

## **2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Season 13**

**Palm Beach Kennel Club**

**West Palm Beach, Fla.**

**Event #2**

**No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry**

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

**Total Entries: 1,117**

**Prize Pool: \$335,100**

**February 10-13, 2017**



## **Back Where it All Began; Loni Harwood Wins Again at PBKC**

**Harwood collects third Circuit ring in the anniversary week of her first**

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (February 13, 2017)** — Five years ago, a 22-year-old Loni Harwood won her first live poker tournament in one of her very first attempts. It was a WSOP Circuit event at the Palm Beach Kennel Club, and she defeated a field of 500 entries to earn her first gold ring. It was the start of something special; Harwood has gone on to cash in 77 more tournaments since, winning another ring and two WSOP bracelets in the process.

She's done it once again at the kennel club.

Harwood outlasted a huge field of 1,117 entries in Event #2, winning her third gold ring and the top prize of \$61,156. Her victory in this \$365 re-entry event comes less than a week shy of the fifth anniversary of her first.

The champ is a 27-year-old professional poker player originally from Staten Island, New York. She now makes her home in nearby Tamarac, where she has direct access to the thriving Florida poker community. Her father is nearby, too, and he's had a significant influence on Harwood's poker career. "My dad played online a lot," she explained. "And he taught me how to play through that. I got into poker initially when I was about 15, but I started playing more in college."

She studied Finance at SUNY Albany, and although she had her parents' blessing, it wasn't a free pass by any means. "They told me to go to college, and when I graduated they would support me in poker," Harwood said. That plan went off without a hitch. Harwood moved to Florida shortly after earning her degree, and she promptly began winning live poker tournaments in her adopted home state. This most recent result brings her total career earnings comfortably across the \$2-million milestone.

Harwood played Day 1B of this four-flight event, bagging up 183,400 chips to enter Day 2 inside the top ten with 127 players remaining. She surged to the top of the leaderboard shortly after the money bubble burst, but she found herself short on chips late in the day with just a couple tables left in action. Harwood found a big double-up with pocket nines against ace-king, though, and that proved to be the spark that propelled her to an impressive stretch run.

Entering the final table as the chip leader, Harwood's position only improved as the table shrank. By the time four remained, she held nearly 70 percent of the chips in play and more than twice as many as all three of her opponents combined.

The final four ran out of time on Day 2, and they were forced to return on Monday for an unscheduled Day 3. It was more of the same for Harwood, who steamrolled through her final three opponents in just 24 minutes of play. When the dust settled, she was sitting alone at the table, posing for photos with a broad smile and her third gold ring.

In her postgame interviews, Harwood credited her brother, Scott, for providing a great deal of remote support from his home in New York. "He's, like, my best friend," she said. Harwood's boyfriend, poker pro Phil Hui, was in the room during the moments of victory, and he was the first to congratulate her on her most recent addition to a long and growing list of poker accomplishments.

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Event #2 was the second of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. The \$365 re-entry event began with four starting flights spread over two days on February 10 and 11. Day 1A drew 282 entries (31 advanced), Day 1B drew 183 (20), Day 1C drew 381 (41), and Day 1D drew 271 (35) to bring the total field to 1,117 entries. That generated a prizepool worth \$335,100 which was shared by the final 118 players, including a split payout at the bottom.

The 127 Day 1 survivors returned for Day 2 on Sunday, February 12 at 12 p.m., and play was suspended with four players remaining around 2 a.m. The unscheduled Day 3 began Monday, February 13 at 3 p.m., and the last hand was dealt at 3:24.

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The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Palm Beach Kennel Club's 12 ring events 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 the limited at-large bids. More information on the points system is available on [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

All rings at the Palm Beach Kennel Club are furnished by [Jostens](http://Jostens), the official ring supplier of the 2016/2017 WSOP Circuit season.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or visit [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

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