

The 18th Bad Etiquette Classic



Cornwall

July 2011

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Stat File <

1 BEC
18 years
720 rounds
2,550 miles
12,966 holes

To a backdrop of global gloom and European doom, in it's eighteenth year the Bad Etiquette Classic once again sought to extend its social and economic influence to another corner of the British Isles. This year it was the luckless inhabitants of Cornwall who would be indoctrinated in BEC mythology and kept waiting on the tee as we searched hopelessly for our wayward drives.

On Tour this year were seven of the BEC's merry Band of Eight; Mark II putting in his third consecutive appearance (and back this year to defend his title); Andy sadly absent. But our number was restored thanks to the BEC's 21st participant, Martin Lee, whose application to join the Tour

had been approved by the Founder Member under mysterious circumstances ... without the customary CRB checks, 24/7 surveillance and approvals of the other Founder Members.

In the weeks preceding the event questions went unanswered, rumours appeared on Facebook and Twitter and media speculation became rife. Who was Martin Lee? From wither was he? Was he from Witham? Was anybody with him? What was the nature of his relationship with the Founder Member? Had strings been pulled? Who'd pulled them? How hard? And what type of string was it? What seedy goings on were there? And where did bedding plants come into it anyway?

At Trevoze, clues soon began to emerge. Martin was seen carrying Mark's clubs and buffing his Big Bertha. Could it be that Martin worked for Mark? Hours later the truth was out when behind the trolley shed Mark was overheard to say "... and remember, your objectives are one - finish outside the top three; two - make sure I win; and three - keep my clubs clean. Martin, I don't suppose I need to stress what a significant development opportunity this is nor what the consequences of failure might be for your career? And remember, lose your approach shot at the 8th; that'll keep the betting syndicate in Lahore happy."

And so, without gossip, bad feeling, allegation or scandal the 18th Bad Etiquette Classic got underway.



RECORDS SET DURING THE 18TH BAD ETIQUETTE CLASSIC

(kindly sponsored by Best Cafe)

- Most net eagles in a single round - 3 (Julian, St Mellion - Kernow)
- Most consecutive net birdies - 5 (Richard, St Mellion - Kernow); equalling Dave G's record, Tralee 1999 ... in fact Richard began with an NE
- Most positive extras in a 4-ball - 32 (Mark, Julian, Pete, Richard; St Mellion - Kernow; 4 NE's, 21 NB's, 5 NP's, 2 LD's)
- Third best shot of all time - tee-shot to within an inch (Richard, St Mellion - Nicklaus, 14th hole, 154yds for GB, NE, NP)
- First game of 8-ball pool (St Mellion)

BEC's pros at Trevoze

Saturday - Following a traditional shake of the BEC Tea Pot to draw partners and an equally traditional beer and baguette combo, who better to get the 18th Bad Etiquette Classic underway than Dave G & Julian ... firm favorites of the huge galleries on account of their legendary played 11, lost 10 record.

Four down after 5 wasn't perhaps the start they were hoping for and, although they recovered to 2 down after 11, they were always on the back foot (and struggling with heel / toe balance) succumbing eventually 4&3 to Martin & Pete J. Make that played 12, lost 11.

Out in the following match, one down after 6, the two Marks were dealt a body blow by Richard at the 7th when he got up-and-down for a

sandy par, NE and hole win. From there the Marks lost their way around the turn, slipped to 4 down after 10 and lost 5&3 at the 15th. Meanwhile, with 3 NB's and an NE Richard's partner David L crept stealthily beneath the radar to lead the BEC on £13.



Trevoze Tribulations

Pete makes birdie 4 (NE) at the 465yds 4th missing a net albatross by a fraction.

Julian knocks a 3-wood to 3ft at the 179yds 11th but misses the putt.

Mark makes 11 bogies and little else on his way to first round losses of £21 and 8th place

Sunday at St Enedoc

As per the previous day, despite the depressing forecast, the weather was unexpectedly reasonable; a couple of short, sharp showers, but nothing that lasted more than a few minutes, often followed by sunshine.

The first match turned out to be one of the tightest on record with Mark & Pete J standing on the 18th tee all square for the eighth time against Mark II and Martin with neither pair having been more than one up at any stage. At the last, Pete's bogie 5 was sufficient to

secure he and Mark an anti-climactic 1up victory.

Out behind, the two David's were having a torrid time against Richard & Julian, 4 down after nine and losing 6&5 at the 13th. Only once the match was lost did David L wake up, playing the closing 5 holes in level par, carding a net eagle, 3 NB's and 2 NP's, and banking a quick £11.50 with outrageous disregard for his partner who suffered losses of £19.50 in the process.



6th hole - Himalayas

Enedoc Exertions

Pete's magnificent birdie 2, NE at the 8th (150yds) and par 4, NE at thirteen help him to pocket a further £13.

