

World Crazy Golf Championship 2011

The British Minigolf Association in association with Castle Golf present
The 2011 World Crazy Golf Championship
Hastings, England
29/30 October 2011



The 2010 Champion, Chris Harding, shows off the trophy and cash!

So, here we are again. Back in Hastings for the ninth staging of the World Crazy Golf Championship.

Last year we were in mourning for the loss of two of Hastings greatest landmarks—the old derelict pier, lost to the flames on that fateful night of October 2010, and the old minigolf course which saw it's last games played out only a few weeks later.

This year we do have one significant loss too—that of Tim 'Ace Man' Davies. The five times champion having packed his bags and headed off to France in late 2010 . Good riddance many might say, but we can all agree the British minigolf scene is not the same without him.

The Arnold Palmer Crazy Golf course is still here though, and thanks again to Castle Golf, host of this years event once more. And as usual, we will take our view on the leading contenders this year, mixed in with the odd comment, interview and article here and there. We talk tat, crap and balls, who's better and who's best and a few other oddities amongst other things, so carry on inside for more...

And so, time for a quick review of the possible leading contenders this year round. Apologies if your name is not included, it doesn't mean you won't win, just that you won't be insulted!



This unlikely lot were the finalists last year. But will they be there again this time round?

There has been a lot of talk recently on the social media sites about whether **Michael Smith** is now better than Tim Davies. Several views are shared in this publication. I'm not going to get into that discussion, only to say that it's too early to tell. There has only been one true meeting, the 2010 British Championship, and Tim was victorious. Read into that what you may. However, Michael is the heir presumptive and his performances this year have proved that. After bursting onto the scene in early 2010, Michael has matured into probably the best all round current player. A couple of weaknesses that could be teased out if you know your Potter (Stephen, not Harry), but still the man to beat. And if you beat him, you'll probably be the champion.

In close pursuit are the hoards from Kent MGC. Team captain **Sean 'Freebird' Homer** will be hoping that news of Wolves' annihilation at the hands of Manchester City on Saturday does not distract him too much. Seemingly freed from the curse of the organiser and likely to be in the mix.

The third member of the trio is **Marc 'The Force' Chapman**. After taking his first major title back in September, the pressure will be on the new British Open Champion to repeat this success. Not good under too much pressure and needing to come from behind; if leading after the first day then not likely to win!

The top of the British rankings is flush with Kent Players (a discussion for another time and place), and father and son duo **Adam** and **Tony Kelly** take up positions 4 & 6. Slowly creeping up the rankings, if they can overcome the family rivalry then could do well. Expect Adam to finish higher though!

Still going strong somehow is **Andy 'Mr. X' Exall**, for a while the nearly man (2 seconds and a third), but past his best. Not even sure if he'll be the leading Exall this time out.

Chris 'Who' Harding, the reigning champion, and definitely in with a shout at a third title. Could the lack of practice be a handicap this year though?

The omens look good for **James 'The Rocket' Rutherford**. In three of the last four years, the British Champion has gone on to take the World Crazy Golf Title. Former employee of the now defunct Green minigolf course with time

on his hands. Perhaps a bit too good?

The leading London player is **Brad 'The Fist' Shepherd**. Quite likely to be distracted on Sunday after the previous evenings Monkish gig (see article later on) and as liable to score a 50 as a 28. We've been hoping for a while, but this year should see him miss out on the final 18.

Taking over as the nearly man is **Peter Emmerson**. Second for the last two years and wanting to forget the final hole from 2010. Has been able to spend the past year practising on his own course. But will it help? Whilst no-one really deserves to win, we'd not be too unhappy if Peter actually did.

Olivia Prokopova is back again. Way past her best now, and hasn't had a top three finish since 2005. Could time have taken it's toll, or will this be her year. I suspect not!

Lest we forget another one of our overseas friends, **Pasi Aho**. Older and balder, rating his chances as good as ever. May not even be in the money this year.

The 2009 champion **Keith 'Doc' Kellard** will have a tough job this year. Having not played since last years event, there's every change he will have been left behind and not make the top 18. Surprised us last year; unlikely to do the same this time.

Amongst the other players making up the numbers are '**Big Top' Ted McIver**, the remaining half of the Hastings dynamic duo. Haunted by the 'clang' sound of ball hitting water wheel; replayed on Channel 4's Grudge Match every year in the lead up to the tournament for the amusement of many.

