

The Players Challenge Gazette

Everything You Want To Know About The 1st Players Challenge Event & All The Excitement



Horse Players Qualify & Bettor Racing were proud to sponsor the 1st ever Players Challenge Event. As most of you know it was a 4 month 14 on-line contest qualifying event where the top finishers won a \$2,000 entry fee, \$3,000 cash bankroll, 3 night hotel accommodations at the Sheraton Hotel and \$250.00 Travel Voucher plus breakfast and lunch, which was served each day of the event. Each Player received a Welcome gift of pad folio with HPQualify logo and a \$10 voucher to wager with!

The final count was 38 entries, of which 20 were already qualified for the NHC!

We would like to thank all the players who played in this event. We hope they all enjoyed their experience as much as we did. We would also like to thank all of the HPQualify employees and Randy Gallo and his staff from Bettor Racing for an exceptional job – well done. Kevin with HPQ and Randy make the best partners – They do everything for the players.. And in a GRAND WAY!

DAY ONE:

The ballroom was large and comfortable. Each table had its own power strip so no one was looking for an outlet, plenty of room for the players to spread out, and each table was centered for the perfect view of the six (6) flat panel TV's brought in special for this event. The players needs were always in consideration from ensuring they had access to **FREE WIFI** while in the ballroom, DRF papers specially flown in for this event and FREE printing available for any special printing needs.

There were a total of four (4) contest tote machines - three (3) self serve & one teller manned so no one got shut out – In addition, they had two (2) teller manned cash tote machines where the players could play any track of their choice during the contest event

Randy, began the contest with a special introduction -Mr. Larry B Eliason, Executive Secretary of the South Dakota Commission of Gaming. Mr. Eliason was very gracious and excited about the Players Challenge event held this past weekend. Randy continued with gracious thanks to HPQualify for putting this event together



DAY ONE CONTINUED:

George Ortuzar, was the contest MC for The Players Challenge event. George was there to ensure the contest was FUN & Exciting at all times and for those of you who have ever gone to a Hollywood Park contest knows it was just that FUN & EXCITING!

We started the day with George going over the contest format, rules & the Prize structure:

Rules:

- ☐ Players were given a \$3,000 cash bankroll and were played by using a Wagering Card assigned to them upon registrations
- ☐ Each player had to play a total of 15 races on Day One and 15 races on Day Two
- ☐ There were no mandatory races – all 15 races were Players Choice – they were able to select any race from the designated contest tracks.
- ☐ The minimum wager in each race was \$100.00. They could play more than \$100 but not less

Prizes:

Along with the prize money for 1st - 6th place - 1st place prize was guaranteed \$50,000 & the top six (6) non-qualified NHC players would be awarded NHC spots. In addition we were very proud to award the top six (6) players with beautiful, specially maid trophies, 1st place was a large bronze trophy, 2nd - 6th were pewter trophies!

What Happened during the 1st Day:

Contest tracks were LAD, Belmont, Arlington and Fairplex Park. Belmont came up wet for the day but the players made the best of it with a daily high total from Ricky Zimmer of \$5,035.

The players were welcomed with a continental breakfast, lunch was fantastic, with fresh carved prime rib, chicken Florentine, lasagna, roasted potatoes, fresh veggies and the best part of the food was the large pieces of chocolate cake, cheesecake, apple carmel pie and carrot cake....

About mid-way through the day it was determined with a 80% chance of rain at Belmont, Belmont would be replaced with Turfway Park to ensure the players had full fields on Day Two of the event... The players seemed pleased with this decision made by Kevin with HPQualify and Randy with Bettor Racing.

