

OEMC 2007

Open European Mahjong Championship 2007 Newsletter 1

April 2006

Mahjong history in Nijmegen, The Netherlands

The historical city of Nijmegen, dating back to roman settlements 2000 years ago, was the beautiful scene of the first Open European Mahjong Championship in June 2005. The OEMC 2005 was smoothly organized by the committee from the Dutch Mahjong Association in the grand concert hall De Vereeniging, ensuring a wonderful experience for both guests and participants.

108 mahjong players competed for the honour of the European title, which in the end went to Masato Chiba from Japan. Second was the 2002 World Champion, Japanese Mai Hatsune, and Yoshinori Kato, also from Japan, took the third place. The Japanese were indefeasible, taking half the places in the top ten, and the Chinese team also performed well, accounting for two spots in the top ten. Best European was Sune Korreman, Denmark, at fifth place, followed by Luca Gavelli, Italy at sixth place.

The OEMC 2005 was a historic event which also saw the founding of the European Mahjong Association. The EMA general assembly elected Uwe Martens of Germany as president, and decided that the next European mahjong championship will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2007.

Since then things have been happening really fast in Europe. Tournaments a-plenty are taking place, the Mahjong Europe Ranking System has been established, and the eagerness of the European players to travel across the continent bodes well for the next OEMC.



The Open European Mahjong Championship 2005 in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, was a huge success and a milestone in the history of mahjong.

OEMC 2007



Participants

In Copenhagen 128 players will participate. In addition to the individual competition, each player will be part of a team of four players. Therefore the country quotas for the participants are based on the number 4. 88 places go to the national mahjong organizations in Europe. 12 places go to other European countries. At the moment we know of three countries with players interested in the Official International Rules. 20 places go to countries outside Europe. This means there are 8 extra places which are for now reserved to increase participation from European countries without national organizations.

For EMA countries with a national organization the qualification procedures to play in the national teams are in the hands of the seven national organizations. Likewise for Japan and China. For other European countries the participation will be based on expressions of interest. Interested players from countries without national organizations are encouraged to contact the OEMC 2007 Organizing Committee, if they have not already done so. Players from Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Netherlands should contact their national organization.

Country	Quota
The Netherlands	20
Italy	16
Denmark	12
France	12
Germany	12
Austria	8
Hungary	8
European Org.	88
Belgium	4
Sweden	4
United Kingdom	4
Rest of Europe	12
China and Chinese Taipei	8
Japan	8
USA	4
Rest of the world	20
Extra	8
Total	128



Fruitful discussions take place between the 2005 Dutch Organizing Committee and the 2007 Danish Organizing Committee.

OEMC 2007

Head of Referees: Uwe Martens



Uwe Martens, president of Deutsche Mah-Jongg Liga, president of European Mahjong Association and Head of Referees at the OEMC 2007.

Playing at the OEMC 2005 in Nijmegen went very smoothly because the team of referees were very well-prepared. To make sure this will also be the case in Copenhagen, the OEMC 2007 Organizing Committee has asked Uwe Martens, who refereed in Nijmegen, to be Head of Referees at the OEMC 2007, and we are very happy to announce that he has gladly accepted.

Uwe will be putting together a team of referees with representatives from several European nations and he will organize discussions and meetings within the referee team, which is envisioned as a team of four referees including the head of referees.

The booklet of regulations prepared by the Dutch Organizing Committee for the OEMC 2005 covered virtually all practical details regarding the playing sessions and was a great help for the players as well as the referees. The document will be slightly revised and updated by the Danish Organizing Committee in cooperation with the European Mahjong Association.

OEMC 2007

The Concept

Time: 21-24 June 2007

Place: Copenhagen, Denmark

Rules: Official International Rules (OIR) also known as Chinese Official (CO) or Chinese Mahjong Competition Rules (CMCR). These are the rules used at the first world championship in Tokyo, 2002, and at the first OEMC in Nijmegen, 2005.

Competitors: 128: 88 from European national mahjong organizations, approx. 20 from the rest of Europe and approx. 20 from the rest of the world (China, Japan and USA).

Organization: The OEMC 2007 Committee appointed by Mahjong Denmark

- Tina Christensen (Chairman), tina@mahjong.dk, +45 2125 9153
- Anders Łabich (Treasurer), labich@mahjong.dk, +45 3122 1157
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- Jesper Willemoes Hansen, carrier@worldonline.dk
- Uwe Martens (Head of Referees), um@dmjl.de

Web site: <http://oemc.mahjong.dk/>

Pre-tournament sight-seeing will be organized for those interested in the period 18-20 June 2007. Copenhagen has a rich variety of historical sites, museums, shopping opportunities, arts and entertainment.

The Committee is working hard to ensure that the OEMC 2007 will live up to the high standard set in Nijmegen, and we look forward to welcome you all in Copenhagen.

Best regards,

Tina Christensen
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