



2015 Green Tour

Year in Review

Welcome



Gentlemen – welcome to the 2015 Green Tour in Review! First things first, a hearty congratulations to **Tom Daly** on his thrilling victory in the Green Jacket race! Read on for a full recap of all competitions, commentary and a recap on our mission and focus. First a few words from our hard-working Chairman.

Chairman's Cúpla Focal



A Chairde,

Thanks to everyone for making 2015 a great year for The Green Tour. We kicked off the year with a member survey and based on your feedback, implemented a number of popular changes. The introduction of the two-man team match-play has proven to be very successful and reflects some of the core values of The Green Tour - friendship, golf, followed by a little abuse!!

Colm Reilly joined the winners circle for the first time, by stopping the Bradshaw Farm's "long hitting" and 2013 Match-play champion, **Martin McDonnell**. Well done Colm!!

The final round of The Green Tour, which was played at the beautifully renovated Horseshoe Bend, produced some of the best golf in The Green Tour's history – four of the players in the final two groups, beat their handicap by a combined 10 points. The housewife's favorite, the ever humble Kerryman, Mr. **Tom Daly**, having learned that he did not like being taken from behind in the final round of 2014, stood up to the pressure and emerged as The Green Tour Champion for 2015. Congratulations to Tom for a victory well earned.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of The Green Tour. In particular, I would like to give thanks to my hard working committee members - **Chalky GTI White, Fergal Kearns, Martin McDonnell** and **Stephen Colman**. It really is a team effort that makes the Green Tour run so smoothly.

The Green Tour has come a long way from its humble beginnings 13 years ago in Orchards Hills. I look forward to many more years ahead.

The 2014 Race for the Green Jacket



*From our final group correspondent, **Brian Boland**.*

Drama, orange shorts, Offaly v Kerry v England – the final group had it all! The day started with three birdie chances on the first and yours truly battling for a solid par, in what was a sign of things to come, with **Daly** opening with an easy birdie to claim an early lead. **M Walsh** started with 5 straight solid pars to stay level with **Daly** through what was a quality played front nine.

With 17 points on the front 9 you would think I would be in contention but **Walsh** and **Daly** turned in 21 showing their best golf when it mattered most. And spare a thought for our 4th member **Chalky White**, who played an excellent front nine in 20 points which on a different day would have had him leading, but not to be with **Walsh** and **Daly** in such good form.

After an inconsistent start to back 9, I turned into an enthralled spectator in this ding dong back 9 battle between the two gladiators which truly went down to the very final putt. **Walsh** raced into a two shot lead playing some fine stuff midway through the back 9 and the Kerry-man looked a beaten man, the memory of 82 coming back to haunt again. In dire situations like these, I decided it would be an appropriate time to bring out the carefully packed lunch I had so diligently made for everyone that morning - **Chalky** jumped at the opportunity to satisfy his hunger but the two gladiators were too focused to eat, their minds solely at the task in hand. **Daly** was focused on mounting a comeback and with three to play they were dead even lining up the spectacular finish.

Noel Goggin arrived in time on 16 to witness the drama unfold and wonder what might have been, watching **Walsh** take a 1 shot lead going into the long par 17th – it was here folks that the decisive shot was played. Having just smashed a iron to 15 feet to secure some consolidation with a closest to the pin prize (or so I thought), I watched in awe as **Daly** struck a beautiful fade with his 5 wood inside me to 12 feet and converted the birdie 2 on the 197 yard uphill tester. It was here he turned a 1 shot deficit into a 2 shot lead – surely the Green Jacket was his?!?!

However, Offaly men are made of stern stuff and **Walsh** made a solid par on 18 for 3 points meaning **Daly** had to score a point to tie and secure the coveted gold. **Daly** played safe laying up in two and myself and **Chalky** then increased the pressure on his next shot by both shanking our approaches into the water, and a clearly put off **Daly** left his 4th shot short, & then sailed his 5th through the green. With a 30 feet downhill putt off the green, needing a 2 putt to win and a crowd on interested onlookers watching, **Daly** glided a beautiful putt to win inches of the hole to secure the coveted point and the glory of the 2015 green jacket.

