

## Tullo takes the Egyptian Open title as Mclroy rediscovers form

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Rory Mclroy began the week with a performance that he called "the worst I have ever hit it as a professional".

Finally, the world No9 left the Egyptian Open with his lowest score of the week, a four-under par 68, and the comfortable feeling that he is on the way back to his old form.

That final-round effort, for a six-under-par total of 212, saw the Northern Irishman finish the week in tied 12th position, seven shots behind champion Mark Tullo of Chile who posted a brilliant six under 66 to take the \$40,000 first prize ahead of Scotland's George Murray and Dutchman Floris de Vries.

Four-under was the worst possible score Mclroy could have compiled around the Mirage City Golf Club yesterday as his swing-changing labours bore fruit and led to the kind of prodigious display that has taken the 21-year-old to the top-10 ranking in the world.

Mclroy said: "That was the lowest round of the week and it could have been a lot better as well. I played really nicely and hit some really nice shots and it was definitely the best that I played all week. "I missed four short ones for birdie in a row, all inside eight feet, on the back nine so it could have been very, very good, but that's the way it goes.

"It's encouraging moving forward and for the rest of the season. There was a massive difference between how I hit the ball on Wednesday in the first round and how I hit it on the final day, so that's really good.

"Wednesday was really bad – it was the worst that I have ever hit it as a professional, put it that way. Thursday was a bit better and then Friday was good and I carried that into the final round today. "I had just got into a bad habit so the change was something that I needed to do. I still have a bit of work next week at home with my coach but I am on the right track, so I am pleased about that."

While Mclroy makes his way home to Belfast to continue his swing rehabilitation work before heading east for the WGC-HSBC Champions tournament in Shanghai, the European Challenge Tour players that he starred alongside in Egypt will make their way to southern Italy for the Apulia San Domenico Grand Final, where the top 20 on the end of season Rankings will be determined and promoted to The European Tour.

And one man who is virtually assured of a start in the main Tour is the champion Tullo.

After his brilliant round of 66 that helped him secure the one-shot win, Tullo said: "I didn't look at the scoreboard once during the round so when I got to the 18th and saw I was leading I was like 'wow!'

"I genuinely didn't know what was going on until I finished and then I had a pretty nervous ten minutes."

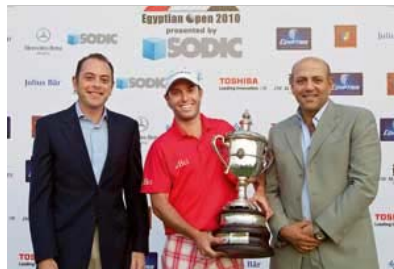
After receiving the 89 year-old trophy from Egyptian Golf Federation Chairman Ayman Hussein and Youssef Hammad, Chief Financial Officer of Presenting Sponsor SODIC, Tullo said he was delighted to have gained his playing privileges for the full European Tour.

"Winning is so important for me – to secure my card for the European Tour for next season is like a dream. "Next week I can be so much more relaxed at the Grand Final, I can't tell you how much this means. It's amazing. Shooting 66 to win is pretty special as well."

By Staff Reporter

### FINAL SCORES

- 274 \_ Mark Tullo (Chi) 71 68 70 66
- 276 \_ Floris de Vries (Ned) 67 73 65 71; George Murray (Sco) 67 69 68 72
- 278 \_ Lee Slattery (Eng) 69 66 72 71
- 279 \_ Scott Jamieson (Sco) 69 69 72 69; Daniel Gaunt (Aus) 71 70 70 68; Lorenzo Gagli (Ita) 71 71 69 68
- 280 \_ Alessandro Tadini (Ita) 65 71 69 75
- 281 \_ Sam Walker (Eng) 68 74 71 68; Michael Lorenzo-Vera (Fra) 69 69 73 70; Steven Tiley (Eng) 69 72 68 72
- 282 \_ Rory Mclroy (Nir) 71 74 69 68; Klas Eriksson (Swe) 69 75 74 64



Chile's Mark Tullo with the Egyptian Open prize

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