



Observer report for Riichi Dutch Open 2024 (RICHII, MERS 4.5)

Observer: Arnaud Renard

Host : Olav Sommers

Date: Mai 10–12 2024 (3 days)

Place: Oss, Netherland

Website:

All details are available on the SCHOON SPEL website: <https://www.schoonspel.nl/toernooien-tournaments/riichi-dutch-open/rdo-2024>, including registration, program, list of participants, results, etc.

Participants: 76 players

Represented countries:

NED	BEL	FRA	FIN	GER	GBR	ROM	POL	SWI	DEN	CAN	HUN
											
36	15	8	4	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1

Playing schedule:

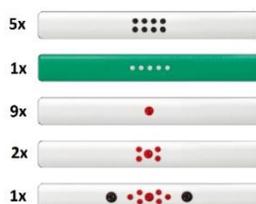
3 days, 12 rounds (3+5+4) of 120 minutes

Location:

Wijkcentrum Schadewijk
Leeuwerikstraat 2
5348 XA Oss
Nederland

Equipment:

19 uniform mahjong sets with identical tiles (size and color), junkmats, and tables. The tables, slightly larger than the junkmats, provided an optimal playing area. Each table was equipped with identical point sticks:



Refereeing:

- Non-player Referee: Pieter Potmeers
- Player Referees: Jacqueline Oudshoorn, Ivar Bouwman, Martijn Gulmans

Pieter Potmeers was quite reactive, and there were no complaints about the refereeing.

Complaints:

- **Water Supply:** No water bottles were available on the first day, leading participants to request free tap water. Sufficient water bottles were provided on the next two days.
- **Food Quality:** Multiple participants complained about the food being bland during the first two days, including vegetarian meals, and the lack of clarity on which snacks were vegetarian.
- **Equipment:** Some junkmats were bent.
- **Room Temperature:** The room became too hot for some players on the last day.
- **Prize Ceremony:** The player who finished last was called out without receiving any prizes, which some felt was inappropriate.

Additional complaints about gameplay and etiquette:

- **Pace:** The time between hands (shuffling and building walls) felt too slow for some players.
- **Language:** On some tables, participants spoke Dutch, excluding one or two players who couldn't understand.

One player went more specific on Etiquette Issues:

- Touching another player's wall.
- Throwing point sticks instead of placing them respectfully.
- Using large latten.
- Using both hands to discard.
- Placing calls on the left side of the table.
- Not shuffling correctly.

Positive Feedback

- **Scoring Sheets:** Innovative scoring sheets with the player's name, global tournament points, and ranking.
- **Venue Space:** The hall was spacious and comfortable.
- **Decor:** Flags of every participating country were displayed on the back wall.
- **Quiet Atmosphere:** The hall remained quiet during the hanchan, and players left the hall promptly after counting points.
- **Facilities:** Sufficient and clean toilets throughout the tournament.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Two visible, well-synchronized clocks were projected in two corners of the hall, providing a clear view of the timer for everyone.

A gong signaled the start and end of sessions.

Rankings were updated between each session, printed, posted on walls, and kept up-to-date on the website.

Sessions:

Excellent playing atmosphere, characterized by Fair-play, Friendliness, and Fun (FFF).

Catering:

- Friday: Sandwiches (ham or cheese), Soup.
- Saturday: Sandwiches (ham and/or cheese), Soup.
- Sunday: Peanut chicken, Roasted chicken wings, Fried cheese crepes (industrial, vegetarian), Soup, and after the last hanchan a mix of fried snacks.

Prizes:

Trophies for individual rankings (1st, 2nd, and 3rd). The 1st-place winner also received a trophy as the reigning champion, to be returned next year.

For every hanchan, the player with the highest score received an illustration from a local artist depicting funny scenes with mahjong tiles.

A bottle of wine for the referees and the EMA observer.

Conclusion:

The tournament provided an excellent playing atmosphere characterized by Fair-play, Friendliness, and Fun (FFF). The innovative scoring sheets were helpful for understanding the opponents' standings and mental states. I particularly appreciated the thoughtful touches, such as displaying the flags of every participating country on the wall.