It was an absolute pleasure to be part of the final group and watch the great golf played under the finest sportsmanship, with all the glory on the line. Well done to **Tom Daly** on his fine victory, to **Michael Walsh** for his part in an incredible battle and with a points total that surely would have won in other years, and to **Chalky** for his great golf and for being the only man to enjoy my carefully prepared sandwich! Until next year gents!!

- a. **Who hit the most ridiculous good shot of the day?** Daly's tee shot on 17 under that pressure as good a birdie as you will see!
- b. **What was the funniest thing that happened during the round?** The smile on Chalky's face when he saw a bag of 4 carefully prepared sandwiches midway through the back 9
- c. **Who hit the most unlucky shot of the day?** Walsh hit a beautiful 3 wood that sailed through the green on the Par 4 fifth leaving a very tricky up and down for birdie – yes a 3 wood!!
- d. **Who played above what their handicap suggests and why?** Everyone except me, some great golf under the most pressure.
- e. **What was the most exciting thing all day?** Seeing Daly in them orange shorts!
- g. **Anything else you'd like to add that we should know?** Walsh hit a 9 iron second shot to the par 5 9th - outrageous !!



Match Play Recap of 2015



With Sam Maguire already in the bag by September, the Dubs were guaranteed victory in the second Green Tour competition of 2015, the Match Play, given that two Dubs had made their way to the final. The Match Play report from July indicated that the smart money should on a **Jim O'Sullivan / Brian Boland** pairing in the final match, with Boland winning to cart off his first Green Tour major. It goes to show that the smart money is not so smart after all...

Previous winner **Martin McDonnell** demonstrated his undoubted pedigree by being the first to reach this year's final. After good wins over recent Major winners **Don O'Reilly** and **Kieran McGill**, **McDonnell** went through **Boland** for a shortcut with a hard-to-believe final margin of 6&5. Boland had lived up to his favorites tag until he faced McDonnell, comfortably accounting for **Brian Mahony** and **Tom Daly** in a serene procession to the bracket final. Daly had high hopes after accounting for his nemesis **Michael McBrearity** in the first round; in hindsight, exiting the Match Play competition might be the best thing to have happened to Daly, giving him time to focus all of his attention on the race for the Green Jacket.

