

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Ten
Harveys Lake Tahoe
Stateline, NV
Event #8
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$500 (+80)
Total Entries: 145
Prize Pool: \$72,500
October 31 - November 1, 2013**



Paul Cookson Wins First WSOP Circuit Gold Ring

Stateline, NV (November 1, 2013) – Event 8, \$580 No Limit Hold'em: Paul Cookson's A5 held up against Gerald Morrell's J6 on the final hand, giving Cookson the victory, his first WSOP Circuit gold ring, and \$20,299. Gerald Morrell's second place finish was good for \$12,547.

Paul Cookson was in the middle of the pack when the final table got underway at about 11:30pm PDT on day one. He says he had been "systematically navigating the field" on day one and could not remember ever being all-in and at-risk. By the time day one wrapped at 2:25am, only four were left and Cookson had moved up to second in chips, behind Gerald Morrell.

Day two began with four players at 2pm and in an early hand that may have been Morrell's undoing, they were at the river with a pair of 9s on the board, but no straight or flush was possible. Paul Cookson bet, Morrell raised, and Cookson moved all-in. Morrell tanked for several minutes before finally surrendering what he later said was trip 9s, thinking Cookson had a full house. Cookson showed the bluff — K7 for nothing but a King-kicker to the pair on board — as he collected the chips and took the chip lead.

John Song was the short-stack with only 20 big blinds at the start of day two and he was the first to depart in 4th place (\$6,655). Casey McCarrel was next to hit the rail in third place (\$9,057) when he got his chips in against Paul Cookson and was dominated, KQ to AQ.

Heads-up play began at 3:12 pm and lasted nearly two hours. Paul Cookson started out with a big lead, about 3:1 over Gerald Morrell. They traded places when Morrell doubled up with pocket 8s versus pocket 6s and Morrell had a 4:1 chip lead over Cookson.

Cookson continued to build and got close to even, then caught a huge double-up with Q9 against Gerald's AQ when he flopped a 9. After that hand, Cookson had over 1.6 of the 1.74 million chips in play.

On the final hand, Morrell was all-in with J6 against Cookson's A5. The board was A K J Q 2 and the tournament and WSOP Circuit gold ring was Paul Cookson's. He has been playing poker for about seven years and is self-taught. He complimented his opponent saying "Gerry [Morrell]

played the best out of everybody, including myself'. This is Cookson's first victory on the circuit, but he has four previous WSOP Circuit cashes including one final table.

Final Table Results

PLACE	PLAYER	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY	CASH EARNED
1	Paul Cookson	FAIR OAKS, CA, US	\$20,299
2	Gerald Morrell	Reno, NV, US	\$12,547
3	Casey McCarrel	WALNUT CREEK, CA, US	\$9,057
4	John Song	FORT WORTH, TX, US	\$6,655
5	Jasthi Kumar	San Ramon, CA, US	\$4,975
6	Daniel Lowery	PETER PENDER, AR, US	\$3,782
7	Bruce Peterson	KIMBERLY, ID, US	\$2,924
8	Dan Casetta	LOS GATOS, CA, US	\$2,297
9	Jesse Capps	HENDERSON, NV, US	\$1,834

Tournament Notes

– The tournament began at 12pm PDT Thursday and played 21 levels (14.3 hours). The official final table of nine began at 11:30 pm. Day two resumed at 2pm Friday with four players remaining at the final table. They were down to two after 72 minutes. Heads-up play lasted an hour and 48 minutes. Over the two days, the final table took a total of six hours.

– Total number of players was 145, generating total prize money of \$72,500. The final 15 got paid.

– There were no prior WSOP Circuit ring winners at the final table:

– The Ladies have been making a strong showing here at Harveys Lake Tahoe. There has been at least one woman at each final table except event 6 and this one, event 8.

Event 1: Iris Kuzu won, Justine Roders finished 7th

Event 2: Deva Crouch finished 3rd

Event 3: Elizabeth Tedder finished 2nd

Event 4: Ruth Hagen finished 2nd

Event 5: Carolyn Bermudez finished 8th

Event 6: Last woman was Natasha Barbour, who finished 13th

Event 7: Wendy Freedman finished 3rd

Event 8: Last woman was Brenda Duncan, who finished 12th

Full results are available on WSOP.com.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Harveys Lake Tahoe's twelve gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship to take place at Caesars Atlantic City in Spring of 2014.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Champion's race and the season-long race to claim one of 50 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.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harveys Lake Tahoe:

EVENT #1: Iris Kuzu defeated 202 players (\$365 NLH) for \$15,757

EVENT #2: Chris Swan defeated 284 players (\$365 NLH) for \$20,450

EVENT #3: Ivin Arquiza defeated 537 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$34,637

EVENT #4: Jed Hoffman defeated 160 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,958

EVENT #5: Barry Raymos defeated 195 players (\$365 NLH) for \$15,210

EVENT #6: Jose Esparza defeated 191 players (\$365 NLH) for \$14,899

EVENT #7: Austin Apicella defeated 166 players (\$365 Six Max NLH) for \$13,941

EVENT #8: Paul Cookson defeated 145 players (\$580 NLH) for \$20,299

With the eighth tournament wrapped, four more ring events remain at Harveys Lake Tahoe.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter @WSOP or check out WSOP.com.

For additional information please contact:

Kaelaine Minton

WSOP Media Coordinator

kaelaine@hotmail.com