



The 11th Bad Etiquette Classic

As surely as night follows day and 3-putt follows Nearest-Pin, so was the BEC's remarkable run of exceptional weather bound to end. And so it did at the 11th Bad Etiquette Classic on the historic links of Northern Ireland. For 10 years we'd caught mighty courses with their guards lowered; Ballybunion, Birkdale and Ganton in the sunshine, Sherringham, Tralee and North Berwick without a breath of wind. But in 2004 the tables were turned; the courses were unforgiving, the rain fell periodically and the wind pumped. Every hole was a challenge, every round a

battle for self-preservation, every day a test of endurance.

Never before had the BEC, its participants, nor the statistics taken such a battering. On the final day, as gale force winds blew off the North Sea, distorting quality umbrellas and lifting grown (but beaten) men off their feet, trolleys and records tumbled. 5,849 shots played; 1,549 over par; 391 over handicap, and a staggering 613 gross double bogies (57% of holes played). Trademark laughter (in the face of danger) was drowned out by the howl of the wind in our ears, and when the wind

dropped, it was replaced only by the crazed mutterings of the tired and the dejected.

But on a more positive note we welcomed Pete Hodgson, our 15th BEC hopeful ... and the 9th to go home empty-handed and poorer for the experience at the first time of trying. And we welcomed back Jez after an absence of 3 years.

And to our credit we didn't give up and we didn't give in and, as a result, another remarkable chapter was added to the extraordinary and epic tale of endeavour that is the Bad Etiquette Classic!

Inside this issue

<i>Strong medications</i>	2
<i>2-4-4 formation</i>	
<i>Grimbley leads Classic</i>	
<i>Etiquette not as we know it</i>	
<i>Coffee preferences</i>	
<i>BEC Top 10 moments</i>	3
<i>Law takes firm grip</i>	
<i>Stat File</i>	
<i>Dave G entertains</i>	
<i>Calamity Corner</i>	
<i>Blown away at Ballycastle</i>	4
<i>Law triumphs!</i>	
<i>BEC's golfing greats</i>	
<i>More golfing greats</i>	5
<i>Statistical summaries</i>	6/7
<i>Pairings & Earnings</i>	8

Records set at the 11th BEC

- Worst weather - overcast, damp and cold with gale force winds
- Most shots struck in anger - 5,849
- Most holes endured without a Net Birdie - 49 (Mark from the 18th at Portstewart (round 3) to the 14th at Ballycastle (round 6))
- Most balls found on a single hole - 8 (Pete J, 16th hole Royal Portrush but he couldn't find his own)
- Most practice shots before the off - 10 buckets of 40 balls
- Most shots over handicap - Mark (64)
- Most shots over handicap for a BEC victor - David L (34)
- Most gross double-bogies - 613 (Richard total all participants)

Participants arrive early for Bad Etiquette Classic

Despite our most ambitious logistics programme ever involving 10 participants, 6 airports (excluding Rob's unscheduled touch-down in Bristol) and 3 hire cars, this year's BEC hopefuls assembled at Galgorm Castle Golf Club in County Antrim with unprecedented time on their hands. Time enough not only for coffee, sandwiches and beer, but to attend the club's very own all weather "centre of learning" - The Golf Academy. So there we were practicing. Practicing!

Just think of it! ... is it even constitutional? Practicing our controlled fades, tidy chip shots (didn't Jez own a share in one of those?), flop wedges (I remember being given one of those at school), smooth draws (more of a carpentry term), shanks (ornithologist's term), slices (baker's term), hooks (fisherman's), duffs (manufacturer's) and topped-shots (fashion).

And is there any evidence that any of this practice did us any good? Well not exactly.

Day
1**Strong medications assist snubbing of 10&8 drubbing**

Match 1B was a little late off as the customary exchange of excuses on the first tee was somewhat prolonged. Besides the usual lack of play and practice, Julian cited an ear-infection and antibiotics, Pete H (this year's new member) a dodgy hip and painkillers and Mark both antibiotics and painkillers for a complaint that he was only prepared to divulge privately. In fact, only Dave G seemed to be in any sort of health let alone form. As the opposition struggled under the weight of their trolley-mounted medicine cabinets, Mark and Dave G quickly reached 3up after 3. At the 4th there was a momentary opportunity for Julian & Pete H to stop the fungal rot, but on close inspection of their green-fringed balls (unrelated to their aforementioned infections ... but an insightful approximation to Mark's) it was revealed that they had been playing with each others (in public?) and were therefore 4 down after 4. A string of outrageous putts from Mark

then worsened their predicament considerably so that by the 8th tee Julian & Pete H found themselves 7 down and the subject of intense media speculation with the potential for a maximum 10&8 drubbing. A birdie 3 from Mark at the 8th might have kept the beating heating but for Julian's timely net birdie 4 snubbing the drubbing with a half and ultimately limiting the damage to a record -equalling 9&8 loss.

