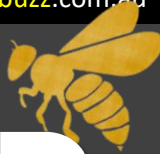


POKER BUZZ

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

NEWSLETTER



WPT QPC WRAPUP! MAIN EVENT WINNER – SHAUN ZAMMIT 'BY GEOFF BOND'

JUNE'S WPT QPC Series Main Event winner Shaun Zammit put on a virtual Final Table poker clinic enroute to scoring his second trophy in 24 hours and another Championship Ring to add to his growing collection. Joining the consistent Frank Marino as the ONLY players to score dual QPC Main Event Titles, the 30 year-old Sydneysider staged an epic late run to mark a startling return to form and pocket \$31,500. The quietly-spoken poker professional started Day 2 way back in the field, returning with \$113k in chips – just on half the average stack and literally out of sight of the chip leaders. Not to mention operating on minimal rest, having played well into the wee small hours to win the previous night's Terminator Event. Zammit's history of deep runs (he has also won the WPT's Sydney Main Event a record three times) held him in good stead as he patiently gathered chips and mixed caution and aggression to sail 'into the money' and stay in the hunt. Meanwhile, runaway chip leader Frank Sisilo was proving a one-man wrecking ball and by the time the field had been whittled down to the Final Table the ever-smiling Brisbanite held over 60% of the chips with a whopping \$28.6m. Zammit, on the other hand, sat with the smallest stack with a comparatively measly \$1.55m. Finding ideal situations to 'get it in good' after shoving with KJo twice and doubling both times, he tentatively climbed to \$5m before finally picking up some premium hands (KK and shortly after AK) to place himself midfield. As a few speculative calls from Sisilo finally saw his massive chip lead dwindle, respected Kiwi veteran Graeme Putt took a massive chunk when his well-disguised turned straight elicited an all-in snap call from Sisilo with JJ. As the small stacks fell by the wayside, Zammit's disciplined play started to pay dividends as Lady Luck allowed him a heart-stopping suckout when his K7 found a stray 7 on the flop to overcome Sisilo's K10. With only three remaining, Sisilo's entertaining run came to an end when Zammit's pocket jacks held up against Sisilo's KJ shove and it was down to heads up between the new chipleader and the seasoned Putt. With a shake of hands, the pair cut a deal immediately and Zammit found himself etched into the record books with another impressive trophy to try and squeeze into his luggage and get home.

*Photo Credit – WPT QPC SERIES GOLD COAST


Quarterly Poker
CHAMPIONSHIP
 GOLD COAST
CONGRATULATIONS
- SHAUN ZAMMIT -
WINNER OF THE QPC MAIN EVENT
JUNE 6TH, 2021



WPT QPC SERIES WRAPUP!

'BY GEOFF BOND'

GOLD Coast poker pro Sam Adams again proved his consistency by scooping his second straight WPT QPC Player of the Series Award last month.

With a typical swag of deep runs, it was another feather in the cap for Adams. He finished 160 pts clear of Mike Rowley to take the prestigious title and top prize of over \$15k.

With the quarterly series now showing great signs of comfort at its new home - Gold Coast Turf Club - players again swarmed in in search of a big payday and a chance at winning one of the five-day QPC Series' Events.

And it wasn't long before very familiar names were making their mark.

Straight out of the blocks, well-credentialed high stakes regular Jigsy Reyes was owning souls in the Mini Main Event - eventually bettering a star-studded field of 408 entries for an impressive large field win.

Another well-loved character in Wayde Rickhuss was also dominating on the felt, earning a 3am victory lap and a \$6800 payday.

The \$3k Buy-in Alpha event saw Victorian Sean Ragozzini (\$81,470) beat Vincent Huang in a spookily ironic finish. The pair also finished 1st and 2nd at the previous fortnight's WPT Deepstacks \$5k Challenge at Star Casino Gold Coast.

