

The Green Tour Review 2020

A review of the 2020 Season of the Green tour:



In another nail-biting finish to the Green Tour, the winner of the coveted Green Jacket for 2020 was ultimately decided with the final putt on the final green of the final round at the ever-pristine Creekside course at Golf Club of Georgia.

After a 13-year hiatus, the man from Cork (*Northside*), and former two-handed single-digit golfer entered the rarefied air as a **four-time winner** of Atlanta's foremost and prestigious Green Tour event. Although much has changed since his previous victories in 2003, '04 and '07 (*lbs, handicap, skins \$'s, chipping technique, etc*), Eoin's popularity, and the collective admiration for his mastery of the dark art of handicap management, remained consistent. There were 32 sets of dry eyes in the house at presentation time and none more so than those of Paul Valentine, who once again was relegated to don the Bridesmaid's blouse by what can only be described, in North Dublin parlance, as a gee-hair.

Unlike his immediate predecessor, and fellow Corkonian "Jimmy da Grip" who won the 2019 season by a whopping 7 strokes, the destiny of the Jacket was very much in play until Eoin sank that 40ft raker across the 18th green at Creekside and thereby stepped into Green Tour immortality.

The ebbs and flows were so Rosie-like that e-less Stephen Colman felt compelled to pull together the following chart that highlights the leader board movement as the afternoon progressed. With nine holes to play the final four we're passing the torch amongst ourselves in what was shaping up to be yet another Green tour final round pillow fight, however in emphatic style, and with great aplomb Eoin stepped up with the final dagger to the heart of the collective gallery which befittingly included his son Ciaran. What a nice memory.

Scores in Relation to Net Par i.e. after 2 rounds Lehane's 74 points equated to 2 under, his winning score of 142 points equates to 2 over

		Lehane	O'Driscoll	Canty	Valentine	Heffernan	Morris	Leader	Lead	Lead over Eoin
1st Tee	Position	1st	2nd	4th	5th	6th	7th			
	Score	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3			
After 3	Position	2nd	3rd	1st	5th	10th	5th	Lehane	1 shot	-
	Score	-4	-3	-6	+1	+6	+1			
After 6	Position	6th	2nd	1st	2nd	4th	5th	Canty	2 shots	2 shots
	Score	+6	-1	-8	-1	+4	+5			
After 9	Position	4th	3rd	2nd	1st	5th	6th	Canty	7 shots	14 shots
	Score	+2	-1	-4	-5	+8	+9	Valentine	1 shot	7 shots
After 12	Position	3rd	1st	2nd	4th	6th	5th	O'Driscoll	1 shot	3 shots
	Score	0	-3	-2	+3	+10	+7			
After 15	Position	1st	4th	3rd	2nd	6th	4th	Lehane	3 shots	-
	Score	0	+7	+4	+3	+8	+7			
After 16	Position	2nd	4th	3rd	1st	6th	4th	Valentine	1 shot	1 shot
	Score	+2	+7	+4	+1	+10	+7			
After 17	Position	2nd	5th	4th	1st	6th	3rd	Valentine	1 shot	1 shot
	Score	+4	+9	+8	+3	+12	+7			
After 18	Position	1st	3rd	4th	2nd	6th	5th	Lehane	1 shot	xxxx
	Score	+2	+9	+10	+3	+12	+11			

Congratulations to Eoin on his hard-fought victory and subsequent donning of the venerable Green Jacket for the fourth time. As mere mortals we can only aspire to such greatness, with the hopes of a favorable GHIN to buoy our aspirations & chances.



Here's to an exciting 2021 season...!!

WALSH EILE.

Chairman's Cupla focal:

There is no doubt that 2020 was the most challenging year in the history of The Green Tour. Faced with a pandemic in March 2020, we all wondered if we were even going to have a tournament. As the year progressed and thanks to the Golf Club members of Georgia, we were able to adjust the schedule and complete a very successful tournament.

We had multiple Green Tour, division winners:

- Eoin Lehane came out of retirement to win the Green Jacket an unprecedented 4 times.
- Ciaran Morris, Dave Canty, and Paul Valentine won the Bowl, Plate, and Shield.
- Mike Adams won the Singles Matchplay.
- Don O'Reilly and Peter Casey won the 2-man best ball tournament.
- Bernard Heffernan won the prestigious low Gross score for the year.

A special thanks to our favorite Green Tour bookie, Ciaran Morris, who works hard at taking your money, and to Brian Mahony for doing an excellent job of running the singles match-play. As we enter the 19th year of The Green Tour, we are fortunate to have this society as an outlet during the pandemic, and some dark time this past year, the Green Tour was a welcome respite of craic and camaraderie. Thanks to everyone for their contribution in making it another successful year.

