



The 10th Bad Etiquette Classic

In past years we've talked of minor changes to format, precedents set and records established, but this year, the Bad Etiquette Classic's glorious 10th, the change was nothing short of seismic. We could begin with the meteoric decision to accommodate 12 players or marvel at the way we nimbly handled both 10 and 11. We could celebrate the unprecedented tally of 40 matches or lament the 1,316 shots dropped against par. We could trumpet our success at having finally made it to Scotland or despair at the extraordinary constitutional lapse that permitted 3-way singles match-play.

The fact is that in our 10th

year we risked everything, embraced change and laughed in the face of danger, arguably resulting in the greatest Bad Etiquette Classic of all time.

Whilst our accommodation this year was nothing to write home (or up) about, the golf courses were outstanding - most notably those at Gullane and North Berwick - and the weather excellent. But magnificent golf courses and magnificent weather were not the only ingredients of this golfing fest. Into the bargain, it was one of the most exciting too, with David L reigning supreme for 5 rounds only to be cruelly overhauled at North Berwick by Julian

who played the round of his life and in so doing triumphed against the BEC's largest (and least stable) ever field, holding the Tea Pot aloft a mere 9 years after he became the inaugural champion in 1994.

Welcome

This year we welcomed 3 new BEC hopefuls to the Tour in the shape of Rob Rees, the form of Mark Player, and the substance of John Appleton, a local Edinburgh resident with considerable local knowledge, a flawless sense of direction and the finest collection of vintage golf clubs seen on the Tour.

Welcome to the Bad Etiquette Classic!

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Records set at the 10th BEC

- Most participants - 11
- Most courses played - 6
- Most shots struck in anger - 5,629
- Most matches - 40 (33 singles & 7 better-balls)
- Greatest singles margin of victory - 8&7 (Julian vs Pete J, Gullane 3)
- Greatest losses in 18 holes - £35 (Richard R, Dunbar)
- Cheapest air travel - £35 return, London / Edinburgh with EasyJet
- Best hire car — Hertz Ford Omega estate
- First recorded loss of a BEC-branded golf ball - Dave G, 2:03pm, semi-rough, 1st hole, Dunbar
- First recorded find of a BEC-branded golf ball - Mark, 2:10pm, semi-rough, 1st hole, Dunbar

4 into 11 don't go

Having established ambitious plans to increase numbers from 8 to 12, it in fact proved challenging to find 4 "friends" that liked us enough to spend 4 days golfing in our company. But by September this challenge had long since been overcome, and Jez' eleventh hour withdrawal due to back injury was therefore an unexpected and serious blow which sent the organisers into a frenzy of lastminute.com activity. The "friend" requirement was hastily dropped, financial inducements were offered and calls were made to anyone

who'd ever set foot on or near a golf course. But alas, no 12th man could be found and serious questions had to be asked. Were we sure that 11 wasn't divisible by four? Couldn't Jez hobble around with a crutch? Would the statistics be compromised? How much beer could be bought with Jez' deposit? Could we find another 11 for a game of cricket? How could the event go on? How could life go on? There seemed only one thing for it ... "it just might work Captain" ... the introduction of 3 way singles match-play!



David congratulates Julian on clinching the Bad Etiquette Classic with a final round 64 (net)



John eases a Brassie from the tee at Gullane 3



Rob enjoys one of the many terrible lies on offer at Haddington

Apology

The Editor apologises for an error made in the write-up of the 6th Bad Etiquette Classic in 1999. Participants did not stay at the Smuggler's Inn, Waterville as reported but at the Butler Arms Hotel. We apologise to all concerned. Our thanks to Mr P. Jacobs for informing us of the error

The EasyJet set

Middle-aged we may be but there's life in us yet and EasyJet's policy of "not accepting human remains for carriage" held no sway with us! Eight participants therefore flew £35 return to Edinburgh and, despite dual departure points (Stansted & Luton), a monumental BEC cock-up opportunity was squandered with all 8 of us successfully rendez-vousing with 700 others at the Hertz desk in Edinburgh Airport.

At this point, those seriously scarred from previous BEC logistics failures opted for the pre-booked taxi to Aberlady (where our hotel was located)

whilst the less disfigured traveled in the hired Ford Omega with Mark to North Berwick (where it was not). Decimated by Mark's 20 mile coastal overshoot, a potentially relaxing reunion with old (and indeed new) acquaintances at the Kilspindie House Hotel was thereby transformed into the usual chaotic start with shambolic drawing of names from the Teapot to the sound of hurried beer guzzling and baguette gulping.

