

CASTLE GOLF WORLD CRAZY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2010



Can you spot the Exall in this picture?

Welcome to Hastings and the eighth staging of the World Crazy Golf Championship.

Hastings recently suffered the loss of two of its greatest landmarks—the derelict pier burnt down a few weeks ago, but much more serious, the Mini golf course at the seafront saw its last rounds played on 17 October before closing to make way for the bulldozers. Destined to become a more dull, but much more lucrative, pirate themed adventure golf course, it leaves the World Crazies short of one course, and hence having a reduced field this year (only 54 compared with 83 last year.)

With the Mini missing now, to all but a few peoples relief, and with all of the British top 24 players competing, the competition is likely to be much closer this time. So, here is our usual unbiased look at some of the leading contenders, starting with...

Last years winner **Keith Kellard**, back to defend the title; but does he stand much chance this time? Er, NO! Not a hope actually. Rather lucky to have won in 2009 (but at least it wasn't John Mittler), and a surprise he's bothering to turn up this time. Distraught at there being no Mini golf (his Crazy average predicts a 24th place finish) he hasn't played much this year—although did win last time with only a few hours practice! Chances—be lucky to make the final 18.

Current British number 1 **Nick Chitty** (how can he be No.1?!) is actually a very nice chap, despite what some may say. Plays for Planet Hastings, one of only a few left, a pretty unflappable player but lacking that killer instinct. Alleged to have helped Tim in the British Championship final, something that cost him the title. And didn't chase the leaders at the British Open so finished 3

strokes adrift in third place. Uses a graphite putter, so while he's playing with that oversized pencil we all have a chance! Chances—change putter and he'll win for sure; otherwise he might win anyway. But we can hope not!

Five times champion **Tim Davies**. What can I say that hasn't been said already? This 'shambling buffer and compulsive fussy' has played very badly this year, and uses the same excuse of having a bad back that he may actually end up believing it soon. Somehow won the British Championship earlier this year, and the omens are on his side—for the last three years, the British Champ has gone on to win the World Crazies. Trying to cash in on his ever dwindling celebrity by writing yet another book, and widely reported to be retiring soon. We can live in hope it's true. Likely to be up with the best this year, but won't win for a sixth time.

Marc Chapman. Known as "the Farce", captain of the British Minigolf team and starting to get a bit cocky (but he's alright actually (well, 1% of the time anyway)). Rapidly on his way to becoming Britain's most disliked player, but unlike Bill Bullin, he can actually play a bit! Plays fourth fiddle to Michael, Andy and Sean in the Kent team. Got his just desserts by having to drive to Italy for the European Championships with Alan Norman as passenger. Has seen a meteoric rise up the rankings to British No.2; expect him up the top somewhere, awaiting a long fall.

Pasi Aho. Ageing, balding Finn back after a break in 2009. Recently realised what most people have been saying for years and has given up playing, and now concentrates on coaching the Finnish national side. No wonder they performed so badly at the European Championships. Not much hope this year, but we like him, and he's a damn sight better than the Finn they sent us last year. Crazy golf only should suit him. Pre-event favourite* so not likely to win.

Sean Homer. Chairman of the BMGA. Wolves fan. Say no more.

Michael Smith. The form player, along with Nick Chitty. A slam putter but scarily good. He'll be thankful that the Mini course has gone. Travels everywhere by train and a Blackburn Rovers fan. Each to their own! Thoroughly nice chap, diplomatic and thoughtful. Ought to do well. Ought to...

Jo Williamson. Current Women's World Crazy Golf Champion, a title also won in 2008. One of a long list of Planet Hastings rejects, but probably the best. Married to Nick Chitty, part time Hastings resident, part time big city girl, with a host of "London ways"! Another claimant of a bad back! Looking to complete the hat-trick this year, but should be given a run for her money by Olivia.

Andy Exall. Groupie for the Anti Nowhere League. Uses a second hand graphite putter. Putting is as poor as his jokes. Finished twice twice. Never be good enough to win.

Peter Emerson. Co-owner of the Splash Point course in Worthing; a course not as good as he thinks! Recently locked up in Mexican jail for being overly confident. Second best last time out, not likely to repeat the feat this year.

Anthony Pope. Showed promise last year, but still stuck in Peter's shadow. The more clever and witty of the Dyno-rod-amic duo. Rather fond of the Hastings donuts. Pleased the Mini has gone;

it's where it cost him the title last year. Good outside bet. Don't know for what though.

Richard Gottfried. Better blogger than putter. Janitor of The Crazy Golf Museum, but won't be cleaning up at the World Crazies! More likely the WCs!

Chris Harding. Supreme start to the season—won six of the first seven events. Quiet, unassuming but very confident. Previous winner of the competition (2007) but needed eye surgery in the summer. Always in with a shout.

John "Ted" McIver. Still ranked the worlds worst player, but somehow in the British top 10. Single-handedly masterminded the demise of the Planet Hastings course. Pre-event preparation of trip to Laos, and hoping they'll detain him so he won't be embarrassed at the WC's again.

