



CARIBBEAN POKER CLASSIC™

Daily Results – November 28th, 2006

By Rolf Slotboom

Posted on www.pokerpages.com

\$1000+ \$100 Hold'em Blackjack \$50,000 ADDED, November 28th, 4:00pm

Entries: 65

Prize pool: \$112,550

It was the fifth day at the Caribbean Poker Classic. The game we were playing: Hold'em Blackjack. An interesting combination of poker & blackjack, where unlike regular blackjack we are playing against each other, with a dealer button and blinds, and where bluffing and betting for value is a big part of the game.

The tournament had a \$1000+100 buy-in. Seduced by the no less than \$50,000 added money, 65 players put up that amount. And yes, this included yours truly, who didn't want to miss out on the chance of winning the first-ever brick and mortar Hold'em Blackjack event, and who was obviously seduced by the great value. (Of course, this was only until he realized that he could not play a lick...)

We had started out with big stacks & deep money, but with the blinds & antes slowly rising, more and more players were starting to run into danger. And yes, obviously this again included... yours truly.

In all honesty, this Hold'em Blackjack turned out to be a quite remarkable event. Played six-handed, it was clear that aggressive play would get rewarded. But being fairly new to the game, most players had trouble releasing marginal hands, and quite a few players were willing to call raises & reraises with just a picture card (worth ten points) face down. Coupled with the often aggressive play early in the hand, this meant that especially at the later stages of the event the luck factor would be fairly high - as opposed to the highly skillful situation we had earlier on.

As it happened, the representative for the dealers, Troy Somers, got to the final table as the chipleader. Having won the "dealer satellite", all dealers from this satellite had a share in him - and they could be proud about Troy's performance. He played solid-though-aggressive, and was very keen when it came to good deal-making. Especially Paul Zimpler seemed very eager to make a five- or six-way chop "so he could prepare for tomorrow's Main Event", but chipleader Troy simply said: "Let's play." This changed once Christopher Coleman had taken over as the chipleader, at Troy's expense. At that stage, a deal was struck after all.



The final two players



*The winner of the first-ever brick and mortar
Hold'em Blackjack - Christopher Coleman*

But that didn't change the nature of the game much - it stayed an exciting to watch, though at times somewhat erratic final table. The chipleader Christopher, being "drunk as skunk" (end of quote) kept playing well despite his many Johnny Walker Black Labels, and seemed to have a good feel for the game. The strong Troy had been a bit unlucky, and had become the shortest stack, but winning two all-ins (the first one with blackjack against 20 for Paul Zimble) he was back in the saddle. He was clearly, and correctly, trying to take advantage that Christopher would play more and more hands, and play them more and more aggressively - where at the end of the tourney he was even betting & raising in the dark.

The heads up stage between Troy & Christopher started about even in chips. Troy played excellently, and did his best to take advantage of the fact that his opponent would sometimes indicate his actions way in advance. On the final hand, he had jammed the pot with either an ace or a ten down, against Christopher who had raised without looking at his hand. After a 4 for Coleman and a 6 for Troy (one of the worst cards to catch as open cards, though in heads up play not that awful maybe), the Englishman said: "Let's see what I have." He turned out to have a 9 as his hole card, asked another card, and got a 5 for 18 total - choosing to stand. Troy judged that his opponent could have a busted hand though, and decided to stand on either 16 or 17. (16 the much more likely possibility of course, as with an ace down, Troy could have risked taking another card without the possibility of ending up with more than 21.)

And that was that - the first Hold'em Blackjack tournament ever was decided. An interesting game, no question, and many players seemed to enjoy it - so we will see whether or not it will catch on some more. It may very well, and the organizers have clearly shown their willingness to make it succeed - as is proved by the whopping \$50K added to the prize pool.

So all in all, the title went to the likeable and sympathetic Christopher Coleman, who dedicated his title to no other than Johnny Walker. His price: The \$20K that Paul, Troy and he had negotiated during the second deal (three-way), plus an additional \$3500 or so for him as the winner. All in all, a very nice payday, and, again quoting the winner: "the honor of being the first-ever Hold'em Blackjack Champion."

Final results:

Christopher Coleman	England	\$32,650
Troy Stromer	USA	\$22,500
Paul Zimble	England	\$16,900
Jon Kalmar	England	\$12,350
Todd Witteles	Canada	\$9,000
Bjorn Emberg	Sweden	\$5,650
Franck Bensimon	France	\$2,250
Peter Jepsen	Denmark	\$2,250
Kathy Liebert	USA	\$2,250
Arnaud Nattern	France	\$2,250
Robin Abrey	Antigua	\$2,250
Rakesh Gupta	India	\$2,250

\$500+ \$50 No Limit Hold'em, November 28th, 8:00pm

Entries: 56

Prize pool: \$28,000

1. Yu cel Eminoglu	Turkey	\$9,230
2. Allan Johns	England	\$4,620
3. Bjorn Gustafsson	Sweden	\$3,530
4. Andreas Forsgren	Sweden	\$2,720
5. Mike Redivivo	Canada	\$2,170
6. David Demmett	Scotland	\$1,630
7. Matt Tyler	England	\$1,360
8. Martin Wiklund	Sweden	\$1,090
9. Michael Birt	Ireland	\$810