The subsequent rush for clubs, shoes and wheels was worthy of an RAF scramble until we were horribly let

down by Squadron Leader John "Baffing Spoon" Appleton who, in his BMW, led the four vehicle convoy in a series of bewildering concentric circles around the hotel before being relieved of his duties and summoned before the BEC logistics sub-committee.

Pulling into the Dunbar GC car park at 13.55 for our 14.00, 14.07 and 14.15 tee-off times rekindled for many that warm and familiar BEC feeling settling us for the trials and tribulations ahead, whilst having the desired effect of unnerving the Tour newcomers.

Equipped and ready

Dunbar's proud history apparently stretches back to the beginnings of golf when "local inhabitants took wooden stick to ball on the coastline's grassy dunes in 1856". Following our visit, it's proud history now reaches forward to the 2003 Bad Etiquette Classic when local inhabitant John indeed took his wooden stick to ball whilst the rest of us took oversized

graphite-shafted Big Berthas to ours.

Magnificent balls

This year the Founder Members finally saw fit to permit participants with branded balls ... and after some initial discomfort what a magnificent sight they were; embossed with the BEC Teapot in all its glory.

Many thanks to Julian for

successfully sourcing 20 dozen such balls, ensuring that we would not run short during the early stages of this year's event. Matching Teapot-embossed ball markers provided the perfect finishing touch guaranteeing complete confusion on the greens as participants went about marking their identical balls with identical markers. Well done.

Day 1 - Tighter than you'll like it

With fifteen of the 18 holes at Dunbar sandwiched between the sea and a dry stone wall two fairway-widths away, the course was indeed tighter than we might have liked it for our opening BEC round. But who cared when history was in the making as the 10th BEC was led-off by a 3-way-singles-matchplay event starring Pete J, Rob and Dave G, the latter who notched-up the first recorded loss of a

BEC ball with his opening shot followed some minutes later by the first recorded find of a BEC ball as Mark stumbled across it in the left-hand semi in the following 4-ball.

It was indeed a tough round with our backs genuinely against the wall on the front 9 and with blinding sun-light preventing us from savoring our approach shots into the North Sea on the return.

Overnight Leader

At the end of it all, it was in match 1B that the damage was done with Andy & David L trouncing the two Richards 7&5 thereby putting David L firmly in the yellow cashmere on £25 (following his impressive net 66), Andy in second place on £17 and Richard R in 11th position with devastating, record-breaking and ultimately irrecoverable losses of £35.

Day 2 - Beauty and the beast

At only 5252yds Gullane 3 offered the prospect of a relatively straight-forward start to day 2 but with participants still struggling to acclimatise only Julian got round under handicap, giving his opponents a torrid time with 8 NB's and beating them 8&7 and 7&6 respectively.

Behind, a couple of the new faces on the Tour were also feeling the heat with Rob and Mark Pl coming in £15 and £17 poorer respectively. But not so pre-acclimatised John who carded 4 NB's, 3 NP's and an LD on his way to a 2up win and earnings of £13.

Haddington in the afternoon had nothing of the beauty or quality of Gullane 3 and proved a considerable disappointment with many holes lacking content and accompanied by unexciting greens rather like the lasagna that followed. The tees too were pretty rough (a standard no doubt also matched by the club caterers).

But the sun shone all day, the wind subsided in the afternoon, and the crowds were treated to some fine Worzel Gummidge and Victor Meldrew impersonations (Pete J) and an out-

standing putt into a green-side bunker at the 10th (Julian).

Considerable entertainment was also provided by the 15th hole (411yds par 4 SI 1) shortened to 250yds by extensive GUR at which no less than 5 NE's and 3 NB's were recorded. Pete no doubt continues to rue his triple-bogie 7 which alone cost him £9 (and might have cost him more had Dave G still been in the game) and Richard R is reportedly still receiving counseling following his lipped 10ft putt for net albatross .. the nearest we've come to an NA on the tour.

Day 3 - Gullane triumphs over 36

The look of horror on the face of the course starter when we declared our intention to play Gullane 1 immediately following Gullane 2 might have unnerved lesser golfers, but not our intrepid BEC hopefuls (now reduced to 10 men). In us these magnificent courses invoked no fear.