Mark, Pete, Mark II & Martin hit four terrific drives up the 14th finishing in a line down the right-hand edge of the narrow fairway.

Stroke Saver

Pro's tip - 6th hole - Himalayas
'Some try to drive over the dune, most never to be seen again'.

Mark's tip - 6th hole
'Don't lay up short with a crap tee-shot and then try to leather a 5-iron over that f***ing mountain of a dune ... never to be seen again'.

Pro's tip - 12th hole - 373yds
'Concentrate on hitting the centre of this green'.

Mark's tip - 12th hole
'And you're paid how much?'

"David L leads the BEC on £24.50, with Pete in 2nd place on £21".



Mellion Monday

It's a while since we've stayed anywhere quite like St Mellion ... or, more accurately, The St Mellion International Resort ... 'a contemporary 4-star hotel offering guests two outstanding golf courses (Nicklaus and Kernow), three modern pools (kids, adult and 8-ball?) and three delicious dining experiences' (umm ... breakfast, lunch & dinner?).

And on the weather menu for our third day of competition, a starter of light cloud cover drizzled with a chilly wind, and a main course of waterproof over-trousers slowly penetrated by periodic Cornish downpours.



Kernow Resort Course

Despite the constant distraction of Mark II dropping his waterproof trousers, David L & Martin managed to maintain their concentration around the front 9 to trail only 1 down to Mark II & Dave G. But some poor putting on the inward nine (including David L's missed 3 footer at the short 16th) saw them lose 3&2. In a match containing 15 NB's, 3 NE's and 8 positive extras, on this occasion David L failed to selfishly fight his own corner losing £15 and relinquishing the overnight lead.

Meanwhile, the match behind was a Bad Etiquette Classic classic, a blitz krieg of NE's (4), NB's (21) and positive extras (7). With Mark making 5 net birdies and Julian playing an absolute blinder, you'd

have thought the pairing would have won easily against any opposition. But Richard & Pete were having none of it. The match was of quality from the start with all four players making par at the 189yds 3rd and Richard following up his NE with 4 consecutive NB's taking he & Pete to 2up. But at the 526yds 8th Julian struck back with a par 5 NE and followed up with NE birdie 3's at the 12th and 15th to swing the match and go 2 up. Such form was simply too much for the opposition who, in their last gasp, halved the 16th in par before succumbing 2&1. A brilliant match.

Nicklaus Signature Course

From the outset in the afternoon it was clear that the Nicklaus course was going to be less forgiving than the Kernow which had yielded so many extras that morning. Out first Martin & Richard began slowly against David L & Pete, but reached 2 up at the turn and then never looked back winning 5&4.

Out behind, David G and Mark combined well early on to lead 2 up against Julian & Mark II, but lost their lead around the turn before Dave G found inspiration (and the fairway from the tee) to help them to a 3&2 match win.

Mellion Memories

AM - At the 2nd rookie Martin finds trees off the tee and fails to escape, his second ricocheting dangerously back past him. No such trouble for Pete at the 4th who with year's of BEC experience hits an outrageous shank from the tee and watches as it ricochets to finish centre fairway.

Mark, Julian, Pete & Richard all make par 3 at the 189yds 3rd.

Julian plays a blinder with 3 NE's, 6 NB's, 3 NP's, six 3's on his card and earnings of £29; he wears the Yellow Jersey.

PM - Richard holes from 120yds for birdie 3 NE at the 365yds 9th.

Julian is but a shadow of his former self, recording just one NB and losing £16, a sizeable chunk of his morning earnings.

In the Brasserie after 36 holes only 8 steaks will do. But for starters Richard is unhappy about his mackerel pate portion ... fond memories of a well turned out lettuce leaf at the Dartmouth Golf & Country Club!

What a day! What drama! Julian's hopes raised and then dashed, Pete crashing from 2nd to 7th with losses of £41 and Richard taking the lead.

At the 16th time of trying, might this be Richard's year to lift the Tea Pot?



Judgment Day

(Tuesday)

Day 4 and another lap of Jack's championship course to decide the outcome of the 18th Bad Etiquette Classic. Richard & David L (lying 1st and 4th respectively) paired against Julian & Martin (2nd and 3rd). With each of David, Julian & Richard having surged into the lead on previous days, Martin's 5 positive extras on the front 9 served notice that today he was on the verge of a surge himself. 7up at the turn it certainly looked that way. But on the inward nine, Richard struck back with a net eagle at the 10th and another at the 154yds 14th, a sensational iron to within an inch ... officially the BEC's third greatest ever shot. Martin's response was a birdie NE at the 503yds 16th. Where did that leave things? Goodness knows. Had Richard won his first BEC? Had Martin failed his objectives and jeopardised his career prospects? Had a rookie won the tour for the third time? What would the traffic be like on the A303? All would be revealed.

