

BRITISH MINIGOLF
NEWSLETTER
Completely unofficial

October 2007

British Minigolf Association

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Website

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The BMGA is affiliated to the World Minigolf Federation (www.minigolfsport.com), and through this association, to the European Minigolf Federation.

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Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that information in this newsletter is correct, at times errors can occur.



**VIRGIN MONEY
WORLD CRAZY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
2007**



Tim Davies looks to make it five in a row.



WELCOME

Welcome to the October issue of the British Minigolf newsletter. This edition previews the forthcoming World Crazy Golf Championship and Kent Open, and reviews the competitions that have taken place in August and September. Jouni Valkjarvi of Finland regained the British Open title, which he'd lost to Germany's Karsten Hein in 2006; both Steve Gow and James Trubridge score their debut tour victories, Planet Hastings retain the Club title, and Tim Davies and Ted Mclver win the Doubles.

Roll of honour 2007

- Mar 17 Planet Hastings Open (Hastings) **Tim Davies**
- Apr 22 Irish Open (Belfast) **Ricard Lockner**
- Apr 28 British Masters (Southend) **Keith Kellard**
- Jun 30 British Championship (Taunton) **Postponed**
- Jul 14 English Open (Warwick) **Ted Mclver**
- Jul 21 Brighton Open (Brighton) **Jacob Stevenson**
- Sep 14 Players Championship (Margate) **Steve Gow**
- Sep 14 International Players Championship (Margate) **Olivia Prokopova**
- Sep 15/16 British Open (Margate) **Jouni Valkjarvi**
- Sep 29 Doubles Championship (Hastings) **Tim Davies/Ted Mclver**
- Sep 30 Club Championships (Hastings) **Planet Hastings (Tim Davies, Ted Mclver, Olivia Prokopova, Dave Harding)**
- Oct 6 Midlands Open (Warwick) **James Trubridge**
- Oct 27/28 World Crazy Golf Championship (Hastings) ...
- Nov 4 Kent Open (Margate) ...

**Current British Rankings
As at 06/10/2007**

Pos	Name	Points
1.	T Davies	4,551
2.	C Harding	4,264
3.	J Moore	3,502
4.	J Mclver	3,382
5.	A Exall	3,353
6.	S Gow	3,165
7.	J Trubridge	3,143
8.	B Bullin	3,053
9.	J Angel	2,819
10.	K Kellard	2,813
11.	R Bullin	2,645
12.	B Shepherd	2,482
13.	S Homer	2,445
14.	T Exall	1,733
15.	A Booth	1,545
16.	L Bender	1,529

NEXT EVENTS

27-28 October
Virgin Money World Crazy
Golf Championships
(Hastings)

4 November
Kent Open (Margate)

For more info, contact
mail@minigolf.org.uk.

Past years results

2006

1	T DAVIES	253	(36.14)
2	A EXALL	256	(36.57)
3	B SHEPHERD	260	(37.14)
4	J MOORE	261	(37.29)
5	P AHO	261	(37.29)
6	O PROKOPOVA	263	(37.57)
7	P EXALL	264	(37.71)

2005

1	T DAVIES	258	(36.86)
2	O PROKOPOVA	260	(37.14)
3	P AHO	261	(37.29)
4	P EXALL	262	(37.43)
5	J ANGEL	262	(37.43)
6	K KELLARD	263	(37.57)
7	T EXALL	264	(37.71)

2004

1	T DAVIES	238	(34.00)
2	J McIVER	251	(35.86)
3	P EMMERSON	270	(38.57)
4	K KELLARD	270	(38.57)

2003

1	T DAVIES	272	(38.86)
2	J McIVER	278	(39.71)
3	O PROKOPOVA	279	(39.86)
4	M WEBB	283	(40.43)

For full results see
<http://www.worldcrazygolf.co.uk>



Hastings forecast

There may be a cold swirling wind off the sea. Or there may not be! It could be warm and sunny.

Likely to be raining though – stones and/or abuse from the local kids.