Gullane 2

First up David L lying in first place on £41 went head-to-head with Julian (2nd, £35.50) with an unsuspecting Rob (6th, £1.50) caught in the cross-fire of 12 NB's, a net eagle and an ugly altercation with a White Panda (L362 YPG) which, in a remarkable demonstration of familiarity with BEC phraseology shouted "wankers" at our trio as they putted-out on the 17th.

Meanwhile an unbelievable encounter was shaping-up in the 4-ball with Mark & John 5 down at the turn against the

opposition despite Mark recording 2 over gross for the front 9. Pete J and Richard R were simply on fire! The match was lost 5&4 at the 14th but the back 9 remained to play for. 1up with 2 to play and with Mark's drive beside the green at the downhill 361yds 17th, Mark & John felt momentarily confident, but the ball was bunkered and Mark's 4 to get out blew the hole. Pete & Richard could barely contain their delight as they went to the 18th all square where they dashed the opposition's hopes yet again, negating John's magnificent birdie (NE) from 2ft with a par and a shot.

Gullane 1

Whilst arguably even more majestic than Gullane 2, Gullane 1 was a whole different ball game; the rough was tough, the greens mean and the sculptured fairway bunkers simply merciless. Despite its modest 6,075yds,

Gullane 1 was a true championship course.

The first 3-ball out certainly found the going tough returning 22 over net par on aggregate with Andy beating both Julian and John at the 18th. The next group faired worse still (27 over par) with only Rob showing any form and the Powderhams no match for him or the course.

And as the last group finished in the fading light (apparently well after "last orders" for fresh towels) bringing us home in an impressive 232 over par, few (if any) of us felt particularly victorious! But at The Old Club House, for those able to remain focused on the vital statistics amidst the distraction of fine wines & cigars it emerged that Pete J & Rob had significantly moved up through the field during the day earning £25 and £22 respectively but that no one looked positioned to overhaul the leaders; David L (£49.50) and Julian (£45).

The Courses

BEC 1

Parkstone ³⁶

Isle of Purbeck ³⁶

BEC 2

Seaford ³⁶

Corborough Beacon ³⁶

BEC 3

Dartmouth - Club

Thurlstone ³⁶

Dartmouth - Champ ³⁶

BEC 4

Mundesley

Sheringham ³⁶

Royal Norwich ³⁶

BEC 5

Hardelot - Les Dunes ³⁶

Le Touquet - La Foret ³⁶

Le Touquet - La Mer ³⁶

BEC 6

Waterville

Killorglin

Ballyunion ³⁶

Tralee

BEC 7

Hesketh ³⁶

Royal Birkdale ³⁶

Formby

BEC 8

St Pierre - Old Course ³⁶

Rolls of Monmouth ³⁶

St Pierre - Mathern

BEC 9

Ganton ³⁶

Scarborough Nth Cliff ³⁶

Rotherham

BEC 10

Dunbar

Gullane 3

Haddington

Gullane 2

Gullane 1

North Berwick

Accommodation

- BEC 1** Answers on a postcard please
- BEC 2** Avondale Hotel, Seaford
- BEC 3** Dartmouth Golf & Country Club
- BEC 4** Anglia Court Hotel, Cromer
- BEC 5** Holiday Inn Resort, Le Touquet
- BEC 6** Butler Arms Hotel, Waterville + The Brandon Hotel, Tralee
- BEC 7** Scarisbrick Hotel, Southport
- BEC 8** St Pierre Golf & Country Club
- BEC 9** The Crown Hotel, Scarborough
- BEC10** Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady

Day 4 - Crazy golf

Never before has the draw for the final round (indeed any round) of the BEC been so blatantly rigged. But with numbers reduced to 9 following Richard P's tactical overnight withdrawal, drastic action was called for and a decision taken to base final round groupings on the overnight leader-board positions. And so it was that David L, Julian & Andy were put into bat first at North Berwick for the climax of the 10th Bad Etiquette Classic.

North Berwick was quite simply superb with some truly extra-ordinary holes comprising acutely angled dry-stone walls, high mounds, deep hollows, dog-legs, ridges, slopes, burns, steps and ladders ... thankfully not all featuring simultaneously. Only the hole requiring a putt

through a drain-pipe, around the helter-skelter and into the mouth of a pouting trout was missing!