One of the best parts of the contest was the Leader Board updates. The updates identified the players position and those that were qualified... There were two (2) Leader Board TV's in the Ballroom for easy access to all players



DAY ONE CONTINUED:

Lucky Shot Winners. Randy Gallo with Bettor Racing sponsored the \$15,000 in prize money that was split between the following TOP Three Lucky Shot Leader Board winners – They are as follows:

1st Place – Ken Seeman – Who won \$8,000 to play it all on a Louisiana Race #8

2nd Place – Sally Goodall - Who won \$4,000 to play it all on a Louisiana Race #6

3rd Place – Tim Hayes - Who won \$3,000 to play it all on a Louisiana Race #10

1st up was Sally who had \$4,000 to wager – Sally played it very creatively with lots of Win bets, Exactas and Trifectas. She loved the 6 & 4 horse best and played them every which way she could - it was exciting to see Sally yell at the TV's - just to miss out on the big payout... But she came back in the next race and bet a horse for cash – which for sure made up for anything she may have lost in the Lucky Shot race!! Way to go Sally....



Next race up for the Lucky Shot Leader Board winners was Ken Seeman – Ken had \$8,000 to wager on Louisiana Race 8. Ken had a bad beat even before the race went off – Ken had a long shot that got scratched at the gate! Kens favorite horses were 2, 4 & 5. he mixed it up with a few others in Exactas but mainly went for the Win and Exactas on all his wagers... The race started and the horses seemed to run to form and as they reached the finish line Ken jumped for joy as he was able to parlay his \$8,000 in winnings and come out of the race with \$4,834 dollars – Everyone in the group was excited for his win!!



Last but for sure not least was Tim Hayes he finished 3rd in the Lucky Shot Leader Board. Tim received \$3,000 – Tim went with a \$100 exacta box, \$1,000 to win on the 10 horse and \$700 to win on the #8 and #9 horse. The race started, the 8 horse went to the lead, led most of the way, turned for home and squeaked a well deserved WIN. At the end of the day Tim walked away with more than double his original money totaling \$6,6560. Everyone in the room roared with excitement and congratulations for Tim as he walked away as the big winner for the Lucky Shot Prize Money that was awarded



DAY ONE CONTINUED:

In addition to the Lucky Shot Leader Board winners receiving \$15,000 in total prize money – Horse Players Qualify sponsored \$16,500 to the TOP THREE Non-Qualified Lucky Shot Leader Board winners from the 14 on-line contests. Each of these players received a \$5,500 Players Challenge Prize Package to attend the event. The Three winners were:

- 1st Place – Ira Schwartz**– Won \$5,500 Players Challenge Prize Package
- 2nd Place – William Shurman**- Won \$5,500 Players Challenge Prize Package
- 3rd Place – Tony Calabrese**- Won \$5,500 Players Challenge Prize Package

At the end of DAY ONE everyone was looking to see who the TOP THREE leader board winners were. Remember in addition to the Grand Prizes... the players had the opportunity to get Daily Prizes totaling \$10,000!!! – Day One Daily Prizes totaled \$4,000 Day Two Daily Prizes totaled \$6,000:

DAY ONE - Daily Prizes of \$4,000 went to

- 1st Place - Ricky Zimmer**- \$2,000 with a total \$5,035 bankroll to end Day One
- 2nd Place - Ira Schwartz** - \$1,000 with a total \$4,495 bankroll to end Day One
- 3rd Place - Hesham Ragab** - \$1,000 with a total \$4,319 bankroll to end Day One



Day One was GREAT... Everyone was ready to go back to their rooms and study for the big second day and they were all looking at that **BIG PRIZE of \$50,000 !!! WOW!!!!**



DAY TWO:

What can you say – the weather for DAY TWO was PERFECT – minimal scratches and the room was awake and exciting to start the last day of the contest...

Everyone started out the day with continental breakfast, lunch was GREAT they were served chicken marsala, roasted port & tilapia. For desert let me tell you I've never seen so many horse handicappers go to the desert table in such a rush for an ice cream bar filled with fresh chocolate & vanilla ice cream, all the toppings you could imagine from Oreo cookies, M&M's to carmel & fudge and of course lets not forget the fresh strawberries, nuts and whipped cream.. One things for sure none of the players went hungry and if they had a sweat tooth during the day – each table had a basket of candy with snickers and milky ways and then some to keep them happy!