PREVIEW

VIRGIN MONEY WORLD CRAZY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2007
 Hastings, England – 27/28 October 2007



2006 Finalists

With October nearly over, it must be time for the World Crazy Golf Championship. Once again, Hastings seafront courses host the tournament on their crazy and mini golf courses. And, for the third year running, Virgin Money provide tournament sponsorship, and a healthy prize fund. Tim Davies will be looking to continue his exceptional run, and take the title for the fifth year running. But there are likely to be many-a-player hoping to de-throne him. A quick summary of the leading contenders.

Tim Davies

With his towering frame, distinctive cigarette-stained teeth, thread-bare floppy green hat and faded red jacket with indistinct aroma, Tim has an imposing presence. Four times victor and three titles so far this year, despite, by his own admission, playing crap until the Doubles; odds-on-favourite to continue the sequence. Still, it's about time someone beat him...(preferably with a big stick!)

Andy Exall

The highest ranked of the 1000 or so Exalls currently playing on the tour and the current 'nearly man' of British minigolf (highest placed player without a main tournament win - invitationals don't count!) Second place last year, and the man most likely to topple Davies. In a recent poll, rated the peoples favourite for success this year.

Chris Harding

Who? British number two, never has a good time on the minigolf course. Doubt it will be any better this year round. Recently lost his British number one status and looking for revenge. Chances of success are good to middling. Maybe an each-way bet would be better use of your money.

Brad Shepherd

Recently complained that he wasn't included in a poll as to who would win this year. And for good reason. A top three finish last year, but unlikely to be in the money this time. Always has at least one bad round during the tournament, this year he'll probably have six.

James Trubridge.

Probably fortunate to have won the Midlands Open (it's not a real victory until you beat Davies, McIver, Angel, Kellard &c.) Not a hope in Hastings!

Rocky Bullin

Could/should have won last year. Leading after day one, he was Daviesed during rounds 5 & 6, and fell to a disappointing 18th place. Has learnt a bit too much from his mentor Ace-Man, all bad. Watch out for Harry Putter trying to charm his ball into the hole; and try to ignore the whistling, humming and singing. But if that doesn't put you off, the thought of being beaten by a 12-year old will. Not likely to win this year, but at least he's a better player than his parents - well better than Bill anyway.

Ted McIver

Recently voted as the most popular minigolfer in the Britain, this enigmatic(!) Scotsman(?) with a dress sense as discordant as a John Cage sonata, is also one of the worst players in the world yet he still keeps on winning titles. Somehow he took the English Open title in July, but was most likely the junior partner in the Davis/McIver doubles winning team. Chances this time - slim to zero. Be lucky to make the final 18.

Olivia Prokopova

Czech wonder-kid who lives off the minigolf earnings. Always there or thereabouts, but never won yet - her age belies her talent (she's only 8, or that's what they've been saying for the past 5 years anyway.) On her day, one of the best, but prone to having an off day at the wrong time. Watch out for her father - he'll hit you with that stick if you beat his daughter.

Pasi Aho

Somewhat rotund Finnish international player. Back for another crack at the title, and in with a shout. Likely to be the slowest player in the tournament - even Kellard and Angel are not that bad compared to this chap. Only really comes to England to buy Marmite - a favourite in his home country we hear. Pretty good at floorball and beer drinking (but not as good at Finnish compatriot John Mittler!)

There is a large field playing, and some in with a chance of a few pounds - a full list of entrants (up to 16/10/07) is listed to the right, and an event timetable far right.

A.P.P.C. Ltd.