*Photo Credit - WPT QPC SERIES GOLD COAST



APT SYDNEY GOLIATH WINNER BRENDON RUBIE 'BY GEOFF BOND'

AS the curtain came down early on APT's recent Sydney Series, one of the more highly-anticipated events – The \$2500 Goliath – played out to a thrilling conclusion amongst the chaos.

Sydney-based poker pro/coach Brendon Rubie added another trophy to his cabinet, pocketing a cool \$68,000 as he beat Daniel Sharnock heads up for the title.

104 entries were seated on Day One of the prestigious tournament, with its deepstack structure a huge drawcard for high rollers.

Entering Day 2 midfield with 275,000 in chips (average stack 210,000), Rubie was well placed to pounce and found a slight advantage when the decision was made to cut blind levels back to 40 minutes to try and promote an earlier finish as the Series wound towards its unplanned early end.

"I'm not sure some players made the adjustment as well as they would have liked," Rubie recalled.

"I tried to use it to my advantage, and it actually helped keep me active and focused on the prize."

"There was a lot of noise and commotion going on around us as the players in the room started to realise what was going on with the Covid restrictions."

Already the owner of two Aussie Millions rings – as well as a lucrative Sydney WSOP \$5k Challenge circuit event victory – Rubie's Hendon Mob live stats now have him approaching \$2m in earnings.

Instantly successful on the tournament scene on arrival as a teenager, he was hellbent on making a name for himself from the get-go with a remarkable debut victory at the 2008 APPT Big Game Poker Championships.

Over the next four impressive years, Rubie was fast realising his dream of becoming a major force on the Australian tournament scene.

Spreading his wings as a wide-eyed 22yo back in 2012 amid the intoxicating bright lights of gambling mecca Las Vegas, he went within a whisker of bettering seasoned pro Timothy Adams for a much-coveted bracelet.

Having tucked a LOT of experience and success under his belt since (as well as some enviable paydays), the softly-spoken Rubie has a carefully-considered approach to the game.

Plus, an eerie sense of where he is in a hand without seeing his opponent's cards. A sense that he knows played a key role in him coming out on top after what might have seemed an insignificant hand to onlookers.

Down to two tables and playing five-handed with 1.2m in chips, Rubie flatted with AQ on the button in the hope of trapping an opponent he knew would continue to fire post flop.

However, an unexpected jam from the small blind put him in the tank and he eventually found a fold in a decision he thinks set him up for the win.

"Even though I was purposely under-repping my hand there to try and trap the initial raiser, it just didn't feel right to call off two-thirds of my stack there with AQ," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE #4...

BRENDON RUBIE CONTINUED

“It leans towards being a very conservative fold, but I just let my instinct takeover. I’ll never know what we had because we didn’t get to see his cards, but I think it was the right play and better spots obviously came my way eventually.”

It was another very good strategic play which sealed the victory as Rubie raised the minimum with KK and got a call from runner-up Charnock.

A Q-7-9 flop arrived and Rubie checked his over-pair, which resulted in a bet from Charnock. When Rubie shoved all-in, Charnock called with his Q8 behind, and a clean runout followed.

The Goliath win adds another major title to Rubie’s overflowing list of successes and will do his popular poker coaching career no harm at all.

“I’ve been using my Degree in Counselling and Coaching to build a pretty strong client base from the poker community alone,” Rubie offered.

“Most of my clients are actually pub league players who want to make the step up to the higher buy-in events. The sessions are very much focused on building game play that best suits that slower structure.”

“The mental game is where everything needs to start. You don’t win these multiple day events on day one.”

