



## 2015 CIMB Classic pre-tournament notes

**Dates:** October 29-November 1, 2015 (part of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR season)

**Where:** Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Par/Yards:** 36-36--72/6,967 yards

**Field:** 78 players

**Eligibility:** Eligible players for the 78-player field are:

- The top 60 available players from the final 2014-15 FedExCup Points List.
- The top 10 available from the Asian Tour Order of Merit as of Monday October 26, 2015.
- Eight sponsor exemptions.
- Beginning 9:00 a.m., Malaysian time on Monday of Tournament Week (October 26, 2015), any withdrawal will be replaced by the next available player from the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

**2014 champion:** Ryan Moore

**Purse:** \$7,000,000/\$1,260,000 (winner)

**FedExCup:** 500 points to the winner

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

**Twitter:** @CIMBClassic

## A look back at the 2014 CIMB Classic

Ryan Moore defeated Gary Woodland, Kevin Na and Sergio Garcia by three shots to win his second-consecutive CIMB Classic. With the win, he became the first player since Tiger Woods to successfully defend a title on the PGA TOUR (Woods – Arnold Palmer Invitational, 2012 and 2013). Moore fired a final-round 5-under-par score to post 17-under 271 for a three stroke win, becoming the first player in tournament history to defend his title. The year before, Moore defeated Woodland in a playoff. The win was the fourth of Moore's PGA TOUR career, and second outside of the United States. For the week, Moore was outstanding on the Par 3s (-5) and Par 4s (-9).

## More on Ryan Moore

- 2014-15 was another strong season for Moore, who finished 39th in the FedExCup for the second-straight year, and his \$2,642,306 earned for the year was just shy of his career-high the year prior.
- Moore recorded four top-10 finishes on the year, including two consecutively in March at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship and the Valspar Championship.
- The former Ben Hogan Award winner and Jack Nicklaus collegiate player of the year is a four-time PGA TOUR winner.
- Moore is one of the most decorated amateurs in the history of golf, winning the U.S. Amateur, U.S. Amateur Public Links and the NCAA Championship all in 2004.

At 31 years, 10 months and 21 days, Ryan Moore is the third youngest winner in the five-year history of the CIMB Classic.

## Winners' ages:

Ryan Moore	2013	30 years, 10 months and 21 days
Nick Watney	2012	31 years, 6 months and 3 days
Ryan Moore	2014	31 years, 10 months and 29 days
Bo Van Pelt	2011	36 years, 5 months and 14 days
Ben Crane	2010	34 years, 7 months and 25 days

## CIMB Classic and the FedExCup

In its sixth year, the CIMB Classic brings together top players from the PGA TOUR's FedExCup standing, top players from the Asian Tour Order of Merit and top players from Malaysia. The FedExCup returns to Malaysia with PGA TOUR members receiving official FedExCup points as part of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR season.

The TOUR's wraparound schedule bridges two years with 47 events. The 2015-16 PGA TOUR season kicked off with the Frys.com Open followed by the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and includes one more domestic and three international tournaments (including the CIMB Classic), with all fall events awarding FedExCup points for the third time. The CIMB Classic was the first Asian event to offer full FedExCup points.

The schedule then resumes in January with the traditional swing through Hawaii before moving to the West Coast. The FedExCup Playoffs once again feature four events and conclude in September 2016 with the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola and the crowning of the FedExCup champion.

In addition to 500 FedExCup points and a two-year PGA TOUR exemption, the winner this week (if not previously eligible) receives invitations to the 2016 Hyundai Tournament of Champions, a winners-only event in January, along with two major championships (Masters Tournament and PGA Championship) and THE PLAYERS Championship. The player would also earn exemptions into six additional invitational events on the PGA TOUR.

### **Venue**

The 2015 CIMB Classic is being held for the third time at Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club. The fairways of KLGCC are situated just eight kilometers away from the heart of the city. Originally opened in 1991, the West and East Courses were completely redesigned by renowned international golf course architects E & G Parslow and re-opened in 2008 and 2010, respectively. The course has served as the host of the European Tour and Asian Tour's co-sanctioned Malaysian Open, as well as the LPGA Tour. KLGCC has consistently been recognized as the best course in Malaysia and Asia by numerous publications for the past three consecutive years.

