

## ROAD TRIP

**“For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move”. - Robert Louis Stevenson**

One of the cool things about pub poker is that it brings people together. Complete strangers have made lifelong friends through pub poker, I know because I have made hundreds. Right now my closest friends are people I met playing pub poker. We all share a common interest, that's obviously poker. Of course we all don't mind a drink or three and that certainly has helped to solidify some of the friendships pub poker has spawned over the years.

But nothing helps friendships grow and lasting memories to be born quite like a road trip.

Over the past few years now, myself and a group of mates have turned the Main Event into the ultimate “Boy's Weekend”; poker, sports, drinking and we throw in the odd bevvy as well.

Twice a year we get the chance to head to Melbourne and get our poker on in one of the biggest pub games going, the Main Event. It's a chance for us to snare a couple of days off work, and let our hair down “Man Style”. In the past we've enjoyed all kinds of fun, we've even invented entire new sports, like the “Arcade Olympics”. We get a \$20 arcade card and we play a myriad of arcade games, anything from Basketball to Skee-ball all trying to destroy our mates both mentally and physically. A point system is awarded for where you finish on a particular game. At the end of the day the bloke with the highest score is Grand Champion. This is a prestigious award and all participants take it very seriously.

This is always capped off with a few celebratory drinks and a good feed at one Melbourne's finest fast food joints.

This kind of thing is all good mental preparation for the Main Event. The non-stop ribbing of mates when they make mistakes or fall over makes for endless fun over the course of the weekend. And sure that's fun, but it's also about making your mates mentally tougher for the big game (well that's what we're telling them!). And we all want to be prepared, because once the cards are in the air, the laughs stop and the game faces are applied and we get to see how all that ribbing and name calling helped.

The Main Event may be billed as the biggest part of the weekend, but if you're travelling with good friends, this is just a small part of the big picture. There's plenty of fun to be had with the side games and the parties as well. At The last Main Event we managed to cram in some Finals Footy at the “G”, went bar hopping to watch more Finals Footy, hit the Black Jack, Roulette and Craps tables and throw in the making of Australia's only Pub Poker Podcast (The Rail) and I'm surprised we actually found time to play any cards!

The Main Event is rapidly approaching again, if you haven't experienced it yet, or haven't bundled up a group of mates and made your way to Melbourne yet, then I can highly recommend planning something now. Get cracking in trying to qualify, do what you need to secure a ticket and get your mates doing the same thing. Then set about planning the best road trip ever, you'll be glad you did!

See you in February and as always, aggressive poker is winning poker!

Swanky