



**Sunday May 22, 2011**

**Michael Hoey, final round 71, aggregate total -10**

Q. It was a tough day, but ultimately a very rewarding one...

A. It was just very very tough, I had to dig really deep, especially after hit one in the rocks on 13, and I thought that's it now, I've thrown this thing away completely. It's a crazy game. But I somehow managed to make a good swing on the third shot, and holed the putt for bogey, which was huge, it kept me in it. Then I birdied the next, and just parred in after that. The main thing was my putting, I made virtually all the six to seven footers on the way in.

Q. So steady rather than spectacular, but that was probably always going to be enough today...

A. It's weird, because I think everyone was struggling a bit. If someone had really gone out there and shot a good score, then they could have got to maybe 11 or 12 under, or maybe even better, but nobody did that. Sometimes that happens on the final day and it's quite an ugly win, it was kind of quite ugly today. So I'm lucky to come out on top.

Q. It helps that you have an experienced caddy [Owen Craig].

A. Yeah he's very good, he worked The Ryder Cup with Thomas Levet and nearly won The Open with him. He doesn't let me get ahead of myself. On the 18<sup>th</sup> I laid up, but I was quite close to going for it in two. But it wasn't sitting with the wind off the left, the safe play was to just hit two wedges, and then even if Chris [Gane] had made birdie ahead of me, I knew two putts would secure the win.

Q. What is it about Portugal that you like, two wins in one country?

A. I don't know, I guess I knew I had a good chance this week. The last two years I finished sixth both times, and I knew I was putting better and chipping better this year. That's what I did well, I just chipped and putted better than the last two years. It was also windy when I won the Estoril Open at Oitavos Dunes, and I guess growing up in those conditions so that's an advantage.

Q. You've got an 18 month exemption...

A. Yeah it's unbelievable. I can't believe it, I just said this would be awesome if I could get this exemption because I finished 90<sup>th</sup> on the Order of Merit last year and that wouldn't have got me into Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. So now I can get those and I can plan there, it's tremendous. And obviously next week is a great week as well, hopefully I'll play well there as well. It'll just take a while to sink in.

Q. You couldn't go there in any better form really, ahead of the biggest tournament of the year.

A. Yeah, and it's payback for last year. I was actually sick this time last year and I withdrew from Wentworth after 16 holes of the first round, when I was one under. I was tired, I wasn't feeling well, and I took six weeks off, which I needed, and what a difference a year makes. It's unbelievable, I

guess I had to be patient and work hard on my game, with my coach and everyone. I put the work in, and have got my rewards.