

WSOP Europe: David Williams leads team Bodog

Contributed by Robert Johnson
Wednesday, 05 September 2007
Last Updated Wednesday, 05 September 2007

The inaugural World Series of Poker Europe (WSOPE) kicks off in September, marking the first major global poker event London has hosted. Team Bodog will be on site and out in force to take on the best the world of poker has to offer.

Team Bodog World Series of Poker (WSOP) bracelet winner David Williams will head up the team, looking for a successful first visit to London. David will be playing in three events, including: H.O.R.S.E., Pot-Limit Omaha and the Main Event, which will be held at the Casino at the Empire in Leicester Square.

David is no stranger to success. Since he first made his mark on the world poker scene in 2004 with a second place finish at the WSOP Main Event he's gone on to win well over \$5 million in prize money, making him the youngest player on the money list. 2006 was his biggest year to date as he brought home his first WSOP bracelet in Seven-Card Stud, and two World Poker Tour final table finishes.

Bodog has also given six qualifying tournament winners a shot at the big time after they won a series of tournaments on NewBodog.com. The winners are a mixed bunch, including Heather Wells, a part-time model from California whose husband played in the WSOP in Las Vegas earlier this year. One to watch will be 22-year-old Daniel Zink of Bochum. In 2003, he became the World Champion in Magic the Gathering, the same game that Team Bodog's David Williams cut his teeth on before turning pro.

They will be joined by 33-year-old Matthew McCullough, 31-year-old Jason Karka, 36-year-old Atanas Gueorguiev of Sofia, Bulgaria and 24-year-old Matt Larsh. Matt has been tearing it up on Bodog Poker having won two Player's Choice prize packages and one of six WSOPE seats all in one month.

"We're pretty confident that the Team Bodog players will have a successful trip to London," says Calvin Ayre, founder of Bodog Entertainment. "We've had successful qualifying tournament winners at previous WSOP events and now that David has a taste for WSOP bracelets he's going all out for one at the first WSOP Europe. It's going to be an exciting couple of weeks. London is a fantastic city and one of the best places in the world to play poker. It seems only fitting that it has its own world class poker tournament."

Last year Bodog player Leif Force used his Bodog earnings to buy himself a seat at the WSOP in Las Vegas, where he ended up taking home \$1,154,527; so anything can happen!

The trip to London for the six lucky Bodog tournament winners won't be all about work though. Along with winning a seat at the WSOPE, each winner won a fantastic prize package. Not only will they be playing in the WSOPE main event, they will be staying in a five-star luxury hotel in the West End with a chauffeur to accompany them around town. The guys will be suited and booted by Richard James on Savile Row with Heather making a trip to Selfridges for an appointment with a personal shopper.

Bodog is quietly gearing up for its full launch into Europe later this year. British players will be able to play casino and poker on NewBodog.com from pound sterling accounts, as well as place bets on popular U.K. sporting events like football, cricket, rugby, and horse racing. NewBodog.com will also have a wide selection of pop culture odds available for British reality television programmes, as well as the celebrity milestone bets that have proven popular worldwide.