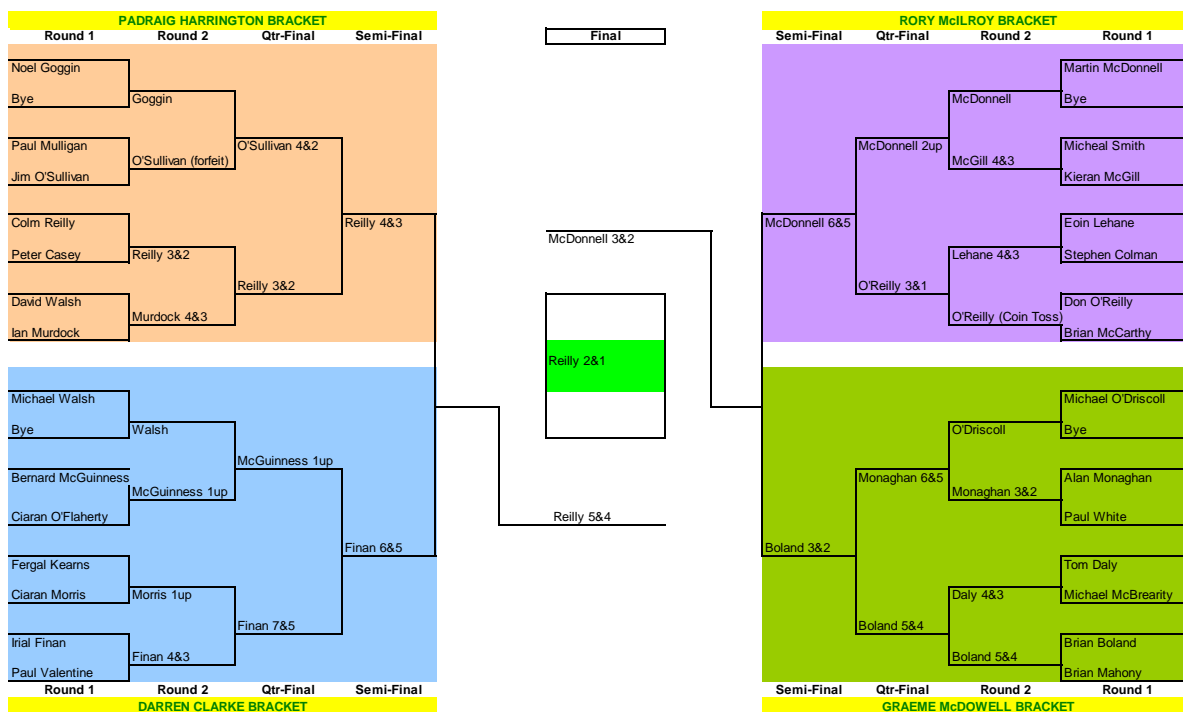
McDonnell was followed into the final by fellow Dub **Colm Reilly**. Reilly was no slouch in the early rounds, beating out Norn Iron's best in **Peter Casey** and **Ian Murdock** before swatting aside pre-tournament favorite **Jim O'Sullivan**. With no holes-in one in 2015, this has been a pretty barren year on the golf front for O'Sullivan, but all due credit to him for getting all his weddings out of the way in 2015 so that he can return his focus to golf in 2016. Reilly faced **Irial Finan** in the semi-finals, with Finan himself demonstrating remarkable form. Finan's generous winning margins over **Brendan McGuinness** and **Ciaran Morris** hinted at his competition making smart career moves, but his beating of **Paul Valentine** in the first round suggested that Finan was a serious contender this year. However, Colm Reilly shredded Finan in the semi-finals on a scoreline of 5&4, showing that he meant business.

A Dub v Dub final didn't have quite the glamour of 2014's final match where the pride of Galway played against one of Dublin's finest, raising memories of the 1983 Gaelic Football Final (remember Ciaran Duff?). However, the nature of the competition in the final was of the highest quality, with the match hanging in the balance until near the end. McDonnell went into 2-hole lead after just two holes, but Reilly fought back to level things up after four holes. The lead changed hands in a see-saw affair until the 16th hole, where with a touch of class and no

little skill, Reilly holed a 40-foot birdie putt to take a 1-up lead. Reilly held his nerve to par the 17th, and that was enough to take the title on a score of 2&1.

Reilly has been one of the top golfers on tour since he joined, and with the competitive intensity he brings to his game, it was remarkable that this was his first Major on tour. Now that his duck is broken, we should expect to see this worthy champion back in the winner's circle again in 2016!





Overall Standings in Green Jacket Race

It was a high-scoring year with some great golf played on some marvelous courses.

Congratulations to all the winners throughout the year – if you didn't make the cut this year, there's always 2016!

PLAYERS	18 - Apr Results	16 - May Results	22 - Aug Results	Best 2/3	19 - Oct Results	19 - Oct Results	Best 4/5	Current Ranking
Daly	37	31	37	74	38	38	150	1st
Walsh M	32	42	32	74	38	38	150	2nd
O'Reilly	30	34	29	64	39	39	142	3rd
White	31	33	36	69	35	35	139	4th
McDonnell	28	34	35	69	34	34	137	5th
Lynch D	22	34	25	59	39	39	137	5th
O'Sullivan	34	0	33	67	34	34	135	7th
Boland	34	35	26	69	30	30	129	8th
Morris	28	29	23	57	36	36	129	8th
O'Driscoll	19	24	34	58	33	33	124	10th
Lehane	27	0	31	58	30	30	118	11th
Casey	27	30	29	59	29	29	117	12th
Reilly	28	27	31	59	28	28	115	13th
Kearns	20	20	34	54	30	30	114	14th
McGill	30	27	27	57	28	28	113	15th
Valentine	25	21	22	47	33	33	113	15th
Murdock	36	0	0	36	37	37	110	17th
O'Flaherty	0	24	32	56	27	27	110	18th
McGuinness	22	0	32	54	28	28	110	18th
O'Malley	20	33	23	56	26	26	108	20th
Walsh D	20	23	27	50	26	26	102	21st
McCarthy	18	28	0	46	27	27	100	22nd
Goggin	25	35	39	74	-	-	99	23rd
Lynch M	0	0	26	26	31	31	88	24th
Smith	31	28	29	60	-	-	88	25th
Mahony	21	31	30	61	-	-	82	26th
McBrearity	23	32	24	56	-	-	79	27th
Monaghan	0	0	0	0	36	36	72	28th
Colman	18	28	0	46	-	-	46	29th
Finan	22	0	0	22	-	-	22	30th
Mulligan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31st

