

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
The Bicycle Hotel and Casino
Bell Gardens, Ca.
Event #8
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$1,000 (+\$125)
Total Entries: 115
Prize Pool: \$115,000
December 8-9, 2016**



Martin Ryan Wins Third Ring In Less Than a Month

Trinidad native follows up Casino Champion title in St. Maarten with ring win in Los Angeles and \$34,510.

Bell Gardens, Ca. (December 9, 2016) — With six players remaining in the \$1,125 no-limit hold'em event, an onlooker said that Martin Ryan was the “Best player at the table and easily the best player that nobody has ever heard of.”

That same railbird predicted that Ryan was going to win the event and that the other players “had no idea what they were dealing with.” That railbird must’ve known Ryan’s poker talent as he put on a dominating performance and won his third Circuit ring in less than a month. He outlasted a field full of tough pros, outlasting 115 entries and earning \$34,510 in the process.

When asked about being the best player nobody has heard of, Ryan had a simple response.

“That is a good possibility, yes.”

The soft-spoken Trinidad native is coming off a Casino Championship title in St. Maarten last month. He had three cashes, earned two rings, and won just shy of \$30,000 in that series alone to earn the title and secure a spot in the next Global Casino Championship.

About two weeks later, he followed that performance up with a third place finish in the massive re-entry field in Cherokee, North Carolina for over \$47,000 and an 11th place finish in the high roller event at that stop for \$4,220. He made his way across the country and immediately jumped into this event.

“I just got here,” said Ryan. “I got here yesterday in the sixth level so I just entered.”

Ryan’s performance over the last month seem to be coming out of nowhere, but he’s always had this type of poker talent. In his home country, he was operating a casino and it took up most of his time. He didn’t have the flexibility with his job to leave and travel to the major tournaments. He has stopped working for now and has more time to showcase his talents.

“Since going to school, from small as a kid, I always had a pack of cards in my pocket,” said Ryan of his poker past. “It was a lot of different games we played. I always played no-limit about

15 years ago, before the boom, but I never went outside and challenged other guys because I was always busy.”

If the recent past is any indication, Ryan has the potential to become a household name in the poker world. He made it clear that he has no intention of becoming a professional poker player, at least by the definition of the word. He plays the game for fun and enjoyment, but he had another short and sweet answer when asked about what his poker future holds.

“You’ll be seeing me a lot.”

Along with the money and the ring, Ryan earned 50 points and jumps into contention for another Casino Championship. Ryan will need a deep run in the main event or the high roller since he trailing Sohale Khalili, who has 62.5 points after a ring win and three cashes this stop.

This was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$1,125 no-limit hold’em event attracted 115 players. The total prize pool came to \$115,000 and the top 12 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Thursday, December 8 at noon a final table was reached just before midnight. They all bagged up and came back at 1 p.m. on Friday, December 9 at 1 p.m. to play down to a winner. Ryan won his third ring around 6:30, making the total duration of the finale about five and a half hours.

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

- EVENT #1: Alex Massman defeated 242 players (\$365 NLH) for \$17,795
- EVENT #2: Jerry Rojas defeated 171 players (\$365 NLH Bounty) for \$9,230
- EVENT #3: TJ Thondup defeated 1,245 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$77,300
- EVENT #4: Greg Sanchez defeated 122 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,245
- EVENT #5: Sohale Khalili defeated 109 players (\$580 NLH) for \$16,345
- EVENT #6: Eugene Ji defated 101 players (\$365 Omaha Hi-Lo) for \$9,080
- EVENT #7: Maxwell Lineberger defeated 169 players (\$365 NLH) for \$13,675
- EVENT #8: Martin Ryan defeated 115 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$34,510
- EVENT #9: Robert Zarzycki defated 217 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$16,280

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Bike’s 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title 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 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.

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