The course has undergone changes since last year to give players more options and make the finish more exciting.

### 14th hole – Par 4

A new tee was constructed on the left-hand side of where the members play from the white tees. The goal is to give players a straight-shot at the drivable Par-4, which will measure 275 to 280 yards from that tee box. The 14th hole features a downhill drop over water to a medium-sized green.

Last year, the 14th hole played as the 13th easiest, just barely under par for the week.

### 18th hole – Par 5

The difficult Par-5 18th, which played as the toughest of the four Par 5s last year, has been slightly reconfigured to give players more space to land their tee shots.

The first fairway bunker on the left-hand side of the hole has been relocated, moving it in line with the second fairway bunker, rather than side-by-side. The fairway will play roughly 5 yards wider this year, making driver a safer play and encouraging more players to go for the green in two.

### **A look at the field**

- 12 players who advanced to the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola thus finishing in the top 30 in the FedExCup standings: Henrik Stenson (2), Danny Lee (9), Daniel Berger (11), Patrick Reed (12), Paul Casey (13), Hideki Matsuyama (16), Robert Streb (18), Steven Bowditch (20), Kevin Kisner (21), Scott Piercy (22), Kevin Na (25) and Harris English (28).
- 17 players who are inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking: Henrik Stenson (6), Sergio Garcia (11), Hideki Matsuyama (15), Adam Scott (16), Patrick Reed (20), Branden Grace (22), Paul Casey (23),

Kevin Na (24), Robert Streb (32), Kevin Kisner (34), Danny Lee (37), Marc Leishman (38), Anirban Lahiri (39), Scott Piercy (41), Daniel Berger (42), Gary Woodland (44) and David Lingmerth (45).

- 34 players will have participated in the first three events of the 2014-2015 PGA TOUR season through the CIMB Classic, compared with 16 last year: Zac Blair, Steven Bowditch, Scott Brown, Chad Campbell, Kevin Chappell, Ben Crane, Jon Curran, Brendon de Jonge, Tony Finau, Chesson Hadley, Brian Harman, David Hearn, Jim Herman, Ryo Ishikawa, Colt Knost, Russell Knox, Spencer Levin, Ben Martin, Troy Merritt, Greg Owen, Ryan Moore, Kevin Na, Pat Perez, Scott Pinckney, Kyle Reifers, Rory Sabbatini, John Senden, Brendan Steele, Daniel Summerhays, Hudson Swafford, Nick Taylor, Brendon Todd, Cameron Tringale and Nick Watney.
- Of the 78-man field, 43 have combined for a total of 131 PGA TOUR victories, including 11 major championships.
- Eight players in the field competed in The Presidents Cup 2015 in Korea: Steven Bowditch (International), Branden Grace (International), Anirban Lahiri (International), Danny Lee (International), Marc Leishman (International), Hideki Matsuyama (International), Patrick Reed (USA) and Adam Scott (International).

### **Select player updates**

#### **Adam Scott**

- The Aussie is one of the most accomplished players on the PGA TOUR with 11 victories in his career, including the 2013 Masters Tournament.
- Became the No. 1 player in the Official World Golf Ranking in 2013.
- Recently played in The Presidents Cup for the seventh time, making him the most experienced player on the team of 12.
- This is Scott's second appearance at the CIMB Classic; he finished T11 in 2009.

#### **Henrik Stenson**

- The Swede has four PGA TOUR victories and an additional 12 wins worldwide.
- Career highlights to this point are winning the PGA TOUR's FedExCup and the European Tour Order of Merit in the same season in 2013 and THE PLAYERS Championship in 2009 at TPC Sawgrass.
- This will be his first CIMB Classic appearance.

#### **Sergio Garcia**

- The Spaniard has been close to winning the CIMB Classic the last two years, finishing in tie for second last year and T11 the year before.
- Has eight wins on the PGA TOUR, most recently at the 2012 Wyndham Championship. By far the biggest win in Garcia's PGA TOUR career is his win at THE PLAYERS Championship in 2008.

