

The 16th Bad Etiquette Classic



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Stat File <

1 BEC
16 years
636 rounds
11,454 holes
3,976,718 yards

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Saunton Sands, Devon

September 2009

*Another year passed, another news story
The Bad Etiquette Classic in all its glory
Our 16th year, the West Country playing host
Saunton and thereabouts down on the Devon north coast*

Welcome to the 16th Bad Etiquette Classic write-up. This year (or rather last) we headed to Devon where we were delighted to welcome back Mark Player ... 'Mark II' (2003, £11, 5th) as our 8th man, and were at the same time saddened to lose our trusty 7th man, Andy 'The Slama' Slamin, who was too busy selling kettles to be able to attend. Title, Tea Pot, cashmere and blazer therefore went undefended for only the second time in BEC history - the previous occasion being in 1997 when John 'The Bandit' Casale notoriously failed to defend his BEC title having plundered the tour coffers of £70 in 1996.

Our accommodation this year was ably provided by the very fine Saunton Sands Hotel where by morning guests fought shoulder-to-shoulder with British armed forces for a place at the breakfast buffet, lounged PM in glorious sunshine on the cliff-top terrace, and by evening wisely skipped the hotel dining-room instead opting for Mrs Osborne's home cooking at The Thatch in Croyde.

*Lunch; a baguette and a couple of beers
Spectators not many, a distinct lack of cheers
Dinner at the hotel, arranged much too hastily
Over-priced food going down not that tastily*

*Some very fine courses, the traditional golfing feast
An unforgiving start at Saunton West then Saunton East
Monday at Royal North Devon, some call it Westward Ho!
And the final round in parkland at Burnham & Berrow*



All Shook Up

The traditional draw at the start of this year's event was the scene of an unfortunate storm in a Tea Pot when due to an alarming clerical error Pete J's name failed to appear and more worrying still Dave G's name appeared twice! Thanks only to some nimble footwork by the Bad Etiquette Classic Applications Sub-Committee was Pete's entry belatedly accepted and Dave G's potential suspension over-turned on appeal. A Bad Etiquette Classic spokesperson later commented "This year's participants were badly shaken ... the event might have gone up the spout had we not kept the lid on it."



... And the prize for this year's BEC U-turn goes to ... Richard (applause !) who led us in a textbook about-turn in his Audi estate on Sunday evening on the way to supper at the Red



“Bin Ladin and the rest of Al Qaeda are known to be holed up in a bunker and it could well be one of those at Saunton Sands GC”

**Lt Col Paul James,
British Commander
in Helmand**



Saunton West ... an adequate test

Following a timely arrival at Saunton GC and a beer & baguette combo, this year's BEC hopefuls had time to scatter a few hundred balls around the practice area before teeing up on the sun-bathed West Course and scattering a few hundred more amongst the mountainous dunes & deep rough that awaited us.

Out in the 3-ball Mark II got his long awaited BEC

*Out first in the singles, 2 Marks and Pete J
Some pretty wild T-shots, balls going astray
Three solid 7's down the opening hole
Dunes and deep bunkers taking their toll*

come-back going with a handy 7 positive extras. On the 18th tee all three singles matches stood dormy with Pete J's bogie 4 enough to steal both matches as the Mark's halved.

Out behind, Julian & Richard were tag wrestling in the dunes with the two Daves with little of note until consecutive pars from Richard at 7, 8 and 9 took he & Julian to the turn 1up.

(Saturday)

From there the match stayed 'tighter than they might have liked it' to the 17th at which Julian unleashed a timely longest drive for par net birdie to restore a 1up lead which he & Richard were able to defend down the last.

So overnight, participants humbled, ball stocks depleted, Richard in the yellow cashmere on £14, Mark II in 2nd just 50p behind & David L bringing up the rear on -£24 after 11 double-bogies and a (seriously) gross 100.

Saunton East ... a bit of a beast

(Sunday)

Day 2 and another sunny one at that. Thanks to a leisurely 10.20 tee-off time, the big questions over breakfast were "Would the East Course be easier than the West?" and "Shouldn't all these Armed Forces personnel be defending

Queen and country in Afghanistan not tucking into a full English before 18 holes on the East Course? ... even if the terrain is very similar. After 9 double-bogies on the front nine and lying 8 down to Pete J in the 3-ball, David L had the answer to question one. Pete J went on to win both singles matches 6&5 and we can

only wonder how with 14 double bogies and when giving away 9 shots David L still beat Dave G 4&3 !