Entries 2007 (to 16/10/07)

Pasi AHO (Finland)
Stuart AITKEN
James AKEHURST
James BAMBER
Christopher BEADLE
Owen BLACKHURST
Kevin BOTTO
Philip BOTTO
Bill BULLIN
Rocky BULLIN
Ruth BULLIN
Nick CHITTY
Tim DAVIES
Russell DENT
Rob DODD
Liam DOYLE
Peter EMMERSON
Andy EXALL
Denis EXALL
Philip EXALL
Terence EXALL
Elliot FIRTH
David FORREST
Susan FORREST
Louise GORRINGE
Emily GOTTFRIED
Richard GOTTFRIED
Stephen GOW
Emma-Jayne HAGERTY
Chris HARDING
Dave HARDING
Edward HAWKINS
Rich HAYDON
Paul HAYES
Paul HOLLINGSWORTH
Marion HOMER
Sean HOMER
Gordon INGLIS
Christopher JONES
Keith KELLARD
Nick KELLEHER
Anthony KELLETT
Jas KUKIELKA
Severiano KUKIELKA
Rupert LARKIN
Matthew LELLIOTT
Ian LEWIS
Philip LLOYD
Jeremy MAILES
Carlos MARTINEZ
Fraser MASEFIELD
Brian MCVIVER
Ted MCVIVER
John MOORE
Kev MOSELEY
Luke NIXON
Alan NORMAN
James NORMAN
Philip PEACOCK
Anthony POPE
Olivia PROKOPOVA (Czech Republic)
Sally RAYNES
Jonathan RICHARDS
Deborah ROBERTSON
Janette ROBERTSON
Martin ROBERTSON
Trevor ROBERTSON
Mark RYE
Paul RYE
Malcolm SCARD
Brad SHEPHERD
Milan SYKORA (Czech Republic)
Ben TRAYHORN
James TRUBRIDGE
Ewan WATSON
Oliver WELLS
Paul WHITEHOUSE
Jo WILLIAMSON
Rob WOODLAND

Past years results

Kent Open 2006

1 S Vallory	79	(39.50)
2 S Homer	80	(40.00)
3 J Angel	83	(41.50)
4 Ru Bullin	85	(42.50)
5 J Moore	85	(42.50)
6 L Bender	87	(43.50)
6 M Lelliot	87	(43.50)
8 S Gow	90	(45.00)
9 R Dent	90	(45.00)
10 T Witherden	91	(45.50)
10 K Botto	91	(45.50)
12 B Bullin	91	(45.50)
13 D Forrest	94	(47.00)
14 A Booth	96	(48.00)
14 P Hayes	96	(48.00)
16 Ro Bullin	97	(48.50)
17 M Homer	98	(49.00)
18 K Davies	98	(49.00)
19 M Wood	100	(50.00)
20 J Vallory	100	(50.00)
21 S Goble	102	(51.00)
22 J Booth	115	(57.50)
23 B Wood	117	(58.50)

WCGC Timing (approximate)

Entry includes unlimited free practice between 9.30am and 9pm on Friday 26th October 2007.

Saturday 27th October 2007

Check-in from 9am. Last check-in time 10.30am. Failure to check-in by this time will mean you cannot play and your space will be allocated to the next on the waiting list

10.30am - Drawing of teams, welcome, clarification of format & rules

10.45am - Play commences - 2 rounds, 1 on each of Crazy Golf & Minigolf courses - 1pm: Break for lunch

1.45pm - Play commences - 2 rounds, 1 on each of Crazy Golf & Minigolf courses

4.30pm - Day one ends - Free practice available up to 9pm

Sunday 28th October 2007

Check-in from 9am. Last check-in time 10.30am. Failure to check-in by this time will mean you cannot continue

10.30am - Play commences - 2 rounds, 1 on each of Crazy Golf & Minigolf courses

12.45pm - Break for Lunch

2pm - Final commences - 1 round on Crazy Golf with special rules.

4pm - Prize-giving

For the first 6 rounds, scores are cumulative. For the final, the best 18 players make the cut & play on under special rules for an overall cumulative score. Full details given on the day.

PREVIEW

KENT OPEN 2007

Margate, England – 04 November 2007

Strokes Adventure Golf in Margate, venue for the 2007 British Open, is set to once again host the Kent Open. Last year, Steve Vallory scored an unexpected, but deserved victory, but the big guns will be out in force this year.