Also likely to be there or thereabouts, are **Nick Chitty; Jo Williamson; Seth Thomas; Ruth Burke; Kevin Moseley; Anthony Pope**; and the hundred or so Exalls.

But where are the Robertsons?

This is an unofficial publication, and whilst it may contain information taken from official sources, it should not be thought of as being representative of the views of the British Minigolf Association.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue, whether directly or indirectly; credit is duly given. I take no responsibility for any of the work contained herein being my own!

For more information, visit worldcrazygolf.co.uk, or go via a more official route at minigolf.org.uk

Facts and Stats Previous Results

2010

1	C Harding (ENG)	222 (31.7)
2	P Emmerson (ENG)	223 (31.9)
3	M Smith (ENG)	226 (32.3)

2009

1	K Kellard (ENG)	247 (35.3)
2	P Emmerson (ENG)	252 (36.0)
3	J Mittler (FIN)	253 (36.1)

2008

1	T Davies (WAL)	250 (35.7)
2	C Harding (ENG)	252 (36.0)
3	A Exall (ENG)	254 (36.3)

2007

1	C Harding (ENG)	248 (35.4)
2	A Exall (ENG)	257 (36.7)
3	B Shepherd (ENG)	258 (36.9)

2006

1	T Davies (WAL)	253 (36.1)
2	A Exall (ENG)	256 (36.6)
3	B Shepherd (ENG)	260 (37.1)

2005

1	T Davies (WAL)	258 (36.9)
2	O Prokopova (CZE)	260 (37.1)
3	P Aho (FIN)	261 (37.3)

2004

1	T Davies (WAL)	238 (34.0)
2	J McIver (SCO)	251 (35.9)
3	P Emmerson (ENG)	270 (38.6)

2003

1	T Davies (WAL)	272 (38.9)
2	J McIver (SCO)	278 (39.7)
3	O Prokopova (CZE)	279 (39.9)

Prior to 2010, the competition was played over two courses—the crazy golf and the mini golf, with the final on the crazy.

Since 2010, the competition has been played only on the crazy golf.

2011 World Crazy Golf Championship Official Players Pack Summary

After months of waiting the World Crazy Golf Championship tees off on Saturday 29th October on the Arnold Palmer Crazy Golf Course at Hastings seafront. This is a summary of the Official Players Pack that was sent to all competitors earlier in the week.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The prize fund up for grabs over the weekend is as follows;

- 1st place: £1000 and World Crazy Golf Championship trophy
- 2nd place: £750
- 3rd place: £500
- 4th place: £300
- 5th place: £250
- 6th place: £200

Play will tee off on Saturday 29th October at 9.00am (a rolling start with groups of three players, all starting at hole 1) with all players playing 4 rounds of 18 holes on the course.

Sunday will consist of 2 further rounds for all players, with play scheduled to start at 9.30am (in reverse leader board order – i.e. the players at the foot of the leaderboard teeing off first and the top of the leaderboard going out in the last groups for round 5). After 6 rounds, the top 18 players qualify for the final round (featuring the legendary Crazy Crazy Rules with all balls in play in each group!) to decide the winner.

Live round by round results will be streamed on the internet from Saturday morning once the event has tee'd off at the following link: <http://www.bmga.co.uk/results/2011/wcgc11/result.htm>

Players remain in their groups throughout the 4 rounds on Saturday (alternating the playing order) and the tee off times for round 1 are listed below, along with the groups for the day.

Official timings over the tournament weekend as detailed below:

- Monday to Friday inclusive - course open from 9.30am to 7pm
- Friday 28/10/11 – Free practice all day for tournament entrants.
- Saturday 29/10/11 – Practice allowed up to 8.50am
- Saturday 29/10/11- 9.00am onwards – WCGC day 1
- Saturday 29/10/11 – players can practice on Saturday afternoon once the final group have completed their fourth round.
- Sunday 30/10/11 – Practice allowed upto 10 minutes before day 2 start
- Sunday 30/10/11 – 9.30am onwards – WCGC day 2 (*as highlighted earlier in the pack, the Sunday start time may be brought forward by up to 30 minutes)

