

Observer report for the Swedish Riichi Open 2024 (Riichi, MERS 3)

Observer: Michael van der Sluijs

Date: November 16th and 17th 2024

Place: Stockholm, Sweden

Website or other source(s) of information: All information regarding Location, Registration, Fee, Players, Schedule etc. was available on https://uppsalamahjong.se/2024_rcr.php
Information regarding table results, ranking and seating was available on <https://mahjong.chaotic.quest/>

Participants: 60 players

Represented Countries

SWE	FIN	GER	ROU	POL	UKR
40	9	5	3	2	1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 hanchan (5+3) of 75 minutes, after which you finish the current hand and 1 more (if possible)

Location: The "Midsommargarden (Stora Salen)", perfect size for the max amount of players (60) with break rooms outside of the playing area.

Easily reachable by metro as it was directly outside of the "Telefonplan" metro station.

Equipment: New tile sets were used for this event. Junkmats were provided by the organisers and local players. 12 tables were provided by the organisers and 3 tables from the venue were used. Everything was the correct size for Riichi Mahjong.

Refereeing: Anna Zubenko (Head Referee) and Jasper Germeys were both Non-Playing Referees.

At the start it was announced that the referees had to sign for any penalty and confirm the final scores after each hanchan was over.

Referees reacted quickly to any players requesting them at their table, making sure play could resume in a timely manner.

Complaints:

There were some minor complaints regarding the push back of the schedule on day 1, where because of venue restrictions the organization had little time to set up the equipment. Leading to a

delay of roughly 20 minutes.

Some players mentioned the air quality in the space led to headaches and the like, this was immediately resolved by opening windows in between hanchan and leaving some of them open during play. This did mean it was a little cold in the room, which was manageable.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock projected from a laptop for the 1st hanchan, from the 2nd hanchan on the timer was projected on a big screen.

A gong and call from the head referee clearly informed players of the start and the end of sessions.

Ranking up to date between each session, visible on a website players could reach through a QR code that led to <https://mahjong.chaotic.quest/> which was printed on papers hung up around the venue.

Pre-arranged wind distribution which was also available through the QR code.

Sessions: Exemplary behaviour from everyone involved, veteran players helped beginners when needed or asked. This led to an overwhelmingly positive experience professionally(gameplay wise) and socially(conduct wise).

Catering: Drinks and snacks were provided throughout both days, included were Soft-drinks, coffee, tea, water, biscuits and fruits.

There was no pre-arranged lunch which some people mentioned was an inconvenience to them, on the flip side, most players were more than happy to find something for themselves as we had plenty of time during lunch break and there were an abundance of options available around the venue, such as a supermarket, several restaurants, food trucks and delivery.

Prizes: Beautiful trophies for the top 3 individual players and a gorgeous wooden plaque for the highest ranked Swedish player(Swedish Champion) Fang He, congratulations once again to her!



Conclusion: Considering there has not been a tournament in Stockholm since before Covid I have nothing but praise for the organization and volunteers. They made this tournament a great experience for all the players and definitely one to look forward to in the future!