

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Harrah's Cherokee

Cherokee, N.C.

Event #10

The Main Event

Buy-In: \$1500 (+\$175)

Total Entries: 786

Prize Pool: \$1,179,000

April 24-27, 2015



Ryan Jones Wins the Harrah's Cherokee Main Event

Ryan Jones will be returning to Cherokee in late July to compete in the National Championship.

Cherokee, N.C. (April 27, 2015) – A hometown hero was crowned on Monday evening at the World Series of Poker Circuit Harrah's Cherokee Main Event, as North Carolina native Ryan Jones took down the title. The 24-year old Jones earned \$235,804 for the win – nearly doubling his lifetime earnings – while also claiming his first WSOP Circuit ring. In addition, Jones secured himself a seat in the season-ending National Championship event in late July, where he'll compete against top-tier poker talent for part of up to \$2 million guaranteed prize pool. Even better, Jones gets to return to the scene of his most important poker accomplishment, as the National Championship will be held right here at Harrah's Cherokee.

Playing a few hours from his hometown of Burlington, Jones emerged from a 786-runner field that featured most of the local poker scene's big names, along with several prominent pros. Jones entered Day 3 action sitting second in chips behind David Williams – who he eventually defeated after a heads-up duel that lasted less than an hour. He put on a clinic throughout the final table, steadily accumulating chips by three-betting preflop much more often than any of his opponents. Jones also enjoyed the support of several friends on the rail throughout the final table, each of them sporting custom *On A Draw* clothing to support one of Jones' business interests.

“Winning at home was pretty special for sure,” Jones said about the win. “It feels pretty good. I've had a couple deep runs and couldn't close the deal, so it felt good to finally get it done. I'd like to thank my mom and my grandma for taking care of me all my life, and now I get to pay it back.”

One of those deep runs occurred in January, as Jones finished 4th in the Borgata Winter Poker Open \$560 buy-in series opener. That event featured a \$1 million guaranteed prize pool, and Jones added \$119,582 to his bankroll. With a big win now added to his résumé, Jones moved to just under \$500,000 in reported live earnings.

“I started playing for quarters when I was young,” Jones said when asked about his progression in poker. “Had a big score in January, now this, so it's been a good year so far. I can't complain. I'm excited for a chance to play with the best (in the National Championship).”

Day 3 was action-packed from the start, and Jones did his part by sending Erik Gorman to the rail in 11th place – doing so in style with pocket aces against the latter’s fours in the hole. Armed with a big stack to work with, Jones then took Martin Roberts out in 7th place, flopping a set of sixes to win a coin flip after the two got their money in before the flop. From there, Jones picked his spots wisely and let Williams do the heavy lifting in terms of eliminations, before a cooler during heads-up play settled things in dramatic fashion. Both players flopped a pair on the **Q♣** **8♥** **3♦**, with Williams holding **K♠** **8♠** and Jones **K♦** **Q♥**. When the **K♥** peeled off on the turn, a raising war erupted and Jones was the last player left standing.

In addition to Jones’ win on home turf, there were two other stories of note taking place during final table action. Tony Sewell locked up the title of Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Champion – earning a berth in the National Championship – before he headed out in 6th place. Diana Dinser made a run at becoming just the second woman ever to win a WSOP Circuit Main Event title, just one week after Michelle Chin did so at the Council Bluffs stop, but she ultimately fell short with a 5th place finish.

The Harrah’s Cherokee Main Event boasted a \$750,000 guarantee that was easily surpassed, as 203 entries were recorded on Day 1A, and 583 more during the second starting flight. The 768-player field generated a total prize pool of \$1,179,000. Several notable names made the money, including 3-time bracelet winner David Bach (65th), ring winner Steve Karp (52nd), Nicholas Palma (41st), bracelet winner Michael Gracz (24th), local basketball icon Tommy Burluson (23rd), and Ralph Massey (17th).