Following last year's adoption of a 3-4-4 formation for the early part of the tournament and a 3-3-4 formation in the latter stages, this year the BEC founder members adopted a radical 2-4-4 formation to provide a strong defensive line-up in the face of tough opposition, challenging courses and extreme conditions. This, it was hoped, would also restore the BEC's favoured 4-ball-better-ball format and stem the tide

of singles games that so dominated the Tour during 2003.

Some initial concern that the 2-balls might be lonely or uncompetitive were dispelled early on during a classic encounter between Andy & Mark at Castlerock (see below) and another at Portstewart in which Pete J reportedly "gifted" his match to Dave G 3&2 by 3 putting from 18 inches at the 16th.

**Grimbley leads Classic !**

From our correspondent on the ramparts of Galgorm Castle

Following a difficult outward nine this afternoon, Dave G returned in style over the closing holes at Galgorm Castle carding a brace of Nett Eagles at the challenging 16th & 17th holes for a fine 98 (net 71) to lead the Bad Etiquette Classic. On £22 he has a £3 lead going into round 2 over nearest rival Andy Slamin who dropped a crucial 2 shots at the final hole.

Etiquette but not as we know it

Following a ding-dong struggle between Andy & Mark at Castlerock (in which Mark might have been 4up after 4 but somehow lost the front nine 1 down), they reached the 18th tee all square. Having hacked off the tee into trouble, Mark took 2 more to move his ball 50yds and feared the worst with Andy far ahead and only 100yds from the flag in one. But having deftly heeled his 4th up the hill from 150yds to within 3ft, Mark looked on as Andy shanked his approach OB and, after a prolonged search, knocked his 4th into an awkward green-side lie to eventually lose the hole with a 7 to Mark's 6.

Both gallery and players alike were completely stunned at what appeared a totally unsatisfactory conclusion to the match. And the drama didn't end there; in a moment of magnanimous madness long after they'd left the course, Mark offered Andy the match half which Andy accepted faster than you could say "Please get out of the tortoise" to a bunch of drunken students in a shopping-centre.

Day
2**Coffee preferences delay early getaway**

Magherabuoy House Hotel, 07h35 Sunday

Mark : OK guys, we need to be away by eight; that gives us 25 minutes for breakfast

Waitress : And would Sir care for tea or coffee?

Mark : Hands up for teas and coffees ... umm ... 1, 2, 3, ... right ... that's 3 teas and 7 filter coffees please

Andy : Sorry, could you make mine a Cappuccino

Jez : Yes, a Cappuccino for me too please

Mark : OK, make that 5 filter coffees and 2

Richard : In that case, make mine a skinny latte

Pete J : Yeah, and mine a double espresso

Andy : And mine a dacaf Quad with semi-skinned milk

Rob : And for me, a double-cupped, double-fun, foamless grande latte lungo with wings

Mark : Oh, Bollocks!

BEC Top 10 Ever Moments

- No. 1** Forgery, impersonation & deception on an unprecedented scale; Royal Birkdale, 2000
- No. 2** Julian & Angie’s duets; Anglia Court Hotel, Norfolk, 1997 ... and her fixation with his cords
- No. 3** Andy’s hole-in-one; 13th hole (167yds), Rolls of Monmouth (AM), 2001
- No. 4** The Great Channel Tunnel Debacle; 1998 ... “We’re on the train, where the @:^\$ are you?”
- No. 5** Andy’s “Chip & Chunder” spectacular; 5th & 6th holes, Le Touquet, 1998
- No. 6** Julian’s awesome final round 83 net 64 to overhaul David L; North Berwick, 2003
- No. 7** Blown away by a six club wind; Ballycastle, 2004 (see next page for the full story)
- No. 8** Richard R’s attempts to score off the course as well as on; The Sports Bar, Le Touquet, 1998
- No. 9** Dave G’s putt into the lake; 5th hole (145yds) Dartmouth Golf & Country Club PM, 1996
- No. 10** Richard R’s 30ft birdie putt to stay in the match; 17th hole (121yds), Royal Norwich, 1997

