

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Event #11

The Main Event

Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)

Total Entries: 524

Prize Pool: \$786,000

February 17-20, 2017



Raminder Singh Wins Palm Beach Kennel Club Main Event

South Florida IT consultant destroys a tough final table to earn first ring and almost \$170,000

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (February 20, 2017) — Raminder Singh is the newest WSOP Circuit Main Event Champion, outlasting a field of 524 entries at the Palm Beach Kennel Club to notch a breakthrough victory. He collected his first gold ring, the top prize of \$168,995, and a seat in the 2017 WSOP Global Casino Championship courtesy of a dominant final table performance.

Singh is a 42-year-old IT management consultant who was born in New Delhi, India. He comes from a Sikh family, a religious background that entails a large amount of social service and charity work. He's lived in the United States for his entire adult life, and he now makes his home in nearby Delray Beach, Florida. He's been married to his wife, Delia, for 10 years, and the couple has two children, daughter Sonya (age 8) and son Shawn (age 5).

Singh advanced through Day 1B of this Main Event with 116,500 chips, slightly above the average. By the time Day 2 concluded, he was essentially tied for the chip lead with 10 players remaining, just a couple big blinds behind Sam Panzica. After the initial feeling-out period on Day 3, Singh charged to the top and led nearly wire to wire thereafter.

"I got really lucky in a sense," Singh said. "Well, poker players call it lucky, but I just started getting good hands at the right time. It was a good run." A good run, indeed. Singh got run over by the deck, as they say, showing down a myriad of huge hands over the course of the six-hour final table.

He ran good, too. Singh won consecutive coin flips early in the day, eliminating Daniel Letts and Eric Bunch within the span of just a couple minutes in eighth and seventh places, respectively. He eliminated William Kopp in fourth place with ace-queen against king-queen, and he found pocket kings against ace-queen to send Jesus Cabrera off in third.

Steven Stout was the other player who had his hands on the chip lead briefly, and he and Singh ended up heads-up for the ring at the end of the day. Singh began the duel with a big lead that he never relinquished, and although Stout battled valiantly, he could not stop the seemingly inevitable.

A little less than an hour into the match, the final hand played out with Stout shoving king-six and Singh calling with jack-ten. It was one last case of run-good for the day, as Singh flopped one ten and turned another to lock up the win one card early.

Singh's career keeps him occupied from nine to five, so poker is still just a hobby. For now, at least. "I consider myself an amateur poker player," he said. "But in Florida, the poker action is so good, you leave work at 6 p.m., and there's a tournament gong on."

Although he's not a professional poker player by definition, Singh's results underscore plenty of talent on the felt. He had two six-figure scores early in 2016, and he's started off 2017 with another one to further bolster his resume. Both of the previous results were runner-up finishes, but this one comes with a victory, a career-best payday, and a piece of jewelry to mark the accomplishment. "Feels terrific," he smiled broadly as he admired the ring. "Feels great."

Singh said he integrates the game into his business, too, often entertaining clients from the opposite side of a poker table. One of those clients, Jack Sumner, was on the rail for the duration of Singh's final table run, and it was he who helped Singh find poker initially. Sumner was part of a bar league game in Boca Raton in 2006, as Singh tells it: "He calls me one day and he's like, 'Come over, play poker, I registered you.' I knew nothing about poker. Not even the ABCs."

That was in 2006. Sumner showed Singh the ropes with a quick pregame coaching session, and it turned out to be quite a profitable lesson in the long term. In the last three years, Singh has won a handful of significant tournaments and amassed nearly \$700,000 in total earnings. He and Sumner are part of a local poker community called Slum Donkey Poker, and the champ credits that group for supporting him throughout his recent poker conquest.

The Main Event was the 11th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. The \$1,675 no-limit hold'em event attracted 524 entries, creating a prizepool worth \$786,000. The final 54 players finished in the money.

The tournament began with two starting flights on Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18. Day 1A drew 220 entries and advanced 39 players, and Day 1B drew 304 entries and advanced 51 players. Both flights began at 12 p.m. and logged 15 levels of play.

The combined Day 2 restarted with 90 players on Sunday, February 19 at 12 p.m. The money bubble burst during Level 18, and play concluded for the night with 10 players remaining at the end of Level 25. Day 3 began Monday, February 20 at 12 p.m., and the tournament concluded around 6 p.m.