And as for the golf, well it too was extra-ordinary. Whilst the focus was rightly on the leaders, there was plenty of excitement further back in the field with Rob beating Richard R at the 18th and a classic BEC encounter between Mark and Pete J. All square after 6, Mark won 7, 8 & 9 and Pete 10, 11, 12 & 13 ... after that it was anyone's game. The 16th was BEC golf at its best with Pete's drive rebounding off the wall 30yds ahead through his legs and on to the tournament tee from where he sliced it OB, played four and won the hole in 8. But pars at 17 & 18 saved Mark's bacon to win the match 1up.

Having worn the Yellow Cashmere for a full 5 rounds, David L was clearly hoping to keep the Tea Pot cosy, and something pretty stiff (like a challenge?) was going to be required to wrestle it from him. And who better to provide something stiff than Julian who, aided by his copper inserts, played an absolute blinder. All square at the turn but leading David on positive extras, Julian went into Bachman Turner Overdrive from the 10th starting back NB (NP), NB (LD), NE, NB and returning in a remarkable 38. There was little that David could do other than shake Julian's hand, break his putter over his knee and rue the misfortune of having come up against Julian on the day he played out of his shoes and shot his lowest ever BEC round (83).

*BEC's golfing greats***Mark Powderham**

Despite strong form Mark was unable to convert solid golf into hard-earned cash this year as illustrated by his two rounds of gross 80 (Gullane 2 & 3) which netted him a mere £2. Whilst he may be justifiably proud of his 8th consecutive top 3 finish on the Tour, winnings of £26 and his retention of overall first position in the Order of Merit, he is reportedly still recovering from his 4 greenside bunker shots at Gullane 2's 17th which blew a potential gross score of 77.

Thanks to Mark for having selflessly given-up much of his valuable and unemployed time to arrange the 10th BEC!

David Law

After so many years in the golfing wilderness David's return to form this year was a welcome spectacle indeed, coming within a hairs-breadth of securing the Tea Pot which was not even a twinkle in the Founder Member's eye when David last won the event in 1995. Leading comfortably for 5 rounds David may well reflect on the misfortune of this being only the second BEC to consist of 6. Despite recording 32 net birdies and the highest overall win rate (0.69), he was let down by only 2 positive extras and ultimately met his match on the final day when he was soundly beaten into 2nd place on £37 by none other than ...

Julian Malton

After even longer in the wilderness Julian turned-in a fine performance at the 10th BEC reminiscent of the bygone era of the early 90's when Julian thrived amongst less numerous opposition. Winnings of £28 at Gullane 3 elevated Julian into 2nd place where he remained threateningly ~~off~~ on the shoulder of the Yellow Jersey. And there on the final day he answered his critics (who had him odds-on for a complete lash-up of a final round) with a display of unsurpassed talent at North Berwick which qualified him for the Open at Muirfield in 2007. With an 83 net 64 including 8NB's and an NE he pocketed a near record

equaling £38.50, bagged the Scarisbrick Trophy and won the 10th Anniversary Bad Etiquette Classic with a near record equaling £81. How then, one might enquire did he fall from 9th to 10th in the Order of Merit? (see overleaf).

Pete Jacobs

By Pete's standards this was a low key BEC performance, recovering from 9th position and early losses of £18 to finish 4th on £18.50. Such winnings however were clearly insufficient to finance Pete's ambitious investment plans evidenced by a bag-full of taped-up drivers at North Berwick; whether it was insufficient funds or the failure of the Deep Red Great

More golfing greats

(continued) Big Bertha II to out-drive John's 30 year old Sam Snead Blue Ridge Brassie at the par five 9th will never be known.

Richard Reeves

Following his third position in the 9th Bad Etiquette Classic, a significant minority of BEC followers (mainly female) were hoping Richard would go all the way this year. But disastrous losses of £35 (a BEC record) in the opening round at Dunbar dashed any and all hope of victory. Overall 9th place lends support to the view that 2002 was nothing more than a flash in the pan, and whilst Richard may take heart from solid rounds at Gullane 2, Gullane 3 and North Berwick, he will take no pleasure in falling to 14th in the all time Order of Merit.

David Grimbley

David's participation at the 10th BEC was tragically cut short following the death of his father. Whilst limiting David's sponsorship to a mere £14, retirement before the half way mark cruelly robbed David of his 4th successive Scarisbrick title for which he was clear favorite.

Andy Slamin

After a solid opening round at Dunbar Andy hovered in his customary 2nd / 3rd position for much of the event playing his trademark BEC golf; at Gullane 2, for example, two-putting for birdie net eagle at the 3rd and holing from 30ft for par at the 11th (having recorded furthest-from-the-pin) on his way to 82 net 69. But just when he might have been expected to reach for the Tea Pot, he found himself on the receiving end of an unprecedented Malton mauling losing £28 and plunging him into the red for the first time in 7 years on the tour.

