



# 2011 CHAMPION NIALL SMYTH

The end was not swift nor clean and emerging bloodied but unbowed from the epic battle was young Irish player Niall Smyth who defeated veteran rounder Surinder Sunar to take down the 2011 Irish Open in Dublin in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Smyth collected €550,000 for his victory over the 615-strong field the Burlington Hotel over Easter weekend.

Smyth's rollercoaster ride to a €650,000 payday started a couple of weeks ago with a €20 bet on a horse in the famed English Grand National horse race. His horse won and he transferred the money, €200, from his PaddyPower.com account to his Paddy Power Poker account where he used it to win a seat into the €3,500 buy in event.

The rest is now history.

First he had to outlast at the final table, Karl Rudwall and Rob Taylor, then he faced a duel in the trenches with the formidable former World Poker Tour winner Sunar which lasted just under four hours.

Having held the chip lead at the start of heads up play Smyth lost it only to regain it and pressure Sunar's short stack. However it still took a six-out river card to seal his fate and he was understandably elated but very tired at the 4 am finish.

"Unbelievable. I just can't believe it," he said.

"It started when I put €10 each way on the winner of the English Grand National, I won €200 euro and now I have €650,000. Surinder is such a great player, my support has been fantastic, and here I am!"

Sunar, who has been playing the Irish Open, Europe's oldest poker tournament, since the early 1980s was magnanimous in defeat admitting his opponent had played well.

#### **THE FINAL TABLE PAYOUTS FROM THIRD PLACE TO EIGHT WERE:**

<b>SEAT</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>CHIPS</b>
1.	Niall Smyth (Ireland)	550,000
2.	Surinder Sunar (England)	290,000
3.	Martin Petri (Denmark)	180,000
4.	Seamus Cahill (Ireland)	145,000
5.	Aleksi Savela (Finland)	115,000
6.	Karl Rudwall (Sweden)	85,000
7.	Rob Taylor (Ireland)	63,000
8.	John Eames (UK)	45,000
9.	Niall McCann (Ireland)	30,000