Event Results

First of all, a big thanks to **Stephen Colman**, who every year, impeccably collects and calculates all the combinations of results so we can seamlessly track standings, allocate prizes, and follow the money!

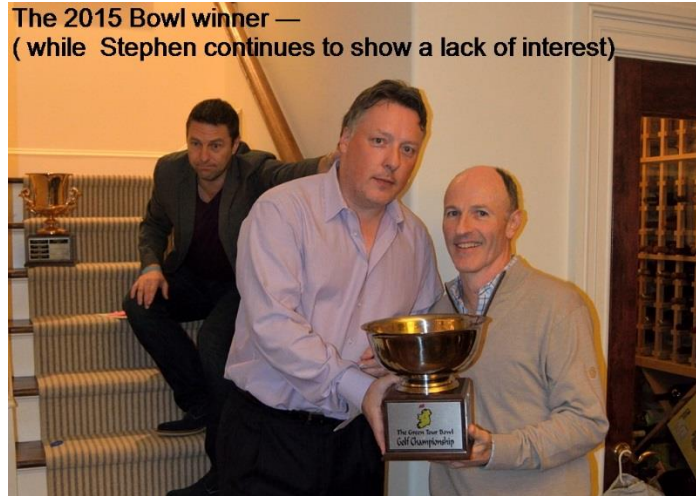
	GCOG		Druid Hills		Bears Best	
Overall	Daly	37	Walsh M	42	Goggin	39
Bowl	Boland	34	Goggin	35	McDonnell	35
Plate	Murdock	36	O'Reilly	34	Daly	37
Shield	McGill	30	Lynch D	34	Kearns	34
Back 9	O'Sullivan	19	Boland	22	White	19
Nearest the Pin	McGuinness	3rd	Walsh M	6th	Casey	6th
	O'Sullivan	17th	Smith	13th	Casey	12th

2015 Flight Results

Congratulations to **Michael Walsh** who becomes 2015's Bowl winner – by a very large margin! A bunch of folks made up the minor placings but last year's winner **Noel Goggin** wasn't able to match his high standards of last year due to injury preventing him participating in the last round, and ended up in 7th place.

PLAYERS	18 - Apr Results	16 - May Results	22 - Aug Results	Best 2/3	24 - Oct Results	24 - Oct Results	Best 4/5	Current Ranking
Walsh M	32	42	32	74	38	38	150	1st
McDonnell	28	34	35	69	34	34	137	2nd
Morris	28	29	23	57	36	36	129	3rd
Boland	34	35	26	69	30	30	129	3rd
Lehane	27	0	31	58	30	30	118	5th
Reilly	28	27	31	59	28	28	115	6th
Goggin	25	35	39	74	0	0	99	7th
Lynch M	0	0	26	26	31	31	88	8th
Smith	31	28	29	60	0	0	88	9th
Mahony	21	31	30	61	0	0	82	10th
Monaghan	0	0	0	0	36	36	72	11th

The 2015 Bowl winner —
(while Stephen continues to show a lack of interest)



In the Plate, it was Green Tour winner **Don O Reilly** who took over the mantle from 2014's **Tom Daly** to capture the honors! Congratulations Don!