*Photo Credit – APT SERIES SYDNEY

BRENDON RUBIE
\$68,000

EVENT 6
THE GOLIATH

\$226,750
PRIZE POOL

104 ENTRIES
*\$7,250 ADDED TO SERIES COMPETITIONS & PRIZES

AUSTRALIAN POKER TOUR

APT SYDNEY
2021 - SEASON 4

EVENT 6 - THE GOLIATH
\$2,500 [\$2,250+\$250] RESULTS

1ST	♠ BRENDON RUBIE	\$68,000
2ND	DANIEL CHARNOCK	\$43,000
3RD	SCOTT BUCHANAN	\$27,000
4TH	JASON PRITCHARD	\$20,750
5TH	MARC SEYMOUR	\$16,500
6TH	ROBERT KWAN	\$13,500
7TH	GRAHAM COWAN	\$11,250
8TH	DANIEL O'SHEA	\$9,250
9TH	VASCO ZAPANTIS	\$6,800
10TH	♠ HARLEY JENSZ	\$5,700
11TH	♥ MICHAEL SEYMOUR	\$5,000

COVID STRIKES!

COVID CALLS A HALT TO SWAG OF MUCH-ANTICIPATED POKER EVENTS!

'BY GEOFF BOND'

THE ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has once again skittled major tournament schedules across the poker community, with a host of heavyweight events cancelled or postponed as border closures and community lockdowns took full effect.

APT's flagship Sydney Series went from compulsory facemasks to full cancellation less than halfway through its schedule last month as interstate players scrambled to get back on the right side of the border before early morning deadlines.

While 11 events were still able to be decided, the majority of 'blue ribbon' events – including the much-anticipated debut of the first dealer-dealt Main Event (with a \$600 Buy in) and the hugely popular High Roller – fell by the wayside.

APT operators were clearly devastated as they announced their decision to cancel the event, which saw them also link with an impressive new venue in The Cube Convention Centre in Campbelltown.

It was a cruel blow to the APT team, with the Sydney Series just hitting its stride when another Covid-19 outbreak reared its head.

Prior to pulling the pin, a decision correctly made for the paramount safety of all staff and players, the seven-day Series was really gathering steam as players arrived at the venue for the first time and were greeted by an impressively laid-out playing arena.

Among the events which were completed was the \$2500 Goliath (104 entries), which was taken down by prominent professional and poker coach, Brendon Rubie (see main story).

A shortened Player of the Series Award went to dual event-winner Jessie Stanley, who won the PLO Hi-Lo 8 or Better and the Short Deck Titles.

The 6 Max 30-second Shotclock event saw Johanne Sojong emerge the victor (\$11,900), while Jacob Fulop scored \$10,500 for his 6 Max Championships win.

Zoran Josk was the eventual victor in the Jeff Fenech Celebrity Knockout for \$8,400 and Ben Maruse kicked off proceedings, bettering a field of 215 entries in the Opening Event for a \$5,400 payday.

APT Sydney isn't the only major series to be Covid-affected though.

The Star Sydney was also forced to 'indefinitely postpone' its late-July Sydney Champs event.

Check Raise Poker's Super Series at the Acacia Ridge Hotel also had to be shelved at the last minute, with owner Mark Mayer fortunately able to give it the green light the following week (see full wrap up in this edition).

CRP SUPER SERIES WRAP WITH MARK MAYER 'BY GEOFF BOND'

JULY'S on-again off-again Check Raise Poker Super Series proved the ideal opportunity for owner Mark Mayer to launch his revamped Player of the Series structure.

Initially postponed just days before its scheduled start due again to the heightened threat of Covid-19, the 5-day series eventually rolled into the Brisbane Southside's Acacia Ridge Hotel the following fortnight (July 14-18).

A solid mix of events – which has grown from its initial 8-event calendar at inception three short years ago up to 17 tournaments – the Super Series is seen as a great chance for local league players to step up a level and mix it with the best on the travelling circus of poker circa 2021.

Trotting out a slogan of 'rewarding the deep runs, not the deep pockets', Mayer and his Check Raise team introduced a radical new Player of the Series format – and it produced the tightest of finishes.

Consistent performer John Boardman (1725 pts) ending up nudging out the red-hot Josh Norvock (1650 pts) and local grinder Alex Lees (1625 pts) to scoop \$5880 in a thrilling multi-tournament tussle that instantly validated the all-new points system.

