

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Harrah's Resort Atlantic City
Atlantic City, N.J.
Event #9
The Main Event
Buy-In: \$1500 (+\$175)
Total Entries: 460
Prize Pool: \$690,000
December 19-22, 2014**



Mukul Pahuja Wins Harrah's AC Main Event and his Second Gold Ring.

Pahuja continues to find success in Atlantic City.

Atlantic City, N.J. (December 22, 2014) – Almost five years ago to the day, Mukul Pahuja got the jumpstart he needed to jump into poker as a full time profession by finishing fourth in the World Series of Poker Circuit Harrah's Atlantic City \$5,000 Main Event and following that up with a ring in a \$2,000 postliminary event. They were his first significant scores and about a year later, he turned pro.

On Monday afternoon, with his brother on the rail, Pahuja earned his second ring at the same venue by winning the 2014 WSOP Circuit Harrah's Atlantic City Main Event. Pahuja took home \$148,345 by topping a field of 460 players and defeating Jake Toole heads-up, earning a seat to the 2015 WSOP National Championship in the process.

"It was my first major buy-in," said Pahuja of his fourth place finish in 2009. "It was a \$5,000 buy-in and before everything was standardized as \$1,675's across the board. I remember winning a satellite into that tournament and it was a big jump for me. My prior biggest cash was some small buy-in tournament and I ended up taking fourth for like \$70,000 or so. It was an amazing week and kind of introduced me more so into tournament poker. That week here at Harrah's was a catalyst for me."

The win gives Pahuja just shy of \$3.4 million in career live tournament earnings and fresh off a third place finish at WPT Montreal in November, but winning the \$148,345 wasn't going to be an easy task.

When the final table began, Pahuja was one of the shortest stacks and was at a very talented final table that featured chip leader Mike Dentale, Joseph Liberta and Adam Teasdale, who won this exact event in 2012.

"I've been feeling great about everything I've been doing lately," said Pahuja. "But a lot of things have to go well as you saw today. A lot of guys got it in really good today and it didn't work out. There were a lot of good players at this final table, a lot of high-level play and there were some crazy swings."

When play began on Monday, there were 15 minute left in level 25 and then the levels were increased to 75 minute in length. David Matthews was eliminated in ninth place during level 26 and it would stay eight-handed until the beginning of level 28.

Joseph Liberta lost a flip to Toole to be eliminated in eighth place and over the next two hours, the tournament went from eight players down to just Pahuja. Those two hours saw the crazy swings and bad beats that Pahuja eluded to and in the end, Pahuja was the last man standing.

Pahuja earned most of the knockouts along the way, sending home Jesse Cohen in seventh, Teasdale in sixth, Dentale in fourth, Jeganathan in third and Toole in a heads-up battle that lasted only a few hands.

“There were three or four major flips [that][I][won], one three-handed and one to close it out. You just got to keep putting yourself in a position to win those big showdowns. I put myself in a position to get lucky and I did.”

The field as a whole was littered with pros. Bracelet winners Greg Kolo and Brian Lemke finished 24th and 33rd respectively, while Jake Schwartz, Joseph Wertz, Julie Cornelius, Paul Sokoloff, Ralph Massey and Tim West all earned a cash in the event as well.

The Main Event was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah’s Resort Atlantic City. The \$1,675 no-limit hold’em event attracted 640 entries. The total prize pool came to \$690,000 and the top 54 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday, December 19 at 12 p.m. and Saturday, December 20 at 12 p.m. Flight A drew 172 entries and advanced 33 while Flight B attracted 288 and advanced 53.

Play restarted Sunday at 12 p.m. with 86 players. Day 2 wrapped up at about 11:45 p.m. with nine players remaining and 15 minutes remaining in Level 25.

Day 3 began Monday at 12 p.m. and concluded at about 5:50 p.m. at the end of Level 29.

Final table seating assignments and chip counts:

Action began with 15 minutes left in Level 25 – 12,000/24,000 with a 4,000 ante

Seat 1: Jim Petolicchio – 1,300,000 (54 BBs)
Seat 2: Jesse Cohen – 794,000 (33 BBs)
Seat 3: Michael Dentale – 1,600,000 (66 BBs)
Seat 4: Jake Toole – 1,150,000 (47 BBs)
Seat 5: Joseph Liberta – 1,225,000 (51 BBs)
Seat 6: Adam Teasdale - (36 BBs)
Seat 7: Mukul Pahuja – 761,000 (31 BBs)
Seat 8: Gajan Jeganathan – 1,107,000 (46 BBs)
Seat 9: David Matthews – 373,000 (15 BBs)

About the Final Table:

1st: Mukul Pahuja - \$148,345
Hometown: Coconut Creek, Fla.
Age: 28
Occupation: Professional Poker Player
Circuit Earnings: \$164,924

2nd: Jake Toole - \$91,722
Hometown: Hoboken, N.J.
Age: 25
Circuit Earnings: \$7,850

3rd: Gajan Jeganathan - \$67,007
Hometown: North Brunswick, N.J.
Age: 28
Occupation: Student
Circuit Earnings: \$0

4th: Michael Dentale - \$49,673
Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.
Age: 44
Occupation: Professional Poker Player
Circuit Earnings: \$22,478

5th: Jim Petolicchio - \$37,357
Hometown: Sewell, N.J.
Age: 42
Circuit Earnings: \$0

6th: Adam Teasdale - \$28,497
Hometown: Wilmington, N.C.
Age: 29
Occupation: Professional Poker Player
Circuit Earnings: \$231,547

7th: Jesse Cohen - \$22,046
Hometown: Ardmore, Pa.
Age: 29
Occupation: Professional Poker Player
Circuit Earnings: \$54,114

8th: Joseph Liberta - \$17,298
Hometown: Berlin, N.J.
Age: 25
Occupation: Professional Poker Player
Circuit Earnings: \$56,591

9th: David Matthews - \$13,766
Hometown: Winchester, Va.
Age: 31
Circuit Earnings: \$0

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harrah's Resort Atlantic City:

EVENT #1: Malik Boney defeated 250 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$18,369
EVENT #2: Derek Blenman defeated 521 players (\$365 NLHE Re-entry) for \$33,606
EVENT #3: John Jones defeated 114 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$17,100
EVENT #4: Jeffrey Jarosz defeated 243 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$17,859
EVENT #5: Brian Zekus defeated 120 players (\$365 Omaha 8) for \$10,801
EVENT #6: Daniel Charette defeated 159 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$12,877
EVENT #7: Sean Lippel defeated 238 players (\$365 NLHE 6 Max) for \$19,278
EVENT #8: Andrew Salamore defeated 159 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$21,467
MAIN EVENT: Mukul Pahuja defeated 460 players (\$1,675 NLHE) for \$148,345
EVENT #10: Jacob Neff defeated 113 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$10,172

John Jones earned the Casino Champion honors following three cashes, all of which were final tables, and one gold ring performance totaling 95 points. He's set to join the Harrah's Resort Atlantic City Main Event champion at the National Championship this spring. There, they'll play for their share of an up-to \$2 million prize pool and a gold bracelet.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 50 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 World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

For additional information please contact:

Isaac Hanson (WSOP Media Coordinator) at ijhanson13@gmail.com.