

TALAL 'RAIDALOT' SHAKERCHI WINS OVER \$1.4 MILLION IN SPRING CHAMPIONSHIP OF ONLINE POKER MAIN EVENT

UK businessman wins record-breaking PokerStars online championship in style

ONCHAN, Isle of Man – May 25, 2016 – The [Spring Championship of Online Poker](#) (SCOOP) \$10,000 Main Event has been won by Talal 'raidalot' Shakerchi, who last night topped a field of 713 players (plus 111 re-entries) at [PokerStars](#), an Amaya Inc. (Nasdaq: AYA; TSX: AYA) brand, to win the first prize of more than \$1.4 million and grab his third career SCOOP title. It was the biggest field in SCOOP Main Event (High) history in terms of both unique players and total entries.

Shakerchi, who is a UK-based high stakes player and regular winner on the European Poker Tour (EPT), cashed in 38 tournaments and made five final tables this series, to take his overall winnings in SCOOP 2016 to \$1,622,466.98.

SCOOP-54-H (\$10,000 NL Hold'em Main Event)

Entries: 824 (713 players, 111 re-entries)

Prize pool: \$8,000,001.76

Places paid: 99

1. Talal 'raidalot' Shakerchi (United Kingdom) \$1,468,000.88
2. Sean 'Nolez7' Winter (Romania) \$1,048,000.23
3. s0nny_bLacCk (Thailand) \$792,000.17
4. Scott 'gunning4you' Seiver (Canada) \$596,000.13
5. Markku 'markovitsus' Koplmaa (Estonia) \$416,000.09
6. Pablo 'pablotennis' Fernandez (Mexico) \$336,000.07
7. Luckbox (Japan) \$256,000.05
8. IReadB00ks (Denmark) \$176,000.03
9. EvnomiYa (Russia) \$104,000.02

For a full report of the event, check out the PokerStars Blog: <http://psta.rs/20zZLsQ>.

The \$1,000 Main Event also finished last night and was won by 'Educa-p0ker' from the UK. The player pocketed a six-figure score of \$578,621.27 after a four-way deal was done. Meanwhile, Brazil's 'mml Leandro' triumphed in the \$100 Main Event, winning \$195,000 after a three-handed deal was reached. It was the 21st title for Brazil this series, making it the top winning country, one title ahead of the UK.

All three Main Events set new participation and prize pool records, as part of a record-breaking SCOOP festival that saw nearly \$91 million awarded to players.

PLAYER OF THE SERIES

With 41 cashes and eight final tables, Shaun 'shaundeeb' Deeb won the Overall SCOOP Leader Board to make it back-to-back 'COOP' Player of the Year titles following his World Championship of Online Poker (WCOOP) 2015 Leader Board victory last September. For his latest triumph, Deeb wins another champion's trophy and an additional \$20,000 in cash..

With just a few points separating the top two or three positions in the Low, Medium and High Leader Board races, PokerStars is still waiting on official confirmation of winners, but expects them to be confirmed later today. Check the SCOOP website – <http://psta.rs/1bCLc4e> – from Thursday for the final positions.

SCOOP 2016 STATS

- \$90,984,283.44 – total prizes awarded.
- \$1,468,000.88 – first prize won by \$10,000 Main Event High champion Talal 'raidalot' Shakerchi.
- 61,154 – number of entrants from Russia – the highest of the series; over 6,000 more than Germany, which had the second highest number of entries.
- 123 – number of final tables made by UK players, six more than the second best-performing country, Canada.
- 41 – number of cashes by Shaun 'shaundeeb' Deeb – the highest this series; 'Colisea' and 'SixthSenSe19' each had 40.
- 21 – number of events won by Brazil, one more than second-placed UK, and seven more than Canada in third.
- 8 – number of final tables made by Shaun 'shaundeeb' Deeb – the highest this series; Calvin 'cal42688' Anderson and Jason Mercier both made six.
- 3 – number of events won by Shawn 'buck21' Buchanan this series, which put him on six career SCOOP titles, one behind Calvin 'cal42688' Anderson, who leads on seven. Buchanan needs one Sunday Million win to become the first PokerStars Grand Slam winner (TCOOP, SCOOP, WCOOP, Sunday Million titles).



- 2 – number of events won by three players this series; Mike 'goleafsgoeh' Leah, 'otitov', and 'Ssick_OnE' all helped themselves to multiple titles.

HIGH-PROFILE WINNERS

A host of well-known players, with multiple 'COOP' victories to their names, won SCOOP events this series, including, but not limited to, Rafael 'GM_VALTER' Moraes, Luke 'lb6121' Schwartz, James 'Andy McLEOD' Obst, Shawn 'buck21' Buchanan, Stephen 'stevie444' Chidwick, Marco 'NoraFlum' Johnson, Matt 'plattsburgh' Vengrin, Nick 'The Takeover' Schulman, Dan 'Danny98765' Smith, Tom 'tjbentham' Bentham, Mike 'goleafsgoeh' Leah, Paul 'paulgees81' Volpe, Calvin 'cal42688' Anderson, Team PokerStars Pro Jason Mercier, Doug 'WCG|Rider' Polk, Matthew 'MUSTAFABET' Ashton, Fabrizio 'SixthSenSe19' Gonzalez, Nick 'GripDsNutz' Grippo, Daniel 'w00ki3z' Cates, and Talal 'raidalot' Shakerchi.

For press enquiries, please contact press@pokerstars.com.

About PokerStars

PokerStars operates the world's most popular online poker sites, serving the global poker community. Since it launched in 2001, PokerStars has become the first choice of players all over the world, with more daily tournaments than anywhere else and with the best online security. More than 150 billion hands have been dealt on PokerStars, which is more than any other site.

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PokerStars is the flagship brand of Rational Group, which operates gaming-related businesses and brands, including PokerStars, Full Tilt and the European Poker Tour. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, Rational Group companies in the UK and Isle of Man was recognised as one of the top 25 best places to work by the Great Place to Work Institute's Best Workplaces – Large category ranking. Rational Group entities in Costa Rica and Dublin also achieved the same accolade in their respective local rankings in 2014. PokerStars is ultimately owned by Amaya Inc. (Nasdaq: AYA; TSX: AYA).

