

OEMC 2007

Open European Mahjong Championship 2007 Newsletter 2

Sep. 2006

Dear mahjong friends in Europe and around the world!

The OEMC 2007 is taking shape. A spacious venue has been booked in the very centre of Copenhagen, Idrætsfabrikken in Valdemarsgade, 1 km from the central station. We believe this will be a very nice setting for the joyous event that we are sure the OEMC 2007 will be. We are proud to present to all our mahjong friends a programme with lots of mahjong playing time, time for socializing with the many international players and an optional sightseeing programme.

A regulation booklet is under preparation with publication expected in the autumn of this year. Rule uncertainties and minor differences in rule implementation across Europe have been known to exist, therefore certain rules are clarified in these regulations. Also a new official rule source is available to us with the final English translation from Chinese of the Mahjong Competition Rules under the auspices of the World Mahjong Organization. The OEMC 2007 regulations will be finalized in collaboration with the European Mahjong Association to ensure agreement across Europe.

At the OEMC 2005, the competitors had the possibility of acquiring a nice mahjong set of memorial tiles with Dutch motives. We so much liked this idea that we have decided to do the same. We are not yet ready to show the tile designs, but we are quite happy with the draft versions! The tiles will be without the western numerals, and they will be used for playing at the tournament. We will be sure to make the design of the tiles public as soon as it is possible, so that everyone will be able to familiarize themselves with the designs.



Kronborg Castle. To be, or not to be, in Copenhagen, that's the question currently around Europe, where qualification tournaments are taking place.

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Registration

The registration fee for OEMC 2007 will be €170. This fee covers the competition, a welcome reception, three lunches and one dinner. Accompanying persons who would like to participate in the reception and the meals, will have to pay a registration fee, not exceeding €100, covering the expenses in question.

Registration opens for OEMC 2007 on 15 January 2007 and closes on 15 March 2007. The exact registration procedure will be announced later this year, but **beware that registration for the OEMC 2007 will only be open to:**

- persons who are qualified through the national organizations of Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and the Netherlands, plus China Majiang Championship Organizing Committee, Japan Mahjong Organizing Committee and Japan Mahjong Sports Association.
- or persons from other countries who have expressed their interest of competing in the OEMC 2007 to the organizing committee before **November 1st 2006**, preferably via email to Tina Christensen at tina@mahjong.dk.

Hotels

Block reservations of hotel rooms with special-offer prices have been made at hotels in close proximity to the venue (distance 1–2 km), in order to ensure that the national teams are not spread over numerous hotels. The price of the cheapest rooms are €71/€87 for a single/twin room; and plenty have been reserved.

Further details about hotels and travelling to Copenhagen will be available on the home page <http://oemc.mahjong.dk/> later this year.



Left: Nyhavn. Maritime atmosphere and classical Copenhagen five-storey houses; Nyhavn bustles with pedestrians and the sidewalk restaurants are crowded when the sun's out. *Right: Skt. Hans Torv.* Typical Copenhagen scene. In Copenhagen more people go to work by bicycle than by car. Coming to Copenhagen you may well want to rent a bike to get around town. *Next page: Sortedams Sø.* The characteristic square lakes, part of the old fortifications around the medieval city, are today an important recreational area.

OEMC 2007

Pre-Tournament Sightseeing Programme

Copenhagen has a rich variety of historical sites, museums, shopping opportunities, arts and entertainment.

The programme for pre-tournament sightseeing options is not finalized, but we present here the main options. Beware that the prizes are not final, as the 2007 prices are not available to us yet.

On top of the guided sight-seeing tours we will recommend places in Copenhagen to visit and places to eat, incl. nice places to play mahjong.

Copenhagen City Tour by Boat. Monday June 18 and Thursday 21 2007. One hour boat trip with English/French/German-speaking guide. The route is very picturesque and covers the beautiful old Stock Exchange, The Little Mermaid, the royal Amalienborg Palace, Our Saviour's Church with the famous twisted spire, the parliament Christiansborg, the Royal Library, the new Opera and many more beautiful and historic sights. This is a highly recommended trip. *Expected price €8.*

Viking Tour, Tuesday June 19 2007 A day trip to Roskilde (30 km from Copenhagen). Take a step back in time to the Bronze Age, with a visit to the Viking Ship Museum and a 5000 year old passage grave. The Viking Ship Museum offers the possibility of a sailing trip in a Viking Ship at an expected extra cost of €25–50, depending on which ship. The trip will also include a visit at Roskilde Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, built in the 12th and 13th centuries and incorporating both Gothic and Romanesque architectural features. Since the 15th century it has been the main burial site for Danish monarchs. *Expected price: €50 (excl. lunch and sailing trip).*

Castle Tour of North Sealand, Wednesday June 20 2007. A full day excursion with English-speaking guide. It is quite easy to understand why William Shakespeare chose Elsinore Castle as the setting for his famous play 'Hamlet'. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings and feel the atmosphere taken through the Chapel and the Knights' Hall (the longest room in Northern Europe) and the dark casemates. Lunch en route (not included in the tour price). After the break, our tour continues to Fredensborg. The Queen's Summer residence of Fredensborg palace is attractively located in the middle of a lovely park, bordering the idyllic Esrom lake. The next highlight on this tour of many highlights is Frederiksborg Castle, built by King Christian IV. This pearl of history, built in magnificent Renaissance style, is now a national historical museum. It contains paintings, tapestries, porcelain, silver and furniture of great historical value. This tour is the classic amongst excursions while visiting Denmark. *Expected price: €60.*



OEMC 2007

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 world championship in Tokyo, 2002, and at the first OEMC in Nijmegen, 2005.

Time Schedule: 10 sessions of 90 minutes will be played over three days. Thursday evening there will be a welcome reception. Friday morning will be the official opening of the OEMC, and four sessions will be played. Saturday the competition continues with four sessions, and in the evening there will be an official banquet. Sunday the last two sessions are played, and there will be an award ceremony and the official closing of the event.

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
- Henrik Leth, dsl283580@vip.cybercity.dk
- Jesper Willemoes Hansen, carrier@worldonline.dk
- Jeppe Stig Nielsen, mahjong@jeppesn.dk
- Uwe Martens (Head of Referees), um@dmjl.de

The organizing committee strives to make the OEMC 2007 a great and wonderful mahjong event, which means plenty of mahjong playing in an atmosphere of friendship and sportsmanship with time in the evenings and lunch breaks for socializing with the all the mahjong players coming from around the world.

When you travel a long distance to play mahjong, we believe there should be plenty of playing time. Therefore we have planned a four-day event with three days of mahjong playing. At an event with so many competitors (128) it is unfortunately not possible to meet all the other competitors at the mahjong table, but with 10 sessions of 90 minutes we want to ensure that you all get a good chance to meet many different players throughout the event.

Best regards



Tina Christensen
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