

KENT & ESSEX — GOLF TOUR —

EVENT 8 REVIEW

NIZELS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



NIZELS G&CC		
1	Jason Landerkin	38*
2	Michael Bonito	38
3	James Burns	35

NIZELS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
27 SEPTEMBER 2026



Landerkin Wins Nizels as Bonito Secures the Inaugural Order of Merit

Nizels Golf & Country Club • Sunday 27 September 2026

01 | Two Contests, One Sunday

Seven rounds had taken KEGT from Warley Park to Brentwood, producing six different individual winners and an Order of Merit shaped by consistency as much as victories. Michael Bonito arrived at Nizels on 149 counting points, eight clear of Mark Knitter. With wins at Pedham Place and The Brabazon already behind him, another strong result offered Michael a chance to settle the championship before Toot Hill. Mark, a four-time podium finisher across the opening four events and the inaugural Belfry Major champion, still had an opportunity to extend the race.

There was plenty beyond that title contest. Jason Landerkin, who joined at Event 4 and won on The Derby at the Belfry, was pursuing a second event victory. James Burns and Daniel Kirrage had their eyes on the upper OOM places; the rest of the ten-player field had positions, prizes and personal form to play for. Nizels duly produced two different stories: Michael's spectacular start placed him in control, but Jason's recovery would take the individual competition to countback.

Jason eventually took the event on 38 points, his 21-point inward nine beating Michael's 16. James finished third with 35, and close battles unfolded further down the leaderboard. For Michael, second place ultimately proved the bigger prize: with Mark fourth on 29, the inaugural KEGT Order of Merit title was secured with one round still to play.

02 | Bonito Comes Out Flying

Michael's intentions were clear from the outset. A steady two points at the 1st preceded successive four-pointers at the par-five 2nd and stroke-index-one 3rd: ten points in three holes. Jason, Mark and Wesley McBarnett had each collected six over the same stretch, while James Burns opened with a three-pointer. A five-point advantage was already within Michael's reach, but there were very different experiences developing throughout the field.

OPENING LEADERBOARD | First three holes

Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts
1	Michael Bonito	3	-4	10
T2	Wesley McBarnett	3	0	6
T2	Jason Landerkin	3	0	6
T2	Mark Knitter	3	0	6
5	James Burns	3	+1	5
T6	Jamie Wright	2	0	4
T6	Steve Jones	3	+2	4
T8	Oliver Edwards	2	+1	3
T8	Daniel Kirrage	3	+3	3
10	Peter Smith	3	+6	0

Michael's only outward no-score came at the 4th; he answered with another twelve points over holes 5–9 to complete a superb 22-point front nine. Jason's route was less tidy: blobs at the 1st and 4th were offset by four three-point holes. Mark stayed among the challengers despite a no-score at the 7th. Jamie Wright supplied one of the afternoon's rare gross birdies at the par-five 4th, although blobs on either side restricted his return. Wesley's bright start stalled with three successive no-scores from the 4th, Steve Jones struggled through holes 5–7, and Peter Smith's first points did not arrive until the 6th. Nizels was rewarding good holes, but seldom allowing anyone a straightforward run.

03 | Five Clear at Halfway

By the turn Michael's 22 points put him five ahead of Jason on 17. James and Mark were level on 15; Daniel Kirrage followed on 14, aided by a three-point par at the 9th. For Mark, another podium was well within reach, but the gap to Michael mattered in the season-long contest as much as it did on the day. Jamie (13) and Wesley (12) had a foothold in the middle positions, with Steve (10), Oliver Edwards (9) and Peter (4) looking for a reset on the inward half. Oliver, whose 45 points had won Stapleford Abbots in May, and Peter, the 42-point Woldingham winner, were discovering what a different test Nizels could be.

