

KE KENT &
ESSEX
— GOLF TOUR —

ROUND REVIEW
WARLEY PARK GOLF CLUB

WARLEY PARK GC

1	Daniel Kirrage	30*
2	Mark Knitter	30
3	Michael Bonito	27

WARLEY PARK GOLF CLUB
29 MARCH 2026

Event Review – Event 1

Warley Park Golf Club

29 March 2026



Tour Overview

The Kent & Essex Golf Tour officially got underway at Warley Park Golf Club, marking the beginning of what promises to be an exciting and competitive 2026 season.

Firstly, a thank you to all players involved in this inaugural year. As founding members of the tour, your commitment and support have made this possible. It was great to see over breakfast that, as a group, ideas for the 2027 season were already being discussed—highlighting the enthusiasm and long-term potential of the tour.



This opening event represents not just the start of the season, but the foundation of what we hope becomes a long-standing tour.

Months of planning were brought to life on the day, with the aim of creating a structured, competitive, and enjoyable golfing experience—combining regular events, season-long standings, and side competitions to build a genuine tour feel.

The conditions on the day were relatively favourable for the most part, with calm weather early on before blustery winds picked up across the back nine. The course was presented in very good condition, with some particularly tricky greens providing a stern test to open the season.

Eleven players teed it up for the first points of the year. Scoring was generally steady—if not spectacular—though there were a few standout moments that set the early benchmark.

Opening Stages

The action started early—so early, in fact, that Ollie Edwards, eager to get off to a strong start after a long winter, produced an enthusiastic practice swing on the first tee, his 3-wood catching the opposition's buggy high on the face—quite literally looking to attack the field from the very outset.

Once underway, there were several early moments that quickly set the tone for the day. Daniel Kirrage wasted no time making his presence felt, taking the Longest Drive prize on the 2nd before going on to convert it into a birdie. He wasn't alone in capitalising on the par 5, as Jamie Wright also birdied the 2nd to set the early pace.

The round's most outrageous moment came on the 7th, where Wesley produced what can only be described as the trick shot of the season so far. A mis-struck tee shot by his own standards somehow skipped across the surface of the water—two bounces, a skip, and a hop—before safely finding the fairway to the disbelief of the group.

On the 8th, several players found the green in contention for Nearest the Pin, but none were closer than Lee Eslamifar, who claimed the prize with an excellent short iron shot to around 6ft. The less said about the putting that followed, however, the better.

At the Turn

At the halfway stage, the leaderboard was tightly contested, with Dan setting the early pace on 17 points through 10 holes. Mark was close behind on 16 through 9, while Wes remained firmly in contention on 14.

Just behind the leading group, Alfie had put together a steady opening nine to stay within touching distance, while Lee remained in the mix following a solid start that also saw him claim the Nearest the Pin prize on the 8th.

Jamie and Michael were both well positioned at the turn, with Jamie's strong putting keeping him ticking along nicely, while Michael once again showed his trademark consistency to stay within striking distance.

Peter had a slow start but managed to stay just in touch with the leading pack, while James needed a stronger back nine to climb the standings.

Further down the leaderboard, Steve and Ollie both had work to do after difficult opening nines, but with plenty of golf still to play, there was ample opportunity to recover heading into the back nine.

INDIVIDUAL					
Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts	
1	 Mark Knitter	9	+2	16	
2	 Daniel Kirrage	10	+3	17	
3	 Wesley McBarnett	9	+4	14	
4	 Alfie Grange	9	+6	12	
5	 Lee Eslamifar	9	+7	11	
5	 James Wright	9	+7	11	
7	 Michael Bonito	10	+8	12	
7	 Peter Smith	9	+8	10	
9	 James Burns	9	+11	7	
10	 Steve Jones	10	+15	5	
10	 Oliver Edwards	8	+15	1	

Closing Stretch

There was relatively little to report across the early part of the back nine, with scoring remaining steady and no major swings on the leaderboard as players looked to hold position rather than force the issue.

As the round moved into the closing stretch, however, the leaderboard began to take clearer shape. Dan maintained his slender lead on 28 points through 17 holes, with Mark close behind on 26 points through 15. Michael had also worked his way into contention on 26 points, while Wesley remained just a couple of points back on 24.

With several players still within striking distance heading into the final holes, the opening event remained firmly in the balance.

