



**2012-2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Harrah's Tunica
Event #12
No-Limit Hold'em Turbo
Buy-In: \$365
Total Entries: 102
Total Prize Pool: \$30,600
February 4, 2013**

Michael Plaxco Wins Closing Event at Harrah's Tunica

Florida fisherman John Holley Wins Harrah's Tunica Casino Championship

Alan "BodogAri" Engel falls short of winning fifth gold ring

TUNICA, MS – The 2012-2013 WSOP Circuit Events at Harrah's Tunica came to an end late Monday night with the conclusion of Event #12, the \$365 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em Turbo Event.

The winner was Michael Plaxco, a 34-year-old amateur from Muscle Shoals, AL. For the win, he earned \$9,180 and his first WSOP Circuit gold ring. While it is not his highest cash finish, it was certainly his most prolific for Plaxco, who cashed in his first major tournament just two months ago.

102 players entered into the final event of this year's WSOP Circuit series at Harrah's Tunica. The total prize pool amounted to \$30,600. For many players in the field, the one-day, Monday-start event presented an opportunity to pick up quick points toward their bid for a seat to the WSOP National Championship.

Earlier event winners Shawn Fakhimi and Chris Conrad had their sights set on a first place finish, which along with \$9,180 in prize money, would have earned them enough points to surpass the current Casino Champion points leader, John Holley and give them a seat into the WSOP National Championship.

Fakhimi and Conrad were eliminated well short of the Final Table money bubble, however, neutralizing any threat to Holley's National Championship bid.

After eight hours of play, it was down to the final table. Joining the final nine was poker pro and coach, Alan "BodogAri" Engel who had his sights set on ring number five, which would put him one shy behind record holder Alex Masek.

With the blind levels increasing at a furious pace, however, Engel was unable to sustain the luck he needed in this event, which was in contrast to the more deeper-structured WSOPC Ring Events that would have given Engel much more of an edge at the final table. Engel finished in 6th place for \$1,641.

Shortly after the elimination of the third place finisher, Rita Davidson, heads up was between Plaxco and Mark Lukasiewski. Shortly into heads up play, the two were all in with Plaxco catching running cards on the turn and river to make a straight and seal the win.

With the conclusion of the event 12, John Holley of Destin, FL was officially recognized as the Harrah's Tunica Casino Champion and will be awarded a seat into the million-dollar freeroll WSOP National Championship.

Holley won the opening event here in Tunica and followed it up with a runner-up finish in Event 6 to earn top honors.

The WSOP National Championship takes place May 21-23 and will be nationally televised on ESPN. Last year's National Champion, Ryan Eriquezzo, took home \$416,051 and the WSOP bracelet.

The Casino Champion is the player who earns the most points through the 12 events at Harrah's Tunica. This player will earn an automatic seat to the WSOP Circuit National Championship to be held May 21 – May 23 at Harrah's New Orleans. More information about the WSOPC National Championship can be found [here](#). An explanation of the points system can be found [here](#).

This concludes the 2012-2013 World Series of Poker Circuit Events at Harrah's Tunica. The next WSOP Circuit Event series takes place at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas February 7 – 18th.

See event results for the Harrah's Tunica Circuit Events [here](#). You can find the complete 2012-2013 WSOP Circuit schedule [here](#).

Final table results

PLACE	PLAYER	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY	CASH EARNED
1	Michael Plaxco	Muscle Shoals, AL, US	\$9,180
2	Mark Lukasiewski	COLLIERVILLE, TN, US	\$5,674
3	Rita Davidson	LOVELAND, OH, US	\$4,040
4	Reginald Bankston	Florence, AL, US	\$2,935
5	Jonathan Snyder	MOUNT JULIET, TN, US	\$2,174
6	Ari Engel	LAS VEGAS, NV, US	\$1,641
7	David Nicholson	PERKINSTON, MS, US	\$1,262
8	David Walker	BARTLETT, TN, US	\$989
9	Aphideth Nakhoneinh	TAMPA, FL, US	\$788

ABOUT HARRAH'S TUNICA

Harrah's Tunica is located 20 minutes south of Memphis, Tennessee and was originally opened in 1996 as Grand Casino. On May, 23, 2008 Paula Deen cut the official grand opening ribbon at Harrah's Tunica featuring the first of its kind Paula Deen Buffet and an interactive gaming floor that is the largest in the region. Spanning over 2,000 acres Harrah's Tunica features the Links at Cottonwoods championship golf course designed by Hale Irwin, Willows Sporting Clays and Hunting Center, the Mid-South Convention Center offering over 65,000 square feet of indoor meeting space, three elegant hotels totaling 1356 hotel rooms, the 200-space Mid-South RV Resort, Bellissimo Spa and Salon, and a 2,400 seat event center that features headline entertainment.

ABOUT THE WSOP

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) is the largest, richest and most prestigious gaming event in the world awarding millions of dollars in prize money and the prestigious gold bracelet, globally recognized as the sport's top prize. Featuring a comprehensive slate of tournaments in every major poker variation, the WSOP is poker's longest running tournament in the world, dating back to 1970. In 2012, the event attracted 74,766 entrants from 101 different countries to the Rio in Las Vegas and awarded over \$222 million in prize money. In addition, the WSOP has formed groundbreaking alliances in broadcasting, digital media and corporate sponsorships, while successfully expanding the brand internationally with the advent in 2007 of the World Series of Poker Europe. The WSOP Circuit Tour is entering its ninth season in 2012-13. For more information on the World Series of Poker, please visit www.WSOP.com.

ABOUT SOUTHERN COMFORT

Southern Comfort®, a fruit, spice, and whiskey flavored liqueur, was created in New Orleans by bartender M.W. Heron in 1874. Today, it is enjoyed by friends in over 100 countries around the world and continues to grow as an icon brand. Please visit us at SouthernComfort.com and facebook.com/southerncomfort.

Media Contact:

Alan Fowler

WSOP/Caesars Interactive Entertainment

afowler@caesars.com