Law takes firm grip in challenging conditions

From our correspondent nestling uncomfortably in Thistly Hollow (Portstewart’s 4th hole)

Thanks to the creation of seven new holes amongst the dunes in the late ‘80s, Portstewart now boasts one of the finest front nines in golf. And it was around these

holes that David L took a firm grip on the 11th Bad Etiquette Classic, consolidating on a profitable morning at Castlerock during which he effortlessly wrestled the yellow cashmere from the ample upper torso of Dave G in testing conditions. With

rounds of 95 & 97, 4 net birdies, a net eagle, a good spattering of extras and two solid match wins in the four-balls, David L now leads the tournament at the halfway stage on £39, £6 ahead of nearest rival Andy, with Dave G back in third on £23.

Stat File

— Participation —	
Total participants	15
Courses played	38
Rounds played	440.5
Holes played	7,929
— Medal —	
Total par	31,285
Total gross	41,654
Total net	33,269
Result	+ 1,984
— Gross —	
Eagles	2
Birdies	100
Pars	1,294
— Net —	
Eagles	126
Birdies	1,288
— Matches —	
4-balls played	98
2-balls played	44
— Extras —	
Nearest Pins	238
Longest Drives	253
Furthest Pins	216
Shortest Drives	88



Dave G entertains royally at Portrush

Ever the golfer entertainer since the day he rolled that legendary birdie putt into the lake at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club, Dave G set-out to royally entertain once more this year at Royal Portrush’s Dunluce Links.

Having found a deep and steep-faced fairway bunker with a scuffed 3-wood into the wind at the 418yds 7th, Dave showed maturity beyond his years, selecting to play out backwards with a wedge. But following a series of less than perfect contacts, Dave chose this moment to

“middle one”, and his shot (assisted by what was now a fierce wind-behind), sailed 150yds back down the fairway from whence he had come. To this point the educated gallery had maintained their composure, but once Dave had drawn his trusty 3-wood again and returned his ball to the very same fairway bunker, raucous laughter and the clatter of spectators falling from their aluminum step-ladders was audible across the course.

As if these antics might not have amused sufficiently, from the 17th tee Dave found what might well be the largest

bunker on the planet (possibly an asteroid crater) and, upon inspection of his lie, knew immediately that a Hamlet moment was in the making.

After 4 shots with a range of equipment including a 3-wood, sand-wedge, pneumatic shovel and 4” mortar tube, Dave’s ball remained firmly in the bunker. His 5th, however, flopped out onto the fringe. Completely unperturbed Dave emptied the 8kg of sand from his turn-ups, recomposed himself, chose the inevitable 3-wood, eyed the centre of the fairway and duffed his ball back into the bunker to cries of “You’re the man!”

Calamity Corner sorts men from boys

Back in the bar many stories of the trials and tribulations of day 3 at Royal Portrush were exchanged, a fair proportion of which centered around “Calamity Corner” (the Dunluce course’s 14th) an

awesome hole of 202yds played along the edge of a treacherous ravine into the teeth of a howling wind.

Amongst the tales was Jez’ spectacular tee-shot into the

heart of the green setting-up his par and putting he and Dave G 2up on their way to victory over Mark & Richard.

There was David L’s almost as impressive par 3 to go 1up

with Andy in their very tight match against Pete & Julian. And finally there was Julian’s magnificent tee-shot ... “by far and away the best tee-shot there all day” ... except that it was alas never found.

Day
4

BEC blown away by six club wind at Ballycastle

By the time we got to Ballycastle on day 4 we considered ourselves battle-hardened and ready to play in any and all conditions; in the wind, in the rain, in the cold, in thermals, gloves, wet shoes, water-proofs, with an umbrella in one hand and a piece of Kendall Mint Cake in the other. But nothing had prepared us for Ballycastle.

The opening 5 holes on the "inland" part of the course welcomed us with a (by now) customary wind and rain combo ... but once out onto the cliffs it was a whole new ball-game the likes of which the BEC had never seen.