The ten-handed final table began during Level 25, with 12,000/24,000 blinds and a 4,000 ante. Here were the seating assignments, chip counts, and stack sizes in big blinds:

Seat 1: Peter Vitantonio	547,000	22 bb
Seat 2: Eric Bunch	447,000	18 bb
Seat 3: Scot Masters	859,000	35 bb
Seat 4: William Kopp	1,367,000	56 bb
Seat 5: Steven Stout	1,114,000	46 bb
Seat 6: David Berman	552,000	23 bb
Seat 7: Daniel Letts	1,326,000	55 bb
Seat 8: Raminder Singh	1,432,000	59 bb
Seat 9: Jesus Cabrera	993,000	41 bb
Seat 10: Sam Panzica	1,800,000	75 bb

Final Table Results

1st place: Raminder Singh (\$168,995)

Hometown: Delray Beach, FL

WSOP earnings: \$14,347 WSOP Circuit earnings: \$172,764 (1 ring)

2nd place: Steven Stout (\$104,483)

Hometown: Milford, MI

WSOP earnings: \$1,332 WSOP Circuit earnings: \$113,626

3rd place: Jesus Cabrera (\$76,328)

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

WSOP earnings: \$11,048 WSOP Circuit earnings: \$215,972

4th place: William Kopp (\$56,584)

Hometown: Brecksville, OH

WSOP earnings: \$10,976 WSOP Circuit earnings: \$137,068 (1 ring)

5th place: Sam Panzica (\$42,554)

Hometown: Saline, MI

WSOP earnings: \$23,009 WSOP Circuit earnings: \$287,267 (4 rings)

6th place: David Berman (\$32,462)

Hometown: Solon, OH

WSOP earnings: \$4,338 WSOP Circuit earnings: \$39,378

7th place: Eric Bunch (\$25,113)

Hometown: Tulsa, OK

WSOP earnings: \$3,761 WSOP Circuit earnings: \$127,562

8th place: Daniel Letts (\$19,705)

Hometown: West Palm Beach, FL

WSOP earnings: \$36,910 WSOP Circuit earnings: \$29,534

9th place: Peter Vitantonio (\$15,681)

Hometown: Wickliffe, OH

WSOP earnings: \$36,343 WSOP Circuit earnings: \$316,598

Other ring winners who finished in the money include Tripp Kirk (11th place), Brett Bader (12th), Austin Peck (14th), Alex Nguyen (19th), Sean Small (20th), A.J. Kelsall (22nd), Garry Simms (25th), Steve Karp (28th), Phil Hui (29th), and Russ Head (53rd). Hui is also a bracelet winner, as are David Diaz (13th) and David Prociak (37th), who also cashed.

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

#	Event	Entries	Winner	Earnings
1	\$365 Monster Stack	474	Pedro Aldave	\$ 30,574
2	\$365 No-limit Hold'em Re-entry	1,117	Loni Harwood	\$ 61,156
3	\$580 No-limit Hold'em	191	Martin Ryan	\$ 24,829
4	\$365 Pot-limit Omaha 8 or Better	141	David Shane	\$ 11,844
5	\$365 Turbo No-limit Hold'em	198	Carlos Loving	\$ 15,442
6	\$365 Six Max No-limit Hold'em	166	Max Young	\$ 13,944
7	\$365 Eight Max No-limit Hold'em	107	Stephen Smith	\$ 9,630
8	\$365 Monster Stack	401	David Katz	\$ 26,466
9	\$1,125 No-limit Hold'em	147	Peter Vitantonio	\$ 41,162
10	\$365 Turbo No-limit Hold'em	164	Stepas Tindziulis	\$ 13,284
11	\$1,675 Main Event	524	Raminder Singh	\$ 168,995
12	\$365 No-limit Hold'em	167	Maurice Hawkins	\$ 13,527

Carlos Loving's fantastic Circuit season continues, and he earned the title of Casino Champion for the Palm Beach Kennel Club. Loving cashed in four of the 12 events, made three final tables, and won his second-career gold ring in Event #5. He accumulated a total of 120 points and \$35,578 in combined winnings, edging Max Young by just 5 points on the series' penultimate day. His performance secures him one of the limited seats in the 2017 WSOP Global Casino Championship.

All players who cashed in ring events earned points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of the limited 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.

All rings at the Palm Beach Kennel Club are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016/2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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