

## 2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino Event #11

### Main Event

Buy-In: \$1,675

Total Entries: 1,044

Total Prize Pool: \$1,566,000

November 21-24, 2014

## John Eames Wins WSOP Circuit Main Event at Planet Hollywood for Almost \$300,000

### Matt Berkey Leads Almost Wire-to-Wire, Finishes Runner-Up

**Las Vegas (November 25, 2014)** – Planet Hollywood Resort Casino is Las Vegas's home for the glitz and glamour of tinseltown. Its walls are decorated with images of stars of film and music. And for the past weekend, it was home to stars of the poker world, who came out in droves to play the Main Event of the World Series of Poker Circuit. After three days of intense competition, it was Englishman John Eames whose star shone brightest of all. He won the tournament, earning his first WSOP Circuit ring and \$289,706 in prize money.

John Eames was almost the first player eliminated from the final table. After he doubled up Quang Ngo, he was down to his last 220,000 when the big blind was 50,000. He moved all in and was called by Matt Berkey, and then Michael Skomac moved all in over the top. Berkey called Skomac's all-in raise with **A♦5♦**. Skomac held **J♥J♣**, and Eames was in last place with **10♦9♦**. The deck saved him, though. He flopped a pair and ended up rivering a straight to triple up, and he continued building his stack from there.

Matt Berkey went on to finish in second place for \$179,119. Berkey was on top of his game throughout the entire tournament. At the end of Day 1, he was the overall chip leader, and only one other player, 2010 November Niner Joseph Cheong, was close to him. He was atop the leaderboard again at the end of Day 2. He battled heads up against Eames for almost two hours. When they started heads-up play, Eames had a slight lead. He extended it until Berkey was short-stacked, but Berkey came roaring back to take over the chip lead. Soon afterward, Eames won a big all-in pot for almost 75% of the chips in play. Then it wasn't long before he held all the chips, and Berkey's amazing run this tournament halted in second place. The tournament finally ended at about 1:15 a.m., and an exhausted Eames had nothing but praise for the runner-up finisher. "Matt's a really, really good player. If there was one player I didn't want to have to go against heads up, it was him."

This was actually the first Circuit event Eames has ever played. After this success, though, it likely won't be the last. And by virtue of his victory in this Main Event, he earns an entry in next year's WSOP National Championship.

Monday was the third and final day of the Main Event. It started at 2 p.m. when 18 players who survived the first two days of action returned. After a little more than 2 and a half hours, half of them had been eliminated, and the tournament was down to the official final table of nine

players.

At first, it looked like the final table would be an extremely lengthy affair. It wasn't until the 69th hand at the final table that the first player was eliminated (Michael Skomac in 9th place). By comparison, when the November Nine met for the final table of the WSOP Main Event two weeks ago, the first elimination occurred on the 56th hand. However, at Skomac's elimination, the pace of bustouts picked up. On the 104th hand, Brad Libson was eliminated in 5th place, leaving only four players still with chips: Berkey, Eames, Ping Liu, and Dustin Johns. Four-handed play lasted a while as well, almost 60 hands. Then, at about 11:30 p.m., Dustin Johns and Ping Liu were eliminated on back-to-back hands, leaving Berkey and Eames to battle for the spoils—a WSOP Circuit ring, the lion's share of the prize pool, and a free entry into the 2015 WSOP National Championship.

The tournament featured two starting flights, one on Friday and one on Saturday, and a massive field turned up to play. The event attracted a total of 1,044 entries, making it the second largest Main Event on the Circuit so far this year. The entry list was a veritable "who's who" of the poker world. Entrants included 2001 WSOP Main Event champion Carlos Mortensen, 2013 WSOP Main Event champion Ryan Riess, and 2014 WSOP APAC champion Scott Davies. There were four November Niners in addition to Riess—Joseph Cheong, Phil Collins, Jake Balsiger, and Dan Sindelar, who finished 7th in the Main Event earlier this month. There were also several WSOP bracelet winners, including Kathy Liebert, Robert Mizrachi, Leo Wolpert, Dan Heimiller, and Eric Baldwin. Other well-known poker faces were scattered throughout the field, David Levi, Jimmy Fricke, and Chris Lindh. Lindh finished in 9th place the last time the WSOP Circuit was in Las Vegas (at Caesar's Palace in February), and he finished 10th at Planet Hollywood today.