TEE OFF TIMES FOR SATURDAY

Time	Player A	Player B	Player C
09:00	Chris HARDING	Alastair SHAW	Allan PURVIS
09:04	Chris SMITH	Freddie BLACKBURN-SHAW	Jamie WINGATE
09:08	James RUTHERFORD	Alex EXALL	Gareth SLAVIN
09:12	Andy EXALL	Chris JONES	Charlie TALBOT
09:16	Anthony POPE	Denis EXALL	Clive SUTTON
09:20	Kevin MOSELEY	David GOMM	Andrew FRANKLIN
09:24	Olivia PROKOPOVA	Phil EXALL	Georg BAUER
09:28	Sean HOMER	Cindy KUKIELKA	Owen JOHNSON
09:32	Pasi AHO	Paul JOHNSON	Tom DAILEY
09:36	Michael SMITH	Alan NORMAN	Richard FRANKLIN
09:40	Ruth BURKE	Mark STILLMAN	Adrian PARSONS
09:44	Tony KELLY	Leo KUKIELKA	Stephen LANGFORD
09:48	John MCIVER	Kevin BOTTO	Toby FITZHERBERT
09:52	Brad SHEPHERD	Jas KUKIELKA	Stephen STURDY
09:56	Jo WILLIAMSON	Peter JONES	Neil JAMES
10:00	Marc CHAPMAN	Neil PARSONS	Billy DENYER
10:04	Adam KELLY	Richard STEPHENSON	Malcolm TAYLOR
10:08	Nick CHITTY	Anthony KELLETT	Oli PAXTON
10:12	Terry EXALL	Petr TURON	Janet HOLLOWAY
10:16	Peter EMMERSON	Alex PRAGNELL	Alan POINTER
10:20	Scott LANCLEY	Emily GOTTFRIED	Robert MORRIS
10:24	Seth THOMAS	James TRUBRIDGE	Jon CLARKE
10:28	Peter FEIX	Rich HAYDON	Alan FAWDEN
10:32	Richard GOTTFRIED	Trevor EXALL	Ann POINTER
10:36	Keith KELLARD	Phil BOTTO	Jeremy MOON

Tim 'AceMan' Davies - Thank you, and goodbye

For many years the stalwart of British minigolf, and after many failed promises, Tim has finally left us for sunnier climes in France.

Five times World Crazy Golf and three times British Champion, these achievements are the pinnacle many long to reach. It may take a while!

Tim—gone, but not forgotten.



Tim and "friend"

Interview with the Castle Golf World Crazy Golf Champion Chris Harding

Last October, Chris Harding triumphed over 53 other crazy golfers to regain the World Crazy Golf Champion title that he'd won before in 2007. Averaging 31.7 over his seven rounds, Chris saw off the challenge from Peter Emmerson on the last hole.



Ahead of this year's tournament, we caught up with Chris and asked him a few questions.

• *What does it feel like to be a two times World Crazy Golf Champion?*

Pretty good. I frequently slip the fact into conversations that should only be taking a few minutes and somehow they last a lot longer.

• *What was the reaction to your victory like from your family and friends?*

Work colleagues expect me to win every competition I play in so no surprises for them. They are secretly quite proud of me and are always googling me. Family were more shocked than anything else last year as I was still recovering from my eye operation. They knew exactly what I'd been through and I can't thank them enough for getting me through it.

• *How many autographs have you signed in the last year?*

Not that many. Certainly not as many as the first time I won.

• *The weather in Hastings can be pretty hard to deal with, have you checked the forecast ready for this year and are you packing a Squeegee?*

Haven't looked yet but I will. The trusty waterproofs will be

there. I just hope the rain stays away for the benefit of the other competitors. Yes the squeegee will be there too.

• *The final round was pretty tense last year, with Peter almost nicking it at the end? Can you describe your feeling about how the final hole played out?*

There's no way I can put into words my feelings from last year. They were from one extreme to another. My thoughts I can remember, at best I was thinking of what to say about losing the big lead I had and that I should still be proud of my performance. To put a positive spin on things I was proud of the way I'd played and that Peter had played a brilliant last round to pip me. Then as we well know the line that we had played so well over the previous rounds failed for Peter in spectacular fashion and I had a putt to win. Then the emotions kicked in. Quite embarrassing really!

• *What did you spend the £1000 prize money on?*

Went into the bank account and I would imagine has been mostly spent on Matthew - sorry Al.

• *Where does the prestigious Castle Golf World Crazy Golf Championship Trophy sit in the Harding household?*

It's still in the lounge but I am getting fed up dusting it.