Remember Day One had Belmont which came up a bit wet so day two contest tracks were LAD, Turfway, Arlington and Fairplex Park.

Throughout the day the Leader Board was updated so the players knew where they stood. Also George updated the players throughout the day on DAY TWO Leader Board standings – Remember Day Two Daily's were worth a total of \$6,000!

The excitement in the room was on high with Ira Schwartz yelling for a long shot to cross the finish line giving him a great start to the 2nd day of contest play..

You can see those who have already qualified studying the Leader Board – which by the way had NO NAMES only players card numbers listed!!! To see where they need to go to get that GRAND PRIZE of \$50,000.. And then those who were looking to qualify for the NHC – with almost a 1 in 3 chance of qualifying – where else this year are you going to find those odds!! So different strategies where played in this great two day event?

Since this was true handicapping contest event with all the strategy required by all to get that PRIZE in the end it was announced by Kevin with HPQ and Randy with Bettor Racing that the leader board would be updated through the 10th race at Fairplex only, leaving two races remaining with no leader board being posted

Fields were big at the end, especially in race 11 at Fairplex where there was a \$29.80 winner and a \$13.40 place horse! How About THAT! That last race at Fairplex now became that much more exciting don't you think??

RACE 11					
Surface: Dirt					
Las Madrinas H.					
1 1/16 Miles 3 Year Olds And Up STAKES Open					
#	HORSE	JOCKEY	WIN	PLACE	SHOW
6	Pure Class	A. Sanguinetti	\$29.80	\$18.40	\$18.20
4	Always in Style	C. Santiago Reyes		\$13.40	\$15.40
2	Miss Pleasant	J. Valdivia, Jr.			\$6.60

DAY TWO CONTINUED:

Its now the 12th race at Fairplex and everyone is at the machines wagering there last play of the day... The room was silent until the horses went off..... They got louder and louder... chanting at the TV's rooting there horses home – everyone in the room was wondering who played what and did I wager enough to bring it home... at the end of the day here were the Winners for the 1st Players Challenge Event:

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

1st Place – Sally Goodall – Won \$50,000 plus her final bankroll of \$11,873.85

2nd Place – Ricky Zimmer - Won \$3,000 plus his final bankroll of \$11,350.00

3rd Place – Hesham Ragab– Won \$2,000 plus his final bankroll of \$8,262.00

4th Place – Ray Arsenault- Won \$1,000 plus his final bankroll of \$7,363.30

5th Place – Richard Goodall - Won \$1,000 plus his final bankroll of \$6,932.00

6th Place – Sam Darren - Won \$1,000 plus his final bankroll of \$5,310.00



DAY TWO CONTINUED:

DAY TWO - Daily Prizes of \$6,000 went to

1st Place – Sally Goodall - \$3,000

2nd Place – Ricky Zimmer- \$1,500

3rd Place – Richard Goodall- \$1,000



TOP SIX NHC Qualifiers Are:

1st Place – Chris Goodall – Won NHC Spot to Las Vegas plus \$250.00 Travel Voucher

2nd Place – Kevin Matties - Won NHC Spot to Las Vegas plus \$250.00 Travel Voucher

3rd Place – Tony Calabrese- Won NHC Spot to Las Vegas plus \$250.00 Travel Voucher

4th Place Steve Wolfson Sr.- Won NHC Spot to Las Vegas plus \$250.00 Travel Voucher

5th Place – Rhonda Wall - Won NHC Spot to Las Vegas plus \$250.00 Travel Voucher

6th Place – Harvey Hochberg- Won NHC Spot to Las Vegas plus \$250.00 Travel Voucher



Just A Few Words..... and a Special Thank you!!

To Bettor Racing - Randy, was the best partner anyone could hope for. He does everything with absolute class. We at HPQualify would be proud to be associated with him in any event. His Bettor Racing Staff was always professional, kind to the players and efficient... Ray Henry, the Bettor Racing manager was the perfect partner to run the day-to-day of the event with us at Horse Players Qualify – Kevin and I couldn't have wished for anything better!!