Meanwhile, there wasn't a lot of fun being had in the 4-ball either with 38 double bogies ... Mark & Julian succumbing 3&2 to Mark II & Richard.

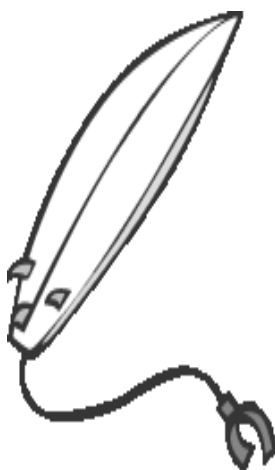
Pete J takes the yellow cashmere into day 3 on £19.

*Sunday, just one round, the afternoon free
Time for a snooze or a swim in the sea
A jog on the beach for Julian and the Daves
Others on surf boards waiting for waves*

Surfs Up!

With only 18 holes on the Sunday, BEC participants had time on their hands and were up for more sporting action PM. Julian and Dave G went for a run on the beach, David L opted unintentionally for some fell running on the hill behind the hotel, Mark II engaged in some extreme dozing on the hotel terrace

and Richard, Pete J & Mark took to surf boards to ride the ankle busters in Croyde Bay.



RECORDS SET AT THE 16TH BAD ETIQUETTE CLASSIC

- First surfing by BEC participants (Richard, Mark & Pete J)
- Longest leave of absence - 6 years (Mark Player)
- First use of Air Sea Rescue to search for a ball (Sea King helicopter called to assist Pete J at Saunton West)

Golf ... it's no Holiday

Dizzie Rascal

Came across this tall guy, he likes a lark n'
Loves playin' on the Lynx but also digs the parklan'
Loads of greenery, scenery, grass-cuttin' machinery
No hit leist, just Titleist with little tea pot marks on

You know what? I wasn't sure I got it
How does all that walkin' put dosh in ya pocket?
Wiv a match win, a nearest pin, great puttin'
Or on a long hole you really got a sock it!

He was boring me, I really couldn't hack it
But then he told me about the special Bad E jacket
The Tea Pot what he's not now got
And the money to be made if you can crack it

He went on about the shankin' and the shootin'
The hookers, the slicers, the hollerin' and hootin'
The beer guts, the short missed putts
Now I can't see why they's strugglin' wiv recruitin'

Him and three others got it started
Casale pinched the cash and just departed
Buck got shanked, others weren't ranked
And Angie up in Norfolk's broken hearted

There's been a shuttle cock-up, a handicap debacle
An albatross, a hole-in-one to give the BEC it's sparkle
Cheap flights, snatched bites, late nights
They've seen the sights, in an untaxed hire vehicle

The leader in the club, he wears a yellow cashmere
Navigation's real crap, "we really had to dash 'ere"
Despite the tips, my putt lips; I've got the yips!
Can't see me baggin' cash 'ere

But sounds like a crack, could I be a gang member?
They're next shootin' up in Wales next September
I'll need chequered troos, a pair of spikey shoes
And there's complicated rules to remember

Do I want to join the BEC? Well that's a tough one
With Mark, Pete & Dave and that uver really rough one
The write-up gets me tight up
But I'm keen to shoot par or perhaps anuver loved one

I'll do it! I'm leavin' those sadistics
Goin' straight, chuckin' in my ballistics
Leave those cynicals, buy some Pinnacles
I really wan' it, bring on da statistics!

4 days of golf 'ere, not much of a holiday
It's pissin' it down, more of a broolly day
Another duff, back in the rough, it's tough stuff
Not goin' to be my big lolly day

£5 winnings, that's effin' derisory
These BEC jokers are so bloody miserly
Shit, that's it, I don't fit, I quit
I'm packin' it in, goin' back to reality, back to reality

