

## GOLF

# Gary gives the thumbs up to his indispensable putter

Thumbs up! That's the winning message from professional Gary Potter as he hits a fine vein of form.

His third good result in a row – a win in the latest Norfolk Alliance meeting – has prompted the Links Country Park player to reveal the putting method which is bringing him lots of birdies.

"I call it Potter's own thumbs up," he says, with the flourish of an old-style showman.

He uses a mid-length putter, longer than a belly job but shorter than the chin models, and he grips it with both thumbs pointing upwards.

"It locks your wrists so they can't break and the putter stays square. I've been practising with it for ages, probably about a year, but

By **LYNDESEY HEWISON**

I've only just brought it out in combat. It seems to be working well and I'm making a lot of birdies."

He started at the first winter am-am of the season at Gt Yarmouth & Caister where professionals played for the first time. Potter birdied the first three holes and won the professional's prize by two shots.

At the Norfolk PGA pro-am at King's Lynn he was leading Norfolk professional and has pushed his way up the order of merit to currently share fifth place.

He followed up at King's Lynn with a one-under par 71 and a one-shot win in the Norfolk Alliance.

On this occasion he went out in four-under par 32 with birdies on the 1st, 2nd, 4th

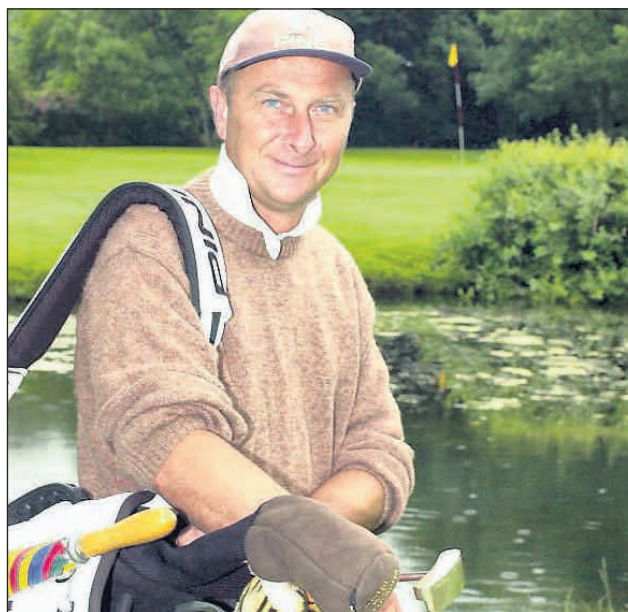
and 9th, before dropping some shots in the strong wind on the back nine.

The Alliance meeting attracted 108 players including 15 professionals. Club captain Charles Abbs played as a guest of the Alliance and presented the prizes.

**Professionals:** 71 Gary Potter (Links Country Park), 72 Mark Allen (Eaton), Lee Patterson (Royal Cromer).

**Betterball medal:** 67 Alan Malin & Richard Wright (Royal Cromer); David Stephenson & Alasdair Christie (Eaton); David Mill & Danny Chapman (Hunstanton/ Weston Park); John Gorman & Jon Barnby (Royal Norwich).

The next meeting is at Bungay & Waveney Valley on Thursday.



RICH VEIN OF FORM: Gary Potter.

## Ellis still has eyes on a future in Europe

Weston Park's Ian Ellis is planning a European future – despite the end of his dreams to play on the main Tour next year.

He bowed out of the qualifying process for the 2008 European Tour at the end of the second stage, while professional colleagues, Andrew Marshall from Dereham and Lawrence Dodd from Thetford, made it through to this week's final examination.

Ellis returned home frustrated and disappointed – but determined to benefit from the experience and to plan a challenging season for 2008.

His skills in the PGA East region, where he is the winner of the order of merit, have already earned him a place in the BMW Championship at Wentworth and starts in four Challenge Tour events.

In addition, his sponsor hopes to obtain him a number of invites to compete in other European events. He will also be following a busy EuroPro Tour schedule.

"I'm still planning to move up a gear next year," said Ellis. "I shall work hard over the winter and see what it brings me."

He makes no secret of his disappointment at falling at the second Tour school hurdle, but says: "It's made me more determined to go back, made me more keen than before. I'm not one to give up and I've taken a lot of positives out of it."

Ellis was four-over par for 72 holes and felt he left most of his shots on the greens. "I hit the ball well during the week but I couldn't get to grips with the greens, which were very grainy and sloped."

"But no excuses. I did my best and although I didn't play as well as I hoped, I came back playing better than when I went."

He's also learned some lessons. Ellis believes he needs to hit the ball further, particularly off the tee, but without sacrificing any accuracy. He also wants to improve his physical strength.



IAN ELLIS: Disappointed, but looking positive.

