



Observer report for 13th UK Riichi Open 2024 (Riichi, MERS 3.5)

Observer: Martin RYDLAND

Date: July 27th – 28th 2024

Place: Godalming, United Kingdom

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of the UK Mahjong association: <https://ukrc2024.azurewebsites.net/> (registration, program, list of participants, scores, etc)

Participants: 60 players

United Kingdom	-	50
France	-	2
Belgium	-	2
Germany	-	1
Ireland	-	1
Czech Republic	-	1
Switzerland	-	1
Hong Kong SAR	-	1
Poland	-	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (5+3) of 75 minutes (+ time to finish Hanchan + 1 more)

Location: Godalming Masonic Hall, a venue with a playing room distinct from the eating spaces, and a pub which served snacks and beverages.

Equipment: We played on riichi sets and junk mats of good quality. One of the sets needed to be switched out after the first Hanchan as it was clear that due to a manufacturing error in the set, one of the green dragons could clearly be distinguished when face down in the wall. A replacement set of good quality was brought out. The players had marked 500 points sticks for convenience and specific renchan markers to be used if needed. Furthermore, loan-sticks had different colour (yellow)

Refereeing: John Duckworth was non-player referee.

Complaints: Some complaints of slow play, and some chatter/banter while play was going on. This was handled by the individual tables and the organizers did not need to get involved.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on a screen. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session projected on the wall, and accessible via QR code.

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

Catering: Lunch at the same location (two different hot dishes + desserts), with unlimited coffee and water. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for purchase behind the bar. British pub on Saturday evening which ca. 30 people participated in.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), as well as best 2nd day, best hand, Daisangen, worst hand, best foreigner and best newcomer.

Conclusion: Very well organized tournament, the ambience was very friendly and everything was there to give the players the best playing conditions.