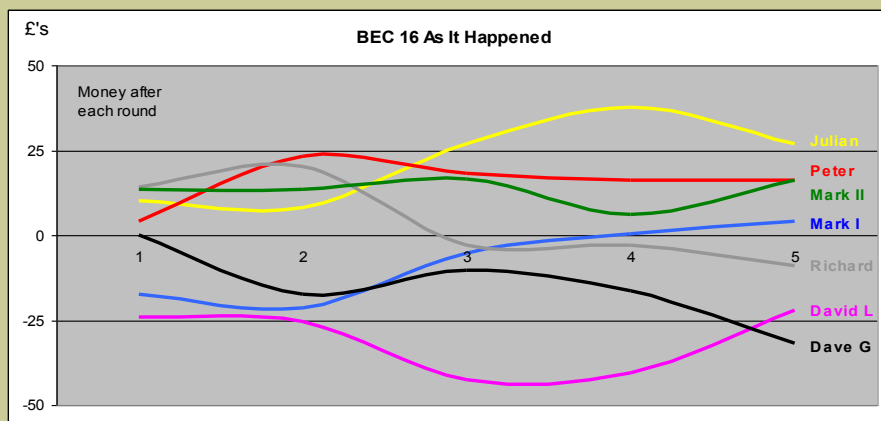
A Poetical stat-man sings out

Tim Harford
Financial Times

Maligned and misunderstood statisticians have at last found a spokesman says Tim Harford in the Financial Times; Mark Powderham the British Founder Member of the Bad Etiquette Classic. He's badly needed to boost morale. In Britain only 36% of people believe that official statistics are generally

accurate, yet we feel that no argument is complete without a gesture towards the data. "Statistics are essential to understanding the world around us, but statisticians get very little credit". Not so at the Bad Etiquette Classic where reportedly participants have always had complete faith in every figure

compiled during the course of the past 16 years. "Sure, the 'partner result' stat has bamboozled a few but other than that BEC participants just love the numbers". "They simply can't get enough of them" says Mark. "So sing out, poet statisticians. Bean-counters of the world unite!"



Julian surges ahead at Royal North Devon and never looks back

Peter's campaign goes into gradual decline from day 3

Mark saves face after a poor start at Saunton

Mark II comes up short at Burnham & Berrow

Richard falls away after a promising start at Saunton

David L avoids disaster with a strong final round

Dave G continues his generous BEC sponsorship

Andy fails to defend his Bad Etiquette Classic title

Royal North Devon Golf Club ... Westward Ho!



*Royal North Devon a more forgiving course
Mind the rabbits, the sheep and the odd wild horse
Keep clear of the rushes, the sleepers and flowers
And work on the basis of being out there 10 hours*

Monday. Day 3. Another warm one for two laps of Royal North Devonshire cream tea cloth ears of corn on the cobbler's children, not far from Lee Westward Ho! Ho! Ho! and a bottle of rum. England's oldest links founded in 1864 and designed by old Tom Morris. A beautiful course and fantastic test of golf amidst the gorse, the heather, the tall sea rushes ... ditches, rabbits, sheep, rambles, kite flyers, wild horses, sheep shit and horse manure.

And indeed much fun was to be had with Mark's low trajectory drive almost killing a cyclist at the 3rd, Dave G's ricochet off the sheds at the 4th, Richard's eight bunker shots at the 5th, and Dave G's exquisite 4 putt at 16. But it wasn't all bad with some quality

golf also on show including Dave G's magnificent wood to the 184 yds 8th for par, Pete's 30ft putt for birdie at the 16th, and Dave L's magnificent par save from



10ft at the 18th to halve hole and match in the afternoon fourball.

In terms of the match play, Mark got the better of Richard and Dave G in the morning singles while Julian

& Mark II overcame David L and Pete 4&3 in the four-ball. In the afternoon things got tighter with honours shared by Julian, Richard and Mark II in the singles and a classic four-ball between Mark & David L against Pete J & Dave G ending all square.

Ball lying on top of a large pile of shit (Rule 24.2)

In the event that a player's ball comes to rest in or touching heaped or liquid manure, the player may obtain relief without penalty by lifting and dropping the ball within one club-length. The ball may be cleaned when lifted under Rule 24-2b.



If electing to play the ball as it lies, a player should don appropriate apparel, warn all persons standing within a 25 yard radius with a shout of "Shit Coming!" and keep the mouth shut during execution of the stroke.

Following the stroke, shit may be removed from the hair, forehead, cheeks, ears and eyes of all players without penalty under Rule 21-7c.

*What was the score in terms of the money?
David L down 42, not finding it funny
Mark up 22, in 4th place on 50 pence
But who's in the lead? We can't bear the suspense*

*Old Fat Shaft himself, 30 quid for the better
Squeezed very tightly in the BEC's yellow sweater
Ahead of Pete J on 16, back in second
Another runner-up spot for him we all reckoned*

The Cape Bunker

If once we'd thought that the bunker on the 17th at Royal Portrush was the world's most fearsome hazard (scene of Dave G's sand-filled turn-ups debacle) then the Cape Bunker on Westward Ho!'s 4th hole was cause to reconsider. Requiring a 170 yard carry from the tee over a wall of railway sleepers 15ft high, this was without doubt the mother of all hazards. By morning we coped well, but in the afternoon as the wind got up Mark's tee-shot dropped and plugged just 12 inches short of the wooden ramparts and not having a collapsible siege tower in his bag, he was left with no choice but to play out backwards and left-handed.