HALFWAY LEADERBOARD

Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts
1	Michael Bonito	9	-4	22
2	Jason Landerkin	9	+1	17
3	Mark Knitter	9	+3	15
4	Daniel Kirrage	9	+4	14
5	James Burns	8	+3	13
6	Wesley McBarnett	9	+6	12
7	Jamie Wright	8	+5	11
8	Steve Jones	9	+8	10
9	Oliver Edwards	8	+7	9
10	Peter Smith	8	+13	3

04 | The Chase Is On

Michael initially looked capable of putting the event beyond reach. Two points at the 10th and three at the 11th took him to 27, seven ahead of Jason. But a one-pointer at the 12th was followed by consecutive blobs at the 13th and 14th. Jason collected three and four points on those same two holes, the latter from a gross birdie two at the par-three 14th, to edge ahead 29–28. A nine and no-score at the 15th handed the advantage straight back to Michael, however. The contest was now changing from hole to hole rather than following the apparent pattern of the outward nine.

James was making his own move. After turning on 15, he collected fourteen points across holes 12–16, including consecutive three-pointers from the 12th to the 14th. By the end of the 16th, Jason, Michael and James were all level on 32. Behind them, Mark reached 25 through 14 holes and retained fourth, while Jamie was still trying to close a narrow gap after beginning his inward half with a three-pointer. Daniel, the winner of the season opener at Warley Park, could manage only three points from holes 10–14 and found himself slipping away from the upper positions.

There were battles elsewhere too. Steve found a welcome six points at the 15th and 16th to reach 20, seemingly putting some distance between himself and Wesley, who remained stranded on 15 through 16 after a succession of no-scores. Oliver continued to search for consistent scoring, while Peter was at least building a better inward return after his difficult start. With only a handful of holes left, both the podium and several of the lower finishing positions remained unsettled.

BACK-NINE LEADERBOARD | Chase develops

Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts
1	Michael Bonito	15	0	30
2	Jason Landerkin	14	-1	29
3	James Burns	14	+1	27
4	Mark Knitter	14	+3	25
5	Jamie Wright	14	+6	22
T6	Daniel Kirrage	14	+11	17
T6	Steve Jones	15	+13	17
8	Wesley McBarnett	15	+15	15
9	Oliver Edwards	14	+16	12
10	Peter Smith	14	+18	10

05 | Down to the Wire

Three players stood level on 32 with two holes remaining. Jason then made a gross par at the 17th for three points, moving one ahead of Michael, who collected two. James's no-score on the same hole took him out of the immediate title battle. The leading pair reached the final tee at 35–34, leaving Michael one last chance to match the clubhouse target.

CLOSING LEADERBOARD | Approaching the 18th

Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Pts
1	Jason Landerkin	17	-1	35
2	Michael Bonito	17	0	34
3	James Burns	16	0	32
4	Mark Knitter	17	+5	29
5	Jamie Wright	16	+8	24
6	Daniel Kirrage	17	+11	23
7	Steve Jones	17	+14	20
8	Wesley McBarnett	17	+16	18
9	Oliver Edwards	16	+18	14
10	Peter Smith	16	+21	11

He took it. Michael's gross par four at the 18th was worth four Stableford points and brought him to 38. Jason needed three to draw level; a gross five delivered exactly that. Their overall scores were identical, but Jason's excellent 21-point back nine beat Michael's 16 on countback. The Derby winner had added a second KEGT event victory. James responded to his 17th-hole setback with a three-pointer at the last to secure a clear third on 35.

The same closing stretch settled the rest of the field. Blobs at the 16th and 18th left Mark on 29, but Jamie's three-point finish took him to 28, just one behind in fifth. Daniel steadied his round with four straight two-pointers for sixth on 25. Wesley produced perhaps the best late recovery outside the podium: two gross pars brought seven points across the 17th and 18th, carrying him past Steve into seventh, 22–20. Oliver finished with a three-pointer for 17, while Peter's two at the last completed a ten-point inward half and a total of 14.

06 | Final Standings

Jason claimed the event by the narrowest available margin, while Michael took the championship-defining second place. The completed standings capture a round in which positions were still changing across the field on the closing holes.

