ ;
1xSWE ;1xUKR

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (5+3) of 90 minutes

Location: The location was a clubhouse called “Caserme Rosse”. It was easily accessible by public transport from the city center of Bologna in around 15min. There was ample space and a bar that offered coffee and snacks for reasonable prices.

Equipment: Tables where the right size and height, and sets where uniform Amos Monster riichi sets including Junk Mats.

Refereeing: Michael Gürtl-Dusleag and Joël Ratsimandresy were the two playing referee.

Complaints:

1. Start of first han chan was delayed by an hour (*due to no-shows and participants arriving late*).
2. One table (and two during first han chans) had a “substitute bot” for each han chan. Participants had to draw and place the tile on the further left of the bot’s hand and discard on the furthest right of the hand of the bot.
3. Start of the game and end of game was not heard by all players during the first day. A gong was put in place in the second day. Some players also complained about the loudness of the gong.
4. Clock was visible by all tables but not visible by all players (not facing the clock).
5. A complaint was raised by a participant that they expected more from the food (quantity, type of dishes).
6. A complaint was raised regarding the fact that only one bathroom for women was available in the facility.
7. A complaint was raised regarding the visibility of the scores between each han chans and the tables to go next during the first day.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Timer, standings and seating assignment were displayed on a laptop screen placed prominently in the front of the room and on the wall.

A member of the organization was announcing the start of the han chan and end of sessions during the first day, using a gong during the second day.

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

Catering: Lunch in the same place, in a separate room (typical Italian food with lasagna, focaccia, including veggie option), drinks (at the counter). Sweets and cakes were served during Sunday.

Prizes: Top 12 received giftbox with typical Italian products (airplane friendly). Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th). Medals for the top 3 Italian players of the year. Referees and Observer received typical Italian chocolate boxes.

Conclusion: The Bologna tournament (which had significant increase in players and nation represented) has been carried out successfully by the Italian organization team despite the challenges (no shows, delayed participants, ill-substitutes...).