



Observer report for Royal Dutch Open 2022 (Riichi, MERS *tba*)

Date: Nov. 5/6, 2022

Observer: Ian Fraser (GBR)

Place: De Berchplaets Community Centre, Berghem, Netherlands

Website or other source(s) of information: All information on the website of Schoonspel Club, including registration, tournament schedule and list of participants. Organisers were most helpful with additional information requests.

Participants: 68 players



NLD 29 BEL 15 DEU 9 GBR 5 ROU 4 FRA 4 ESP 1 JPN 1

Playing schedule: 2 days, 9 rounds (5+4) of 90 minutes

Location: The excellent facility of De Berchplaets community centre in Berghem, with adequate space for the number of tables in play, and room to spare. The setting was enhanced by the addition of Chinese lanterns, adding to an overall professional presentation of the venue.

Equipment: Conventional sandwich style riichi sets and Junk mats on specialist mahjong tables. Full table assignment provided at registration. Seating positions resolved by dice roll.

Refereeing: Playing referees: Pieter Potmeer, Ans Hoogland, Martijn Gulmans

Complaints: ~~Complaints:~~ **Potential enhancements requested were:**

A scoring chart for each table (to assist players less familiar with some scores)

Personal Identification badges

Consider use of available technologies for scoring, seating and results presentation.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Projection of countdown timer throughout hanchan on large screen. Manual gong signified the start and 75 minute warning for each hanchan. Ranking update after each session posted on wall, and at times displayed on main screen.

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

Catering: Coffee and tea from dispensers on arrival and during breaks. Regular provision of snacks between sessions and an assortment of rolls and local delicacies for lunch on both days. There was the option of joining a group dinner on Saturday a few minutes' walk from the venue.

Prizes: Trophies for top individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and consolation prizes for:

the score closest to zero after two full days and nine rounds of play
preventing all other competitors from finishing last

Conclusion:

A very well run and successful tournament, conducted in good humour throughout.

