

2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season Nine

River Rock Casino Resort

Richmond, BC, CA

Main Event (Event #7)

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)

Total Entries: 1,032

Prize Pool: \$1,548,000

November 2-7, 2012



John Crncic Wins River Rock Casino Main Event

Poker novice turns \$180 satellite into a \$286,382 payday in Canada's first ever WSOP Circuit series.

Richmond, BC (November 8, 2012) — John Crncic won the Main Event at the inaugural WSOP Circuit stop at River Rock Casino in Richmond, BC late Wednesday night. The tournament, which drew 1,032 entrants, is recognized as the third largest Circuit Main Event of all time and one of the largest poker tournaments ever to take place in Canada.

"I'm afraid I'm going to wake up and it's going to just be a dream," Crncic told the WSOP following his win. "It's absolutely fantastic. This is much more than I hoped for."

In addition to \$286,382, a WSOP Circuit gold ring and a free seat in the \$1 Million National Championship, Crncic's boss promised him he would buy him into the \$10,000 WSOP Main Event in Las Vegas in July if he won -- Crncic assured the WSOP his boss was a man of his word, too.

Amazingly, these riches came on the heels of what began as a \$180 satellite Crncic won at the River Rock poker room to earn his Main Event seat. He admits the championship event was the first large buy-in tournament he has ever played in, but with numerous wins in lower buy-in events his confidence never faltered -- a fact made even more impressive because the final table was broadcast to thousands on ESPN3.

"It didn't bother me at all," Crncic said of playing in front of the cameras. "I had never been in a situation like this, yet, it felt like I do it every week. It was great fun. I loved it. I wish I could do this every weekend."

Crncic ended Day 1 third in chips, but by his own account, had a rough go of things on Day 2. He ended the day 14th out of 30 remaining players but says his mindset was always final table or bust.

"When we got down to the final 30 (players) I felt great," Crncic said. "I just felt like I would be at the final table, and now here we are."

Crncic's win came in the finale event of what was the WSOP Circuit's first ever stop in Canada. The series, which kicked off with a 410-person tournament, was a mega success. Its \$1,125 buy-in event drew 354 entrants -- almost 60 percent more than the next largest \$1,125 tournament of the Circuit season. Additionally, the \$365 No-Limit Hold'em turbo tournament drew 381, more than 50 percent more than the next largest turbo tournament to take place in 2012-13.

"It was fantastic," Crncic said of the 12-day series. "(The WSOP) did a great, great job. The whole River Rock staff, they did a fantastic job."

The Main Event (officially listed as Event 7) was a six-day \$1,500 (+\$165) No-Limit Hold'em tournament that attracted 1,032 entrants -- the third largest WSOP Circuit Main Event ever and the largest non-charity poker tournament to take place in Canada.

Unique to River Rock Casino's tournament, the re-entry Main Event featured *three* start days (Day 1A, Day 1B and Day 1C) beginning Friday, November 2 at 12 p.m. PT. The other two start days began Saturday and Sunday also at 12 p.m. Day 1C was the largest drawing 382, followed by Day 1B, 352 and Day 1A 294. A total of 1,032 players participated in the Main Event making it the third largest in WSOP Circuit history and the largest non-charity poker tournament ever to take place in Canada.

The prizepool ballooned at \$1,548,000 and paid the top 108 finishers. A min cash was awarded \$2,848 while first place pocketed \$286,382.

Some notables to cash in the Main Event included Antony Vidmer (29th), Norman Overdijk (25th), David Pecaski (19th), gold bracelet champion, Daniel Idema (103rd), 2011-12 Horseshoe Council Bluffs Main Event champion, Scott Stanko (69th), CEO of the Canadian Poker Tour, Kelly Kellner (54th) and CardPlayer's 2007 Online Player of the Year, Isaac Baron (37th).

Seth Mennie was the final table bubble boy, finishing 10th for \$22,756.

The tournament's bubble boy was Jean Leblond. Leblond was presented with a free night's stay at River Rock and two buffet vouchers for his 109th place finish.

All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points used to qualify for a seat in the season-ending championship to be held in New Orleans May 21-23, 2013.

A full list of players who cashed in the Main Event can be seen on WSOP.com.

