



2012 World Series of Poker Africa Emerald Resort and Casino Events 5, 6 and Ladies Event Recap

A Smashing Success – Record-Breaking 2012 WSOP Africa Draws to Close with the Conclusion of Events #5 and #6

Richest Gaming Event on the Planet to Have Long-Lasting Influence on Poker in South Africa

Pippa Rockas Outlasts Largest Ladies Event Field in Africa's History

GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA – The 2012 WSOP Africa drew to a close in the early hours of Monday morning with the conclusion of events #5, \$350 buy-in, No-Limit Hold'em and #6 \$350 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em Turbo. Billed "Six Rings and Six Days," the event held mostly true to its name as events #5 and #6 spilled over into the early morning hours of a seventh day at the Emerald Resort and Casino.

With deep structures, unexpected record attendance and tight play once in the money, each of the events, with the exception of the Main Event, spilled into a third day of play with an outright extra day having to be added to the 2012 WSOP Africa Opening Event.

It was bittersweet for players and tournament organizers alike, as the happy marriage between the WSOP and the Emerald Resort Hotel and Casino drew to a recess until next year, which promises to be an even bigger poker affair that was witnessed here over the last week at the Emerald.

2nd Annual WSOP Africa a Smashing Success

The second annual WSOP Africa was an overall rousing success with the opening event drawing the largest live poker tournament field in Africa's history with 324 entries, while the Series drew 1,087 total entries through its six official ring events.

The tournament was deemed a smashing success, not only in terms of attendance, but also in terms of the quality of the event. WSOP Vice President of International Poker Operations, Jack Effel and Caesars Palace Poker Room Manager, Kris Hartwiger were brought aboard for the second annual WSOP Africa to ensure that the tournament was optimally run by international standards.

The appreciation of the level of organization and structure that Effel and Hartwiger brought to this year's WSOP Africa was expressed by many South African players, who are not known for biting their tongue.

"You Americans don't **** around!" said one player to Effel as he and the rest of the staff worked frantically to keep things running smoothly during the start of Event #1, which drew the largest live tournament field in Africa's history.

"But we like it, keep it up!" the player added.

The 2nd annual WSOP Africa was deemed a success not only by organizers, but also by the players, many of whom heralded the event as the most-organized, best-structured tournament that they had ever been a part of. While there were some reports grumbings as a result of differences between local tournament organization rules and the WSOP's TDA rules, the overwhelming majority were pleased with the standards set in place for WSOP Africa with many even stating that they would push for implementation of TDA rules at their local casino and home games.

Johannesburg Restaurant Owner Outlasts Largest Ladies Event Field in Africa's History

This year's WSOP Africa's success was not at all lost on the fairer sex as 68 women entered this year WSOP ladies Event, the largest turnout for an event of its kind in the Africa's history. The winner of the ladies event was Pippa Rockas, a restaurant owner from Johannesburg. For beating out the largest ladies event live field ever held on the continent, Rockas was awarded \$4,617 first place prize and the beautiful WSOP Gold Pendant.

While much of the focus on post-apartheid South Africa is on race relations and equality, gender equality is just as important an issue for one of the world's fastest emerging economies. Long-standing cultural traditions in the country have largely dictated that the woman's role in South African society is a subservient one, but since 1994, the country, which is comprised of 52% women, has made great strides in gender equality and advancing women's rights.

This progress was evident with the unexpected turnout of this year's ladies event, which according to mumbblings by organizers was only expected to draw three tables full of entrants. By the time registration had closed, more than twice that number of tables had to be allocated as the turnout for the ladies, with the total entries rivaling that of similar events held in the United States.

"It's not as promoted as it should be here," said Rockas of the state of ladies poker in South Africa. "This was an amazing event and of course, I'm very happy that it was held here," she said.

Tournament staff wore pink shirts and ties and displayed a pink tournament clock in honor of the ladies, but the astute field of players was not so easily won over by their gestures.

"I want to know why we are starting at 25-50 blinds!!" Demanded one player as she stood from her seat just as play got underway noon Sunday. After tournament director Jack Effel quickly addressed her concern by informing her that the ladies event was a one-day structured tournament unlike the deeper-structured two-day ring events, she sat back down, satisfied with the explanation and play resumed.

Here are the results from the Ladies event:

2012 World Series of Poker Africa - Emerald Resort and Casino

Final Results

Event #	Ladies Event
Buy In	\$235
Game	No-Limit Hold'em Ladies Event
Date	2/26/2012
Number of Entries	68
Net Prize Pool	\$13,192
First Place Prize	\$4,617
Total Spots Paid Out	7

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Prize</u>
Pippa Rockas	Johannesburg, ZA	1	\$4,617
Viki-Lee Miltiadam	Johannesburg, ZA	2	\$2,853
Sachsa Walter	Cape Town, ZA	3	\$1,892
Nicole Dadic	Johannesburg, ZA	4	\$1,339
MLM Gouvela	Cape Town, ZA	5	\$1,008
Chandra Deib	Johannesburg, ZA	6	\$805
Lorelle Henning	Johannesburg, ZA	7	\$678

Local Player Outlasts 247 Player Field to Win \$17,610 and the Ring in Event #5

The winner of Event #5 was Armand Saayman of nearby Witpoortjie, ZA. The fifth of six events scheduled for the 2012 WSOP Africa drew an impressive number of entries, 247, and generated a total prize pool of \$71,877.

