



DAY ONE REVIEW

THE BELFRY MAJOR

THE DERBY COURSE

A scenic view of a golf course at sunset. A large clubhouse with a clock tower is in the background. A river flows through the middle ground, and a golf green with a flag is visible on the right.

THE BELFRY MAJOR		
1	Jason Landerkin	38
2	Steve Jones	36
3	Oliver Edwards	34



25 JULY 2026

Event Review – The Belfry Major

Day One – The Derby Course

Saturday 25 July 2026



Landerkin's Late Charge Secures the Overnight Lead

The opening day of the first KEGT Tour Major delivered a closely fought contest on The Derby Course, with Jason Landerkin producing the strongest finish of the field to take a two-point lead into Sunday's deciding round on The Brabazon.

The report follows the KEGT editorial framework, with the story taking priority and statistics used only where they help explain how the round developed.

Tour Overview

The Kent & Essex Golf Tour reached the midpoint of its inaugural season with its most ambitious event so far: a two-round Major at The Belfry.

All twelve members made the trip, with Saturday's opening round on The Derby counting both as Event 5 of the Order of Merit and as the first half of the combined Major championship. Every point earned would therefore matter twice—first in the day's individual competition and again when added to Sunday's score on The Brabazon.

Conditions were pleasant for most of the afternoon, with sunshine giving way at times to light cloud and a moderate breeze. The weather itself was manageable, but the prolonged hot and dry summer had left the course exceptionally firm. Fairways were rock hard, producing considerable run from the tee but also creating unpredictable bounces and awkward lies around the greens.

The Derby did not present the sternest test of the season in conventional terms, but the firmness of the ground made judgement increasingly important. Shots landing short could release far beyond their intended target, while approaches arriving with too much pace were difficult to stop.

The round developed gradually. Mark Knitter's consistency placed him at the top of the points table through the early and middle stages, while several others remained closely grouped behind him. Steve Jones then made the strongest move of the afternoon, carrying a narrow advantage into the closing holes.

The final word, however, belonged to Jason Landerkin.

A superb inward half and composed finish carried him to 38 points, two clear of Steve. Oliver Edwards completed the podium on 34, while Jamie Wright, James Burns and Mark all finished together on 33 and were separated by countback.

With seven players within six points of the lead, Day One established the contenders without settling the championship.

Opening Stages

The staggered progress of the groups made the live leaderboard difficult to read in the early stages. Players who had completed more holes naturally appeared higher on the points table, while others were still building their rounds further back on the course.

Once the scores were reordered by total Stableford points, Mark emerged as the early leader.

His start was not spectacular, but it was exceptionally tidy. While several contenders mixed strong returns with costly blanks, Mark kept the score moving on every hole. That steady accumulation allowed him to establish the first meaningful advantage of the afternoon.

Behind him, Jason, James and Oliver all began positively.

Jason's early round featured a particularly productive stretch across the opening par 3 and the following par 4. Those two holes gave his card momentum and placed him among the leading group without requiring him to chase the round too aggressively.

Oliver took a more dramatic route. He produced two excellent four-point holes during the opening stretch, immediately demonstrating the scoring potential available to him. However, mistakes elsewhere prevented him from converting those bursts into a clear lead.

James also remained close after finding strong returns on two of the more demanding early holes. His scoring was not yet flowing, but he had done enough to stay involved.

Steve's position was less obvious. He was behind the early leaders in accumulated points, although he had played fewer holes. His card already showed signs of volatility, but each setback was met with a positive response.

Further down the field, Lee Eslamifar and Wesley McBarnett also produced several high-value holes, while Peter Smith added an early highlight by winning Nearest the Pin on the 3rd.

By the end of the opening phase, the competition had begun to take shape, but no player had yet established control.

 THE BELFRY MAJOR DAY ONE – THE DERBY LEADERBOARD – INDIVIDUAL NET THROUGH 8 HOLES				
Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts
1	Mark Knitter	8	+1	15
T2	Jason Landerkin	5	-3	13
T2	James Burns	7	+1	13
T2	Oliver Edwards	7	+1	13
5	Peter Smith	8	+4	12
T6	Jamie Wright	7	+3	11
T6	Daniel Kirrage	8	+5	11
T8	Steve Jones	5	+1	9
T8	Wesley McBarnett	5	+1	9
T8	Michael Bonito	8	+7	9
11	Alfie Grange	7	+6	8
12	Lee Eslamifar	5	+3	7

At the Turn

Mark continued to set the pace as the groups moved towards the midpoint of the round.