To the Players... Thank you all for participating in the 1st Players Challenge event.. It was an exciting 4 months – each and everyone of you made the event a success. All of us at Horse Players Qualify enjoyed meeting all of you and spending these two days together.

A personal THANK YOU to Kevin Geraghty with HPQualify – His tireless attention to detail over these last four months to put this event together was unbelievable – all the long hours spent before and during this event was amazing!

All of us at Horse Players Qualify pride ourselves on Customer Service and providing the best on-line contests to our players always striving to ensure our players have an enjoyable experience... We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish and with Bettor Racing, look forward to another Players Challenge event which will be BIGGER *and if at all possible* - BETTER than the one before

We asked the players to complete a short questionnaire. Here were the questions and a summary of the answers to help those of you who were unable to attend this year to get a feel for what happened on September 23rd and 24th

What Did You Like about the Players Challenge Format:

Simplicity, Live Money, No Mandatory's, Everything, Updated Score Boards, Exotic Wagering, Attention to the Players – Fabulous, Top Qualify Handicappers, High Number of NHC Spots Awarded, Variety of Tracks, Chance to Win \$50,000, Room Set up, Ambience, Good Food, Hospitality.

What Would You Change:

Increasing Day Two Wagering, Add in Trifectas, Reduce and/or Eliminate the Number of Required Contest Races, Don't Guaranteed 1st place so you can evenly distributed 2nd – 6th Place, Let People Who Didn't Play On-line Buy-in, Add Some Mandatory's, Win Only, Add In a 5th Track, Bet as Many Races As You Want, Do Not Allow Multiple Entries, Nothing Everything was Perfect.

Would You Play in A Year Long Qualifying Event:

Let Me Think A Minute 60, 59, 58, 57 YES, Maybe, yes with unlimited qualifiers, Most Likely, Depends on What's Being Offered, just a few maybe's and an overwhelming number of responses were all YES

Would You Rather Have A Lower "Live Bankroll" for a Higher Prize Structure or Keep The Same:

Lower & Same but Pay Also Ran's More Substantially, No Rather Have More Than Less, More Money to Prize Pool, Lower Bankroll – Higher Prize Structure, Same with Higher Prize Pool, Yes but Do Not Guaranteed 1st Place so High Have Higher 2nd – 6th Place, and an Overwhelming response said -Keep It The Same, Yes

Is the Location A Deciding Factor In Participating In The Contest:

Definitely, No But Would Prefer Las Vegas, If No NHC Spot Probably Wouldn't Make the Trip, NO When Your on a Plane it Doesn't Matter Where You End Up, Yes, most important determinate on whether I play next year or not, Beautiful City Not a Deciding Factor, Yes I Prefer Sioux Falls Over Del Mar or Saratoga I love the Buffalo Burgers, Prefer Easy Access with Easier Flight, Yes, not here, Obviously Not, No, No, No , No...

We Leave You With The FINAL LEADER BOARD



PLAYER CHALLENGE
Horse Players Qualify For Better Racing Presents

Qualifier

Place	Contestant	Bankroll	Races Remain	Place	Contestant	Bankroll	No
1	512	QUAL	\$11,872.85	0	537	\$2,786.45	
2	538	QUAL	\$11,350.00	0	534	\$2,440.60	
3	523	QUAL	\$8,262.00	0	517	\$2,297.00	
4	503	QUAL	\$7,363.30	0	510	\$2,280.00	
5	514	QUAL	\$6,932.00	0	501	\$2,139.95	
6	509	QUAL	\$5,310.00	0	513	QUAL	\$2,135.00
7	524	QUAL	\$3,941.00	0	504	\$1,954.00	
8	510	\$3,697.50	0	532	QUAL	\$1,458.50	
9	519	\$3,501.50	0	533	QUAL	\$1,038.00	
10	505	\$3,211.00	0	506	\$1,005.00		

Results through Fairplex Race 12 - 20:00 - FINAL **UNOFFICIAL**

Everyone Was A WINNER.... They All WON Their Final Bankrolls!