Brad Shepherd. Fronts a band called Monkish (see them live at The Gaff, Holloway Road 6 November), who quite frankly are shit. Recently dethroned as the best London player, but we've known that for years. Keeps coming back; keeps getting worse. Biggest beneficiary of the Mini's demise—holds the British Record on the Crazy (28). Might do quite well this year actually.

Olivia Prokopova. Still only 8, the phenom is showing great form this year—second in the US Professional Putters Association Championships, second in the US Masters, second in the Czech Open. There seems to be a trend developing here. Should have won in 2006, this will be her best chance. Second favourite behind Pasi, but much more likely to win.

Alan Norman. The old man of the sport, 76 and still going strong. Particularly keen on painting naked women, and friend of aging entertainer Lionel Blair. If he wins, then we're all going to retire.

Scott Lanley. Bit part player from Kent. Never wins anything. Not likely to this year either.

I've run out of space, so you're all spared any more abuse. Let's hope the winner comes from someone not listed already! C'mon Adam

Facts and Stats Previous Results

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)

World Crazy Golf Championship 2010 Preview

This is an unofficial publication and the views expressed in this newsletter may not be representative of those of either the British Minigolf Association, nor the newsletter editors.

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

Any comments, suggestions etc. please contact mail@worldcrazygolf.co.uk

Why I love Hastings' Crazy Golf... by 'Squire' Richard Gottfried



The Arnold Palmer Crazy Golf course in Hastings is a design classic and includes all the elements that make a Crazy Golf course great – the Windmill, the Waterwheel, an Obelisk, ledges, bunkers, traps, flat loops, hills and plateaus – everything laid out to make a course interesting, testing and most of all fun!

Back in 2007 the course became the 39th played on our Crazy World of Minigolf Tour. In the last few years we've visited and played at 284 minigolf course locations all over the UK, and a few overseas, but of them all, the Hastings Seafront Crazy Golf course is arguably the finest course in the country and a great example of an Arnold Palmer Putting Course, it's a pleasure to play and a great host venue course for the World's Biggest Crazy Golf Tournament.

There are plenty of Aces out there, but it's a course that can trip you up if you're not careful, in my first competition here I equalled the course record (at the time) of 32(-4), but you can also easily hit a round in the 40s! It's a great place for a fun round, and also a top location for tournament play, where I've had the honour to play on it in the Planet Hastings Crazy Golf Open, the BMGA British Matchplay Championships, and this, my fourth Castle Golf World Crazy Golf Championships.

It's in an excellent location and is well maintained by David and Marion Hartley and their team, and it's always a pleasure to visit. Here's to many more years of competition and fun.

Have fun this weekend,

'Squire' Richard Gottfried
The Proof is in the Putting

Interview with the Castle Golf World Crazy Golf Champion Keith Kellard

Last October Keith Kellard from Bishop's Stortford beat 82 Crazy Golfers to become the 2009 World Crazy Golf Champion. Kellard won with a seven round total of 247 (-5), after rounds of 34, 33, 40, 36, 36, 35 and 33 - an average of 1.96 shots per hole.



Ahead of the 2010 Championships we interviewed Keith to find out what's it's been like to be a World Champion, his views on this year's tournament and Minigolf in general.

What does it feel like to be the World Crazy Golf Champion?

It's good. I've been living off that moment for the past year. It was a bit crazy for the first few weeks, with interviews/photos for magazines and local newspapers, but that quietened down until the run up to this years tournament. We've just done some filming for BBC that should be on on the Saturday of the tournament.

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

About time I won it! I actually hadn't expected to do that well, even after winning the British Championship 2009 on the mini earlier in July. My Crazy Golf average is not that good! My dad bought loads of copies of Today's Golfer with the article in. And I heard from friends as far away as New Zealand who'd seen it on CNN.

It was much more of a surprised reaction from work. Whilst a lot of people know I play, the majority don't, so the reaction on Monday morning from people who'd seen the story on Sky Sports was great. Where I work we're a regional centre for sporting excellence, mostly to do with Athletics and Ice Skating though, so to have a World Champion in another discipline such as crazy golf is something a bit different. It still gets mentioned today.

How many autographs have you signed in the last year?

One. And that was only for my nephew because he had a copy of Today's Golfer with the article in! Not really a surprise though!

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?

I'm looking forward to the rain—it wouldn't be The World Crazies without it. After last years third round and the Sunday in 2008, I think I'm prepared. Except I still need to buy a new pair of waterproofs.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

At what point did you know you had the victory in the bag?

Hole 17 in the final, after I spoke with Chris Harding. I had no idea what was happening in the groups ahead, so apart from knowing that I was ahead of my playing partners (Peter Emmerson & Anthony Pope) I didn't know if anyone had played a good round of the earlier groups. But Chris said that at that point I was 5 strokes clear, so knew the victory was mine. It meant I could relax on the 18, and get the Ace!

What did you spend the £1000 prize money on?

