



Observer report for Ryanpin Riichi Open 2024 (Riichi, MERS 2)

Observer: Robert MUNDEL

Date: November 16th-17th 2024

Place: Graz, Austria

Website or other source(s) of information:

<https://www.riichimahjong.at/neuigkeiten-termine/ryanpin-riichi-open-2024/> :
For general information about the tournament, location,
travel directions, 2-day schedule and participants.

<https://rating.riichimahjong.at/>

The pantheon app used to track points during the game and tool for players to look at the ranking and statistics between and after the tournament has finished.

Participants: 20 players

Countries Represented: 4

- Austria: 14 players
- Germany: 4 players
- France: 1 player
- Slovenia: 1 player

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

Location: A room within the Graz University of Technology with enough space to host 9 tables. There was plenty of space as only 5 were needed for this tournament. The location was within 2 minute walking distance of different bus and tram stations. Social play on saturday evening in the nearby Café KORK.

Equipment: Standard Riichi Mahjong sets and mats.

Refereeing: Michael Gürtl-Dusleag, Dominik Hammerl and Lena Weinguny were 1st, 2nd and 3rd player referees.

Complaints: No complaints were made during the tournament.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a computer on the wall. Players were informed of the start of the round by the organisation and the end of the round by the referee. Ranking was visible using the aforementioned app and projected on the wall in between rounds.

Sessions: Relaxed, sportsmanlike and fun playing atmosphere throughout the whole tournament. The schedule was followed.

Catering: On Saturday, lunch in a Gastropub nearby, on Sunday all you can eat buffet in a Chinese restaurant down the street. The food and one drink were paid for in each of the restaurants and the players were happy with the quality of the food. In breaks between rounds, players were offered coffee, various drinks and home-baked goods as snacks.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), trophy for the Austrian overall champion of 2024

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Graz, unfortunately 4 players cancelled shortly before due to sickness and only 20 of the 36 spots were taken in the end. The weather was cold but sunny. The drink and food was very generous considering low tournament fee of only €50. Overall I would call the tournament a success despite its low player count, most players behaved in a well-spirited manner and lots of fun was had playing Mahjong. I will definitely attend again in the future and I can't recommend it enough to others considering it.