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Daly	37	31	37	74	38	38	150	1st
O'Reilly	30	34	29	64	39	39	142	2nd
White	31	33	36	69	35	35	139	3rd
O'Sullivan	34	0	33	67	34	34	135	4th
Murdock	36	0	0	36	37	37	110	5th
O'Flaherty	0	24	32	56	27	27	110	6th
McCarthy	18	28	0	46	27	27	100	7th
Colman	18	28	0	46	0	0	46	8th
Finan	22	0	0	22	0	0	22	9th
Mulligan	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	10th



In the veritable skill-fest that is the **Shield** – it was **Danny Lynch** who came out the clear winner with last year's recipient, **Michael O Driscoll**, a distant second. Well done Danny!

PLAYERS	18 - Apr Results	16 - May Results	22 - Aug Results	Best 2/3	24 - Oct Results	24 - Oct Results	Best 4/5	Current Ranking
Lynch D	22	34	25	59	39	39	137	1st
O'Driscoll	19	24	34	58	33	33	124	2nd
Casey	27	30	29	59	29	29	117	3rd
Kearns	20	20	34	54	30	30	114	4th
Valentine	25	21	22	47	33	33	113	5th
McGill	30	27	27	57	28	28	113	5th
McGuinness	22	0	32	54	28	28	110	7th
O'Malley	20	33	23	56	26	26	108	8th
Walsh D	20	23	27	50	26	26	102	9th
McBrearity	23	32	24	56	0	0	79	10th



Team Four-ball



Congratulations to **Irial Finan** and **Ciaran Morris** for their thrilling win in the third-annual team four-ball competition at Druid Hills during the summer. They crushed the three-peat dreams of the 2013 and 2014 champions. **Stephen Colman** and **Fergal Kearns**.

Two-man Match-play



The two man match play was a new competition introduced this year. The concept of rejecting your partner in the draw (for a fee) strained many relationships within the Green Tour, as people discovered who their real friends were.

There were two flights and **Michael O Driscoll** and **Brian Boland** eased their way through the "Rejected Flight", like the true favorites they are, and have been waiting patiently to see who their opponents will be in the final.

The final of the "Dejected Flight" (how appropriate is that term) is between **Irial Finan** and **Ciaran Morris** and **Paul "Chalky" White** and **Colm Reilly**. This match was due to be played this month (year) however has now been deferred until next year, and so Messrs O' Driscoll and Boland will have to wait out the festive season to discover who their opponents are. Let's hope the form they have shown in 2015 continues into 2016!

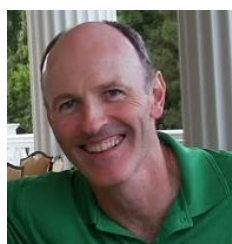
Most Improved Player for 2015



Paul Chalky White didn't win the Green Jacket this year but he snuck in to become this year's most improved player*. His index improved from 11.2 to 9.0 **Kieran McGill** was a close second with an improvement from 15.4 to 14.1. Congratulations to you both!

*USGA FORMULA = 2014 index +12 divided by 2015 index+12 gives improvement factor. IMPROVEMENT FACTOR: **Paul Chalky White**, 1.10 **Kieran McGill**, 1.05

Low Gross Leaderboard



The scoring improved for the top golfers on Tour for an impressive third year in a row. Congratulations to **Michael Walsh** on becoming the first golfer, in at least three years, to break 80 as an average. After barely making it into the Top 10 the previous two years he managed three rounds in the 70s and was this year's well deserved low gross winner. Well done to Michael, **Noel Goggin**, **Colm Reilly**, **Martin McDonnell**, and **Don O Reilly** for being the only golfers to make it three years in a row in the Top 10!