#### **Luke Donald**

- The Englishman has five PGA TOUR wins, most recently in 2012 at the Valspar Championship, and eight additional victories worldwide.
- Elevated himself to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking in 2011.
- This is his second CIMB Classic, and first since 2009.

#### **Daniel Berger**

- The American was voted the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year after advancing to the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola, the only rookie to accomplish that feat.
- Had two runner-up finishes last season, including a playoff loss to Padraig Harrington at The Honda Classic.
- This is his first CIMB Classic.

**Ernie Els**

- The South African has 19 PGA TOUR victories and 47 other international wins, and is a World Golf Hall of Fame member.
- Won the 2012 Open Championship at Royal Lytham & St. Annes.
- This is his third start at the CIMB Classic, his best finish coming in 2010 when he finished T5.

**Patrick Reed**

- The 25-year-old American already has four wins on the PGA TOUR.
- Last season, won the Hyundai Tournament of Champions in a playoff over Jimmy Walker.
- Reed played in the recent Presidents Cup in Korea, his second national team (2014 Ryder Cup).

**Branden Grace**

- The South African plays most of his golf on the European Tour, where he has recorded six wins.
- Earned a special temporary membership to the PGA TOUR last season and earned his card for 2015-16.
- At The Presidents Cup, he went 5-0-0 for the week, the best possible record for a player, just two years removed from going 0-4-0.
- This will be his first CIMB Classic.

**Hideki Matsuyama**

- Is a Japanese player and has already notched his first-career PGA TOUR win at the prestigious Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide in 2014.
- Has recorded five victories on the Japan Tour.
- Was an International Team member in the last two Presidents Cups.
- Ended the season ranked 16th in the FedExCup in 2014-15, and this is his third-consecutive appearance at the CIMB Classic.

**Anirban Lahiri**

- The Indian will be making his third start in the CIMB Classic.
- Won two events sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour earlier this year, improving his Official World Golf Ranking and qualifying him into the major championships and World Golf Championships. Finished T5 at the PGA Championship, the best finish in major championship history by a player from India.
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for 2015-16 with his play at the Web.Com Tour Finals.
- The highlight of his year came in August when he was named a member of The Presidents Cup International Team, the first player from India to be on the team.

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### Field list

Berger, Daniel  
Blair, Zac  
Bowditch, Steven  
Bradley, Keegan  
Brown, Scott  
Campbell, Chad  
Casey, Paul  
Cejka, Alex  
Chappell, Kevin  
Chia, Danny  
Cink, Stewart  
Crane, Ben  
Curran, Jon  
de Jonge, Brendon  
Donald, Luke  
Dufner, Jason  
Els, Ernie  
English, Harris  
Every, Matt  
Finau, Tony  
Garcia, Sergio  
Gore, Jason  
Grace, Branden

Hadley, Chesson  
Hahn, James  
Harman, Brian  
Harrington, Pdraig  
Hearn, David  
Herman, Jim  
Hoffmann, Morgan  
Howell III, Charles  
Ishikawa, Ryo  
Jones, Matt  
Kelly, Jerry  
Kisner, Kevin  
Knost, Colt  
Knox, Russell  
Lee, Danny  
Leishman, Marc  
Leong, Ben  
Levin, Spencer  
Lingmerth, David  
Martin, Ben  
Matsuyama, Hideki  
Merritt, Troy  
Moore, Ryan

Na, Kevin  
Ortiz, Carlos  
Owen, Greg  
Perez, Pat  
Piercy, Scott  
Pinckney, Scott  
Reed, Patrick  
Reifers, Kyle  
Sabbatini, Rory  
Scott, Adam  
Senden, John  
Steele, Brendan  
Stenson, Henrik  
Streb, Robert  
Summerhays, Daniel  
Swafford, Hudson  
Taylor, Nick  
Thomas, Justin  
Todd, Brendon  
Tringale, Cameron  
Watney, Nick  
Woodland, Gary