We didn't see it coming until we reached the 7th, an expanse of brooding dark-grey heading rapidly towards the shore ... a

bit like a scene out of the "Day after Tomorrow" (pretty harsh coming the "Day after Yesterday's" 36 holes, late night and one too many beers) ... striking minutes later with a ferocity not seen since Pete J buried his putter shaft in the 7th green at Monmouth. For the next few minutes golf was unthinkable as we scrambled helplessly for shelter besides bushes, beneath buckling brollies, toppling trolleys and in bunkers without relief.

The squall passed quickly and normal play (by BEC standards) was resumed until the next squall sent us scurrying for cover again ... and so it went on. But it wasn't all bad; a sense of camaraderie prevailed and new records were set including Julian's 240yd 7-iron at the 3rd

Mark Powderham

After just 18 holes Mark might have thought that he was in with a fighting chance; a string of single putts, a 9&8 win and £16 already in his back pocket. But as links replaced parkland and the winds grew stronger, Mark was found lacking ... losses of £30 during rounds 3,4 & 5 and a record-breaking run of 49 holes without a net birdie bear testimony to this.

A tenacious final round in the extreme conditions of Ballycastle, however, won him £10 and returned him to the locker-room despondent, wet and tired but only £2 poorer for his 4 days of suffering.

Mark is reported to be well pleased with his 9 longest drives but distraught at his record 64 over handicap for the event.

Thanks to Mark for having given-up much of his second year of unemployment to arrange the 11th BEC!

David Law

Having come (oh) so close last year, in 2004, David dismissed his critics (those that said that he'd let children, dogs and a hermit-like existence on the moors distract him from his destiny) lifting the Tea Pot with a haul of £72.



Impressive statistics including 18 NB's, 2 NE's, 7 match wins and a missed net albatross putt from 4ft make fine reading, but most ominous of all was the return of his trademark opening pars; this year making par NB at the 1st in rounds 1, 3, 5 and 6. And whilst 34 over handicap may not be the

Law triumphs at Ballycastle!

From our correspondent on the ramparts of another bally castle

Out in the first group this morning and opening with a sandy par net birdie David L looked in determined mood to



and Pete J's new men's 100m record of 7.23 seconds chasing a brollie down-wind at the 11th. And to our credit we

overcome the atrocious conditions as well as his nearest rivals Andy and Dave G. Out in 45 and back in 46, it was clear from the outset that David was going to shake off the demons of North Berwick where last year he was so cruelly robbed of the title by Julian Malton playing the round of his life. And dispel the demons he did, winning both singles matches comfortably and taking his earnings for the week to £72, leaving Andy and Dave G trailing far behind on £32 and £20 respectively, and reclaiming the Tea Pot that he last won back in 1995.

didn't give up, give in, quit (while behind) or throw in the saturated towel for this was the Bad Etiquette Classic.

BEC's golfing greats (humbled on the links of Northern Ireland)

greatest performance ever (in fact it's the worst by a BEC victor) it was achieved in adversity not least at Ballycastle where he not only raised the Tea Pot but "Did the Double" taking the Scarisbrick Trophy too with a final round net 74.

final round did Julian make money (£10) limiting his overall losses to £41 and bringing him home in a disappointing 9th place.

The absence of a piano at the Magherabuoy House Hotel may have been a contributory factor but almost certainly too were 5 match losses, no nearest-the-pins and 8.5 negative extras.

Pete Jacobs

This year Pete played some quality BEC golf but was unable to made a serious challenge for the title.

Julian Malton

The reigning Tea Pot Holder didn't look comfortable this year, succumbing to a 9&8 defeat at Galgorm Castle and a rare navigational error that added 35 minutes to a 5 minute return journey from "Snappers" restaurant on Monday evening. Only in the

Inspiring reports of 320yd drives leading to birdie net eagle (Castlerock) are countered by bizarre reports of "earth-moving air-shots" in bunkers (Galgorm Castle) and stripping down to his undies for extra length at Portstewart.

Also at Portstewart Pete saw a "nice rainbow" but regrettably,

More golfing greats (humbled on the links of Northern Ireland)

despite the red, orange, green, blue, indigo & violet, Pete ended the week with a complete absence of yellow in his column (?) (see statistical summary).



