



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

Observer: Joaquín Derrac Rus

Date: November 9th-10th 2024

Place: Twickenham, London, United Kingdom.

Website or other source(s) of information:

<https://www.mahjongtwickenham.com/> : For general information about the tournament, location, travel directions, 2-day schedule and participants.

<https://twiklive.azurewebsites.net/> : Hosting a live view of the tournament – scoreboard, individual round results, and other statistics (same platform as in previous UK tournaments).

Participants: 56 players (14 tables)

Countries represented: 13 (10 inside of EMA)

- United Kingdom: 37 players.
- Germany: 3 players.
- France: 1 player.
- Switzerland: 1 player.
- Italy: 1 player.
- Spain: 1 player.
- Poland: 1 player.
- Denmark: 1 player.
- Sweden: 1 player.
- Ireland: 1 player.
- Hong Kong: 4 players.
- Japan: 3 players.
- China: 1 player.

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 75 minutes + current hand + a final hand.

On the second day there were (unfortunate) instances where a chombo was declared in the last round of a hanchan, extending the duration of the round far beyond the allotted time. This was, however, properly accommodated by the referees and the organisers with no major disruptions to the schedule.

Location: The Richmond Bridge Club, Cambridge Park, Twickenham, TW1 2PG, United Kingdom. The building included a room with enough space to host the 14 tables - and possibly a few more - 2 waiting areas and several amenities. Travel to the venue was easy through various means of public transport (bus, train, tube) as it is in walking distance to several stations.

Equipment: 14 mahjong sets and Amos Junk mats (loaned by a London based company, G-Research) in good condition. Paper score sheets and orasu sheets were provided.

Refereeing: 4 playing referees served in both days. John Duckworth & Martin Lester (United Kingdom), Joël Ratsimandresy (France) and Simon Picard (Ireland)

Complaints: No complaints were made during the tournament.

Information / communication during the tournament:

A digital clock projected from a computer on multiple screens around the play area. The organisers clearly announced the start of every round, and the end after 75 minutes.

The <https://twiklive.azurewebsites.net/> website showed standings, hanchan scores and various statistics. These were updated shortly after the end of every round.

Tables and winds were pre-determined for all players. These allocations were provided on a paper card with each player lanyard upon registration. The referees & the observer wore special red lanyards, highlighting their roles.

Sessions: Excellent playing atmosphere, FFF (Fair-play, Friendly and Fun). No pair of players played together more than once; and each player had each initial starting wind exactly twice. The referees promptly attended to several player requests, both for rules clarification and loans of extra tembo.

Catering: Mineral water, tea and coffee, and sweets available to players at all times. Other drinks & snacks could be bought at the venue. Lunch happened in the same building, with players using the 2 waiting areas and overflowing into the tournament room if necessary. Warm 2-course lunches (main and dessert) served on both tournament days, including vegetarian options. Several players praised its quality - particularly on the second day.

Prizes: Trophies for the top 4 players in the ranking after the 8 hanchans. Small prizes for players in ranks fifth to tenth, for referees & observer, and for the single yakuman scored in the tournament. The prizes were announced by the organisers and presented by a senior member of the Richmond Bridge Club (the host of the venue).

Conclusion: A successful tournament, with a nice atmosphere both friendly and competitive. Would definitely recommend future editions for international players wishing to enjoy a different slice of London's life, whilst playing their favourite game.