Meanwhile, in the final match, the Marks (lying 5th and 8th) were trying to salvage something from the wreckage of the previous 3 days against Dave G & Pete (6th and 7th). This they did, leading 3up at the turn and snuffing out the oppositions attempt for a come back on the inward nine for a hard fought 2&1 victory.

Were the Nicklaus par 5's tough enough?

Pete & Richard each made 8 double bogies (or worse)

Julian faired much better ... making one bogie 6

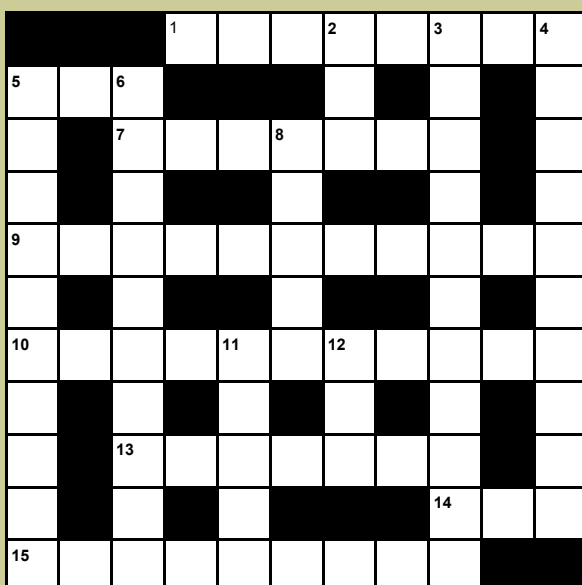
David L positively excelled ... with two bogie 6's

Mark didn't make a par

Dave G made one

Only Martin played them properly; 5 ● 5 6 5 5 ● 4

THE BAD ETIQUETTE CLASSIC CROSSWORD Vol. 1, No. 1



Across

- 1) Compare victory for four-ball success (5, 3)
- 5) Golfing equipment left in the kitchen (3)
- 7) German fearing gross score? (7)
- 9) Gross puree with a famously awkward stance (5, 2, 4)
- 10) Nice drive of player occupying both settees (4, 3, 4)
- 13) Front nine only results in a draw (3, 4)
- 14) Awkward number of participants from St Enedoc? (3)
- 15) Post moules specialities? (4, 5)

Down

- 2) Untaxed Volvo estate for example (3)
- 3) Julian looking for these amongst wife's trash in Deal? (5, 6)
- 4) Trained penis lacking identification gets up close (7, 3)
- 5) Monarch's stores providing stern Fife test (10)
- 6) Tina chucks rock missing Southern golf club (10)
- 8) Spandau beef conceals favoured Harveys recipe (5)
- 11) Right tees required to avoid these (5)
- 12) Are changes required in these times? (3)

COURSES

- Saturday**
Trevose
- Sunday**
St Enedoc
- Monday**
St Mellion - Kernow
St Mellion - Nicklaus
- Tuesday**
St Mellion - Nicklaus

EVENT STATISTICS

Format	
Participants	8
Courses	4
Rounds	5
Holes	90
Yards	30,160
Gross	
Birdies	12
Pars	111
Bogies	213
Net	
Eagles	19
Birdies	116
Pars	235
Matches	
4-balls	10
Extras	
Nearest Pins	29
Longest Drives	25
Furthest Pins	15
Shortest Drives	7

And the winner is ...

Sodden socks removed, participants headed to the Nicklaus Bar for the final reckoning. Then, after a flurry of envelope-based arithmetic, it was confirmed ... rookie Martin Lee had won the 18th Bad Etiquette Classic with earnings of £35. Richard had literally come up just short. Had his tee shot at the 14th rolled that last inch and dropped in for the BEC's second ace (NP, NA, CI) he'd have pocketed an extra £6 and in the process pinched £2 from Martin. That would have been enough for his first Tour victory.



Jack Nicklaus joins the presentation party but gets distracted recalling how in 1978 he had his name engraved on the trophy in a larger font than rival Tom Watson the year before.

Who switched the Tea Pot?

BEC Constitution - Article 12.5 - 'The Tea Pot shall be handled with care at all times, shall be kept well out of the reach of small children and the infirm, and shall be cleaned regularly.'

As Mark II unveiled the BEC Tea Pot in the bar at Trevose GC in preparation for the draw of partners, net eagle-eyed Pete noticed something strange. The Tea Pot lid no longer appeared crazed & cracked like its followers ... and the engraving was no longer misaligned and in a variety of ego-related font sizes. Had the Tea Pot undergone some extraordinary process of rejuvenation? Or was this not the original before us ... a replica ... deception on a scale not seen since Royal Birkdale?

