

## 2ND BAD ETIQUETTE CHALLENGE REPORT

This year's Bad Etiquette Classic (BEC) took place in East Sussex at Seaford Golf Club (rounds 1&2) and Crowborough Golf Club (rounds 3&4). Undoubtedly Crowborough was the better of the two courses.

The method of selecting the opening pairing presented a serious risk of missing our first tee-off time, requiring each player to toss a coin simultaneously until such time that two heads and two tails were thrown. Although the probability of this event is  $3/8$ , we were successful until the 43rd attempt by which time all of us were exhausted from so much tossing. Strangely enough the pairings of the four matches were identical to 1994. See the statistical summary for match pairings and results.

### Profiles of the Great Players

#### Mark Powderham (handicap 11)

Mark's preparation for this year's Bad Etiquette Classic was good, but this marvellous player with such incredible natural talent was handicapped by an unrealistically low handicap (11), borrowed clubs and a heavy cold. His performance of the two days can only be described as totally abysmal. His driving and putting were erratic and his game was littered with uncharacteristic duffs, scuffs and muffs. For a player of 20 years experience it is surprising that it took him 63 holes to realise that his driver was the cause of all his difficulties, getting him into trouble off almost every tee. Resorting to a 3-iron for the last 9 holes saw a dramatic improvement in his ability to keep the ball on the course. Mark's hacking in the rough was matched only by his hacking cough which threatened to win him the "worst etiquette" award on almost every tee. Indeed, a poorly timed cough on the 1st hole of the second ~~hole~~ <sup>round</sup> did indeed win him that accolade. In 72 holes, Mark never once parred a par 5, nor challenged for a longest drive. His best investment of the two days was his maximum liability insurance which brought his losses back to the maximum of GBP 30. We can only hope that this naturally gifted player finds a return to form before the 3rd BEC.



#### David Law (handicap 16)

David arrived at the 2nd BEC looking more relaxed than ever which is surprising as it became evident he'd been playing golf almost every day for weeks. Over the two days of competition he played by far the most controlled and consistent golf of the four contestants. Off the tee he interspersed perfect drawn shots down the center of the fairway with the occasional cover-drive into the rough or trees on the right. All four rounds he began in awesome form paring all four 1st holes, even nonchalantly chipping in on the very 1st hole for a nett birdie, hole win and neat little GBP 9 pick-up. Although in general his putting was very sound, winning the "worst putt" award three times will (let's hope) play heavily on his mind in the run-up to the 3rd BEC by which

time he might well have developed the yips and be putting reverse handed. But David can be well pleased with his massive GBP 28 winnings which have put his career earnings on the BEC tour to GBP 30.

**Julian Malton (handicap 22/20)**

Julian has the advantage over the rest of the field of one corporate golf day every week. This was evident in the opening round in which he knocked-up innumerable nett birdies and shot an 89 gross nett 67 (-2). The BEC handicap committee met over lunch and unanimously agreed to cut his handicap from 22 to 20 with immediate effect. This had the desired affect of seriously damaging his confidence and from then on he was in and out of the game with lean spells and mean spells. It is to his credit that he scored the equal highest number of nett birdies during the 72 hole event and walked away with the second highest pay cheque of GBP 6 taking his career earnings to GBP 15. Off the course as well as on Julian continued to be the crowds favourite with his late night Monty Python recitals being a particular favourite.

**Peter Jacobs (handicap 22)**

From the moment that Peter was late arriving on the 1st tee, his etiquette was always likely to be subject to close scrutiny by match officials. Peter's determination to find any golf ball no matter how far from the fairway (or sometimes golf course) is truly astonishing and should be an inspiration to penniless youngsters of the game. Frequently, as was the case during the 1994 BEC, Peter was not seen between tee and green whereupon he would arrive dishevelled with twigs in his hair only to declare that he had a putt for a bogie. Also in his repertoire were such gems as holding-up players behind and playing out of turn. The award to Peter of 2 worst etiquette fines saw some of the most lively discussion of the two days. On the positive side Peter was the only player to make a nett eagle which he did at the 68th hole (475m par 5). This came at a crucial time in the final match and was followed by four more outstanding holes which finally crushed the opposition who were until that time making good progress to catch up from 3 down after 9. Many, many thanks also go to Peter for his outstanding, selfless and voluntary arrangement of courses, tee-off times and accomodation. Pete, your a star.

Mark Roe's bizarre behaviour in the final round of the tournament, after which he was disqualified, is likely to get him into further trouble with officialdom.

The World Cup golfer from Sheffield had 10s at the 12th and 16th and took 11 at the 13th, in totalling 58 strokes for the inward half. He was then disqualified after signing for a 94, one fewer than he had actually taken.

His partner, Mark Litton, complained to the tournament director, John Paramor, about Roe's behaviour, citing an instance at the 12th where he struck a six-inch putt 10 yards off the green and had to use a wedge for his next shot, and another at the 13th, where Roe had six putts. It was there that he also incurred a two-stroke penalty for striking a moving ball.

Roe, who was fined by Paramor in Paris two years ago for tipping a plate of spaghetti over the head of a fellow professional, Russell Claydon, in a restaurant, blamed an injury to his left knee for his erratic golf.

Nick Faldo has called for a

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**Next BEC**

The 3rd Bad Etiquette Challenge will take place on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th of July 1996. Keep these dates free in your diary!

To be honest I'm not 100% certain that they are the right dates; I remember all the discussion, but not the outcome. Grateful if someone would confirm.

**Rule Changes**

As from the 3rd BEC, sandy pars must be gross to qualify for GBP +3 and not nett as previously.

*See you at the 3rd Bad Etiquette Challenge*