Richard Powderham

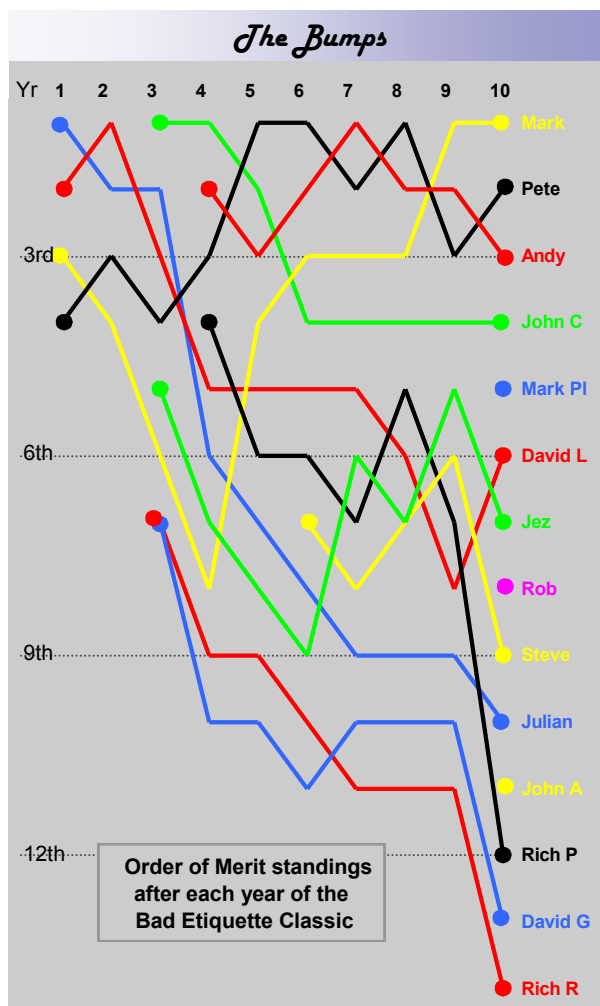
Whilst at Scarborough Richard managed to raise his game considerably after a disastrous opening round, in Edinburgh there was no such salvation. Following 8 straight match losses (2 four-ball and 6 singles) and losses of £79.50 after 5 rounds, Richard threw in the towel at the end of day 3, saved the £45 green-fee on day 4 and claimed shamelessly against his Maximum Liability Insurance policy to limit his losses to £60.

Rob Rees

Exhibiting an electric trolley at Dunbar's first tee, Rob did well to avoid a heavy fine that would have put pay to any chances of BEC victory at the first attempt, but the BEC Founder Members took a lenient attitude with respect to the rookies at this year's event aware of the considerable pressure they were under to match the golfing talents that surrounded them. With an easy swing, a handicap of 17, an impressive 5 NP's and an unsettling tendency to take woods from inside 150yds Rob fluctuated around the middle of the field and finished on a satisfying £0 before discovering the harsh realities of MLI and having to dip into his pockets to the tune of £2.

Mark Player

Mark also hovered midfield putting in some gutsy performances to avoid falling too far off the pace. His par, par, birdie, par repost of Andy's come back at Gullane 2, culminating in a 25ft downhill putt for victory at the 15th demonstrated BEC metal of a superior quality to the copper inserts with which we have become accustomed. Mark can be well pleased with his earnings of £11 and his 5th position both in this year's event and in the Order



of Merit, the latter which will be viewed jealously by many BEC members of longer standing..

John Appleton

What can one say. John's detailed knowledge of the Lothian road network and his 30 year old Sam Snead Blue Ridge 2-wood are already legendary and firmly established in BEC folklore. Having found himself in 3rd place after 2 rounds thanks to two solid wins in the four-balls, John settled back into a midfield position alongside Rob and Mark Pl (after 4 rounds they were 6th, 7th and 8th respectively) where he remained until getting caught on the ropes in the final round in the Mark vs Pete contest at North Berwick setting him back £31.50 and taking him into the serious red and 10th place. John can take immense pride in recording the equal highest number of longest drives (4) along with Pete & Julian whose carbon-fibre, laser-guided, sprung titanium technology should have given them a 200yd advantage from the tee.

See you at the 11th Bad Etiquette Classic