Over 60 players would survive day one of the two-day event, and it wouldn't be until the evening hours that play would get down to the final table. Greg Tucker, a 29-year-old self-employed poker player from Johannesburg held the dominating chip lead to start final table play, but saw a premature exit from the stage after being eliminated in 4th place. Saayman worked his way from near the bottom of the chip leader board to outlast his remaining eight opponents.

Event #5 event lasted well into the early morning hours of Monday, with heads up between Saayman and Barry Levin, an Electrical Wireman from Johannesburg, South Africa.

For the win, Saayman was awarded the coveted WSOP Circuit gold ring along with \$17,610 in first place prize money. For his runner-up finish, Levin collected \$10,882.

Here are the full results for Event #5:

2012 World Series of Poker Africa - Emerald Resort and Casino

Final Results

Event #	5
Buy In	\$350
Game	No-Limit Hold'em
Date	2/25/2012
Number of Entries	247
Net Prize Pool	\$71,877
First Place Prize	\$7,784

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Payout</u>
Armand Saayman	Witportjie, ZA	1	\$17,610
Barry Levin	Johannesburg, ZA	2	\$10,882
Stuart Brodie	Cape Town, ZA	3	\$7,863
Greg Tucker	Johannesburg, ZA	4	\$5,786
Manuel De Costa	Lisbon	5	\$4,334
Emmanuel Wiston	Duban, ZA	6	\$3,306
Stuart Nel	Gauteng, ZA	7	\$2,559
Nicholas Simisiannis	Boksburg, ZA	8	\$2,013
Ryan Dreyer	Johannesburg, ZA	9	\$1,610
Parie Scheoman		10	\$1,308
Johan Costzer		11	\$1,308
Clint Poppesgou		12	\$1,308
Matthew Coetzee		13	\$1,078
Teshiele Devprasod	Johannesburg, ZA	14	\$1,078
Leon Botha		15	\$1,078
M. Rnduaan Sha		16	\$906
Daniel Johannes Brits		17	\$906
Simon Taberham		18	\$906
John Abrosie		19	\$769
Cynthia Becwe	Johannesburg, ZA	20	\$769
Janrie Myburgh		21	\$769
Cornelis Wlaver		22	\$661
JG Alberts		23	\$661
Sreewanth Domalapolly		24	\$661
Howard Lipman		25	\$582
Newton Wilshire		26	\$582
Nanko Velev		27	\$582

Heau Pienaar wins No-Limit Hold'em Turbo Ring Event to Close out 2012 WSOP Africa

Heau Pienaar, a 34-year-old poker player from Johannesburg, laid claim to the last of six rings awarded during this year's World Series of Poker Africa at the Emerald Resort and Casino. The one-day event drew 89 entries, generating a total prize pool of

Event #6 results:

2012 World Series of Poker Africa - Emerald Resort and Casino

Final Results

Event #	6
Buy In	\$350
Game	No-Limit Hold'em Turbo
Date	2/26/2012
Number of Entries	89
Net Prize Pool	\$25,946
First Place Prize	\$7,784

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Payout</u>
Heau Pienaar	Johannesburg, ZA	1	\$7,784
David Shleifman	Cape Town, ZA	2	\$4,811
Sally Huckle	Johannesburg, ZA	3	\$3,425
Ayaz Manji	Angola	4	\$2,488
Roberto Capaio	Johannesburg, ZA	5	\$1,842
Adrian Shunmusam	Johannesburg, ZA	6	\$1,391
Eugene Du Plessis	Stellenbosch, ZA	7	\$1,072
Shawn Halgreen	Port Elizabeth, ZA	8	\$838
Lynette Fourie	Boksburg, ZA	9	\$669
Glen Bezuiden Hart	Johannesburg, ZA	10	\$542
Alon Argaman	Johannesburg, ZA	11	\$542
Legan Zachey	Johannesburg, ZA	12	\$542

Media Contacts:

Marli Wolmarans

Emerald Casino and Resort

+27 16 982 8063

marliw@emeraldcasino.co.za

Alan Fowler

WSOP/Caesars Interactive Entertainment

afowler@caesars.com

About the WSOP

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) is the largest, richest and most prestigious gaming event in the world awarding millions of dollars in prize money and the prestigious gold bracelet, globally recognized as the sport's top prize. Featuring a comprehensive slate of tournaments in every major poker variation, the WSOP is poker's longest running tournament in the world, dating back to 1970. In 2010, the event attracted 72,966 entrants from 117 different countries to the Rio in Las Vegas and awarded over \$187 million in prize money. In addition, the WSOP has formed groundbreaking alliances in broadcasting, digital media and corporate sponsorships, while successfully expanding the brand internationally with the advent in 2007 of the World Series of Poker Europe. The WSOP Circuit Tour is entering its seventh season in 2010-11, and will feature 12 stops throughout the U.S., plus for the first ever, a stop in South Africa. For more information on the World Series of Poker, please visit

www.WSOP.com.