The Main Event was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah’s Cherokee. The \$1,675 no-limit hold’em event attracted 786 entries. The total prize pool came to \$1,179,000 and the top 81 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday, April 24 at noon and Saturday, April 25 at noon Flight A drew 283 entries and advanced 54 while Flight B attracted 503 and advanced 114.

Play restarted Sunday at 12 p.m. with 168 players. Day 2 wrapped up at about 1:30 a.m. with 14 players remaining.

Day 3 began Monday at 12 p.m. and concluded at about 7:15 p.m. near the end of Level 30.

Final table seating assignments:

Action began with 27 minutes left Level 27 – 20,000/40,000 with a 5,000 ante

Seat 1: Diana Dinser – 1,000,000 (25 BBs)
Seat 2: Martin Roberts – 435,000 (10 BBs)
Seat 3: Garry Simms – 2,900,000 (72 BBs)
Seat 4: David Williams – 3,120,000 (78 BBs)
Seat 5: Adam West – 2,310,000 (57 BBs)
Seat 6: Peter Vitantonio – 910,000 (22 BBs)
Seat 7: Tony Sewell – 340,000 (8 BBs)
Seat 8: Clifford Billups – 1,625,000 (40 BBs)
Seat 9: Ryan Jones – 3,200,000 (80 BBs)

About the Final Table:

1st: Ryan Jones - \$235,804
Hometown: Burlington, N.C.
Age: 27
Circuit Earnings: \$35,194

2nd: David Williams - \$145,371
Hometown: Hoover, Ala.
Age: 29
Occupation: Family Business
Circuit Earnings: \$10,601

3rd: Clifford Billups - \$107,171
Hometown: Chattanooga, Tenn.
Age: 36
Occupation: Restaurant Owner
Circuit Earnings: \$1,747

4th: Adam West - \$79,877
Hometown: Charlotte, N.C.
Age: 29
Occupation: Poker/Finance
Circuit Earnings: \$61,416

5th: Diana Dinser - \$60,329
Hometown: Marieth, Ga.
Age: 55
Occupation: Chiropractor
Circuit Earnings: \$0 (\$32,322 for Nov. '14 Cherokee senior's event)

6th: Tony Sewell - \$46,158
Hometown: Shelby, N.C.
Age: 57
Occupation: Self Employed
Circuit Earnings: \$73,911

7th: Martin Roberts - \$35,759
Hometown: Charlotte, N.C.
Age: 37
Occupation: Finance
Circuit Earnings: \$0

8th: Peter Vitantonio - \$28,048
Hometown: Wickliffe, Ohio
Age: 32
Occupation: Poker
Circuit Earnings: \$17,043

9th: Garry Simms - \$22,271
Hometown: Shelbyville, Ky.
Age: 30
Occupation: Poker/Horse
Circuit Earnings: \$45,232

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Harrah's Cherokee series:

EVENT #1: Tony Sewell defeated 466 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$30,050
EVENT #2: John Morris defeated 242 players (\$365 PLO) for \$17,787
EVENT #3: Matthew Lee defeated 581 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$36,598
EVENT #4: Chris Russell defeated 2,937 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$125,559
EVENT #5: Ed Willis defeated 451 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$29,079
EVENT #6: Tyler Morris defeated 400 players (\$365 NLHE 6-Max) for \$28,794
EVENT #7: Kyle Cadman defeated 349 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$24,084
EVENT #8: Troy Thornton defeated 703 players (\$365 NLHE Monster Stack) for \$43,240
EVENT #9: Steve Nussrallah defeated 334 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$38,412
MAIN EVENT: Ryan Jones defeated 786 players (\$1,675 NLEH) for \$235,806

Tony Sewell earned the Casino Champion title following four cashes, two final tables, and one gold ring performance totaling 97.5 points. He's set to join the Harrah's Cherokee Main Event champion at the National Championship. 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 56 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.