• *Any tips for tackling the Crazy Golf course in Hastings?*

Map all of the holes in detail especially the ones less likely to give up an ace e.g. hole 2. Also be prepared to change your shot to suit the wind conditions. I have different tee off positions prepared for any major changes in wind direction.

• *You've been quite quite on the playing front in 2011, compared with 2010. What does the minigolf future hold for Chris Harding?*

I'm not sure really. I still won't be playing as much and have even considered retirement (doubt this will happen though). I would really like to do some coaching and feel that I could be really good at it.

• *Finally, will it be three times this year? And if not you, then who?*

It could be three but I'll have to be on top form to win this year. I hear the carpet has changed on many holes so should favour the people who've managed to practice. If I was a gambling man I'd have to say Michael Smith would be my pick but there are plenty of other people who could prove me wrong.

To see video of the dramatic events from the final hole at last years Championship, go to:

<http://youtu.be/7cayM1oFDRM>

<http://youtu.be/6ZIN1UG5nW8>

British Open 2011—A British Champion at last!

It may have taken a while, but finally there is a British winner of the Open. Marc Chapman took the title in September and he gave us a few words about the competition and his role as BMGA Development Officer.

Firstly, can you give a little background about yourself?

I'm 25 years old, from Canterbury and I'm a professional Fencing coach. I started playing minigolf in 2008 after reading a Sunday supplement article on the WCGC's, the weekend of the event, so it was too late to enter!

So, the first GB British Open winner. And your first major. How does it feel?

It was a bit overwhelming at the time, but sitting here now it feels great! Winning the British Open, and being the first Brit to win, was one of my dreams when I started learning about the history of Minigolf in the UK. I still can't believe it's taken us 14 years to do it, and even if I hadn't won, there were plenty of other British players lined up behind me to collect the honour!

What next for you? WCGC? BC?

That's what I'm continuing to aim for, as well as attempting to retain the British Open title next year of course.

The final round was a battle between Michael and yourself. How did that go for you? Were you thinking about what Michael was doing, or just on your own game?

I played the last round with Michael and Sean. Starting level with Michael after being one shot behind at the start of Day 2. I didn't feel under much pressure, but I feel I have a big advantage down to my past experiences at top level events in both Minigolf and Fencing events. Sean was the 'home favourite' and Michael was a proven British No.1, so I knew I had nothing to lose and just played the course trusting my own lines and notes.

Everyone has focused on the events of Hole 17 justifiably, but personally hole 15 was where things turned in my favour with an ace to draw the scores level again before the closing holes after Michael's lucky ace at the pipe hole



Yes Marc, you have to get the engraving done yourself!

13. In the end the pressure was just too much for him, but it's something he can learn from and return a stronger player, which is a scary thought!

Is the GB minigolf scene strong now with the likes of you, Michael, Sean, James &c. all capable of shooting low scores?

I have the utmost respect for what Michael Smith has done over the last 18 months. He is the main reason for the dramatic rise in the UK playing standard. Players like Sean Homer, Adam and Tony Kelly, Andy Exall, James Rutherford and myself have needed to improve our own games just to keep up with him! Course records seem to be broken at every event and average winning scores are very impressive indeed.

With the introduction of the Category two prize structure, I'm hoping that the next group of players will begin to bridge the gap with the top players in the not too distant future. There is a lot of depth in talent suddenly with players such as Paul Johnson, Seth Thomas, Chris Smith, Richard Skeggs, Oliver Florence and Freddie Blackburn-Shaw, just to name a few, improving with each competition.

You played in Sweden this year. How have GB progressed, in your view, compared to other nations. Are we getting better?

Yes, we are improving abroad - especially on the Concrete courses. I've targeted nations such as Russia and France as the teams we should be aiming to match and eventually beat. Our Concrete scores were similar every round, but it's our lack of experience on the Eternit courses that is undoing all this good work. This is something we need to address if we are to overtake the nations mentioned in future.

How do you rate your chances at WCGC? Is Michael the man to beat?

The World Crazies is a personally special event as it's the reason I started playing, but it's not going to be easy with the more experienced players that know every subtlety of the crazy course in all types of weather conditions. I'm a relative novice in comparison, with this only being my third year here. I enjoy bad weather, so that's not an issue for me, but the different thickness in felt on each hole this year does mess with your weight of shot.

