



Observer report for (RCR, MERS 3.5) **1st Riichi Milano Open**

**Observer:** John Duckworth

**Date:** 17-18 February 2024

**Place:** Milano, Italy

**Website or other source(s) of information:** All information on the website of FIMJ; registration, program, list of participants, discussions with players.

**Participants:** 56 players

**Represented countries**

ITA	FRA	GBR	UKR	SVK	SUI	SWE	POL	JPN	GER	ESP	BEL	AUT
21	13	9	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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

**Location:** Casa dei Giochi. Lighting was good.

**Equipment:** Standard Riichi tiles & Junk mats all in good condition; comfortable tables & chairs.

**Refereeing:** Karolina Trepinska, Joel Ratsimandresy (both playing)

**Complaints:** One player felt that a photographer briefly taking pictures, unannounced, in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day was a playing distraction. The organisers apologised and invited those who wished not to have their photograph published to contact them.

**Information / communication during the tournament:**

The registration procedure included a Chinese red packet for each player to choose at random. Inside was a player number and its associated table schedule.

Announcements made to signify the start and conclusion of each hanchan supplemented by some interim timing alerts. Time remaining was shown on a laptop computer and timing bell sounded after 75 minutes. Ranking projected onto a large screen in the break room after each hanchan.

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

**Catering:** A buffet lunch was served each day in the break room. It included a varied selection of cold cuts and other foods, and included wine, beer and hot/cold drinks. There was also a break after hanchan 4, where snacks and drinks were served.

**Prizes:** Trophies were presented for individual ranking (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>), plus goody boxes were presented to players ranked 5<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Prizes of Artisan handicraft were presented for the best score in each hanchan and also given as mementos to the Referees and Observer.

**Conclusion:** Very nice tournament in Milan.