



Observer report for Bologna Double Race 2024 (Riichi, MERS 1)

Observer: Kenneth Chan

Date: June 29th, 2024 (Saturday)

Place: Bologna, Italy

Website or other source(s) of information: Registration, schedule, list of participants and payment information are found on the website of FIMJ in both English and Italian:

https://www.fimj.it/?page_id=9960

Participants: 16 players

Italy: 15; Germany: 1

Playing schedule: 1 day, 4 Hanchans of 75 minutes + 1 Hand

10:30 – 12:00 1st Hanchan

12:15 – 13:45 2nd Hanchan

13:45 – 14:45 Lunch

15:00 – 16:30 3rd Hanchan

16:45 – 18:15 4th Hanchan

18:30 Prize giving

Location: **Via Corticella 147** Caserme Rosse is a clubhouse where people can gather for communal and social activities. Good accessibility with public transport and it is not far from the city centre.

Equipment: Standard Amos Begin Riichi mahjong sets with junk mats all in good condition. Tenbo sticks were used to record scores.

Refereeing: Alan Coli was the playing referee.

Complaints:

1. Begin of the tournament was delayed for more than 20 minutes because some players arrived late due to traffic congestion. However, we caught up after lunch and the 3rd Hanchan started on time according to the original schedule.
2. Table numbers were not clearly marked, but this was just a minor problem as there were only 4 tables.

Information / communication during the tournament:

Visible clock from a computer. The referee announced the beginning of each session and started the timer. A ringtone from the computer informed the elapse of the 75-minute limit. The ranking was updated after every Hanchan and was visible from the computer.

The organisers also printed out point tables for players to use as reference.

Most communication was in Italian. Important information was translated to English for me as the only non-Italian speaker by the referee. Despite language barriers, point-counting and transactions were clear without major problems.

Before the all-last game, players wrote their current scores on a piece of paper visible to all players at the table.

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

Catering: Optional lunch at the same place with the choice of salad, panini sandwiches and pasta at a reasonable price and of good quality. Players could also buy drinks, snacks or coffee at the kiosk in the building.

Prizes: Sausage as gift for the referee and the EMA Observer, as well as for the player with the best result in each individual Hanchan. Goodie bag with a lot of food as prizes for the top 3 individual players.

Conclusion: Very nice tournament in Bologna. Players were very friendly and welcoming even though we didn't speak the same language. Thank you FIMJ for the organisation!