"We got a lot of feedback in previous series, especially from our regular players, and they made a valid point that the Player of the Series structure we had been using was too heavily weighted towards those with the biggest bankrolls," Mayer told Poker Buzz.

"The new structure was designed with the objective of providing good poker for our tournament players. We instantly removed the concept of participation points and replaced it with a system heavily weighted towards rewarding deep runs and Final Tables."

"It might still need a tweak or two, but the concept worked, and the truth is no-one could enjoy watching someone run from table to table and sometimes shove all-in any hand because they had already won points just for playing the tournament.

"CRP believes it's better to reward the players that go the furthest and have the best results, but that structure also creates a better quality of poker play and that's a little win for all the players."

Mayer is still buoyed by regular support and advice from poker legend and household name Chris MoneyMaker – whose visit to host and play in Mayer's Super Series in 2019 was a huge catalyst for the CRP brand and its growth.

"I'm very thankful for the amazing support I get from not just the players, but from Chris personally and also from other poker identities like WPT operator Mitch Caton," Mayer offered.

"It's very humbling to know they want to help me succeed. It's taken eight years to establish ourselves pretty much from scratch.

CHECK RAISE POKER CONTINUED

“To walk into our Super Series and see the quality of players who make their way there to support us is what it’s all about for our team. We are very thankful.”

Part of CRP’s 2022 plans is to bump its current 3 per year Super Series roster to 4 per year, with the 2021 season set to conclude (pending Covid restrictions) at Acacia Ridge from November 24-28.

On the results front, last month’s Super Series saw Mike Wilson walk away with the Main Event Title and \$6500 in well-earned prizemoney, beating CRP regular Ed Weatherall heads-up late on Day 2.

Another local in Ruiyang Wang scored victory in the JDL Sports High Roller (\$11,600), while the 2-Day opening event saw Jason Chahine (\$2130) take out The Accumulator.

Josh Norvock again clinched multiple events, with a Super High Roller payday of \$14,320 and a Teams Event win with partner Troy McLean.

Mike Maddocks also nabbed another impressive win in the 24/7 Evolution Gym Pot Limit Omaha High Roller, dualling with close friend Rauran Toye heads up before clinching the trophy.

The popular Pokershop Open went to southside tournament regular Noman Mirza, while Mina Gerges was delighted to get his hands on the Poker Buzz Super Turbo Title.

***Photo Credit – Dimi Brisbane**



ARE YOU OUTSIDE THE WINNERS CIRCLE?

'BY DARRYL LANYON'

Our poker world experts generally agree that around ten percent of all players are long term winners or at best, break even. Although I'm primarily a cash game player, most of my tips also apply to tournaments. Today, I'll focus on why poker players lose, followed next month with 'Traits of Winners'.

1. **TILT.** The biggest reason for losses. You lose emotional control after several bad beats. Getting hands cracked is part of the game. Take responsibility for your actions and dismiss situations you can't control and move on to the next hand.
2. **HAND SELECTION.** The most important decision of the game, to play the hand or not. You must consider your position, stack sizes, the other players in the hand, board texture, the hand strength, just to name a few. Don't call raises with inferior cards and show some self-discipline.
3. **AGGRESSION.** Continual winners raise and re-raise. Calling just isn't a strong/powerful play. The best plays are betting/raising OR folding!
4. **VARIANCE.** There is greater deviation in tournaments than cash games. The luck factor of the cards combined with the diverse skill levels of players, adds to the complexity of NLHE.
5. **FEAR.** Maybe you are frightened to lose, too scared to bluff or the game is too big. You may fear embarrassment of table ridicule, when you make mistakes. To overcome this you need to play your very best, go with your reads and commit to losing it all, in order to win. Some players have a 'loss aversion' avoiding losses, instead of acquiring gains (wins)!
6. **BLUFFING.** It is an art, but bluffing too much or not enough will lower your win rate. In the right situation, putting the pressure onto an opponent, the bluff becomes king. Never call a bluff without a reason.

