

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Event #4

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 98

Prize Pool: \$29,400

September 20-21, 2015



John Vale Earns First Ring in PBKC \$365 Event

Tampa, Fla. amateur makes the trip across Alligator Alley worthwhile, heads home with \$8,821.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (September 21, 2015) — The World Series of Poker Circuit continued on Monday afternoon at the Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach, Fla. In addition to two new gold ring events, Monday featured Day 2 of Event #4, a \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament. The event restarted at 2 p.m. with just six players remaining. Less than four hours later, John Vale of nearby Tampa emerged victorious to the tune of his first gold ring and an \$8,821 payday.

"It's pretty awesome," Vale said of the ring. "I've definitely always wanted to have one of these. I'm pretty stoked about it."

Vale, a 30-year-old mechanical engineer, made the trip east following some successes at his home casino in Tampa. Having previously only played one event at the PBKC series in 2011, his newfound confidence motivated him to partake in a full schedule this time around. He's been at the property for nearly a week, but until Monday had come up dry. He made Day 2 of the \$580 re-entry event, ultimately finishing 66th with just the top 63 players earning money. After that, he took an hour to himself, grabbed some dinner and late registered Event #4. From there, the rest was history.

"I play at the Hard Rock in Tampa and I've been doing really, really well there on all the tournaments I've played in," Vale said. "It was definitely a bummer [busting] the \$580. Coming back it feels real nice to actually take one down."

Vale began Day 2 of Event #4 second in chips and had a front row seat as start-of-day chip leader Michael Triolo sputtered and found himself on the rail sixth. It was Arash Behnam who took control late, but he met his fate third. The heads-up match between Joseph Patalano and Vale weighed heavily in Patalano's favor to start, but Vale's star shined brightest on Monday as he bested the rest to earn \$8,821.

"At the end there things kind of came together," Vale said. "I finally started getting some good cards and staying ahead [...] I've been playing a bunch of [tournaments at the Kennel Club], but I've got a few more of them to play in still."

Vale's Event #4 victory marks his first WSOP-related cash and his first gold ring victory. His best previous tournament finish came last month in a \$125 event at his home casino where he finished fourth of 184 players.

Event #4 was the fourth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event attracted 98 players. The total prize pool came to \$29,400 and the top 12 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Sunday, September 20 at 3 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped following Level 18 (about 2:45 a.m.). Day 2 resumed Monday at 2 p.m. with six players remaining and action concluded toward the end of Level 23 (about 6 p.m.).

Final results:

1st: John Vale - \$8,821
2nd: Joseph Patalano - \$5,451
3rd: Arash Behnam - \$3,881
4th: Bernie Lubitz - \$2,819
5th: Michael Vitorino - \$2,089
6th: Michael Triolo - \$1,577
7th: Melisa Singh - \$1,213
8th: Michael Schoen - \$959
9th: James Puritz - \$757
10th: William Pappas - \$614
11th: Jeffrey Satinoff - \$614
12th: John MacGregor - \$614

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Palm Beach Kennel Club:

EVENT #1: Joshua Beckley defeated 317 players (\$365 Monster Stack) for \$22,349
EVENT #2: Matthew Ezrol defeated 57 players (\$365 HORSE) for \$6,412
EVENT #3: Jonathan Abela defeated 615 entries (\$580 NLH Re-Entry) for \$64,575
EVENT #4: John vale defeated 98 players (\$365 NLH) for \$8,821

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Palm Beach Kennel Club's 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 50 expected at-large WSOP Global Casino Championship bids awarded to the top point earners. More information on the season-ending event is available on WSOP.com.

All rings at the Palm Beach Kennel Club are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2015/2016 WSOP Circuit season.

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