With the extra training from the British Open, the scores are likely to be significantly lower this time out. Will local favourite, and Kent team captain Sean Homer, be able to take this much coveted title on his home course? But with Chris Harding, Bill Bullin and Tim Davies all showing well in September, it will be difficult. But maybe rising star Andy Booth will be the surprise.

Entry still available—please email membership@minigolf.org.uk or admin@kentminigolfclub.co.uk for details.

British Minigolf Association Membership

Membership of the BMGA costs just £15.00 for the 2008 season and is valid for a full calendar year. Membership taken out after 1st October 2007 will be valid for the remainder of 2007 and all of 2008.

Membership not only gives you reduced entry to BMGA organised competitions, but also reduced rates to play at affiliated courses during the whole of the year. All four courses in Hastings, the three at the seafront, plus the adventure golf course in White Rock Gardens (next to Clambers) are affiliated, and offer reduced rates.

For more information of memberships, please contact: British Minigolf Association membership@minigolf.org.uk

Or on the World Wide Web at <http://www.minigolf.org.uk>

RESULTS

Players Championship 2007
Margate, England—14 September 2007



Steve with trophy and Ted Skelton

Steve Gow finally vanquished his minigolf demons to take the Players Champion title on the Friday before the British Open. Having only half an hours practice didn't prevent him from defeating Andy Exall, Andy Booth and Tim Davies in the final. A three round event, the first and third stroke play, but the second introducing a match-play element, Steve defeated Richard Gottfried by one hole in his semi-final.

In the International Players Championship, Olivia Prokopova took the honours from Bjorn Dinau.

RESULTS

British Open 2007
Margate, England—15/16 September 2007

The chain-smoking Finn, Jouni Valkjarvi, regained his British Open title that he'd lost to Karsten Hein the previous year in a pulsating event held in Margate. Despite having to relay the carpet in the days leading up to the tournament, ably assisted by several players, the competition proved to be one of the best in recent years.



Jouni Valkjarvi

Over seven rounds, Jouni edged Mattius Stahl by two strokes, with Eirik Seljelid third. Reigning champions, Karsten, finished fifth.

But there was a disappointing display from the British contingent, who had hoped this would finally be the year of a British success. Top placed Brits were Chris Harding (9th), Bill Bullin (10th) and Tim Davies (11th).

The tournament also acted as the British Championship, the competition in Taunton having been cancelled. By virtue of being the leading British player, Chris gained the title of British Champion. In the other categories, it was a clean sweep for the Bullin family—Rocky (Junior), Ruth (Women) and Bill (Senior).

RESULTS

(Top places only)

Players Championship 2007 Final

- 1 Steve Gow 37
- 2 Andy Booth 38
- 3 Andy Exall 39
- 4 Tim Davies 41

British Open 2007

- 1 J Valkjarvi **244** (34.86)
- 2 M Stahl **246** (35.14)
- 3 E Seljelid **251** (35.86)
- 4 T Kjellstrom **254** (36.29)
- 5 K Hein **254** (36.29)
- 6 O Prokopova **255** (36.43)
- 7 N Rehfeld **255** (36.43)
- 8 B Dinau **256** (36.57)
- 9 C Harding **259** (37.00)
- 10 B Bullin **261** (37.29)
- 11 T Davies **267** (38.14)
- 12 P Mendik **269** (38.43)

Doubles Championship 2007

Team	W	D	L	Tot
1 Davies/McIver	8	0	0	24
2 Prokopova/Harding	6	1	1	19
3 Exall/Exall	6	0	2	18
4 Booth/Hopkins	5	1	2	16

Midlands Open 2007

- 1 J Trubridge **109** (36.33)
- 2 B Bullin **111** (37.00)
- 3 J Moore **115** (38.33)
- 4 B Shepherd **116** (38.67)
- 5 R Bullin **117** (39.00)
- 6 S Homer **117** (39.00)

For full results, reports and analysis, go to www.miniaturegolfer.com

CLUB SCENE

Hastings

**Planet Hastings Crazy Golf Club Rookies Tournament
1 September 2007**

1 Rupert Larkin	77	[41:36]
2 Nick Chitty	87	[45:42]
3 Thomas Candy	88	[44:44]

Hastings are club champions

Planet Hastings retained the title of British Club Champions on September 30. The team of Tim Davies, Ted McIver, Dave Harding and Olivia Prokopova won five of their six matches to take the title from Kent Spitfires by three points.