The credit card! It just about paid off the balance on it, so it was spent before I even got it. That's the only reason I'm back this year—the card has a nice balance on it again!

Where does the prestigious Castle Golf World Crazy Golf Championship Trophy sit in the Kellard household?

In the dining room, acting as a bookend and currently filled with a balloon, 12 hair-grips, a rubber finger monster and the saddle from the Buckeroo horse! And it will stay there until I'm made to put it away!

Any tips for tackling the Crazy Golf course in Hastings?

Hope it rains, but hope it doesn't dry out too much. And that it's not too windy. But it's Hastings in October so...!

It's important to practice and get some notes on the difficult holes like 2 and 10, but not to forget the ones that look to be easy—such as 6, 9, 12, 13—these can catch you out if you're not prepared. Ignore what's going on around you, especially if you're in a group with Tim when he's playing badly! Oh, and don't worry too much about John Mittler's notes he recently posted on the forum. Use your own.

But probably the best tip is to not hit the ball too hard; may sound obvious but it's easy to do.

What does the minigolf future hold for Keith Kellard?

Who knows. I'm in a sort of semi-retirement at the moment, having only played once (the Scottish Open at Aberdeen in May) since last year's competition. That's the problem with having two young children—I don't get any time. Hope to be back playing more in a year or two's time. Would like to play the World Minigolf Championship in Sweden in August, but need a wild-card selection to get in the British team next year.

To view the final shots from the last round and Keith's win in the 2009 World Crazy Golf Championships head over to YouTube:

<http://dld.bz/3fSj>

<http://dld.bz/3fRB>

Results from the Fake World Crazy Golf Championships 2010

Held for the first time since 2006 members of the Kent Minigolf Club (KMGC) and five-time World Crazy Golf Champion Tim 'Ace Man' Davies bade farewell to the Seafront Minigolf course in Hastings with an unofficial tournament prior to the real worlds championship by playing the Fake World Crazy Golf Championships on Sunday 17th October.

Eight players took part in the seven round event, which was won by the 'Ace Man' with a margin of three shots from Marc 'The Force' Chapman.

Check out the full results and photos at

http://www.miniaturegolfer.com/fake_world_crazy_golf_championships_2010.html

The Crazy Golf Museum

The doors of the Virtual Crazy Golf Museum are now open – head on over to

<http://www.crazygolfmuseum.info/>

for more information and ephemera from the history of Mini and Crazy Golf.

British Minigolf Rankings

Top 23 as at 20/10/10

1	Chitty, Nick	4,850
2	Chapman, Marc	4,650
3	Harding, Chris	4,625
4	Homer, Sean	4,490
5	Davies, Tim	4,435
6	Emmerson, Peter	3,980
7	Shephard, Brad	3,760
8	Exall, Andy	3,530
9	Gottfried, Richard	3,465
10	Mclver, John	3,330

Castle Golf World Crazy Golf Rankings

As at World Crazy Golf Championship 2010

1	Davies, Tim	351.40
2	Mclver, John	330.90
3	Emmerson, Peter	319.80
4	Bullin, Ruth	302.90
5	Exall, Andy	301.80
6	Shepherd, Brad	300.30
7	Moore, John	298.80
8	Exall, Philip	294.10
9	Homer, Sean	286.10
10	Kellard, Keith	273.20

The Minigolf ranking are the official ranking of the British Minigolf Association, based on results from the 2009 & 2010 season.

The Crazy Golf rankings are the official Castle Golf rankings based on performances in the World Crazy Golf Championship since 2003.

The £2 Tat Challenge

If the first day's play hasn't worn you out then there's the inaugural "£2 Tat Challenge" taking place at 'The Buttons' on Saturday night. This amusements challenge contest will see members of various Minigolf Clubs competing to win the most amount of 2p falls prizes with a stake of £2. If you'd like to take part then please ask either co-organiser – Scott 'Donkey Gringo' Lancelley (the International Worlds Crazy Air Squash Champion), or Emily 'Coach' Gottfried – for more details.

For more information on minigolf, you could always try these links...

British Minigolf Association

Official website of the BMGA

www.minigolf.org.uk

Miniaturegolfer.com

The world's number one Miniature Golf website, with a British bias (of course), edited by the great Tim Davies

www.miniaturegolfer.com

British Minigolf Forum

The unofficial British Minigolf forum

www.minigolf.org.uk/forum

Minigolfnews

A site where the whole world of Minigolf can read news, study the latest results, see what's coming up and read interesting Minigolf Bloggers. Originally run by our good friend John Mittler, this site is now better than ever. (I don't write this crap, I took it from their website!)

www.minigolfnews.com

Adventure Golf Developments

The European agents for Castle Golf, responsible for designing and building minigolf courses throughout Europe. Owners and operators of the courses in Hastings.

www.adventuregolf.co.uk

The Ham and Egger Files

Richard Gottfried's adventures on the Crazy World of Minigolf Tour (and in other sports and games).

hamandeggerfiles.blogspot.com

There are plenty of others if you can be bothered to search for them!

