



Observer report for Great Wave 2024 (Riichi, MERS 2)

Observer: Mateusz Woźniak

Date: June 29th – 30th 2024

Place: Espoo, Finland

Website or other source(s) of information: All information available on the tournament website (<https://aaltomahjong.github.io/#/turnaus-gw24>): registration, agenda, list of participants, information about the venue, payment details and transportation tips.

Participants: 36 players from 3 countries: Finland (30 players), Sweden (4) and Poland (2).

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 rounds (4+4) of 75 minutes + finish the current hand + play one more.

Location: Pub “Taproom d20”, reserved exclusively for the event, nicely fitting the number of players.

Equipment: Good quality and shape tile sets, junk mats and some Amos compasses. Laminated reusable oorasu sheets.

Refereeing: One playing and one non-playing referee, which was more than enough, as there were only a few calls for a referee during the entire tournament.

Complaints: No big complaints, only two minor (both of them unfortunately quite common at EMA tournaments):

- it is unclear how the seating was determined, as there was no drawing lots of any kind at registration
- it would have been nice if some of the tile sets had been refreshed before the tournament to avoid being a bit sticky/dirty

Information / communication during the tournament: Visible clock projected from a computer on a large screen. The non-playing referee clearly informed players of the end of the 75 minute limit. Ranking after each session displayed on the screen.

Sessions: Seating predetermined at some point before the tournament. No player has played with the same player more than once. Each player started as East, South, West and North exactly twice. Fair-play, friendly and fun playing atmosphere.

Catering: Water, tea, coffee and light snacks available for free during the whole tournament. The entry fee did not include lunch, but restaurants were available nearby and also the organizers placed a group order on both days at one of them for interested participants. Players could also order drinks from the bar during breaks.

Prizes: Cup trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Sweets for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last place, the best foreign player and yakuman scorers.

Conclusion: A very nice and well organized tournament in Finland, can definitely recommend taking part in it next year.