Team	P	W	D	L	Tot
1 Planet Hastings	6	5	0	1	15
2 Kent Spitfires	6	4	0	2	12
3 Tunbridge Wells	6	3	0	3	9

Midlands/North

Midlands Invitational (MIT)

In the MIT, played in Warwick, James Trubridge finished four strokes clear of John Moore. Seve Kukielka was third.

1 James Trubridge	72	[34:38]
2 John Moore	76	[39:37]
3 Seve Kukielka	80	[40:40]

RESULTS

**British Doubles 2007
Hastings, England—29 September 2007**



Ted & Tim collect their trophies from Ted Skelton.

With the defending champions, Jon Angel and Keith Kellard unable to defend their title—Jon being away in the United States at the time, it meant there would be a different name on the trophy this year. (In fact, there would be as they were new trophies this year!)

With the competition being held at White Rock Gardens, the dynamic duo of Tim Davies and Ted McIver were favourites. And they didn't disappoint, winning all eight of their matches, to take the title by 5 points from Planet Hastings team mates, Dave Harding and Olivia Prokopova. Third, by only one point were Andy and Trevor Exall.

RESULTS

**Midland Open 2007
Warwick, England—6 October 2007**

In the recent Midland Open, played over three rounds in Warwick, James Trubridge took an unexpected victory from Bill Bullin. James held a five stroke lead over Bill going into the final round, but nearly managed to lose out with a 37. Thankfully, Bill could not score a course record 32, so the title went with James to Nottingham.



James hold the trophy aloft

John Moore finished third, but local favourite Chris Harding was way down in 9th place, twelve strokes distant.

Interested in professional minigolf equipment?

For anyone who hasn't used professional minigolf putters or minigolf balls before, it can be a daunting world. There are hundreds of different balls available, all with different properties - size, weight, bounce - and it can be difficult to know what to buy and where and when to use them.

But help is at hand. See the display of equipment at the course during the championships. Minigolf equipment differs from that of 'big' golf. The balls are smooth, rather than having dimples - we don't need to hit our minigolf balls through the air - and the putters have rubber attached to the face, to give better control over the ball. After all, you need perfect control if you want to score that perfect 18. (Yes, that's right. 18 holes in 18 strokes!!!)

For example - the Bulldog. In fact there are two types, one red and one blue, (and I'll be trying to sell them both!) The properties are as follows:

	Red Bulldog Size: 38.1mm Weight: 46g Hardness: 47 shore Bounce: 27 cm Surface: lacquered
	Blue Bulldog Size: 38.1mm Weight: 42g Hardness: 43 shore Bounce: 36 cm Surface: lacquered

But what does it mean?

Size and weight are obvious, with the red ball being slightly heavier than the blue.

These surfaces are lacquered, meaning they are smooth. Balls are also available in rough, rough-lacquered and raw.

The bounce is measured at 20°C, when the ball is dropped from 1 metre onto concrete in ideal conditions. This can change depending on the ball temperature. Some balls will bounce more when they are warmer than 20°C

Hardness is measured in shore, with 100 shore being hard as granite. Minigolf balls tend to range between about 25 to 99 shore.

But when to use these balls and what else is there available? For advice during the championship, please ask. Or alternatively, contact the BMGA for more information - mail@minigolf.org.uk

[miniaturegolfer.com](http://www.miniaturegolfer.com)

For the most up to date information in the world of mini and crazy golf, go to <http://www.miniaturegolfer.com/>

This site is maintained by none other than Tim Davies, four times World Crazy Golf Champion and British number one.

Join in the lively debate on the minigolf forum, where there are contributions from top players in Great Britain and around the world.