



by Joy Chakravarty, 21st December 2016

## G-Mac sets his sight on Qatar Masters Trophy on another course designed by Peter Harradine

Graeme McDowell will hope to make a quick start to his European Tour season when he returns to the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters in Doha for the first time since 2012.

The 2010 US Open champion now plies his trade mostly on the PGA Tour in the United States, and has had a disrupted schedule in Europe the last couple of years with the arrival of his first child.

Being ranked 62nd in the Race to Dubai in 2016, and 68th last year, meant he could not qualify for the season ending DP World Tour Championship, where only the top 60 at the end of the season make it.

"I'm hoping a solid result can kick-start a good 2017 for me" - McDowell

But McDowell will make a popular return to Doha to compete in the tournament's landmark 20th edition at Doha Golf Club from January 26-29.

The 37-Year-old Northern Irish man will be competing in Doha for the seventh time since making his tournament debut in 2003. His best result came a share of fourth in 2007 when he finished three strokes behind two-time US Open champion Retief Goosen.

"I'm looking forward to returning to Doha as it has been a few years since i've played there and i have fond memories of the tournament," said McDowell. "It's a great course at Doha Golf Club, there's always a nice crowd and it's a lovely time to visit Qatar as the weather is ideal. It's a good way to start the year and I'm hoping a solid result can kick-start a good 2017 for me."

McDowell has racked up ten European Tour titles and won three times on the PGA Tour.

Hassan Ali Naimi, President of the Qatar Golf Association, said: "Graeme McDowell is one of the most popular and successful European players of the past decade and we're so happy that he will compete again in Doha. He will be a huge draw as he returns to Qatar.

Tickets for the tournament are now available for purchase, starting at QAR150.