His advantage was built on reliability rather than explosive scoring. He had avoided the no-score holes that affected much of the field and continued to collect regular two-point returns. It was a controlled approach that suited the firm conditions and kept pressure on those attempting to chase him.

Steve and Oliver remained among the closest challengers, although their cards told very different stories.

Steve had already absorbed two blanks but repeatedly recovered with strong holes.

His ability to respond immediately prevented the mistakes from becoming prolonged runs of damage and kept him firmly in contention.

Oliver reached the turn with one of the stronger totals despite two no-scores of his own. His high-value holes continued to compensate for the volatility elsewhere, creating a round that never appeared completely secure but remained dangerous.

Jason sat just behind the leaders after a steady outward half. His early burst had given way to a quieter spell, yet he had avoided the kind of collapse that would have left him chasing from too far back.

Jamie Wright and James both reached halfway with work to do but remained within range. Jamie had recovered well from two early blanks, while James lost ground late in the outward half after failing to score on the 9th.

Wesley had also built a competitive opening nine, combining several excellent returns with two mistakes. Lee's front nine followed a similar pattern: enough strong golf to remain in touch, but too many low or empty returns to move into the leading positions.

Peter, Michael Bonito, Daniel Kirrage and Alfie Grange were already beginning to require stronger inward halves. The gap was not yet decisive, but the leaders had begun to separate from the lower end of the table.

At halfway, the round remained open. Mark held the advantage, but the chasing group was close enough that one strong sequence could reshape the leaderboard.

 THE BELFRY MAJOR DAY ONE – THE DERBY LEADERBOARD – INDIVIDUAL NET THROUGH 11 HOLES					
Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts	Movement
1	Mark Knitter	11	+2	20	—
T2	Steve Jones	9	0	18	↑ 6
T2	Oliver Edwards	10	+2	18	—
4	Peter Smith	11	+5	17	↑ 1
T5	Jason Landerkin	8	0	16	↓ 3
T5	James Burns	10	+4	16	↓ 3
T5	Jamie Wright	10	+4	16	↑ 1
T5	Daniel Kirrage	11	+6	16	↑ 1
9	Wesley McBarnett	9	+3	15	↓ 1
10	Lee Eslamifar	8	+2	14	↑ 2
T11	Alfie Grange	10	+8	12	—
T11	Michael Bonito	11	+10	12	↓ 3



Back Nine Developments

The balance of the round began to change after the turn.

Mark continued to accumulate points and remained at the top of the completed totals, but the players behind him were beginning to produce stronger scoring bursts. His mistake-free card had created a solid platform, although it was becoming clear that consistency alone might not be enough to withstand a late charge.

Steve was the first to make a decisive move.

After another setback early in the back nine, he responded with the strongest sustained run of his round. A sequence of high value returns across the middle of the inward half carried him rapidly through the field and into the lead.

His round remained unpredictable, but the quality of his best golf was beginning to separate him from the chasing group.

Jason was moving in the opposite manner.

Rather than relying on one sudden burst, he gradually improved as the back nine progressed. His scoring became increasingly assured, and by the time the groups entered the closing stretch he had positioned himself directly behind Steve.

James also began to climb.

The key moment came on the par-5 13th, where he produced one of the best scoring holes of the afternoon. The birdie gave his card the lift it needed and placed him firmly into the contest behind the leaders.

Jamie's inward half was similarly productive. Having overcome the early damage on his card, he settled into a far more controlled rhythm and began applying pressure to the group around him.

Oliver briefly appeared to be falling out of contention after consecutive blanks at the beginning of the back nine. His response was immediate and emphatic. Two excellent holes brought him back towards the podium positions and restored the momentum that had appeared lost.

Peter produced the single highest Stableford return of the day on the 14th. His gross eagle was the standout individual scoring moment of the round and briefly offered the possibility of a late recovery.

By the time the leading players entered the final few holes, Steve had moved ahead. Jason remained close, Oliver was still involved, and the group behind them was separated by only a handful of points.