FINAL LEADERBOARD | Jason wins on countback (21–16)

Pos	Player	Thru	VPAR	Out / In	Pts	Event OOM
1	Jason Landerkin	18	-2	17 / 21	38	30
2	Michael Bonito	18	-2	22 / 16	38	26
3	James Burns	18	+1	15 / 20	35	23
4	Mark Knitter	18	+7	15 / 14	29	21
5	Jamie Wright	18	+8	13 / 15	28	19
6	Daniel Kirrage	18	+11	14 / 11	25	17
7	Wesley McBarnett	18	+14	12 / 10	22	15
8	Steve Jones	18	+16	10 / 10	20	13
9	Oliver Edwards	18	+19	9 / 8	17	11
10	Peter Smith	18	+22	4 / 10	14	10

07 | KEGT By The Numbers

The Numbers Behind Nizels

The completed Stableford returns and recorded gross achievements add another dimension to the day's story. Nizels gave up two gross birdies across the ten players, yet three competitors reached at least 35 Stableford points.

Event Snapshot

Measure	Result	Measure	Result
Competitors	10	Average playing handicap	20.4
Average Stableford	26.6 pts	Winning total	38 pts (countback)
Highest front nine	22 pts	Highest back nine	21 pts
Players scoring 35+	3	Recorded gross birdies	2

Individual Scoring Honours

Achievement	Player	Result
Best outward nine (Stableford)	Michael Bonito	22 pts
Best inward nine (Stableford)	Jason Landerkin	21 pts
Most four-point holes	Michael Bonito	3 (2nd, 3rd, 18th)
Most net birdies	Jason Landerkin	8
Most net eagles	Michael Bonito	3
Best net par-three average	Jason Landerkin	2.20
Best net par-four average	Jason Landerkin	3.75
Best net par-five average	Michael Bonito / Jamie Wright	4.80
Largest back-nine improvement	Peter Smith	+6 pts

Net birdies, eagles and hole-type averages are handicap-adjusted VPAR figures, not gross achievements.

Gross Scoring Highlights

Gross achievements below are drawn from completed holes; picked-up Stableford holes make whole-round gross-stroke comparisons unreliable.

Recorded achievement	Result
Gross birdies	2 — Jamie Wright (4th, par 5, gross 4); Jason Landerkin (14th, par 3, gross 2)
Gross pars	33 across the field
Most gross pars	Michael Bonito — 6

How the Course Played

Measure	Outward nine	Inward nine
Course par	37	35
Total field Stableford	131 pts	135 pts
Average Stableford per player	13.1 pts	13.5 pts
Best individual nine	Michael Bonito — 22	Jason Landerkin — 21

The field averaged 13.1 Stableford points on the outward nine and 13.5 coming home. The difference was slight overall, despite the decisive individual swings: Michael produced the best front nine, Jason the best back nine and Peter the largest improvement between halves.

Additional recorded gross outcomes: 55 bogeys and 34 double bogeys. Higher scores and picked-up holes are not included.

08 | Player Highlights

1st – Jason Landerkin | 38 Points

Only joining the Tour at Pedham Place, Jason had already made his name with a Derby Course win and an overnight lead at the Belfry Major. At Nizels, a four-point birdie at the 14th and nine points across the closing three holes overturned Michael's early lead. His 21-point back nine secured a second event title on countback, and Nearest the Pin completed his afternoon.

2nd – Michael Bonito | 38 Points

Michael arrived with wins at Pedham Place and The Brabazon, then a narrow runner-up finish at Brentwood. His 22-point opening nine threatened to deliver another outright victory before blobs at the 13th and 14th reopened the contest. A four-point par at the last forced countback, but second place was enough: the 26 OOM points, alongside Mark's fourth-place finish, secured Michael the inaugural season title.