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The Main Event (officially listed as Event #11) attracted 1,044 entries. This was the second-largest Main Event of the WSOP Circuit season so far, trailing only the Horseshoe Hammond (1,147 entries).

Play began on Friday at noon and concluded late Monday night at about 1:15 a.m. The total prize pool came to \$1,566,000. The top 108 finishers were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points – used to potentially qualify for a seat in the season-ending championship, to be played in Las Vegas.

Here are the players at the official nine-handed final table.

SEAT 1: Brad Libson  
SEAT 2: Michael Skomac  
SEAT 3: Corey Emery  
SEAT 4: Quang Ngo  
SEAT 5: John Eames  
SEAT 6: Johnny Neckar  
SEAT 7: Dustin Johns  
SEAT 8: Matt Berkey  
SEAT 9: Ping Liu

About the Final Table:

1st: John Eames - \$289,706  
Hometown: Southport, UK  
Age: 26  
Occupation: Poker pro  
Previous Circuit Earnings: 0

2nd: Matt Berkey  
Hometown: Las Vegas, NV  
Age: 32  
Occupation: Poker pro  
Previous Circuit Earnings: 0

3rd: Ping Liu - \$133,110  
Hometown: Chicago, IL  
Age: 25  
Occupation: Poker pro  
Previous Circuit Earnings: \$134,376

4th: Dustin Johns - \$100,067  
Hometown: Nappanee, IN  
Age: 34  
Occupation: Business Owner (RV Manufacturing Company)  
Previous Circuit Earnings: \$1,685

5th: Bradley Libson - \$76,092  
Hometown: Las Vegas, NV  
Age: 32  
Occupation: Poker pro  
Previous Circuit Earnings: \$5,135

6th: Corey Emery - \$58,537  
Hometown: Simi Valley, CA  
Age: 27  
Occupation: Poker Pro  
Previous Circuit Earnings: \$0

7th: Johnny Neckar - \$45,555  
Hometown: Mountain View, CA  
Age: 29  
Occupation: Poker Pro  
Previous Circuit Earnings: \$62,962

8th: Quang Ngo - \$35,861  
Hometown: Wichita, KS  
Age: 27  
Occupation: Poker Pro  
Previous Circuit Earnings: \$17,952

9th: Michael Skomac - \$25,864  
Hometown: Henderson, NV  
Age: 34  
Occupation: N/A  
Previous Circuit Earnings: \$38,873

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Here's the final list of winners from all the gold ring events played at the Planet Hollywood WSOP Circuit stop:

EVENT #1: Kheang Tang defeated 1,387 entries (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em Re-entry) for \$71,749.  
EVENT #2: Craig Gold defeated 162 players (\$580 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$27,000.  
EVENT #3: Michael Kline defeated 284 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$20,450.  
EVENT #4: Brandon Newsome defeated 319 Players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$22,497.  
EVENT #5: Vincent Moscati defeated 138 players (\$365 Pot-Limit Omaha) for \$11,589.  
EVENT #6: Raney Stanczak defeated 276 players (\$580 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$33,118.  
EVENT #7: Stephanie Chung defeated 113 players (\$365 Dealer's Choice) for \$10,171.  
EVENT #9: Chris LoPresto defeated 169 players (\$580 No-Limit Hold'em Six-Handed) for \$23,658.  
EVENT #10: James Hellerer defeated 353 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$25,282.  
EVENT #11 (MAIN EVENT): John Eames defeated 1,044 entries (\$1,675 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$289,706.  
EVENT #12: Young Ji defeated 167 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$13,526.  
EVENT #13: David Smith defeated 133 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em Turbo) for \$11,171.

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

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