Pete will also be disappointed to have failed to persuade the Tuesday morning BEC convoy to divert to the Giant's Causeway (no doubt also "nice") and with his third consecutive 4th place finish with earnings of £16.



Richard Reeves

Richard clearly enjoyed the aesthetic side of the trip to Belfast, lapping-up the culture and reveling in the local architecture ... "Look, a particularly fine example of late '60's suburban concrete with pebble-dash and razor-wire finish" and "How about that for a tasteful panorama of Olympic size lamp-post-mounted Union Jacks" etc.

But away from Belfast's abundant splendour there was less to write home about; in fact, only a 95 net 70 in the morning at Portrush (including a masterful net eagle at the 17th on his way to an impressive 3&2 win over Julian) providing relief from an otherwise mediocre display leading to losses of £37 and 8th place.

David Grimbley

Following his disappointing withdrawal from the event before the half way stage last year, Dave was evidently keen to make his presence known this year. A quiet front nine at Galgorm Castle was followed by a far from quiet back nine neatly concluded with back-to-back net eagles at 16 & 17 to win the 4-ball match and vacuum-pack himself impressively in the yellow jersey overnight on £22.

During subsequent rounds, Dave proved himself the most

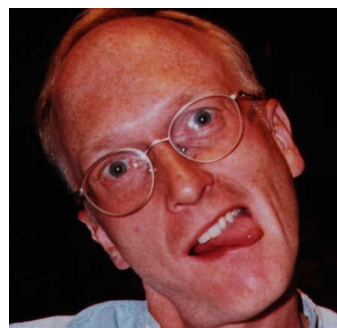
improved player on the Tour brandishing an obscenely oversized driver to achieve distances from the tee inconceivable in the good old days when he hit a 5-iron from the tee with such little effect.

Lowest net score in 3 rounds, lowest overall result (+18), 5 NE's and three 4-ball wins weren't enough to contain

him in the yellow jersey but none-the-less rewarded him with his first ever positive takings (£20) and highest ever finish on the Tour (3rd).

Jez Ellison

Back on Tour after a gap of 3 years following extensive neck and tongue surgery (picture below), Jez might well have been looking to emulate the fine form that won him the Tea Pot back in 2000. A 4&3 loss in the first round singles



didn't get him off to the start he was looking for and after 72 holes he found himself back in 8th place, but evidently inspired by close inspection of the course starter's tongue stud at Portrush, Jez led he & Dave G to a crucial 2up victory, and followed that with a 2&1 win at Ballycastle to recoup £20 and reduce overall losses to £8 and 7th place.

Andy Slamin

As always, there was no shortage of spectacular shots on show when Andy was about. Amongst those reported, a trademark 2-iron into fierce winds at Royal Portrush's 185yds 6th for par NB and a perfect approach to Ballycastle's 4th for eagle net albatross ... until told that the hole was not a par 5 for real men.

Whilst in with a shout until the

halfway stage, at 47 over handicap Andy was never truly on track to secure that elusive third BEC victory. And whilst he might not have been best pleased with 2nd place, he was clearly delighted to finally receive his BEC Score-keeping & Adjudication Diploma (B.SAD) the Founder Members seeing fit to bestow the honour upon him after an apprenticeship lasting 39 rounds over 7 years.

Rob Rees

Displaying the steadiest swing on the Tour, shooting the lowest gross score in 3 out of 6 rounds and suffering the least "blow-outs" (40), Rob handled the conditions better than most at the 11th BEC. And he played the par 3's better than anyone too (avg 3.8) with a telling 5-wood to 6 inches for a 2 at Porstewart's 15th (to sink Mark & Julian) and another 2 at Portrush's 11th (to turn his singles match against Pete H). And wasn't it all well worth it, making an impressive £4, amply recovering last year's losses (£2) in Edinburgh.

Peter H

This year's rookie on the Tour found the going expensive from the outset and was £42 in the red by the time we reached Portrush. There, a solid match win AM (including a killer 30ft putt at 13 to snuff out all hope for Mark & Jez) and a strong first nine PM (opening with a cover-drive into the car park from the 1st tee) temporarily stopped the rot, but another defeat at Ballycastle left him back in 10th place with losses of £56. Welcome Pete!

See you at the 12th Bad Etiquette Classic