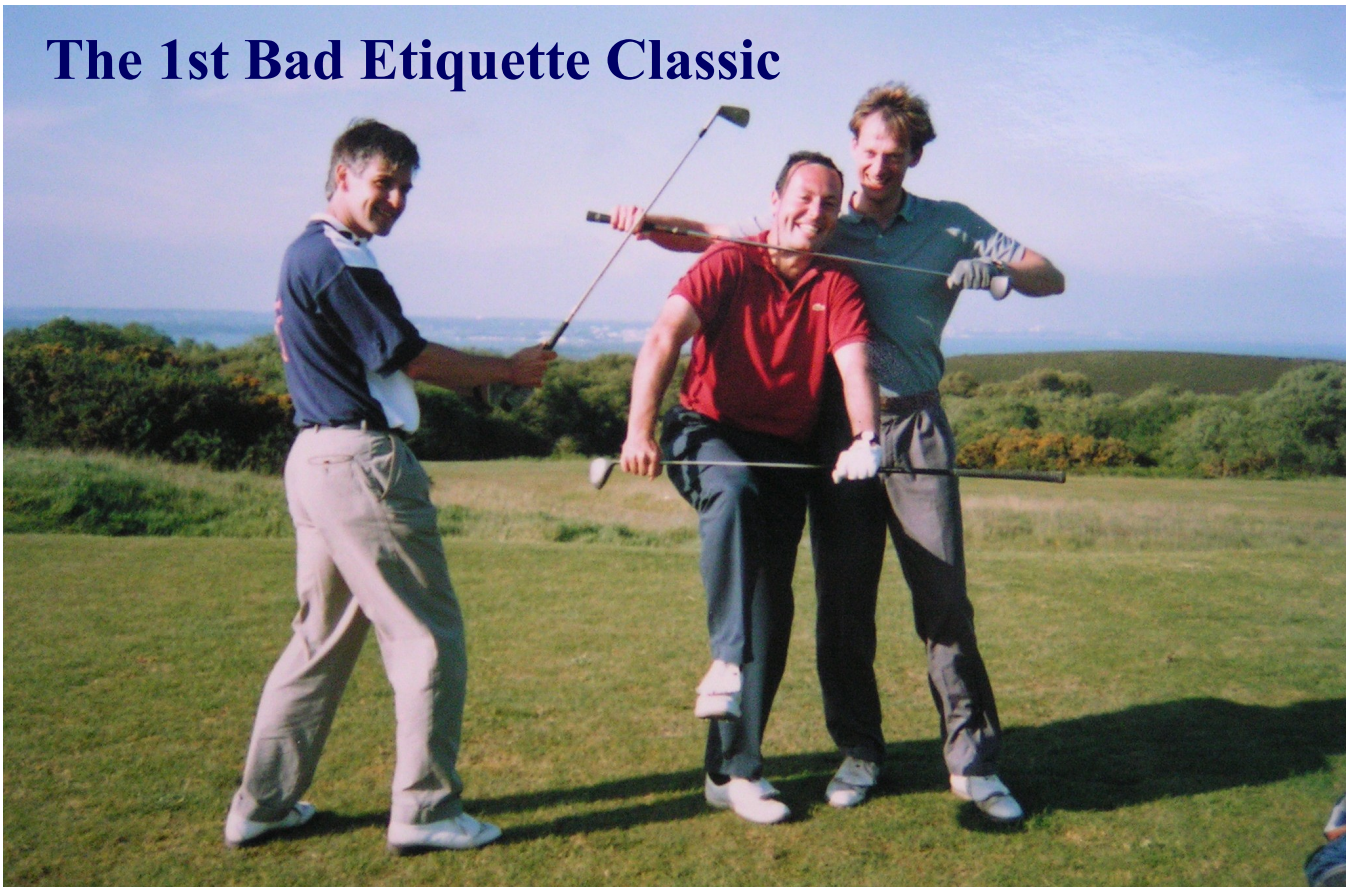


The 1st Bad Etiquette Classic



‘When Mark, Julian, Pete and David met in a Bournemouth pub one Sunday evening in 1994 ahead of two days of golf, little did they realise that nineteen years later they’d be gathering in Inverness for the 20th Bad Etiquette Classic’. Those are the only previous words written about the first Bad Etiquette Classic.

Indeed. 1994. Years before the Great Channel Tunnel Debacle, before the Birkdale Handicap Fiasco, before the invention of Furthest from the Pin and MLI, and before even the Tea Pot itself.



We played Parkstone twice on the Monday and the Isle of Purbeck twice on the Tuesday. The format then was a round of golf, beer and a sandwich, bestowing of the Worst Etiquette and Worst Third Party Confrontation Awards on Pete, then back out for a second round. That first year Pete won 2 of each award. And it’s worth remembering that at the time they were accompanied by hefty financial penalties that ensured Pete couldn’t win. Good humoured debate of the Award nominations in 1994 was replaced by heated debate in 1995, acrimonious debate in 1996 and the last recorded award for Worst Etiquette (to Pete naturally) in 1997. The end of an era! An era of course that gave it’s very name to The Bad Etiquette Classic.

Details of the First Bad Etiquette Classic are sadly lacking; the score cards were shamefully thrown away once the stats had been prepared, and there’s no clear record of the date of the event or the name of the place where we stayed. But whilst the cards are no longer available for scrutiny, we can be sure that David played off a handicap of 16 and that he made a par 4 at the first hole (he always did back

then). And because the statistics were captured before the cards were, well, discarded, we know that Julian won the inaugural BEC having won all 4 of his matches and recorded 13 net birdies and 2 nearest pins. With 2 match wins, 18 net birdies and just 4 shots over handicap, Pete might be excused to this day for wondering how it is that he came last behind David who won just one match, made only 11 net birdies and was 29 over handicap! Such were the vagaries of the BEC scoring system in those early days (what’s changed?) and such were the penalties for Worst Etiquette.