This led us to the par 3 18th—our first Yardstick Challenge hole of the season. It was that man again, Daniel Kirrage, who came closest to claiming the opening jackpot of £100.

Second closest on the hole was Ollie, who, coincidentally, was the only player not entered into this month's competition—perhaps proving that you've got to be in it to win it.

Going down the final hole, Dan and Mark were locked together on 30 points. With Dan already in the clubhouse setting the target, all eyes turned to Mark on the 18th tee.

There were whispers that, when it became clear that victory was in sight, doubt had crept into his club selection on the 168-yard par 3. What followed proved costly, as two balls found the water, ultimately handing Dan the opening win of the season.

INDIVIDUAL				
Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts
1	 Mark Knitter	15	+4	26
2	 Daniel Kirrage	17	+6	28
3	 Michael Bonito	17	+8	26
3	 Wesley McBarnett	16	+8	24
5	 Lee Eslamifar	16	+10	22
5	 Peter Smith	15	+10	20
5	 James Wright	15	+10	20
8	 Alfie Grange	16	+13	19
9	 James Burns	16	+15	17
10	 Steve Jones	17	+16	18
11	 Oliver Edwards	15	+21	9

Event Results (Stableford)

 **1st – Daniel Kirrage – 30 pts (won on countback)**

 **2nd – Mark Knitter – 30 pts**

 **3rd – Michael Bonito – 27 pts**

At the top of the leaderboard, Dan secured the opening victory on countback after finishing level with Mark on 30 points, with Mark forced to settle for second place despite being firmly in contention heading into the final hole.

Steady as ever, Michael completed the podium with 27 points, continuing his reputation for consistent scoring. Peter surged late to claim a share of fourth place on 26 points, where he was joined by Jamie, whose confident putting kept him within the leading group.

Wesley, who had been part of the leading pack earlier in the round, ultimately dropped back slightly over the closing holes but still secured a respectable finish just outside the top positions.

INDIVIDUAL				
Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts
1	 Daniel Kirrage	18	+6	30
1	 Mark Knitter	18	+6	30
3	 Michael Bonito	18	+9	27
4	 Peter Smith	18	+10	26
4	 James Wright	18	+10	26
4	 Wesley McBarnett	18	+10	26
7	 Lee Eslamifar	18	+14	22
7	 Alfie Grange	18	+14	22
9	 Steve Jones	18	+15	21
9	 James Burns	18	+15	21
11	 Oliver Edwards	18	+21	15

Order of Merit Standings – After Event 1

As we do not yet have full access to the VPAR portal, the official Order of Merit standings cannot be confirmed at this stage. However, based on the event results and applied scoring system, the standings should look as follows:

1. Daniel Kirrage – **30**
2. Mark Knitter – **26**
3. Michael Bonito – **23**
4. Peter Smith – **21**
5. Jamie Wright – **19**
6. Wesley McBarnett – **17**
7. Lee Eslamifar – **15**
8. Alfie Grange – **13**
9. Steve Jones – **11**
10. James Burns – **10**
11. Oliver Edwards – **10**

Side Competition Winners

Congratulations to this month's side prize winners:

Nearest the Pin

Winner – **Lee Eslamifar**

Longest Drive

Winner – **Daniel Kirrage**

Side Competition Leaderboards

Longest Drive Standings

1 – Daniel Kirrage – 1

2 – Rest of Field – 0

Pin Seeker Standings

1 – Lee Eslamifar – 1

2 – Rest of Field – 0

Yardstick Challenge

No winner this round.

The Yardstick Challenge remains unbeaten after its first outing, with players getting their first look at the target under pressure conditions.

With £100 already in the pot, it represents roughly a 20/1 value opportunity heading into the next event—making it hard to ignore going forward.

Current Prize Pot: £100

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Next Event

Next, the tour heads into Kent—technically the Kent/Surrey border, but close enough—for Event 2 as the season continues to build momentum.

Event 2 – Regular Event (Kent)

Venue: Woldingham Golf Club, Halliloo Valley Road, Woldingham, CR3 7HA

Date: Sunday 26 April 2026

First Tee: 10:00am

The Order of Merit is now underway, and with early gaps already forming, Event 2 presents an immediate opportunity for those players at the bottom to respond and position themselves in the standings.