I would also like to thank the committee members - Chalky GTI White, Martin McDonnell, David Walsh, and Stephen Colman, whose hard work and commitment ensure a successful tournament every year. We wish Martin the best as he rolls off the committee after many years of excellent service.

We look forward to another exciting year in 2021.

Stay safe,

MICHAEL

Match Play Event: Brian Mahony

Winning a match play requires a stellar run of form; unlike the Green Jacket competition where competitors can afford a "throwaway round" and still be in contention, there is no such safety net in this format. Switch off for a hole or two, and before you know it, you're yesterday's news.

With that in mind, this year's winner is all the more remarkable not just for rising to the top as the Match Play Major Champion of 2020; Mike Adams has the distinct honor of winning the Major for two years in a row. Let that sink in for a moment... a pandemic was far from our minds the last time Adams lost a match. Over the last couple of years, Adams has beaten Major winners Ciaran Morris, Eoin Lehane, Fergal Kearns (twice), and Chalky White amongst others.

This year's final was where it looked like his run was going to end; playing Morris, he was 3 down after just 3 holes and it looked like his goose was well and truly cooked – but he dug in and spectacular play on the back nine saw him retain his title with a 3&2 victory.

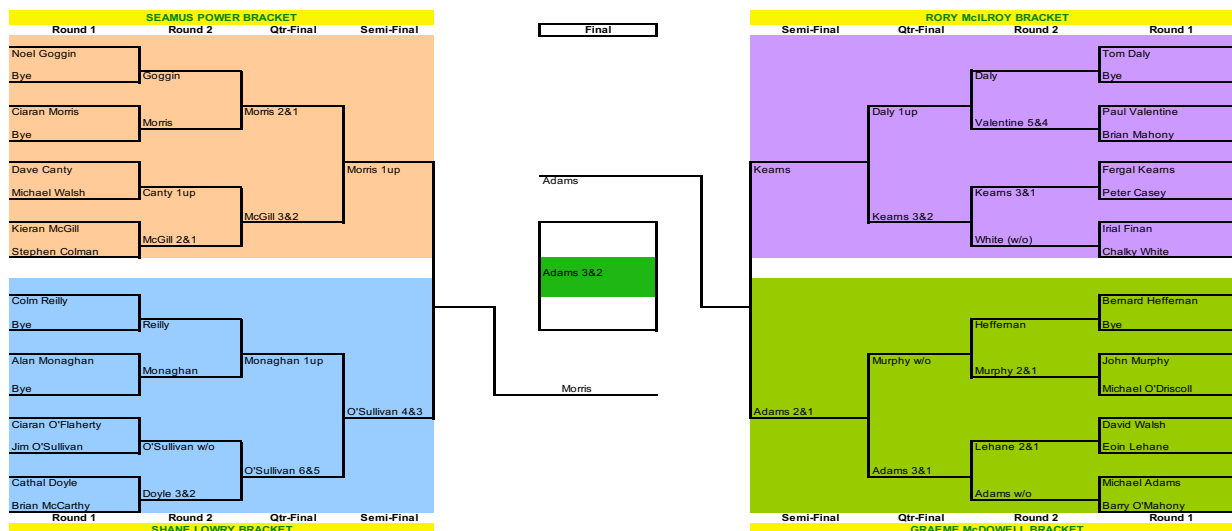
Talk about doing it the hard way; Adams' first match was against Green Jacket winner Eoin Lehane, and then he had a hard-fought victory over thoroughbred John Murphy, before beating out the mercurial talent of Fergal Keams. Morris had done well in getting to the final; victory over Noel Goggin by 2&1 in his first match showed that he's made of stern stuff. Then, he beat Kieran McGill by the finest of margins before dispatching 2019 Green Jacket Winner, Jimmy The Grip.

Other notable performances in the competition include Paul Valentine's thrashing of Brian Mahony by 5&4; Valentine looked to be cruising against Tom Daly in his next match, but Daly justified his reputation as a man who likes to come from behind, winning a remarkable match on the last. Tremendous Canty won a high-quality match against Chairman Michael Walsh in the first round. The Grip looked unbeatable in early rounds, with margins of 6&5 and 4&3 but lost out to Morris in the semi-finals.

Looking to 2021, who wants to be drawn against Michael Adams? It's a double-edged sword – on the one hand, glory awaits the David who can defeat this golfing Goliath, but on the other hand, he has the look of a man who can't be beaten. We'll know soon enough – bring on the fun of the 2021 Matchplay season!