THE 16TH BAD ETIQUETTE CLASSIC

FINAL LEADERBOARD

Julian Malton 98 97 95 98 99	£27
Pete Jacobs 97 98 94 94 96	£16
Mark Player 93 98 94 100 91	£16
Mark Powderham 99 95 90 92 87	£4
Richard Reeves 99 99 99 101 100	(£9)
David Law 100 103 97 95 88	(£22)
David Grimbley 100 105 97 104 100	(£32)

COURSES

Saturday Saunton West
Sunday Saunton East
Monday Royal North Devon ³⁶
Tuesday Burnham & Berrow

EVENT STATISTICS

Format	
Participants	7
Courses	4
Rounds	5
Holes	90
Yards	31,796
Gross	
Birdies	3
Pars	73
Bogies	212
Net	
Eagles	7
Birdies	89
Pars	211
Matches	
4-balls	5
2-balls	15
Extras	
Nearest Pins	14
Longest Drives	27
Furthest Pins	26
Shortest Drives	7

Day 4 - Burnham & Berrow

Malton seals victory with flakey 99

Despite a final round of 99 at Burnham & Berrow yesterday, Julian Malton hung on to seal a record-equalling fourth Bad Etiquette Classic title.

“That wasn’t the greatest round of golf I’ve ever played” said a delighted Malton (ever the master of the understatement) “but fortunately the other guys didn’t bring their A games.”

Although for a period it looked like Mark II (in third place overnight) might stage a determined challenge as he put together 3 net birdies and two longest drives on the front 9, that challenge waned on the inward half as the possibility of a first BEC victory briefly came into view and then faded. And the frailty of Pete J’s challenge (lying second overnight) was never more clearly demonstrated than at the 10th where consecutive tee-shots were sprayed out-of-bounds, first left, then right, badly injuring two spectators standing (later lying) 150yds apart.

Julian’s fourth victory in the Bad Etiquette



Julian Malton receives the Bad Etiquette Classic Tea Pot before a record-breaking gallery at Burnham & Berrow GC after sealing his 4th victory on the tour

Classic takes his career earnings to £12 ... equivalent to 75 pence pa, 15p per round, or 0.8 pence per hole.

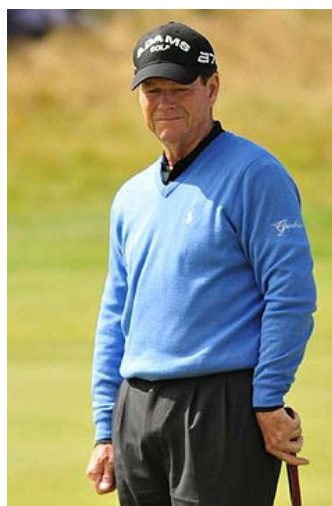
Congratulations Julian!

Sometimes even a hero has to come second

Tom Watson’s bid to become the oldest player to win the Bad Etiquette Classic was brought to a crashing end at Burnham & Berrow yesterday when the 59 year old was beaten by Britain’s Julian Malton.

It was a bitterly disappointing finish for the five-times Open champion who had an eight-foot putt for victory at the last and did not even threaten the hole. His embarrassed smile said it all. His chance to make history had gone.

Watson had played miraculous, intelligent golf for almost the whole of the four days, but came up short when it mattered



Agony for Tom Watson at the final hole as he misses his 8 foot putt to win his first Bad Etiquette Classic

most. Watson was in philosophical mood. “This ain’t a funeral, you know”, he said. “It would have been a hell of a story, wouldn’t it? But it was not to be. It’s a great disappointment. It tugs at my gut and it’s not easy to take. Boy would I have loved that Tea Pot on my mantle-piece back home.”

Tom’s second place at the 16th Bad Etiquette Classic takes his career earnings to \$11.1m ... equivalent to \$284,000 pa, \$4556 per round, or \$253 per hole.

We look forward to seeing Tom at the 17th Bad Etiquette Classic in September 2010.