

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 12
Bicycle Hotel and Casino
Bell Gardens, Ca.
Event #10
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$3,000 (+\$250)
Total Entries: 67
Prize Pool: \$201,000
March 28-29, 2016**



David Malka Wins High Roller Ring at Bike

Local cash game player and former professional gamer wins \$70,355 and first ring.

Bell Gardens, Ca. (March 29, 2016) — Cash game players experience a daily grind without as many highs and lows that tournament players can typically experience over the course of their careers.

David Malka has been a winning cash game player for the last decade, but only recently started taking tournaments more seriously because he was looking for some more excitement in his life. Coming on the heels of a few consecutive cashes in other big buy-in events, Malka wins his first ring and \$70,355 in the \$3,250 no-limit hold'em high roller event.

"I wanted to travel and it makes sense to play tournaments while I'm traveling," said Malka about his recent venture into big buy-in tournament poker. "Also, there is just less thrill in cash, so I guess it's more exciting to play tournaments."

Malka has been making the majority of his money through playing high-stakes no-limit hold'em cash games in the Los Angeles area, for the last several years, but traveling is in his blood.

After high school, Malka spent some time backpacking through Europe before moving to China to pursue his career in professional video gaming. After the Warcraft games started to die down, Malka stayed in China to teach English.

While he was spending time in the classroom, his old video game friends were spending time on the virtual felt.

"A lot of my Warcraft friends transitioned (to poker) before me," said Malka. "I went to go teach English and they were like 'Dude, it's so easy online,' and some of them were making so much money."

"Some of them were living in Macau and they just got me into it. I had no idea how to play and they were making so much money. So I just played like 16 hours a day, seven days a week until I figured it out. Then I just started playing higher and higher."

Malka also dabbled in some of the live cash games while he was in Macau. He wasn't playing the nosebleed games that Phil Ivey and Tom Dwan were infamously involved in, but he was dabbling in games that were the U.S. equivalent of \$40/80 no-limit hold'em.

"The games were super awesome back then," said Malka of the games in Macau. "Nobody knew what they were doing."

Eventually, Malka found his way back to the other side of the Pacific Ocean and started making his mark on the Los Angeles poker scene. Over the last months, he's found cashes in several big buy-in tournaments, culminating in a ring win that saw him square off against several bracelet winners, ring winners, and WPT champions.

This was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$3,250 no-limit hold'em high roller event attracted 67 players. The total prize pool came to \$201,000 and the top 7 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Monday, March 28 at 3:00 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped up around 1:00 a.m. with 16 players remaining. Players returned on Tuesday, March 29 at 1:00 p.m. to and a final table was reached at 3:40 p.m. A winner was crowned at 8:00 p.m. The entire duration of the final table lasted about four hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Bicycle Hotel and Casino:

EVENT #1: Truong Nguyen defeated 995 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$55,200
EVENT #2: Jose Ramirez defeated 158 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,795
EVENT #3: Eshed Hadaya defeated 130 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,915
EVENT #4: Susie Genard defeated 125 players (\$365 Omaha 8 or Better) for \$10,490
EVENT #5: Zahi Bahar defeated 117 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,520
EVENT #6: Bob Bounahra defeated 83 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$26,555
EVENT #7: Robert Gil defeated 145 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$12,255
EVENT #8: Bert Beavers defeated 413 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$27,275
EVENT #9: Antonio Esfandiari defeated 756 players (\$1,675 NLH Main Event) for \$226,785
EVENT #10: David Malka defeated 67 players (\$3,250 NLH High Roller) for \$70,355

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Bicycle Hotel and Casino'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 the at-large Global Casino Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

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