The Green Tour 2020 Matchplay Tournament





BRIAN

Two Man Best-ball competition: Committee

The two-man best ball competition was held on Friday August 14th and once again proved to be a popular event with our GT members. Our little Toonamint was played on the rolling fairways at Druid Hills, and the winners on the day were the dynamic international duo of Donaldo O'Reilly and Pierre Casey with an impressive 41 stableford points. The dynamic duo narrowly defeated second place getters Murphy & O'Sullivan on a scorecard countback. Third place went to the ever-competitive GT Chairman and Danny long-legs Lynch who finished with 38 points. The day proved to be great craic and went off devoid of any Securicor van shenanigans of the 2019. We're planning to schedule this event again for season 2021, and the committee are working on plans to ensure the O'Reilly/Casey are only afforded one opportunity to defend, as per the hastily establish tradition for this recently cemented event.



Winner's Corner: Stephen Colman

As always, a hearty congratulations to The Overall, Bowl, Plate and Shield winners for 2020.

PLAYERS	30 - May Results	12 - Sep Results	26 - Sep Results	10 - Oct Results	10 - Oct Results2	Best 2/3	Best 4/5	Current Ranki
Lehane	33	24	41	34	34	74	142	1st
Valentine	33	26	38	35	35	71	141	2nd
O'Driscoll	40	33	25	31	31	73	135	3rd
Canty	32	28	40	31	31	72	134	4th
Morris	36	32	33	32	32	69	133	5th
Heffernan	-	37	33	31	31	70	132	6th
Goggin	33	30	32	33	33	65	131	7th
O'Mahony	28	34	32	31	31	66	128	8th
Walsh M	30	28	32	32	32	62	126	9th
Walsh D	33	28	31	31	31	64	126	9th
McGill	32	29	26	32	32	61	125	11th
McCarthy	24	-	32	34	34	56	124	12th
White	39	27	34	24	24	73	124	12th
Adams	28	29	34	30	30	63	123	14th
Daly	29	31	31	30	30	62	122	15th

The highly-contested Bowl, had only 2 points separate the top 3, with our favourite bookie holding on to get his hands on the trophy he last one in 2017.

GREEN TOUR BOWL 2020								
PLAYERS	30 - May Results	12 - Sep Results	26 - Sep Results	10 - Oct Results	10 - Oct Results	Best 2/3	Best 4/5	Current Ranking
Morris	36	32	33	32	32	69	133	1st
Heffernan	-	37	33	31	31	70	132	2nd
Goggin	33	30	32	33	33	65	131	3rd
Walsh M	30	28	32	32	32	62	126	4th
McCarthy	24	-	32	34	34	56	124	5th

The plate was pretty much a one man show, Tremendous Dave takes the honours here.

GREEN TOUR PLATE 2020								
PLAYERS	30 - May Results	12 - Sep Results	26 - Sep Results	10 - Oct Results	10 - Oct Results	Best 2/3	Best 4/5	Current Ranking
Canty	32	28	40	31	31	72	134	1st
O'Mahony	28	34	32	31	31	66	128	2nd
White	39	27	34	24	24	73	124	3rd
Daly	29	31	31	30	30	62	122	4th
Casey	31	20	26	32	32	57	121	5th

In the veritable skill-fest that is the Shield – Paul Valentine made up for the disappointment of missing out on the big prize by claiming the Shield for the umpteenth time.

GREEN TOUR SHIELD 2020								
PLAYERS	30 - May Results	12 - Sep Results	26 - Sep Results	10 - Oct Results	10 - Oct Results	Best 2/3	Best 4/5	Current Ranking
Lehane	33	24	41	34	34	74	142	1st
Valentine	33	26	38	35	35	71	141	2nd
O'Driscoll	40	33	25	31	31	73	135	3rd
Walsh D	33	28	31	31	31	64	126	4th
McGill	32	29	26	32	32	61	125	5th



STEPHEN

Most Improved Player - 2020: Committee

Mike Adams was the most improved player on the Green Tour in 2020 going down from a competitive **12.2** to a very impressive **8.3**, sporting a remarkable 32% Y-O-Y reduction. Congratulations Mike.

Unfortunately, as we all know, the golf gods giveth and the golf gods taketh away, and Mike has subsequently drifted out to a current 11.6 GHIN, in time for his defence, and potential three-peat victory in the Match Play event, not to mention his 2021 Green Jacket aspirations 😊