Trustworthy putting notes and making sure of those second putts are the keys to a solid scoring foundation. A score of 32/33 each round is a good target score this year, especially if the wind picks up from the west!

The usual suspects will be at the top of the leaderboard come round 7 on Sunday, Chris Harding, Peter Emmerson, Michael Smith plus don't forget the foreign players - Pasi and the excellent recent form of Olivia.

I'll be there or thereabouts, but as with the British Open I have no false expectations of winning it this time around - my initial aim is to make the top 18 and round 7 then, who knows...

And finally, can you give us some background on your role as development officer for BMGA. What's in store for the future of GB minigolf?

My brief has been to look for ways to sustain, grow and improve the BMGA going forwards in relation to both the governance of the governing body and the playing membership. The first part of this is to ask for feedback from members and courses on where the sport and the BMGA are currently whilst also asking about the future direction. This process started in July 2011 and is ongoing, with the online players' survey part closing last week. The findings will be used to form a new development plan for the sport with clear objectives and plans on how we'll reach them.

Exciting stuff I hear you say, but the whole process is reliant on the co-operation of members and course owners/managers to make it all worthwhile. The aim is to create a strong and united 'British minigolf family' that's all working together to make our sport a success for everyone in the UK.

Five minutes with WMF Sport Director Pasi Aho

The WCGC always attracts some top overseas players and this year is no exception. A regular visitor to these shores is Finland's Pasi Aho, and despite never winning the title, he's back for more. I had the chance to speak with Pasi recently and asked him a few questions about the championship, and minigolf in general.



So, back to Hastings again for another crack at the WCGC title. How do you rate your chances?

Yep, back to Hastings again. My chances will be just as bad as always I guess, but that doesn't stop me trying. Right now it is all square before it kicks off!

Is Michael Smith better than Tim Davies?

Yes, Michael certainly is better than Tim right now. Is Michael better than Tim was at his best? I believe so, even if that would be a hard match. On most courses Michael now would beat Tim at his best. In Hastings? Well, there Michael may have some work to do to reach Tim's top level, but one day he may. Classy minigolfer he is!

What's your view on the current situation of GB minigolf, with Michael, Marc, Sean etc.

The top is quite good and gotten better in the last years. The top also has changed quite completely with Marc and Michael winning most of the tour competitions. Don't forget Adam Kelly and the new players I haven't met personally yet, Rutherford etc. But some experienced names are still hanging on well like Andy E, Sean, even Ted on a good day and maybe even you Keith!

You're WMF sport director now. Can you give us a few background details and what are your thoughts in general about adventure golf.

Background details...well the position became open and having been so long Youth Officer and member of TC I believe to have good competence for the post. Add genuine interest to that and you'll have the answer.

Adventure golf...to me personally interesting to play. One of the systems there as the others. In many countries the national tours are running, but how to make this all more international? Some ideas are already on the table and with the time there will be a strategy how to develop this side of minigolf. BMGA surely will be an important part of that development.

Why don't you like the crazy golf course in Hastings?

What a question? I do like it! Much more than the old mini golf course. Just the course doesn't always like me. But I'll keep on learning...

When you're in England, is it fish and chips or curry?

Curry it is, if I can pick only one. Just had good curries in Glasgow and Edinburgh last weekend, so I am ready for Hastings curries!

Come visit us at the forum—<http://www.minigolf.org.uk/forum>—but be warned, it's unofficial and possibly not suitable for all!

And come find us on Twitter. There are a few of us on there, and we occasionally talk minigolf, although generally we just talk rubbish! Seek and you shall find!

Lemony's Cooking Corner

Emily 'Lemony' Gottfried offers a recipe from her upcoming Crazy Golf-themed Recipe Book.

These edible balls are great snacks for breaks in any tournament, Christmas Party or Crazy Golf Enthusiast! Gluten-Free but wayward for the waste-line.

Mini-Golf Ball Truffles – makes 50-60 truffles.

