

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
The Bicycle Hotel and Casino
Bell Gardens, Ca.
Event #10
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 214
Prize Pool: \$64,200
December 9-10, 2016**



Chris Burleson Wins \$365 No-Limit Hold'em

Burleson wins first live title and first Circuit ring, earning \$16,050 and bragging rights with his wife.

Bell Gardens, Ca. (December 11, 2016) — Chris Burleson and his wife both cashed in the final preliminary event of the WSOP Circuit series at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. Burleson not only outlasted his significant other, but also the entire field and earned his first live title in the \$365 no-limit hold'em.

“It’s excellent,” said Burleson. “I’m looking forward to playing more.”

Burleson came out on top of a 214-entry field to win the ring and \$16,050. His wife, Nova Rimassa also finished inside the money, finishing 16th for \$820. The two have been playing poker for a long time and they are supportive of each other’s poker ventures.

After Rimassa busted out of the tournament, she spent the entire time on the rail watching her husband’s every move. When the final card was dealt, she was the first person to congratulate him and give him a big hug. It’s all part of their poker playing relationship.

“We are a husband and wife team,” said Burleson about their supportive relationship. “We’ve been getting close to making the final table together.”

Of course, as is the case with any relationship, one person is going to have the bragging rights. Burleson hopes his ring will be able to at least temporarily give those rights to him.

“She was making fun of me a little bit because she was six out of the last seven in the money,” said Burleson. “And I was only two out of the last seven. So I’m getting caught up.”

Burleson, who works in the Southern California area running a sales team for a beverage company, didn’t have an easy road to his first ring. He came into the final table as the chip leader, but had to navigate a final table that featured three-time ring winner TJ Thondup, the current Casino Champion leader James Hoepfner, and actor James Woods.

Along with the tough competition that he had to get through, he also had the added pressure of playing for, by far, the biggest cash of his poker career. Burleson’s career earnings before this

event was just over \$14,000. His win more than doubled his career earnings, but Burleson was kept his focus on the task at hand, rather than the boost to his bankroll.

“It was a good field,” he said of his competition. “I wasn’t thinking about the money. I was just thinking about the ring.”

Burleson doesn’t plan on leaving his job in sales any time soon, but he does plan to try and to try and ride this momentum into bigger and better things.

“Tomorrow, we will barrel into that and then see what happens,” said Burleson pointing to Day 1A of the \$1,675 no-limit hold’em main event that was running simultaneously with his final table.

Burleson and Rimassa pretty much stick to the Los Angeles area when it comes to poker, playing lots of the smaller events in the city’s casinos. He said that the win might influence them to travel slightly further away in hopes of more success.

“We might come to some Vegas stops as well now.”

Along with the money and the ring, Burleson earned 50 points and has an outside shot at the Casino Championship. Burleson will need a deep run in either the main event or the high roller to catch James Hoepfner, who leads the pack with 67.5 points.

This was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$365 no-limit hold’em event attracted 214 players. The total prize pool came to \$64,200 and the top 24 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Friday, December 9 at noon a final table was reached just before midnight. They all bagged up and came back at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 10 at 1 p.m. to play down to a winner. The final hand of the tournament was 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 defeated 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 defeated 217 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$16,280
EVENT #10: Chris Burleson defeated 214 players (\$365 NLH) for \$16,050

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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