

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 12
Bicycle Casino and Hotel
Los Angeles, CA
Event #5
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)
Total Entries: 115
Prize Pool: \$57,500
December 8-9, 2015**



Nadim Shabou Wins First Ring in \$580 No Limit Hold'em

French businessman living in Arizona takes home first ring in \$580 No Limit Hold'em, giving Wendy Freedman her second runner-up finish of the series.

Los Angeles, CA. (December 8, 2015) — Nadim Shabou has been a successful businessman for most of his adult career with a successful poker hobby on the side. Shabou adds some more success to an already impressive resume with a win in the \$580 No Limit Hold'em, earning his first Circuit ring and \$17,255 at the Bicycle Casino.

A Paris native, Shabou immigrated to the U.S. after his wife became pregnant and wanted to move back home to Tuscon, AZ. They made the move back across the Atlantic and settled in Tuscon. It was during his time in the states that Shabou found his passion for poker.

“I started to play poker in 2002-2003,” said Shabou. “I went to Vegas to see if I could play with the big boys. I played the Ultimate Poker Challenge and made two final tables on T.V. So I thought I could play a little bit.”

After his early success in Vegas and a renewed sense of confidence, Shabou found the biggest score of his career here at the Bike. In 2007, Shabou finished second in the Legends of Poker \$5,000 No Limit Hold'em for \$87,875. After that, he's made a point to make sure he comes back here.

“The Bicycle Casino is kind of my lucky casino,” said Shabou. “I come back every year.”

The final table was reached on Tuesday afternoon and Shabou was near the top of the chip counts. Throughout the final table, he continued to accumulate chips and by the end of the scheduled 21 levels, Shabou was heads-up with Wendy Freedman. They decided to bag up chips and finish their heads-up battle on Wednesday afternoon.

Freedman bagged a slight chip lead heading into the final day, but the chip landscape changed on the first hand dealt on Wednesday.

“The first hand determined the whole table,” said Shabou. “She raised and I three-bet with king-queen. She called and had ace-queen, so she had a big hand. I flopped a king and she moved all in on the turn. I just had to call and I doubled up.

“After that it was pretty easy because I had about a million and she only had about 200,000. It was business as usual after that.”

Even with his success on the felt, Shabou’s passion remains in the business world and poker will never be anything more than a serious hobby. He is the CEO of Genuine Jersey Design and they are launching a new product shortly.

“It’s a bag made out of a sports jersey called a Duffalo,” said Shabou of his latest business venture. “We are launching that in January on Kickstarter, so that’s my occupation and that’s my pleasure.”

Along with the hardware and the cash, Shabou earns 50 points and moves into a tie for third in the Casino Championship race. Shabou is tied with Dave Banerjee, Dale Beaudoin and Stuart Pfeifer, who won earlier events in the series. All four of them have 50 points each. Freedman’s second place finish in this event gives her the lead in the race with 75 points. Alan Myerson is in second place with 60 points after a deep run in the \$365 No Limit Hold’em Re-Entry event and a win in the \$365 Bounty No Limit Hold’em. The winner of that title, along with the winner of the main event earns an automatic bid into the Global Casino Championship (previously called the National Championship).

This is the fifth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Casino. The \$580 No Limit Hold’em attracted 115 players. The total prize pool came to \$57,500. The top 12 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Tuesday, December 8 at 12 p.m. and the final table was reached around 10:30 p.m. Day 1 wrapped up just before 2 a.m. and only the final two players came back for Day 2 at 1 p.m. The final card was dealt after about 25 minutes of play, with action concluding 1:25 p.m., making the total duration of the finale about four hours.

Complete results for this event can be found on WSOP.com.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Bicycle Casino:

EVENT #1: Dave Banerjee defeated 368 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$24,265
EVENT #2: Alan Myerson defeated 140 players (\$365 NLH Bounty) for \$7,830
EVENT #3: Stuart Pfeifer defeated 1,000 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$55,110
EVENT #4: Dale Beaudoin defeated 153 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,395
EVENT #5: Nadim Shabou defeated 115 players (\$580 NLH) for \$17,255

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Bicycle Casino’s 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title of Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 60 expected 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.

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.

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