2015 Low Gross Leaderboard

PLAYERS	18 - Apr Results	16 - May Results	22 - Aug Results	24 - Oct Results	24 - Oct Results	Best 4/5	Current Ranking	Avg
Walsh M	87	76	84	79	79	318	1st	79.5
Boland	81	80	90	84	84	329	2nd	82.3
Morris	87	87	93	81	81	336	3rd	84.0
White	92	90	83	84	84	341	4th	85.3
O'Reilly	91	87	92	82	82	342	5th	85.5
Daly	87	92	86	85	85	343	6th	85.8
McDonnell	91	87	87	86	86	346	7th	86.5
Goggin	91	80	77	100	100	348	8th	87.0
Reilly	88	90	85	89	89	351	9th	87.8
O'Sullivan	89	100	88	88	88	353	10th	88.3

2014 Leaderboard

PLAYERS	29 - Mar Results	31- May Results	16 - Aug Results	Best 2/3	18 - Oct Results	18 - Oct Results	Best 4/5	Current Ranking	Avg
Goggin	86	80	79	159	83	83	325	1st	81.3
Lynch M	74	88	100	162	82	82	326	2nd	81.5
Reilly	87	83	83	166	81	81	328	3rd	82.0
Morris	83	82	83	165	83	83	331	4th	82.8
Smith	85	85	87	170	83	83	336	5th	84.0
O'Reilly	86	86	89	172	89	89	350	6th	87.5
Mahony	84	89	90	173	89	89	351	7th	87.8
McDonnell	86	100	87	173	89	89	351	7th	87.8
Walsh M	94	89	91	180	86	86	352	9th	88.0
Lehane	96	90	90	180	87	87	354	9th	88.5

2013 Leaderboard

GREEN TOUR 2013 - Low Gross									Avg
PLAYERS	20 - Apr Results	1- Jun Results	21 - Sep Results	Best 2/3	19 - Oct Results	19 - Oct Results	Best 4/5	Current Ranking	
Morris	78	86	82	160	80	80	320	1st	80.0
Lynch M	76		84	160	82	82	324	1st	81.0
Reilly	80	84	86	164	80	80	324	3rd	81.0
Boland	79	84	82	161	84	84	329	4th	82.3
Goggin	80		85	165	85	85	335	5th	83.8
O'Reilly	85	87	78	163	87	87	337	6th	84.3
Lehane	86	99	98	184	82	82	348	7th	87.0
Mahony		91	90	181	85	85	351	8th	87.8
Walsh M	94	79	90	169	91	91	351	9th	87.8
McDonnell	90	86	92	176	88	88	352	10th	88.0



Skins Results

2015 was the year for the big payouts – there were no less than five individual day pay outs of more than \$300. **Tom Daly** got two of those pay outs including one for \$520 ending the year with the princely sum of \$960 and the skins champion for 2015 to boot! **Don O Reilly** and **Brian Mahony** came next followed by **Gareth O Malley** who made his dad proud on the day! Last year's big winner Michael O Driscoll pulled a duck this year finally succumbing to his namesake 2-shots rule!

Skins Winners		4/18/2015	5/16/2015	8/22/2015	10/24/2015	Total
Tom Daly		\$ 520		\$ 320	\$ 120	\$ 960
Don O'Reilly			\$ 160		\$ 320	\$ 480
Brian Mahony				\$ 410		\$ 410
Garrett O'Malley			\$ 385			\$ 385
Jim O'Sullivan		\$ 80			\$ 85	\$ 165
David Walsh					\$ 160	\$ 160
Paul White			\$ 70		\$ 85	\$ 155
Michael Walsh			\$ 35		\$ 85	\$ 120
Alan Monaghan					\$ 85	\$ 85
Brian Boland					\$ 85	\$ 85
Michael Lynch					\$ 85	\$ 85
Ciaran Morris		\$ 80				\$ 80
Martin McDonnell			\$ 70			\$ 70
Micheal Smith				\$ 40		\$ 40
Ian Murdock					\$ 40	\$ 40
Noel Goggin				\$ 40		\$ 40

Bookie's Corner – Recap of 2015



2015 was another banner year for the Green Tour Book - thanks to each and every one of you for your steadfast support over the years. Exactly 100 bets [not all of them wise], were laid, far exceeding the volume of previous years. Another strong sign that the economy's recovery is truly underway and an even stronger indication that Green Tour members continue to have more money than sense.