## CRICKET

## Vaughan is delighted to be back at the helm

Michael Vaughan returns to the England helm this week claiming to have been reinvigorated by the team's successful one-day players.



England's Test captain sat out the recent one-day series win in Sri Lanka – but says the mood in the camp since that victory has been uplifting.

Vaughan (pictured) rejoined the team for training in Loughborough last week ahead of last night's return to Sri Lanka for a three-match Test series in December.

The 33-year-old said: "It is an exciting time – there are a lot of new, fresh faces in the squad."

"I am delighted to have so many of the members who were successful in the one-day party with us. It's very important that they have had success on the shores of Sri Lanka."

"To win that one-day series was an exceptional victory. To have so many of that squad in this camp with a real confidence about them is great for the team and it was great to see it at Loughborough. I feel very refreshed and very hungry to go out there and try to be successful."

"I have really enjoyed my time away from the international game. I feel really energised to get back in and hopefully have a good trip."

Vaughan, who has won and lost Test series in Sri Lanka in his 70-cap career, is likely to be leading from the front following the omission of opener Andrew Strauss.

Middlesex batsman Strauss was left out of the touring party after a poor run of form in 2007, meaning Vaughan is likely to revert to his former role as opener.

Vaughan said: "It looks that way and I am happy to do so. I have had a lot of success opening the batting for England and I don't see it being a massive change from batting at three."



THREE RUNS SHORT: Sachin Tendulkar.

## Tendulkar falls so close again

Sachin Tendulkar was again out in the 90s but the India middle order ensured the hosts clinched a six-wicket victory to secure the five-match series against Pakistan with a game to spare.

Tendulkar – dismissed for 99 in the second ODI in Mohali – was bowled by Umar Gul just three runs short of his century as India looked to better Pakistan's total of 255 for six. Yuvraj Singh hit an unbeaten 53 and Virender Sehwag 43 to give India the win with three-and-a-half overs to spare.

Mohammad Yousuf (99 not out) and Younus Khan (68) earlier did the bulk of the damage for Pakistan after their captain Shoaib Malik won the toss and opted to bat.



TOP SCORE: Harry Kent receiving his prize from Royal Norwich general manager John Meggy.

## Harry leads the scoring

Hellesdon High's Harry Kent led the scoring when 37 youngsters from the West Norwich and Dereham schools partnership turned out for a stableford competition at Royal Norwich.

Kent, aged 12, and a member of the host club, amassed an impressive 38 points on a chilly, autumnal day. He won the overall best net prize.

The youngsters, aged 12-18, were divided into two handicap divisions, they played off three-quarter handicap and prizes were provided by Broadland Radiators. The event gave many of them a chance to play a different course and to meet other golfers of a similar handicap.

The conditions were challenging but their attitude and etiquette – even when their scoring was disappointing

– won them much praise from onlookers.

**Results**  
0-20 Hcap  
1st Sam Farrow (Hellesdon High) 33pts 2nd Paul Savage (Hellesdon and Taverham VI Form) 32pts C/B  
Back 9 3rd Sam Lambert (Taverham High) 32pts  
21+ Hcap  
1st Matthew Hale (Reepham High) 31pts 2nd Ben Browne (Hellesdon High) 29pts C/B back 9 3rd Jason Tudge (Neatherd High) 29pts

■ Royal Norwich offered a free golf lesson and a round of golf for two people in a card draw and these were won by Michael Watters (Neatherd) and Matthew Powley (Taverham).

## RESULTS

**Dereham Ladies**  
October 2 Stableford Challenge trophy  
Div 1 Carole Harrison 36pts, Kathy Duffield 35, Jane Bizley 31.  
Div 2 Perry Humberston 34pts, Gio

Day 34, Dot Rivett 28  
October 9 Autumn Foursomes Cup  
Ali Bidewell & Shirley Simmons 79.5, Carole Harrison & Jane Bizley 80.5, Julie Bray & Heather

Clements 82.5  
October 16 Medal  
Jane Bizley 97-20-77, Carole Harrison 92-15-77 ocb, Jill Trudgill 106-24-82  
Lady Golfer of the Year Carole

Harrison  
Coltman Summer  
Eclectic Cup Catherine Newey  
Diss Ladies  
November 2007 Medal

(Third/Seventh Combined Results)  
Division One: 1 Judith Bedwell 86-12-74, 2 Pam Anderson 90-13-77, 3 Sarah Anderson 84-5-79.  
Division Two: 1 Chris Clews 91-24-67 overall winner, 2 Jean

Rickard 95-22-73, 3 Pink Palmer 104-29-75.  
Golfer of the Year 2006-2007: 1 Judith Bedwell 56 pts, 2 Lorna Burroughes 49, 3 Chris Clews 46 pts, Di Randall 46 pts.