

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Casino

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Event #3

No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry

Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)

Total Entries: 453

Prize Pool: \$135,900

April 10-12, 2015



Omaha Plumber Wins \$29K in Council Bluffs Re-Entry Event

Kevin McLaughlin outlasts 453 players in \$365 no-limit hold'em re-entry tournament, pockets \$29,223 along with his first Circuit ring.

Council Bluffs, Iowa (April 13, 2015) — Kevin McLaughlin was the last man standing early Monday morning in Event 3 of the World Series of Poker Circuit at Horseshoe Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa. McLaughlin, a plumber from neighboring Omaha, bested a super-sized field of 453 players in opening weekend's \$365 no-limit hold'em re-entry tournament to earn \$29,223 along with 50 points toward the Casino Championship, and of course, a Circuit gold ring.

McLaughlin began Day 2 of the event 44th of 61 returning players and held next to no expectations for how he'd fare. With the restart beginning at 2 p.m., McLaughlin, 50, decided to try his luck in the Seniors event which began at 10 a.m.

"I entered the Seniors tournament this morning," McLaughlin laughed after his Event 3 win. "I had 46,000 [chips in the re-entry]. I was just going to see if I could make it to the money then go back and see if I could get some money out of the Seniors tournament. I just blinded out of that. I just got lucky [in the re-entry event]."

McLaughlin's lucky streak included running aces into the 10-handed final table chip leader's queens. The hand earned him a sizable pot, but more importantly, boosted his confidence with the tournament's \$29,223 first prize on the line. A few minutes later, he'd eliminate Michael Moore eighth to claim about half the chips in play seven handed. While some small hiccups followed, McLaughlin ultimately closed the deal donning his first gold ring.

McLaughlin has recorded a cash in each of the last three years during the Council Bluffs series. Following Event 3, his WSOP resume boasts two final appearances and more than \$32,000 in earnings. The poker table is familiar territory for the father of three girls as it's where he met his wife, a poker dealer. Since their marriage, McLaughlin has taken time away from the felt to concentrate on more traditional work, but it was at his wife's urging he decided to come play satellites at the Horseshoe. A few buy-in chips later, he's the Circuit's newest champion.

Not only large in size, the re-entry field was a talented one that included many professionals and skilled amateurs alike from the Omaha area and beyond. Among those to finish in the money

were DJ MacKinnon (3rd), Nicholas Palma (5th), Tyler Schwecke (6th), Sean Stevens (11th), Aaron Frei (25th) and Jeff Esposito (51st).

Event 3 was the third of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$365 no-limit hold'em re-entry event attracted 453 entries. The total prize pool came to \$135,900 and the top 54 finishers were paid.

The tournament featured three starting flights beginning Friday, April 10 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 11 at noon and 5 p.m. Each starting flight logged 15 levels of play. Friday's flight drew 96 entries and advanced 12 while Saturday's flights drew 208 and 149 and advanced 28 and 21 respectively.

Day 2 began Sunday at 2 p.m. with 61 players remaining and just the top 54 finishing in the money. The bubble burst at about 2:30 p.m. (toward the end of Level 16) and from there, play narrowed to the nine-handed final table just before 8 p.m. (toward the end of Level 23). Action concluded at 1:10 a.m. (toward the beginning of Level 28) making the total duration of the final table five hours and 10 minutes.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Horseshoe Council Bluffs

EVENT #1: David Hengen defeated 150 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,596

EVENT #2: Norman Michalek defeated 160 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$12,958

EVENT #3: Kevin McLaughlin defeated 453 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$29,223

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Horseshoe Council Bluffs' 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place at Harrah's Casino in Cherokee, N.C. July 29-31. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 56 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.

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.

For additional information please contact:

Lukas M. Willems (WSOP Media Coordinator) at lukasmwillems@gmail.com.