Observer report for MCR Russian Open 2016 (MCR, MERS 2)

Observer: Oscar van den Nieuwendijk

Date: November 4th – 6th 2016

Place: Saint-Petersburg, Russia

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of the Russian Mahjong Federation: http://mahjong.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=345 registration, schedule, hotel info, list of participants,…
Also the organisers provided help for players needing visa, hotel booking, info how to travel. Much appreciated.

Participants: 5 countries, 44 players: Latvia (1), Austria (2), Netherlands (3), Italy (4), Russia (34).

Playing schedule: 3 days, 11 rounds (4+4+3) of 120 minutes.

Location: Russia, Saint-Petersburg, Lermontovskiy prospekt, 43/1, AZIMUT Hotel Saint-Petersburg ★★★, hall with panoramic view of city of Saint-Petersburg.

Equipment: We played with different games on excellent special made hand crafted table-tops.

Refereeing: Aleksei Shpilman was non-player referee.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament:
Visible clock on multiple large monitor screens on the wall. A gong clearly informs players of the start and the end of sessions. Ranking up to date between each session and displayed on the monitors on the wall.

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

Catering: Drinks and small snacks in same room. Lunch (self) locations in hotel or other restaurants nearby, indicated on map provided.

Prizes: Trophies for rank 1, 2, 3 and presents for rank 4 and 5.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Saint-Petersburg, with beautiful view over city while playing. It is a pity there are not more players of the bordering countries.