

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Palm Beach Kennel Club
West Palm Beach, Fla.
Event #4
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 109
Prize Pool: \$32,700
Nov. 14-15, 2016**



Steven Bennett Wins His First Gold Ring

Steven Bennett makes a comeback to deny Andrew Lauer his third gold ring of the season.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (November 14, 2016) -- Steven Bennett has just won his first career WSOP Circuit gold ring by defeating a 109 player field to win Event #4: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em. He defeated Andrew Lauer heads-up to deny Lauer his third gold ring of the season.

Bennett and Lauer got heads up late Monday night after Jared Ambler's elimination in 3rd place. Neither player was able to claim victory and the tournament had to bag. Lauer bagged with a 2:1 chip lead over Bennett, but when the players returned Tuesday for Day 2 of the tournament Bennett took control. The two players battled it out for about two hours on Tuesday and Bennett completed the comeback to win the tournament and the \$9,810 first place prize.

"I honestly thought I'd probably lose. I know [Lauer] had won a couple of rings recently and I know he has more head-up experience than I do. I haven't played heads up in years," said Bennett about entering Day 2 as the short stack.

Bennett said he played a cautious heads-up game and it paid off. He was not going to have any fear, but he wanted to make sure he didn't do anything stupid. The strategy ended up working for Bennett.

Bennett entered this final table with more WSOP final table experience than most of his competitors. This marked Bennett's fifth career Circuit final table and they have all come here at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. His best finish on the Circuit prior to this event was a 3rd place finish in a \$365 no-limit hold'em event last February. In 2014 Bennett finished in 67th place in the \$10,000 Main Event in Las Vegas. He earned \$103k for that run and it still remains as his largest career cash.

It was a tough loss for Lauer. He had a decent lead entering Day 2 and was just a few pots away from his third gold ring of the season. If Lauer would have won he would have joined Nate Bandy as the only players to have won three gold rings this season. The record for most gold rings in a single season is four. It's still early in the season for Lauer and he still has a shot breaking that record.

Lauer can rest a little easier knowing that he already has 140 points in the Global Casino Championship season long standings this early in the season. His second place finish today earned him 37.5 points and moved him into first place. The top 50 point earners at the end of the season will earn free seats to the \$1 million guaranteed 2017 Global Casino Championship.

Bennett has decided to forgo today's two gold ring events and go and get some rest instead. He said that he intends to be back later this week to play in a couple more events before the series is up.

Event #4 was the fourth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 109 players generating a \$32,700 prize pool. The top 15 players were paid.

Day 1 began Monday at 12 p.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Tuesday at 1:50 p.m. with two players remaining. The tournament concluded at about 3:45 p.m. Monday at the beginning of Level 24.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Palm Beach Kennel Club twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship set to take place at the end of the season.

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 Global Casino 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 the Palm Beach Kennel Club series:

EVENT #1: Matthew Wright defeated 322 players (\$365 NLHE Monster) for \$22,705

EVENT #2: Carlos Loving defeated 855 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$50,017

EVENT #3: Eddie Salaga defeated 92 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$8,210

EVENT #4: Steven Bennett defeated 109 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$9,810

With four tournaments wrapped up, eight more ring events remain at the Palm Beach Kennel Club series.

All rings at the Palm Beach Kennel Club series are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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