But it's more complicated than that – Green Tour members are primarily motivated by value - when value's conveyed in black and white, you come rushing in all your Pavlovian glory for a piece of the action, fearful of losing out on the annual October bonanza. This year was particularly special because it was the year that saw the perennial housewives' favorite slip into the Green Jacket for the first time following so many near misses, dashed hopes and gut wrenching tragedies. The heave of sympathy and support for Daly saw 33% of Green Tour members betting on the Kerry-man in April and spending the ensuing six months on bended knee praying that he would avoid the self-inflicted wounds that had singed and often torched his aspirations in the past. I'm proud to say that I was one of those who never lost faith in Daly - who had the liathroidis to back the vanquished Tralee man come hell or high water. Eight other Green Tour members shared in the spoils of Daly's renaissance and will no doubt be betting the house on him this year when in fact he has no chance of repeating last year's magical performance....always the romantic however, I might back him again to see what transpires and because his handicap remains the antithesis of the infamous Patriot footballs!!

Let me say this to my loyal punters: This year's book will not be found wanting for unbelievable, some would say illogical and reckless value. In fact, it will be dripping in value and it will be more difficult than ever for you decide on what Himalayan mule do you burden with your wad (of cash).

Finally and as is customary, the bookie will now put forward his prediction for this year's winner - I did back the last two Green Tour winners so acting on this tip could very well pay dividends. This year's winner will be:

****Micheal Smith****

It's a well thought out prediction based on sound analysis and a seasoned hunch for what will unfold this year....he will also be 20/1 in the opening betting so hugely attractive at those odds. Best wishes for 2016 and beyond!

A Reminder on our Mission and Core Values



As a Green Tour member, we are all expected to embody the mission and values of our close-knit organization. In its essence, the Green Tour is a small gathering of Irishmen united by a love for golf and a desire to grow and cement our relationships with each other, our partners and families, and the wider Irish-Atlanta community.

As a reminder, our stated mission and core values are outlined below. The continued value and longevity of the Green Tour is reliant on each of us agreeing to and upholding a common set of values that provide the foundation of our mutual commitment and enjoyment. As a member of the Green Tour we ask you to keep this values front in center.

Our Mission

It is the mission of the Green Tour that members celebrate a common Irish heritage, build lasting bonds of friendship, and enliven the Atlanta-Irish community, through a unique golfing and social experience.

Our Values and Code of Conduct

- **Respect:** We ask that members play their part to participate in a society that is well organized, respected, and welcomed in the best golfing and social establishments in the state. This includes respecting your hosting member(s), club members, and fellow guests by strictly observing the rules of golf and etiquette when you play, arriving on time for events, keeping up a reasonable pace of play, and wearing our team colors at events.
- **Fair Competition:** We expect members to follow the golfing creed of integrity, fairness, and propriety in everything they do on and off the course. This includes keeping your GHIN up to date and taking seriously our Green Tour rules and committee instructions, recording your scores accurately and completely, and following the rules of golf.
- **Fun:** We strongly encourage members to engage in the competitive side of the Tour but don't forget to enjoy your golf. We also expect you to participate in the social sessions after each event. As a green tour member, we want you not just to sign up for the golf but the social element as well. This includes contributing to the written and visual recording of events, the online craic and participating in the skins/bookie's book.
- **Friendship:** We ask that members use the opportunity the Green Tour presents to get to know all of our fellow members better personally and professionally. For this reason, we encourage members to reach out to other members they don't know, make new members feel welcome, and join as many of the competitions that they can.

- **Family:** We are privileged to be able to spend time away from our families to enjoy each other's company over competitive games of golf on world-class courses. For this reason, it is important to recognize the role our families play in our support and why informal gatherings and participation in the annual gala event are family-affairs.
- **Leadership through Service:** Green Tour members are encouraged to participate in activities representing members and sponsors of the Green Tour in our community. We look forward to supporting the causes of our members like St. Baldricks, Clan na Gael, the Irish consulate, Irish Chamber, etc..

Put another way, exactly the kind of values we need in the leaders of this country of ours....!



Champion's Party Shenanigans





Future stars of the Green Tour.



Best Gross winner with record average of 79.5



The 3 time major winner seems less than impressed!!!!











The 2015 Champion Golfer with the 2016 Housewives choice.



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN TOUR – 2015 in Review



