



POKERSTARS SMASHES \$55 MILLION SCOOP GUARANTEE WITH HUGE \$94 MILLION PRIZE POOL

Main Event makes two millionaires in biggest and best online poker series ever

ONCHAN, Isle of Man – May 24, 2017 – This year’s Spring Championship of Online Poker (SCOOP) at PokerStars, an Amaya Inc. (Nasdaq: AYA; TSX: AYA) brand, has broken more records with a total prize pool of \$93.8 million, surpassing its original \$55 million series guarantee. Beating last year’s \$91 million prize pool, SCOOP 2017’s payouts make it the largest ever online tournament series the poker industry has seen.

The Main Event High (SCOOP-55-H: \$10,300 NLHE Main Event) smashed its \$5 million guarantee to reach a \$6,930,000 prize pool and made both winner Charlie ‘Epiphany77’ Carrel and second place ‘gibler321’ millionaires. Well-known British high-roller Carrel took home \$1,200,899.97 with ‘gibler321’ cashing for \$1,122,873.99. The PokerStars blog report can be read [here](#).

“With more unique players, bigger prize pools and exciting SCOOP tournaments for two weeks - what a great period for all poker lovers,” said Severin Rasset, Director of Poker Innovation and Operations for PokerStars. “Thanks to our faithful community, we have beaten our own record one more time to reach \$93.8 million in prize pools, the biggest series in the online world. It is a moment of celebration before challenging ourselves with the incoming WCOOP!”

MEXICAN ADVENTURES

Carrel, who has already bagged a 2017 SCOOP title after winning \$67,410 in the \$1,050 PL Omaha H/L Event 16 High, was playing while in Mexico and due to connectivity issues was sprinting to different cafes desperately asking if they had Wi-Fi so he could avoid blinding out. With the agreement of Carrel’s fellow final table players, the tournament was delayed by 30 minutes in order to allow him to find a stable connection so he could carry on playing. He said after his win: “I actually feel super happy. I never usually get much of an emotional reaction, but this one really felt like it had a real story behind it. The structure and the field were so good, it was kind of perfect.

“It was cool sitting and high-fiving and arriba-ing loudly every time I got a pay jump,” Carrel said. “I’m going for an intense summer, playing as much as I can, then settling down somewhere for a year maybe to focus on business stuff and other aspects of my life.”

Event-01-H Phase 2 also had a million dollar first prize with an overall prize pool of \$5,821,000. In a rare five-way deal, the five players all took home a prize of over \$400,000. First place 'holla@yoboy' won \$692,460.93 and second place 'girafganger' cashed \$745,000.

POKERSTARS BREAKING RECORDS – AGAIN

Poker players from all over the world played in 57 events from April 30 across SCOOP's three stakes: Low, Medium and High. In addition, on Sunday SCOOP events contributed to the biggest day in online poker's history delivering more than \$29.5 million in prize pools. The record-breaking day gave away \$39 million in tournament prize pools, including SCOOP and regular tournaments.

As well as Carrel, 'Gigaloff' won two SCOOP events this year topping the field in the \$1,050 Event 22-H Limit Omaha and \$215 Event 14-M Limit Razz. Other notable players include 'cal42688' who won the \$530 Event 13-H Zoom Progressive KO bringing his total SCOOP titles to date to eight, making him the [first ever player to gain eight SCOOP titles](#), and 'chilenocl' who successfully defended his title in the NL Shootout tournament winning \$93,720. The final SCOOP tournaments are currently underway and five players are still in line with winning two SCOOP titles this year.

NJSCOOP's Main Event High was the biggest ever tournament in New Jersey, with a prize pool of \$204,450. The total prize pool of \$1,448,707 made NJSCOOP the biggest online poker series ever seen in New Jersey.

To get the full lowdown on SCOOP go to the [PokerStars Blog](#).

For further information, 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 165 billion hands have been dealt on PokerStars, which is more than any other site.



PokerStars is the flagship brand of Rational Group, which is ultimately owned by Amaya Inc. (Nasdaq: AYA; TSX: AYA) and owns gaming and related businesses and brands, including PokerStars, PokerStars Casino, BetStars, Full Tilt, StarsDraft, and the PokerStars Championship and PokerStars Festival live poker tour brands (incorporating the European Poker Tour, PokerStars Caribbean Adventure, Latin American Poker Tour and the Asia Pacific Poker Tour). PokerStars is the world's most licensed online gaming brand, holding licenses or related operating approvals in 17 jurisdictions. PokerStars.com and PokerStars.eu operate globally under licenses from the Isle of Man and Malta governments, respectively.

Play Responsibly! For more information on responsible gaming please visit our website at <http://www.pokerstars.com/about/responsible-gaming/>