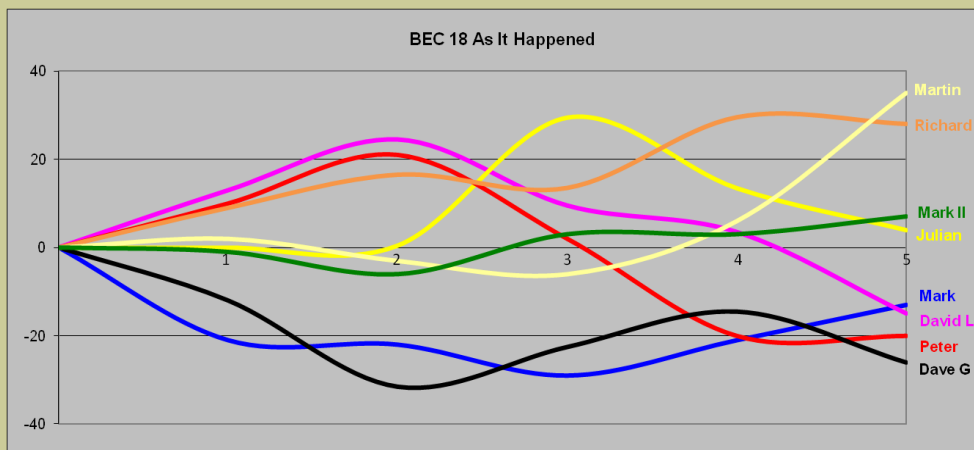
'Umm ... well ... uh ... err'. Mark II soon found himself confessing to extraordinary goings on at the House of Windsor. 'Well, the wife dropped the washing over the banisters ... the trophy was on the hall table ... the lid ... well ... it ... I'd told the family that if anything happened there'd be dire consequences ... we had no option! The missus, she panicked ... ordered a replacement from the US ... cost me a hundred quid plus post and bloody packaging! ... more than my life-time earnings on the Tour! ... gone ... all gone! And the engraver ... after the lecture about character and alignment ... he went weird ... produced a new plaque ... destroyed the original. It's just so awful ... a nightmare. Please, I beg you, don't call an emergency meeting of the BEC Recognition & Reward Sub-committee!

David L leads early on but suffers heavy losses at St Mellion

Pete follows suit, crashing & burning on Mellion Monday

Mark II fails to build momentum in defence of his title

Mark starts poorly, slumps to last place and struggles to repair the damage



Martin plays a last round blinder and comes from nowhere to win!

Richard plays well throughout but comes up short of a first Tour victory

Julian storms into the lead but can't sustain his form around Nicklaus

Dave G recovers from early defeats at Trevose & Enedoc but stumbles again



Coast

... And so it was that around these shores that Britain's Bad Etiquette Classic warriors battled ceaselessly for 18 years ... all for the honour of the ancient BEC Tea Pot.

Neil Oliver

Front Nine

Back Nine

13th (2006)

Charlie survives just 15 holes, Andy wins his third BEC and Mark & Pete party at Club de Mar.

14th (2007)

Jackets & ties are worn at Royal Lytham, Julian wins his 3rd title and the BEC write-up is brief.

15th (2008)

The most expensive BEC ever. Kingsbarns is majestic and Andy wins yet again.

10th (2003)

Ambitious plans to expand the field to 12 are thwarted; we start with 11 and end with just 9.

11th (2004)

Dave G entertains at Portrush. The BEC's run of great weather ends as we're blown away at Ballycastle.

7th (2000)

The Great Handicap Certificate Debacle. Dave G wins the inaugural Scarisbrick Trophy.

17th (2010)

The Side Bet Sweepstake adds complexity. Mark Player prevails in the gales around Nefyn & District.

9th (2002)

Records fall at Scarborough North Cliff. Mark wins his second title at Rotherham GC.

6th (1999)

Andy wins his second title, our hired Volvo lacks tax and the Garda pursue us for an unpaid bar bill.

4th (1997)

Andy wins and Angie takes a liking to Julian's chords at the Anglia Court Hotel.

8th (2001)

Andy holes-in-one at the Rolls of Monmouth. Pete J wins his first title.

12th (2005)

The closest BEC ever. Mark wins despite starting the final round on just £1.

16th (2009)

Mark II returns after an absence of six years, participants surf the ankle-biters and Julian wins his 4th Classic.

18th (2011)

Richard almost wins at the 16th time of trying but rookie Martin claims the Tea Pot.

5th (1998)

Having squeezed through the tunnel, Francophobe Founder Mark wins while Andy chips & chunders.

3rd (1995)

The Bad Etiquette Classic Tour grows to 8 players, Sunday golf is introduced and John Casale takes us to the cleaners.

1st (1994)

Julian wins the inaugural BEC on the Isle of Purbeck in the days of the Worst Etiquette Award. What had we started?

2nd (1995)

David L wins with a trademark par 4 on every opening hole off his trademark handicap of 16. Those were the days.