CONTINUED ON PAGE #9...

ARE YOU OUTSIDE THE WINNERS CIRCLE?

CONTINUED

- 7. CONFIDENCE.** You must be in the right frame of mind to play. You need to feel fit, well rested, focused, with no life dramas on your mind.
- 8. MISTAKES.** The less you make the better but learn from them. Luck favours the brave and try to make the same mistake only once. It is also a big mistake to disregard the effect of the rake on your win rate.
- 9. FOCUS.** Are you in the game to win or play on your phone and watch TV? Failure is linked to being too distracted. Look for tells, listen and read your opponents, when out of a hand. Concentrate on your patience and watch player's actions, work out hand ranges, betting patterns and mannerisms.
- 10. OUTCLASSED.** Apart from the game being too big for your budget, opponents could possess a fearless demeanor, have much greater skills, wider experience and an endless bankroll. To play against better players has its merits and may be of value to you long term. But always play in games where you feel confident, comfortable and relaxed.
- 11. POOR SKILLS.** The favourite in any game, is the one prepared to win. Improve your abilities, study the game and learn from winners who share information. Because many players can't change or re-educate themselves, they will be destined to be losers. Don't let that be you.





TABLE TALK

w/ Geoff Bond

PANDEMIC STRIKES

COVID AND POKER



As the pandemic continues to wreak havoc with tournament schedules, most of us have had a little more time on our hands and a whole lot more mask on our faces.

As poker players, life can seem much more of a chore without our little escapes to the dark side. Eager to get a poker fix, many turn to their favorite online sites to feed the need. But, without a healthy bankroll, there will be times where that option simply isn't feasible every time the urge builds up to play some hands.

On that note, I'd like to throw in a suggestion as an alternative - start binging from the many Youtubers offering vlogging content from their casino cash game sessions. Not only will you find yourself getting all up in some huge pots and action, but you get the added bonus of seeing and hearing how the pros think and react as a live hand unfolds.

Obviously, watching someone stream their four-hour online sessions can quickly become a little tedious ... but an edited 20-min package of `best of` hands from a live session is generally a collection of exciting hands and spots high in entertainment and low on the yawn count.

Personally, I've become quite a fan of two of the most popular poker vloggers in the market in Brad Owen and Rampage Poker. Both have a massive subscriber following and have a very laidback, sometime amusing, approach to their content. If you're looking for huge pots, occasional bad reads and the odd wild punt, then this is the perfect boredom-breaking fodder for you.

Both vloggers have countless hours of episodes on offer and will take you on a crazy ride were bankrolls are made and lost in the blink of an eye. They are constantly eager to build big pots and - for anyone genuinely eager to improve their understanding of the game and their opposition - will talk you through their decision-making processes mid-hand.

And - unlike many of the ego-driven vloggers you will find trying to earn likes and followers - its hardly a case of 'look at me and how good I am'.

These guys are often filming from the carpark and lamenting on a bad decision that cost them any profit ... rather than fanning notes and showing off their lifestyles. Not that's something we can all relate to, particularly tournament players who are one bad read away from always starting the car.

There's a hundred other options outside of those I've suggested ... have a hunt and see what you can find. Nothing better than a new offering from your favorite poker vlogger when you stuck at home with no place to go during lockdown.

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER?

QUEENSLAND

**APT SEASON IV – GRAND FINAL BRISBANE
(SEPTEMBER 21 – 27)**

**WPT QPC GOLD COAST
GOLD COAST TURF CLUB & EVENT CENTRE
6TH OCTOBER – 10TH OCTOBER
\$800,000 SERIES GUARANTEED**

**NEW SOUTH WALES
COVID RESTRICTIONS (TBA)**

**VICTORIA
COVID RESTRICTIONS (TBA)**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA
(November Events to be advised)**

**TASMANIA
(EVENTS TO BE ADVISED)**