

**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Nine  
PlayNow.com/River Rock Casino Resort  
Richmond, BC, CA  
Event #11  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$20)  
Total Entries: 223  
Prize Pool: \$66,900  
November 18, 2012**



## **Raj Pooni Wins WSOP's First Online Tournament**

**Sandra Wong leapfrogs Adina Mazzucco with 17th place finish, regains River Rock Casino Champion's lead.**

**One gold ring event remains on PlayNow.com November 25.**

**Vancouver, BC (November 21, 2012)** — The 2012-13 World Series of Poker Circuit at River Rock Casino proved to be a series of firsts. It marked the first time the WSOP hosted an event on Canadian soil, the first time a Circuit final table was streamed with hole cards and crowned first time champions in all 10 events.

Ring events at River Rock concluded two weeks ago, but Circuit action in Canada is just getting started. Yet another first time occurrence went into the history books Sunday afternoon when virtual cards went into the air at 2 p.m. PT for the WSOP's first online tournament.

The event was the 11th of 12 ring events scheduled as part of the 2012-13 WSOP Circuit hosted by River Rock Casino and PlayNow.com. Events 1-10 took place October 27-November 7 just outside Vancouver, BC.

Event 11, a \$320 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament, drew 223 entrants yielding a \$66,900 prizepool – more than doubling the \$30,000 guarantee.

The tournament, ran by PlayNow.com in partnership with River Rock Casino and the WSOP, was won by Raj Pooni of Canada. He pocketed \$16,725 and a PlayNow.com-branded Circuit ring. Pooni, who plays under the handle RP96, was also awarded a one-of-kind gold WSOP Circuit champion avatar.

Marking one of just two remaining ring events on the schedule, the stakes were high in Event 11 as players jockeyed for Circuit ranking points. Sandra Wong and Event 3 champion Adina Mazzucco headline a seesaw battle atop the Casino Champion's leaderboard. Wong, who cashed three times including two final table appearances, lead through nine events, but was edged out by Mazzucco's eighth place finish in Event 10 just two weeks ago.

Wong overtook Mazzucco once again in Event 11, placing 17th, earning five points and bringing her total to 70 points, just 2.5 points ahead of Mazzucco.

Mazzucco did not play in Event 11. One gold ring event remains to take place on PlayNow.com November 25.

PlayNow.com is a Vancouver-based, government-owned and regulated online poker site. The company currently serves residents of British Columbia and Quebec but has plans to expand their network to Manitoba as early as next month. The site hopes to serve as much as 70 percent of Canada's population before 2014.

Satellites to Event 12 start as low as \$2 and are running on PlayNow.com.

Event 11 was the eleventh of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at River Rock Casino. The \$320 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 223 entries. The total prize pool came to \$66,900. The top 30 players were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points.

### **Notes on the Event**

- Event 11 marked the first time a WSOP-sanctioned event took place online. It was the first of two online events scheduled. The second begins November 25.
- The tournament was ran by PlayNow.com in partnership with River Rock Casino Resort, where 10 gold ring events took place between October 27 and November 7.
- Sandra Wong regained the Casino Champion's lead with a 17th place finish.
- Adina Mazzucco currently sits second in the Casino Champion's race. She played two events, finishing first and eighth. She did not play in Event 11.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in River Rock's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title "Casino Champion" and receive automatic entry into the \$1 Million 2012-13 WSOP National Championship to take place in New Orleans May 2013. John Crncic, the Main Event champion, already earned his seat in the championship two weeks ago.

The River Rock Casino Champion will not officially be crowned until the completion of the second of two online ring events to take place November 25. All players who cash in ring events will receive points that apply toward the Casino Champion race and the season-long race to claim one of the 60 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.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from River Rock:

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 players (\$580 NLH) for \$39,903  
EVENT #6: Victorn Chan defeated 381 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$25,143  
THE MAIN EVENT: John Crncic defeated 1,032 players (\$1,675) for \$286,382  
EVENT #8: Michael Sexsmith defeated 263 players (\$365 NLH) for \$20,909  
EVENT #9: Eric Tang defeated 241 players (\$365 NLH) for \$17,711  
EVENT #10: Faron Cosco defeated 127 players (\$365 Mixed NLH) for \$10,668  
EVENT #11: Raj Pooni defeated 223 players (\$320 NLH) for \$16,725

EVENT #12: TBD on PlayNow.com November 25, 2012

With the eleventh tournament now wrapped up, there is one more ring event to take place on PlayNow.com November 25, 2012.

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

Lukas M. Willems (WSOP Media Coordinator) at [lukasmwillems@gmail.com](mailto:lukasmwillems@gmail.com).