3rd – James Burns | 35 Points

Runner-up at Woldingham and third in the combined Belfry Major, James returned to the podium after a 20-point inward nine. He had joined Jason and Michael on 32 after 16 holes; a blob at the 17th ended his event-title challenge, but three at the last brought him to 35 and moved him into third overall in the OOM.

4th – Mark Knitter | 29 Points

Mark's opening-season consistency had yielded four consecutive podium finishes and, later, the Belfry Major trophy. He was still third equal at halfway and reached 25 points through 14, but blobs at the 16th and 18th left him fourth on 29. The result earned 21 event points but only improved his best-six OOM total by four.

5th – Jamie Wright | 28 Points

Jamie's afternoon mixed one of only two recorded gross birdies—the par-five 4th—with no-scores that prevented a stronger outward return. A closing three-pointer brought him to 28, only one shy of Mark, and his counting OOM total finished level with Steve Jones on 108.



Player Highlights | Continued

6th – Daniel Kirrage | 25 Points

The Warley Park winner was within reach of the front group on 14 at halfway, but three points across holes 10–14 checked his progress. Four consecutive two-pointers to finish salvaged sixth on 25. His larger battle remains alive at Toot Hill: he sits one point behind James for third in the OOM.

7th – Wesley McBarnett | 22 Points

Wesley's round appeared to have slipped away after he sat on 15 through 16 holes. Two closing gross pars, worth seven points combined, lifted him above Steve into seventh on 22. It was a welcome late flourish from a player who had also challenged strongly during the Belfry Major weekend.

8th – Steve Jones | 20 Points

Steve endured a difficult Stableford day despite a six-point burst over the 15th and 16th, ending eighth on 20. The Pedham Place runner-up still took something home from Nizels, however: Longest Drive, moving him into the side-competition chasing group.

9th – Oliver Edwards | 17 Points

May's runaway Stapleford Abbots winner found Nizels far less accommodating. Ollie's nine points going out and eight coming home gave him 17 overall, although a three-point finish at least ended the afternoon positively. He remains among the players looking to improve their counting OOM scores at Toot Hill.

10th – Peter Smith | 14 Points

The Woldingham champion endured the toughest start of the day, picking up on each of the opening five holes. From four points at halfway he improved to ten coming home, finishing tenth on 14. That second-half recovery was the largest improvement between nines in the field.

09 | Beyond the Main Competition

Nearest the Pin – Jason Landerkin

Jason's event win was accompanied by Nearest the Pin, giving him a second prize at Nizels and a share of the season-long Pin Seeker lead.

Longest Drive – Steve Jones

Steve's Longest Drive gave his day a brighter finish. He joins the group on one recorded win in the supplied side-competition standings, with Daniel Kirrage on two.

Yardstick Challenge – Another Rollover

Still nobody has beaten the Yardstick. Another £72 from Nizels joined the existing £552 rollover, raising the unclaimed pot to £624 before the Tour Championship—a substantial final-round subplot in its own right.

Yardstick rollover: £624 – unclaimed.

Season Side Competition Leaderboards – After Event 8

Jason now shares the Pin Seeker lead with six other players on one win. Steve joins the Longest Drive chasing pack; Daniel remains on two. The full updated standings appear below.

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
T1	Steve Jones	1	T2	Lee Eslamifar	1
T1	Jason Landerkin	1	T2	Steve Jones	1
T8	Rest of Field	0	T8	Rest of Field	0

Standings updated from the supplied Event 7 graphic with the Event 8 wins: Jason Landerkin (Nearest the Pin) and Steve Jones (Longest Drive). Yardstick remains unclaimed at £624.

10 | Order of Merit After Event 8

Bonito Becomes KEGT's First OOM Champion

This was the season-defining result. After Brentwood, Michael led Mark 149–141 in counting points, and second place at Nizels offered a route to the title without needing to win again. His 26-point award replaced a counting 19, adding seven and taking him to 156. Mark's fourth place improved his own best-six total from 141 to 145; even an Event 9 victory could now lift him only to 154. With Mark's Nizels position confirmed, Michael was mathematically beyond reach and became the inaugural KEGT Order of Merit champion.