The first day resulted in the elimination of more than 75 percent of the field. In all, 246 players returned Monday at 12 p.m. After 10 levels on Day 2, the field was trimmed to 30. Day 3 began Tuesday at 12 p.m. and it took four and a half levels on to reach the final table. Their chip stacks were as follows (NOTE: final table blinds began at 25,000/50,000 with a 5,000 ante):

Seat 1 – Malachy Hagan (Langley, BC, CA) 1,735,000
Seat 2 – Michael Collins (Vancouver, BC, CA) 1,595,000
Seat 3 – Calvin Anderson (Edmonton, AB, CA) 2,755,000
Seat 4 – Tyler St. Clair (Edmonton, AB, CA) 1,960,000
Seat 5 – Sonny Sekhon (Vancouver, BC, CA) 4,660,000
Seat 6 – John Crncic (Vancouver, BC, CA) 2,415,000

Seat 7 – Ryan Biermann (Penticton, BC, CA) 3,085,000
Seat 8 – Glenn Sullivan (Vancouver, BC, CA) 1,010,000
Seat 9 – Justin Ciolfitto (Burnaby, BC, CA) 1,490,000

The final table featured no WSOP Circuit champions. It began Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. PT and concluded at 11 p.m., making the total duration of the final table 10 hours and 45 minutes.

About The Final Table:

1st: John Crncic- \$286,382
Hometown: Vancouver, BC, CA
Occupation: Construction safety manager
WSOP Circuit Earnings: First-time casher

2nd: Ryan Biermann- \$177,060
Hometown: Penticton, BC, CA
WSOP Circuit Earnings: First-time casher

3rd: Justin Ciolfitto - \$131,580
Hometown: Burnaby, BC, CA
Occupation: Heavy machine operator
WSOP Circuit Earnings: First-time casher

4th: Malachy Hagan - \$98,917
Hometown: Langley, BC, CA
Occupation: Professional Poker Player
WSOP Circuit Earnings: First-time casher

5th: Sonny Sekhon - \$75,217
Hometown: Vancouver, BC, CA
Occupation: Engineer
WSOP Circuit Earnings: First-time casher

6th: Calvin Anderson - \$57,864
Hometown: Edmonton, AB, CA
Occupation: IT sales
WSOP Circuit Earnings: First-time casher

7th: Tyler St. Clair - \$45,031
Hometown: Edmonton, AB, CA
Occupation: Warehouse supervisor
WSOP Circuit Earnings: \$6,191 (two cashes at River Rock)

8th: Michael Collins - \$35,449
Hometown: Vancouver, BC, CA
Occupation: Retired logger
WSOP Circuit Earnings: First-time casher

9th: Glenn Sullivan - \$28,236
Hometown: Vancouver, BC, CA

Occupation: Owner, Soho Billiards
WSOP Circuit Earnings: First-time casher

Notes On The Event:

- This marked the third largest WSOP Circuit Main Event ever and one of the largest in Canada's history.
- This was Crncic's first time to cash in a WSOP-sanctioned event.
- Nine out of the 10 final table participants were making their first WSOP Circuit cash. The only player with a prior cash, Tyler St. Clair, earned it in a prelim event just a few days prior.
- All final table participants hailed from Canada. Calvin Anderson, from Edmonton, AB, was the only participant at the final table not from British Columbia.
- The final table was streamed on ESPN3 with hold cards on a 30-minute delay. The broadcast featured analysis from WSOP Circuit commentator Bernard Lee and guest Matthew Affleck.
- Sekhon, who lost his father to cancer, boasted a mustache at the final table for 'Movember', a movement to raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer.

Here's a list of all the champions from the 2012-13 WSOP Circuit series at River Rock Casino Resort:

EVENT #1: Mike Kim defeated 410 players (\$365 NLH) for \$27,059

EVENT #2: Flemming Lund defeated 296 players (\$580 NLH) for \$35,523

EVENT #3: Adina Mazzucco defeated 205 players (\$365 PLO) for \$15,989

EVENT #4: Matthew O'Brien defeated 354 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$81,422

EVENT #5: Dean Engemoen defeated 347 entrants (\$580 NLH) for \$39,903

EVENT #6: Victor Chan defeated 381 entrants (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$25,143

THE MAIN EVENT: John Crncic defeated 1,302 entrants (\$1,675 NLH) for \$286,382

Ring events 11 and 12 will take place on PlayNow.com November 18 and 25. These events will count toward the Casino Champion's race at River Rock.

With the Main Event wrapped up, the 2012-13 WSOP Circuit at River Rock Casino Resort has come to a close.

Coming up next the WSOP Circuit is off to Harvey's Lake Tahoe. Events run from November 8 to November 19. The Main Event begins Saturday, November 17. For more information please visit www.WSOP.com/circuit/2012.

For more information on the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at @WSOP or check us out on WSOP.com. For additional information, please contact:

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