

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season 11  
Harrah's Cherokee  
Cherokee, N.C.  
Event #4  
No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry  
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)  
Total Entries: 2,937  
Prize Pool: \$881,100  
April 17-20, 2015**



## **Chris Russell Pockets \$125K in Cherokee's Largest Tournament**

**Chris Russell makes his first WSOP cash a memorable one by defeating a 2,937 entry field to earn \$125,559 and a WSOP Circuit gold ring.**

**Cherokee, N.C. (April 21, 2015)** -- Event #4 -\$365 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry had a \$500,000 guaranteed prize pool. Well forget about that, because a sea of players flooded into Cherokee, North Carolina to create the largest poker tournament the Harrah's Cherokee property has ever seen. The \$500,000 guarantee was blown away. The three starting flights drew an incredible 2,937 entries to create an \$881,100 prize pool. The first place finisher was set to win \$125,559 of that \$881k.

This tournament brought buzz to the tournament room. It was an opportunity for players to turn their \$365 buy-in into life changing money. The stakes in Cherokee were higher than ever. Chris Russell saw this tournament on the schedule and although doesn't play much poker anymore, would give it one shot. No re-entries, just one bullet and a dream. He hopped in his car and drove from Chattanooga, Tennessee to play in Friday's 5 p.m. flight. He managed to make it through Day 1 on his only bullet and was able to bag exactly 100,000 chips, ten times what he started with on the day and just slightly above the average. After bagging chips, Russell headed out to his car and slept there for the night.

Saturday was an off day and then he was back Sunday for Day 2 of the tournament. Russell worked his way to top of the chip counts and finished the day third in chips out of the 19 survivors. Things continued to go well for Russell and by the time final table was reached on Day 3, he had the chip lead. At the final table, things were up and down for Russell. He lost the chip lead a few times, but took back control of the tournament after knocking out Bruce Webb in fourth place, which gave Russell over half of the chips in play with three players remaining. Two hours later Russell had all of the chips and the gold ring around his finger.

It took Russell three long days of grinding, a night of sleeping in his own car, and a grueling six hour final table to capture his first WSOP Circuit gold ring and the \$125,559 first place prize.

“It’s not real, it’s not real. The whole three days are a blur right now,” said Russell about his victory. “It feels like the first day was a year ago.”

Russell won the final hand to knock out runner-up finisher, Jason Brauda, with a rivered flush. He let out a loud clap and told himself that that he couldn’t believe what just had happened. He shook his opponent’s hand and went to call his wife to share the good news.

This is life changing money for Russell and he described it as hitting the reset button. In joking fashion, Russell said that he was originally just trying to win enough money to upgrade his four-year-old phone with a broken case.

Russell defeated a tough final table that included Tim Bowman (8th place) and Adam West (7th place). Bowman won the Main Event in Cherokee two years ago when the WSOP was here for the first time. He followed that victory up with a fifth place finish in the National Championship just two months later. West final tabled this same event one year ago. He finished in fourth place for just under \$30k.

Event #4 was the fourth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah’s Cherokee in Cherokee, N.C. The \$365 No-Limit Hold’em Re-Entry tournament attracted 2,937 players, generating a \$881,100 prize pool. The top 297 players were paid.

The first flight of Day 1 began Friday at 5 p.m. and lasted 15 levels. The second flight began Saturday at 12 p.m. and the third and final flight began Saturday at 5 p.m. Day 2 began Sunday at 2 p.m. with 353 players remaining. Day 3 began Monday at 3 p.m. with 19 players remaining. The tournament concluded Tuesday at 12:05 a.m. at end of Level 36.

Notes on the event:

- This is the largest WSOP Circuit event ever hosted at Harrah’s Cherokee with 2,937 entries.
- Day 2 was originally supposed to begin at 12 p.m. Sunday, but was delayed until 2 p.m. because of the record breaking senior’s event that began that day and drew 1,237 entries.
- Adam West (7th place) reached the final table in this event one year ago. He finished in fourth place last year.
- The final table lasted just over six hours long.
- Flight A drew 718 entries with 78 advancing. Flight B drew 1,301 entries with 160 advancing and Flight C drew 918 entries with 115 advancing.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Harrah’s Cherokee twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place at the end of the year.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 56 at-large National Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harrah's Cherokee:

EVENT #1: Tony Sewell defeated 466 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$30,050

EVENT #2: John Morris defeated 242 players (\$365 PLO) for \$17,787

EVENT #3: Matthew Lee defeated 581 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$36,598

EVENT #4: Chris Russell defeated 2,937 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$125,559

With the fourth tournament wrapped up, eight more ring events remain at the Harrah's Cherokee series.

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