THE BELFRY MAJOR

DAY ONE – THE DERBY

LEADERBOARD – INDIVIDUAL NET

THROUGH 16 HOLES

Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts	Movement
1	Mark Knitter	16	+3	29	—
T2	James Burns	15	+3	27	↑ 3
T2	Jamie Wright	15	+3	27	↑ 3
T4	Steve Jones	13	0	26	↓ 2
T4	Jason Landerkin	13	0	26	↑ 1
T4	Oliver Edwards	14	+2	26	↓ 2
7	Peter Smith	16	+8	24	↓ 3
8	Michael Bonito	16	+9	23	↑ 3
9	Wesley McBarnett	13	+4	22	—
10	Daniel Kirrage	16	+11	21	↓ 5
11	Lee Eslamifar	12	+4	20	↓ 1
12	Alfie Grange	14	+14	14	↓ 1



Final Holes

Steve carried the narrow advantage into the closing stretch after his strongest run of the afternoon.

Through sixteen holes, he had moved one point ahead of Jason and appeared well placed to close out the day's victory. Oliver remained within reach, while Mark had already completed his round and set the clubhouse target among the chasing group.

The turning point came on the 17th.

Steve failed to register a score, halting the momentum that had taken him into the lead. He recovered at the last, but the mistake gave Jason the opportunity he needed.

Jason remained composed.

His closing holes continued the form he had built throughout the inward half, and a strong score on the 18th completed the turnaround. The final three-point return carried him to 38 and secured a two-point victory.

Steve finished second on 36, having come within two holes of taking the overnight lead.

Oliver completed a remarkable recovery to secure third on 34, while Jamie, James and Mark all returned 33. Countback placed Jamie fourth, James fifth and Mark sixth.

Jason's 21-point back nine proved decisive. He had remained patient while others led, then produced his best golf when the outcome was still in the balance.

 THE BELFRY MAJOR DAY ONE – THE DERBY LEADERBOARD – INDIVIDUAL NET THROUGH 18 HOLES					
Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts	Movement
1	Steve Jones	16	-2	34	↑ 3
T2	Jason Landerkin	16	-1	33	↑ 2
T2	Mark Knitter	18	+3	33	↓ 1
4	Oliver Edwards	17	+2	32	—
T5	James Burns	17	+3	31	↓ 3
T5	Jamie Wright	17	+3	31	↓ 3
7	Lee Eslamifar	16	+4	28	↑ 4
T8	Wesley McBarnett	16	+5	27	↑ 1
T8	Peter Smith	18	+9	27	↓ 1
T10	Michael Bonito	18	+11	25	↓ 2
T10	Daniel Kirrage	18	+11	25	—
12	Alfie Grange	17	+20	14	—

Event Summary

Jason Landerkin claimed the Day-One victory with 38 points after delivering the strongest inward half of the field.

Steve Jones finished second on 36 following an afternoon that combined excellent scoring with several costly blanks. His surge through the middle of the back nine gave him the lead, but the no-score on the 17th ultimately opened the door for Jason.

Oliver Edwards secured third on 34. His round featured four no-scores, but the strength of his best holes repeatedly repaired the damage and kept him involved.

Jamie Wright, James Burns and Mark Knitter all finished on 33. Jamie claimed fourth on countback after a controlled back nine, with James fifth and Mark sixth.

Wesley McBarnett ended one point behind them on 32, while Lee Eslamifar completed the top eight with 30.

Peter Smith finished ninth on 27 but produced the scoring highlight of the day with a gross eagle on the par-5 14th. The shot earned five Stableford points and was the highest single-hole return recorded across the field.

Michael Bonito and Daniel Kirrage both finished on 25, with Michael taking tenth on countback. Alfie Grange completed the leaderboard on 14 after a particularly difficult inward half.

James recorded the day's confirmed birdie on the 13th, while Peter's eagle on the following hole provided the outstanding gross-scoring achievement.

The firm ground created opportunities from the tee but made approach play and recovery shots increasingly difficult. Those who adapted best were able to use the extra run to their advantage, while others were punished by unpredictable bounces and a lack of control into the greens.

