



2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit

**Season Nine**

**Palm Beach Kennel Club**

**Palm Beach, Florida**

**Event #3**

**HORSE**

**Buy-In \$300 (+65)**

**Total Entries: 174**

**Prize Pool: \$52,200**

**February 17-18, 2013**

## **Clifton Wards Off Opponents in HORSE Championship**

### **Georgia Business Owner Clifton Ward Wins Second Gold Ring of the Palm Beach Series**

**Palm Beach, FL (February 18, 2013)** – The day after Zack Milchman opened the Palm Beach series by winning the Pot-Limit Omaha High-Low Split title, Clifton Ward worked his own magic by winning the HORSE Championship. Ward collected \$14,094 in prize money, plus his first-ever gold ring.

Ward is a 49-year-old businessman from Fitzgerald, GA. He plays relatively few poker tournaments each year, but has made them count by cashing numerous times in tournaments played here in Florida as well as the WSOP in Las Vegas. However, none of his previous accolades compares with the thrill of victory.

Ward topped the tournament in a game noted for testing all-around poker skills, HORSE. The tournament requires players to compete in five different games. Inexperience and weakness is often easily exposed.

The final table was a tough test, particularly for those that lasted the longest. Ward defeated Clifford Kitey in heads-up play. The duel lasted nearly two hours. Kitey, the owner of an insurance agency from Jupiter, FL ended up collecting \$8,707 in his first-ever time to cash in a WSOP event.

Pamela Buzetto, from Tampa, FL took third place. We've had two final tables and two females, so far – but still no winner. Loni Harwood remains as the last and only female to win a gold ring here at the Palm Beach Kennel Club, which took place in 2012.

Ward was complimentary towards those he competed against and wasn't looking for any publicity. He seemed content with the satisfaction he has competed on a major stage and won. Ward did note he was very lucky in life, being married with two wonderful daughters.

No doubt, it appears Ward hit the daily double – lucky in poker and lucky in life.

The final table finishers were as follows:

1st – Clifton Ward	\$14,094	Fitzgerald, GA
2nd – Clifford Kitey	\$8,707	Jupiter FL
3rd – Pamela Buzzetto	\$6,212	Tampa FL
4th – Samuel Panzica	\$4,510	Saline MI
5th – David Recke	\$3,334	Boynton Beach FL
6th – Lenny Cortellino	\$2,509	Lewiston ME
7th – Robert Campbell	\$1,922	Miami FL
8th – John Simcox	\$1,499	Intercession City FL

### **Tournament Notes**

- This was the third official event of this year's WSOP Circuit being held at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. However, it was the second gold ring event to finish, since Event 1 is scheduled to finish a day later.
- Day One began with 174 starters. After 15 levels of play and ten hours of action, only 27 players survived.
- Winner Clifton Ward came into the final table with an above average stack., but he was ranked third in chips when the action started.
- The early chip leader was Pamela Buzzetto. She ended up finishing third.
- The runner-up was Clifford Kitey, from Jupiter FL.
- The final table included only one previous gold ring winner – Robert Campbell, from Miami, FL. He ended up finishing in seventh place.
- All final table players were Americans.
- The final table went about eight hours.

As the second gold ring winner, Ward is now tied in the Casino Champion race for the Palm Beach series. He accumulated 50 points for his victory.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in the Palm Beach Kennel Club's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and shall receive automatic entry into the \$1 Million 2012-13 WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof. The qualifier will join the winner of the \$1,675 buy-in Main Event (February 23-25), who also wins an automatic seat.

All players who cash in gold ring events receive points that apply to both the Casino Championship race (good for Palm Beach Kennel Club events only) and the season-long race to

claim one of the 60 at-large National Championship bids to be awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit at the Palm Beach Kennel Club runs through February 25, 2013.

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For additional information, please contact:

Nolan Dalla (WSOP Media Director) at: [nolandalla@gmail.com](mailto:nolandalla@gmail.com)