

Big Turnout for Gulf Coast Series

By Dave Lukow

Henry Garrison likes what he saw.

The poker room manager at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi, Garrison took away many positives from this year's Gulf Coast Poker Championship (GCPC).

"I would like to say that we were very excited about the large number of entries we had for the event," Garrison said. "The opening event as well as the Main Event was the largest entry count we have ever had for a September event. Our new format of all Day 2 players cashing has really took well as the feedback from the players has been great.

"The heads-up event sold out by the second day, so we plan to extend the number of players to 128 in the Million Dollar Heater Heads-Up Event."

The \$1,350 Main Event of the GCPC (Event 13) was won by Tim Burt.

Originally from Grenada, Miss., Burt collected \$103,752 for the win. Prior to the Main Event, only four players from Mississippi had earned more playing poker.

"This is like my backyard," Burt, who spent four years in the U.S. Army, said. "It felt good to win the Main Event here. I was just happy to get the win. It was great."

A pro since 2005, Burt cashed six times at this year's World Series of Poker.

"I play 20 to 30 WSOP tournaments every year," he said. "I had 10 cashes in 2016, including the Main Event."

Event 1 of the 2018 GCPC - a \$350 NLH tournament - was won by Jerry Giroir. The Louisiana resident received \$68,952 for the performance. There were 1,738 entrants.

Wade Smith earned \$13,376 for winning Event 2, while Doug Saab got \$6,718 for taking Event 3.

A win in Event 4 added \$9,790 to Jeffrey Densen's lifetime take. Jeremy Eyer, via a first-place finish in Event 5, took away \$5,763.

Shannon Corey won Event 6, a seniors competition. The victory paid \$18,985. There were 267 entries.

Jacob Seale outlasted 95 other players to win Event 7. He pocketed \$13,117.

Event 8, a \$350 NLH monster, was won by Mark Davis, who collected \$29,618. Overall, 392 players entered the tournament.

Chris Stevens was first in Event 9, a showing worth \$8,877.

Hayward Rigano received \$5,392 for topping the field in Event 10.

Mohamed Serry captured first in Event 11, a \$290 NLH tourney. Serry was paid \$12,657.

David Davis made \$11,393 for winning Event 12. The tournament attracted 266 players, including Giroir, who was second.

The 2018 Gulf Coast Poker Championship got underway September 6.

“The Beau Rivage is a very hospitable place,” Burt said. “Everybody’s really nice.”

The Million Dollar Heater takes place at the Beau Rivage from January 3-16. Daily events, including a guaranteed seniors tourney and a guaranteed monster stack, are scheduled.