 THE BELFRY MAJOR DAY ONE – THE DERBY LEADERBOARD – INDIVIDUAL NET FINAL LEADERBOARD					
Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts	Movement
1	Jason Landerkin	18	-2	38	↑ 1
2	Steve Jones	18	0	36	↓ 1
3	Oliver Edwards	18	+2	34	↑ 1
4	Jamie Wright	18	+3	33	↑ 1
5	James Burns	18	+3	33	—
6	Mark Knitter	18	+3	33	↓ 4
7	Wesley McBarnett	18	+4	32	↑ 1
8	Lee Eslamifar	18	+6	30	↓ 1
9	Peter Smith	18	+9	27	↓ 1
10	Michael Bonito	18	+11	25	—
11	Daniel Kirrage	18	+11	25	↓ 1
12	Alfie Grange	18	+22	14	—

Side Competitions

Peter Smith claimed Nearest the Pin on the par-3 3rd.

The winning shot arrived early in the round and gave Peter the first side-competition success of the weekend. It was later complemented by his five-point eagle on the 14th, giving him two of the afternoon's most notable individual moments despite a more difficult overall Stableford result.

Longest Drive was contested on the closing 18th and went to Alfie Grange.

Alfie's main round had become increasingly difficult after the turn, but his winning drive ensured the day ended with a positive moment and one of the available prizes.

The Yardstick Challenge remained unclaimed.

No player was able to finish within the required three-foot distance, meaning the prize pot would continue to roll over. With another round still to play at The Belfry, the challenge remained alive heading into Sunday.

KEGT – SIDE COMPETITIONS STANDINGS AFTER EVENT 6

PIN SEEKER STANDINGS			LONGEST DRIVE STANDINGS		
Pos	Player	Wins	Pos	Player	Wins
T1	Lee Eslamifar	1	1	Daniel Kirrage	2
T1	Alfie Grange	1	T2	Oliver Edwards	1
T1	James Burns	1	T2	Mark Knitter	1
T1	Peter Smith	1	T2	Alfie Grange	1
T1	Daniel Kirrage	1	T2	Jamie Wright	1
T6	Rest of Field	0	T6	Rest of Field	0


YARDSTICK CHALLENGE

UNCLAIMED AFTER EVENT 6
£472

Player Highlights

Jason Landerkin – 1st, 38 points

Jason produced a composed winning round built around patience and a superb finish.

He remained close to the leaders throughout the outward half without forcing the issue, reaching the turn in a strong but not dominant position. His scoring improved steadily after the turn before a particularly effective closing stretch carried him beyond Steve.

A 21-point inward half was the best of the day and demonstrated how well he managed the firm conditions as the round progressed. His final-hole score completed the turnaround and gave him a two-point lead heading into The Brabazon.

Steve Jones – 2nd, 36 points

Steve's round contained some of the best scoring golf of the afternoon alongside several damaging mistakes.

He repeatedly recovered from no-score holes and refused to allow individual setbacks to define his card. His strongest run came through the middle of the back nine, where a sustained burst moved him into the outright lead.

The no-score on the 17th proved decisive, but his response at the last ensured he remained only two points behind in the combined Major standings. His 36-point total represented an excellent platform for Sunday.

Oliver Edwards – 3rd, 34 points

Oliver's round was defined by resilience.

Four blanks could easily have removed him from contention, particularly when two arrived consecutively at the beginning of the back nine. Instead, he responded with two of his strongest holes and immediately restored his position among the leaders.

His card contained more high-value returns than most of the field, allowing him to repeatedly recover from setbacks. The result was a hard-earned podium finish and a place only four points behind Jason overnight.



Jamie Wright – 4th, 33 points

Jamie overcame two early blanks to produce one of the cleaner back nines of the day.

His outward half was uneven, but he responded with several strong holes and kept his round alive. After the turn, his scoring became far more controlled, and he avoided the mistakes that had affected his opening nine.

That improvement allowed him to move back through the field and secure fourth place on countback. His inward performance left him only five points off the Major lead.

James Burns – 5th, 33 points

James recovered well from a mixed front nine to secure another strong KEGT finish.

A no-score on the 9th left him needing a response after the turn, and he found it. The key moment came on the par-5 13th, where a birdie provided the standout hole of his round and moved him firmly into contention.

He scored throughout the remainder of the back nine and completed an 18-point inward half. Countback placed him fifth, level on points with Jamie and Mark.

Mark Knitter – 6th, 33 points

Mark produced the most consistent card among the leading players.

He avoided a single blob across all 18 holes and led the points table through much of the early and middle stages. His scoring was built on regular two-point returns, allowing him to establish a strong position while others moved up and down around him.