Preparation time:

30 minutes, plus cooling and setting time

Ingredients

225g Plain Chocolate, broken into chocolate button-sized pieces

175ml double or whipping cream

Icing sugar, cocoa powder, desiccated coconut, nuts for rolling

Icing sugar for dusting

Method

Cover a large chopping board or a baking tray completely with Clingfilm or waxed paper to place the truffles on to set

Place the broken up chocolate in a large mixing bowl

In a small saucepan, bring the cream to a light boil and pour over the broken chocolate. Stir thoroughly until all the chocolate is melted together into the cream

Allow the mixture to cool, uncovered, for around 1-1½ hours at room temperature until it is set

When the mixture has set, use a teaspoon to spoon out small bite sized pieces. Dust your hands with icing sugar and roll into balls

To create your range of mini-golf balls: roll the truffles in sifted cocoa powder, icing sugar, desiccated coconut or finely chopped nuts (or any other coating of your choice) and place on the prepared tray to set

The truffles can be kept covered in the fridge for at least a week. Sprinkle them with a little extra cocoa powder from a sieve if they need freshening up

Et voilà. Enjoy.

The Crazy Golf Museum

The Virtual Crazy Golf Museum has now reached over 500 pieces of Miniature Golf-related items online!

If you've not visited before then head on over to <http://www.crazygolfmuseum.info/> for more information and ephemera from the history of Mini and Crazy Golf.

If you'd like to contribute any items, ephemera or Crazy Golf stories to the museum then please let one of the Curators, or the Janitor know.

The £2 Tat Challenge

The second-annual "£2 Tat Challenge" will be taking place after the first days play of the World Crazy Golf Championships and all the players are very welcome to attend.

The action will be taking place on the 2p Pusher Machines in 'The Buttons' on Saturday night. This amusement based challenge contest sees Minigolfers competing to win the most amount of 2p falls prizes with a stake of £2. Last year's £2 Tat Challenge saw 13 players compete and was won by Paul 'The Overtaker' Johnson with a brilliant haul of nine pieces of tat!

Anyone can enter and if you'd like to take part then please ask either co-organiser – Scott 'Donkey Gringo' Lancelley (the reigning *International Worlds Crazy Air Squash Champion*), or Emily 'Lemony' Gottfried – for more details.

Clearly happy with his haul, last years winner Paul 'Johnson Paul Johnson' Johnson shows off his big bag of tat!



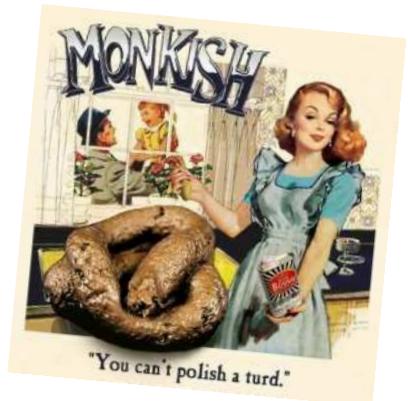
And speaking of crap, You can't polish a turd...



...or can you? Well you'll be able to find out as Crazy Golf veteran Brad 'The Fist' Shepherd's band, Monkish, play a gig at The Tubman pub on Cambridge Road, Hastings on Saturday night 29th October.

They'll be playing songs from their new album, entitled 'You can't polish a turd', and copies of the CD will be available to buy, along with t-shirts that are probably best not to be worn on the second day of the tournament. You can pay on the door for the frugal price of about £3.00.

For more details about comedy punk outfit Monkish, visit their Facebook or mySpace pages.
www.Facebook.com/monkishpunk
www.myspace.com/monkishtheband





The British
Minigolf
Association



and

KMGC
KENT MINIGOLF CLUB

PRESENT

KENT MINIGOLF OPEN

SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2011

EXPLORERS COURSE, LOST ISLAND ENCOUNTER, SIDCUP

**LOST ISLAND
HOSTING THE
EVENT FOR THE
2ND TIME!!**

**CASH
PRIZES!**

**ENTRY
£15 ADULTS**

£10 JUNIORS *
*(UNDER 16'S)

**Champion wins
the legendary
trophy!!!!**

**ALL PLAYERS
TO USE THE
OFFICIAL KMGC
BALL!!!**

All players play 3 rounds and the Kent Open will be the 1st event for the 2011 BMGA Season Only Rankings as well as the final Strokeplay event of the year.

Available free to all entrants and players get to keep this terrific memento after the tournament!!!!

Kent Open Winners Hall of Fame:

2010 - Sean Homer
2009 - Nick Chitty
2008 - Andy Exall
2007 - Sean Homer
2006 - Steve Vallory

For full details of the event and an application form, contact the KMGC via www.kentminigolfclub.co.uk or the BMGA via www.minigolf.org.uk or pick up an application form at the course