

# Open European Mahjong Championship

## Happy news from Nijmegen

The Open European Mahjong Championship is coming at great pace... The Dutch EC Team has been working hard on the event for over a year now. And we are glad to announce great news: we have found a sponsor who has given us a unique location for the tournament. Furthermore, a decision has been made about the deputations for Nijmegen 2005. Enjoy reading this newsletter!

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## A splendid location



In our last newsletter, we promised more news about sponsorship, and here we have some very good news indeed. We have succeeded in finding a sponsor for the best location we could dream of. The OEMC will take place in the finest hall of Nijmegen: the ING Zaal in 'The Vereeniging'.

The 'Vereeniging' (the Union) is the most important concert hall in Nijmegen. The beautiful multifunctional building in Art Deco and Art Nouveau style was built in 1914. In 1999 it was completely restored and brought back in the original style, but with all modern facilities. Nowadays, it is part of Keizer Karel Podia, named after the famous emperor Charlemagne, who once had a residence in Nijmegen. This company has decided to sponsor the OEMC. In the outstanding ING Zaal (also an acknowledged wedding hall) there is plenty of place for the one hundred players who will all try to be the first European Mahjong Champion. The adjacent Keizer Karel Foyer will be used for the official dinner and social activities.

You can see the facilities, including the ING Zaal, on the internet: <http://www.keizerkarelpodia.nl/pages/gebouwen/concertgebouw.php>.

## Long live the rules

Thanks to the forthcoming European Championship, the Official International Rules are gaining popularity.

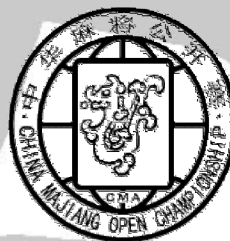
The first European international tournament with these rules was held last month in the small Northern German town of Edeweicht. The Deutsche Mah-Jongg Liga (German Mahjong League, DMJL) had organized a little tournament to inaugurate the two automatic shuffle tables of DMJL-president Uwe Martens and member André Marohn. Eight Dutch players were invited to compete against eight German players. The Dutch were the favorites (and they won indeed), but more important than the result was the enthusiasm of both the German and the Dutch participants. Everybody seemed to like the Official International Rules!

Furthermore, on the Danish championship the Official International rules will be used. This tournament will take place in Copenhagen, August 21. Since it is an open competition, anyone can participate. Please contact Tina Christensen ([tina@mahjong.dk](mailto:tina@mahjong.dk)) for all information.

## Japan for Nijmegen

The OEMC 2005 is casting its shadow in Japan as well. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, in Tokyo a tournament will be held where the main prizes will be four tickets for 'Nijmegen 2005'. The tournament is being organized by the Japanese Mahjong Organizing Committee (JMOC). The JMOC was also responsible for the 2002 Tokyo World Championship in Mahjong, together with the Mahjong Museum and the city government of Ningbo (China).

## Open Mahjong Championship of China



Another tournament with the Official International rules: in Hong Kong, for the second time the Open Mahjong Championship of China will be held (November 28 ~ December, 1, 2004). The registration fee is 120 USD (after October 15 it will be

150 USD). Players from all over the world can participate.

<http://www.mahjongnews.com/champchina-eng.htm>.

## A forum for you

Questions (answers, perhaps) about the Official International Rules? On the website Mahjong News a discussion forum has been opened for all kind of questions about the rules, and about the championship. Experts like the American mahjong guru Tom Sloper and the Tokyo 2002 referee Ryan Morris assist in answering the questions.

Url:

<http://www.mahjongnews.com/phorum/list.php?f=1>

# Open European Mahjong Championship

## The official handbook

Do we use racks? (No.) Do we use tiles with Arabic numerals? (Yes.) Where do we put our melded series? What to say when you go out? What happens when you arrive late? Désirée Heemskerk, secretary to the Dutch Mahjong League and a member of the EC Team, is writing the official handbook for the European Championship. To be published in combination with the now-famous Takeshobo rulebook towards the end of the year.

## The national delegations

The Dutch Mahjong League has determined the size of the delegations that will compete on the European Championship. Figures below are based on a survey amongst countries and organizations that have shown interest.

Denmark	10 participants
Germany	10 participants
Italy	10 participants
Japan	10 participants
Sweden	4 participants
Belgium	2 participants
United Kingdom	2 participants
Russia	2 participants
United States	2 participants
Finland	2 participants
Portugal	2 participants
France	2 participants
Taiwan	2 participants
The Netherlands	40 participants

## How to get there

The figures above are *minimum* figures. If some players do not show up, or some countries will abandon participation, other countries will get an extra quantum. The way of qualification will be done by the national mahjong leagues – if any. E.g. since there is no mahjong organization in Portugal, two Portugese players have been asked to subscribe by the Dutch Mahjong League. In Germany, the Deutsche Mah-Jongg Liga will have to determine which players will be sent to Nijmegen.

## What you get there

The subscription fee to the OEMC will be €100, and includes: reception on Friday June 24; playing the tournament on Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26; lunches and drinks during the competition; the official dinner on Saturday, June 25. There are medals for the players who end on the places 1, 2 and 3; depending on additional sponsorship there may be more prizes.

The subscription does not include hotel cost. With local hotels in Nijmegen special arrangements will be made for participants to the tournament. In time due, we will also provide the players with information about camping sites in Nijmegen and the availability of staying with mahjong friends in the surroundings of the city. Probably, there will also be a touristic program.

## More about subscription

Subscription to the Open European Mahjong Championship will start on January 15, 2005, and closes on March 5, 2005. Of course, players from other countries than the ones that are listed in this Newsletter, can also subscribe.

## Let the Winds blow

Practicing the Official International rules is not easy if you do not have friends who are familiar with them. But even if you are the only mahjong player in your country, it is possible to master them. The computer game FourWinds 2.0 offers almost every local mahjong variant, including Official International (here called Chinese Official). Just download a free trial version (Windows only).

More information on <http://www.4windsmj.com/>