

## **PokerStars.net Caribbean Poker Adventure**

Casino: Atlantis Resort and Casino  
Location: Paradise Island, Bahamas  
Buy-in: \$7,800  
Entry Fee: \$200  
# of Players: 461  
Prize Pool: \$5,470,800  
Final Table Date: Jan. 12, 2005

### Results:

1. John Gale \$890,600
2. Alex Balandin \$484,700
3. Mikael Westerlund \$306,400
4. Patrick Hocking \$207,700
5. Miami John Cernuto \$155,800
6. Nenad Medic \$112,500

When you think of the Bahamas, the first thing that comes to mind probably doesn't involve staying out of the sun. For 460 people, however, that was the case. Each of these players had their sights set on another bright light. That being the \$3.6 million in prize money and a 1<sup>st</sup> place reward of \$890,600 at the PokerStars.net Caribbean Poker Adventure.

The final table consisted of an eclectic group of poker individuals. John Gale, Patrick Hocking, Nenad Medic, Mikael Westerlund, Miami John Cernuto, and Alex Balandin represented 4 different countries, but one similar dream of taking down this WPT title.

Medic went out early in 6<sup>th</sup> place and following him was Cernuto. Cernuto couldn't get anything going as he came into the day as a short stack. He went out in 5<sup>th</sup>. Hocking held on for as long as possible, but ended up putting his money in with A7 which proved to be at a bad time. Balandin had him dominated with AJ and eliminated Hocking in 4<sup>th</sup>. Westerlund was the next one to be sent home. Gale crippled Westerlund after hitting his flush. Westerlund was forced to move all-in shortly thereafter and eliminated in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Gale and Balandin went into heads-up play nearly even in chips. This didn't stop their aggressiveness, however as both found themselves moving most of their chips in on one crucial hand. Gale held KQ while Balandin had A7s. Gale hit a queen on the flop and crippled Balandin. Short-stacked and desperate, Balandin pushed all-in on the next hand with 87 only to see Gale holding a pair of jacks. Gale collected the 1<sup>st</sup> place money and the WPT title.