The standings also tell a more open story behind the champion. James's podium moves him into third on 123, just one clear of Daniel on 122. Oliver has 111, Alfie 110, and Jamie and Steve are level on 108. The eight-event ledger below shows why every late-season result matters: once six scores are counting, each improvement must displace an existing award.

ORDER OF MERIT STANDINGS										
Pos	Player	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	Best 6
1	Michael Bonito	23	21	19	30	10	30	26	26	156
2	Mark Knitter	26	23	26	23	17	26	17	21	145
3	James Burns	10	26	17	19	19	19	10	23	123
4	Daniel Kिरrage	30	10	23	21	10	10	21	17	122
5	Oliver Edwards	10	13	30	13	23	13	19	11	111
6	Alfie Grange	13	15	21	15	10	23	23	—	110
T7	Steve Jones	11	19	—	26	26	11	13	13	108
T7	Jamie Wright	19	17	15	17	21	10	15	19	108
9	Peter Smith	21	30	13	10	11	17	10	10	102
10	Wesley McBarnett	17	11	—	10	15	21	11	15	90
11	Jason Landerkin	—	—	—	11	30	15	—	30	86
12	Lee Eslamifar	15	10	—	—	13	10	30	—	78

Full OOM points ledger after Event 8. Struck-through scores are excluded under the best-six-of-nine rule; where equal lowest scores can be discarded, the earlier event is struck through. A dash means the event was missed. E5 = Belfry Derby; E6 = Belfry Brabazon.

The Remaining Places

Michael's name is settled at the top, but Toot Hill will still decide the individual Tour Championship winner and the finishing order across much of the chasing group. James and Dan enter separated by one point, with Oliver, Alfie, Jamie and Steve all capable of improving their best-six totals. Jason and Lee, having played fewer than six scoring rounds, can add their entire final-event award if they compete.

11 | Closing Words

Nizels supplied two different endings to the same afternoon. Jason, who had first tasted KEGT success on The Derby, returned to the winner's circle after a back-nine fightback and a countback finish. Michael, twice a winner earlier in the campaign, took second on the day and the prize that mattered most over the season: the first KEGT Order of Merit title.

It was not just a two-man story. James's surge earned another podium, Jamie pushed Mark to within a point for fourth, Dan recovered late and Wesley gained a place with seven points in two holes. Steve added Longest Drive; Ollie and Peter both found something positive at the last. Ten rounds within the round, each contributing to the shape of the result.

The season now moves to Toot Hill with the champion confirmed but plenty unresolved. One point separates James and Dan in third and fourth, the middle of the OOM remains closely packed, and the Yardstick arrives carrying £624 before the finale's contributions.

Eight scoring rounds completed. One Tour Championship still to play.

12 | Looking Ahead: Tour Championship

Toot Hill Golf Club | Sunday 18 October 2026

The inaugural KEGT season concludes at Toot Hill Golf Club on Sunday 18 October. What began at Warley Park in March has taken the society through Woldingham, Stapleford Abbotts, Pedham Place, the two-round Belfry Major, Brentwood and Nizels. The final stop brings those results together under the best-six-of-nine OOM format.

Michael will arrive as the confirmed Order of Merit champion, but the Tour Championship still has an individual event winner to crown, the remaining OOM places to settle and season-long side-competition honours to complete.

The unclaimed Yardstick carries £624 into the finale before any new entries are added. Following the round, members will gather at Tanishq Restaurant & Bar for the end-of-season meal and inaugural KEGT trophy presentation.

Event detail	Information
Event	09 – Inaugural Tour Championship
Venue	Toot Hill Golf Club
Date	Sunday 18 October 2026
Address	School Road, Ongar, Essex, CM5 9PU
Post-round	End-of-season meal and trophy presentation at Tanishq Restaurant & Bar
Yardstick rollover	£624 before final-event contributions

The title may be decided, but Season One still has a final chapter to write.