The only limitation was the absence of enough high-value holes to pull away. Even so, another competitive finish continued his impressive season and kept him firmly involved in the Major.

Wesley McBarnett – 7th, 32 points

Wesley combined several excellent holes with a handful of costly mistakes.

He opened positively and produced two four-point returns during the round, demonstrating that the scoring potential was there. Blanks on both nines prevented him from moving fully into contention, but he repeatedly recovered and remained close to the leading group.

His 32-point total left him only six behind Jason and one outside the three-player tie immediately above him.

Lee Eslamifar – 8th, 30 points

Lee's strongest golf came during the outward half.

Several high-value returns helped him reach the turn in a competitive position despite three blanks. His card showed that he was capable of matching the leaders in short bursts, but the back nine became more difficult.

A sequence of lower returns prevented him from building further momentum, although another excellent hole on the 14th kept the round respectable. He finished eighth on 30.



Peter Smith – 9th, 27 points

Peter produced two of the day's clearest individual highlights.

He won Nearest the Pin on the 3rd before later recording a gross eagle on the par-5 14th. The eagle earned five Stableford points and was the highest single-hole return of the round.

Unfortunately, three consecutive blanks immediately followed and prevented him from converting that moment into a late charge. He recovered with a strong finish on the 18th but had to settle for ninth.

Michael Bonito – 10th, 25 points

Michael found it difficult to reproduce the form that had carried him to victory at Pedham Place.

A challenging front nine left him with too much ground to recover, although his scoring improved after the turn. Back-to-back strong holes across the middle of the inward half provided the best spell of his round.

A late blank interrupted that recovery, and he finished tied with Daniel on 25 before taking tenth place on countback.

Daniel Kirrage – 11th, 25 points

Daniel's round was steady in places but lacked the high-value scoring needed to climb the leaderboard.

Early blanks left him chasing almost immediately, and while he settled into a more consistent pattern, his card never developed the decisive burst required to make up ground.

Further mistakes on the back nine limited the recovery. He finished level with Michael on 25, with countback placing him eleventh.

Alfie Grange – 12th, 14 points

Alfie endured the most difficult Stableford round of the field.

He remained reasonably steady across much of the front nine and reached the turn with his card still intact, but the inward half became increasingly challenging. A difficult closing stretch ultimately left him separated from the rest of the field.

The day still ended with a significant positive. His winning drive on the 18th secured the Longest Drive prize and ensured he left The Derby with one of the afternoon's honours.



KENT & ESSEX
— GOLF TOUR —

Overnight Major Standings

KENT & ESSEX
— GOLF TOUR —

OVERNIGHT MAJOR STANDINGS

THE BELFRY MAJOR — AFTER ROUND 1

Pos	Player	Derby Points	Behind
1.	Jason Landerkin	38	—
2.	Steve Jones	36	2
3.	Oliver Edwards	34	4
4.	Jamie Wright	33	5
5.	James Burns	33	5
6.	Mark Knitter	33	5
7.	Wesley McBarnett	32	6
8.	Lee Eslamifar	30	8
9.	Peter Smith	27	11
10.	Michael Bonito	25	13
11.	Daniel Kirrage	25	13
12.	Alfie Grange	14	24



THE DERBY COURSE
JASON LANDERKIN LEADS BY 2

Jason held the overnight advantage, but the championship remained open.

Steve was only two behind, Oliver remained within four, and Jamie, James and Mark were all five off the lead. Wesley also remained firmly involved on 32.

With six players separated by only five points, Sunday's Brabazon round would begin with almost every leading position still in play.

2026 SEASON



Looking Ahead

The Tour Major would be decided the following morning on The Brabazon.

Where The Derby offered firm fairways and scoring opportunities, The Brabazon promised a very different challenge. Its stronger championship identity, demanding approaches and famous closing stretch would place greater pressure on every part of the field.

The four guests would tee off first, followed by the twelve members in an order determined by their Day-One positions. Jason, Steve, Oliver and Jamie had earned the final championship group, giving the overnight leaders the opportunity to contest the Major directly.

James, Mark, Wesley and Lee remained close enough to apply pressure from the group ahead, while those further back still had a separate Order of Merit event to contest.

Day One had established the positions.

The Brabazon would determine both the Event 6 winner and the first KEGT Mid-Season Major champion.