

The 24th Bad Etiquette Classic



During the past 24 years of the Bad Etiquette Classic we have learned many things. We have, for example, learned to arrive at golf courses in good time, to take extra care with long putts when putting on lakeside greens, to think twice before sending potentially explosive emails and to approach strangers in Kentish pubs with caution. We might also have learned by now that 7 is not an ideal number for a game of golf. But apparently not. In response to a recent Freedom of Information request, BEC Tour organisers have revealed that, since the start of the Tour, 7 players have been fielded on no less than 5 occasions and 11 players (an equally hopeless number) on one occasion. More alarmingly still, a sensible number of participants (namely 8) has been fielded just once in the past 5 years.

Incidentally, the same Freedom of Information response confirmed (albeit hidden amidst a mind-numbing range of golfing statistics including the number of downhill net birdie putts holed from outside 12ft on a sunny afternoon) that to date no female has participated in the BEC nor anyone of Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic origin. But, one mustn't conclude too quickly that the BEC's 2012 diversity and inclusion policy hasn't made a real difference. It has. No less than 85% of BEC participants classify themselves as LGBTQ (Love Golfing on the BEC Tour but still Questioning).

Regrettably, the 2017 Bad Etiquette Classic did little to enhance the Tour's diversity credentials with 7 Anglo-Saxon white males congregating on the start line once again. And amongst their number this year, rookie on tour Geoff Eaton who on his BEC application form described himself as a "Gender-normative golfer seeking to achieve gender expression through a combination



of impressive driving from the tee and the fostering of aromatic relationships on the putting green", Welcome Geoff.

The unremarkable county of Lincolnshire was the chosen venue for this year's event, selected solely on account of it being home to Woodhall Spa, a village with a population of 4000, a Top 50 UK golf course, an historic association with the "Dam Busters" and the last 'rear screen projection' cinema in the country. Woo Hah Woodhall Spa! It doesn't get better than that.

Three rounds at Woodhall Spa were to be followed by 3 further rounds at Seacroft GC in Skegness, purportedly the only links course in the county, the 3rd best course in the UK with a green fee of less than £50 (a hideous club house and no car park) and host venue of the annual English Feminine-of-Center Amateur Championship. Go Seacroft!

And what a classic it was, with comfortable accommodation, and good food provided by The Village Limits

outside Woodhall Spa, impressions of driving range ball loaders provided by Pete & Geoff, and a reasonable curry with a lingering background aroma of sewage provided by the Vine Hotel in Skegness. And competition out on the course was as fierce as ever, with Mark leading for 3 rounds at Woo Hah Spa, and Julian wrestling the Yellow Cashmere from him at Seacroft (and fending off a late charge from Richard) on his way to a record-equalling 5th Bad Etiquette Classic title. Congratulations Julian!



Tea Pot Holder Richard Reeves appears reluctant to handover the trophy to 2017 BEC Champion Julian Malton



WOODHALL SPA

Saturday PM (Hotchkin)



Match 1A - Mark, Julian & Dave G

- The 24th BEC gets off to an inauspicious start with Dave G winning the first hole with a double-bogie 6
- It's sunshine and showers all the way round with waterproofs on and off and umbrellas up and down
- At the 14th Julian's tee-shot goes straight up in the air and, in frustration, he volleys it 'Happy Gilmour' style into deep heather
- Mark wins both matches comfortably and Julian gets the better of Dave G 6&5

Match 1B - David L, Pete & Richard

- Richard makes 4 NE at the 315yds 15th with a tee shot into deep rough, a provisional, a hack, a chip and a putt
- Pete wins the 367yds 16th with an 8
- Richard wins both matches and Pete overcomes David L 6&4

Sunday AM (Bracken)

Match 2A - Geoff, Pete & Dave G

- Geoff settles quickly on his BEC debut and delights the packed gallery with an NP/NB combo at the 5th and another at the 7th (in effect an NP/NB combo)
- Despite the exhibition play Geoff loses both singles while Dave G rescues a match half against Pete at the 18th

Match 2B - Mark & Richard vs Julian & David L

- There's significant tree trouble at the 9th when all 4 players find themselves amongst the timber and the four ball finishes with a 6 and 3 eights ... "nothing beats a nice piece of six and three-eighths"
- Mark & Richard lead 3 up at the turn, but as they emerge from their forestry exploits at the 9th, Julian & David L find their form, leveling at the 12th, turning the (pre-drilled and countersunk) screw at the 16th, and finishing the job (with two coats of varnish) at the 17th



Sunday PM (Hotchkin)

Match 3A - Geoff, Mark & Richard

- At the short 12th Mark's bunker shot hangs precariously at the top of a vertiginous bank and in a moment of madness he goes 'over the top' WWI style and attempts a ludicrous back-chip facing away from the hole
- And there's more chaos in the trenches at the 13th when Geoff and Mark find themselves side-by-side in a fairway bunker and counting down aloud as they play the BEC's first recorded synchronized bunker shots

Match 3B - Julian & Pete vs Dave G & David L

- Only Julian plays something resembling decent golf and David L suffers a Portuguese tarde tórrida
- All square after 14, the David's collapse to a 3&1 match loss
- Julian makes a tidy £20 entirely at David L's expense and Dave G's impressive haul of £0 matches his impressive AM haul of the same amount



Seacroft Golf Club

Championship Links since 1895

Accredited BEC venue since 2017

TELEPHONE NO. 20.

SEACROFT GOLF CLUB,
SKEGNESS.

7th August 1942

LOCAL RULES.

A ball lying on the bank of a tank trap or immediately in front of same, may be thrown back, or if in the tank trap or on the far bank, may be thrown forward without penalty.

Unexploded ordinance of any calibre found on the tee, fairway or green but not through the green may be removed without penalty under rule 24-1 with a shout of "Mind out everyone, this fucking thing could go off at any moment!"

A ball lying at the bottom of a bomb crater must be played as it lies under rule 13-1.

Harry J Simpson
Secretary.

Monday AM

Match 4A - David L, Julian & Geoff

- David makes NE at 6 and 11 and leads Julian 1 up on 4 occasions. But each time the match returns to level, and David implodes from the 16th to a 3&1 match loss
- Geoff rues some missed NB opportunities and 6 singles match losses on the spin

Match 4B - Mark & Dave G vs Pete & Richard

- Dave's satnav takes him to the wrong golf club; he appears on the tee with only a minute to spare, settles himself, and slices his tee shot into the buggy park
- The match is a humdinger with Mark & Dave winning the front 9 on the 9th and clinging to the slenderest of leads on the return only for Pete & Richard to steal the match half at the 18th
- And there's no shortage of drama either with Mark playing Richard's ball at 11, Pete edging longest drive by a yard at 13 and Richard's approach carrying a bunker at 16 only to strike the rake beyond and rebound back in

Monday PM

Match 5A - Richard, David L & Dave G

- The morning's great weather continues and it's a beautiful afternoon and evening on the Seacroft links
- 3 net birdies, 2 longest drives and 2 match wins pocket Richard £21.50 and propel him into 3rd place whilst consigning the Davids into 6th and 7th

Match 5B - Geoff & Pete vs Julian & Mark

- Julian & Mark lead around the front 9, but Pete (who has carried Geoff for 6 holes) finishes NB, NB, NB to halve the nine
- Julian & Mark grind out a 3&1 match win as Pete fades on the homeward nine, but little money changes hands
- Mark & Geoff hit great drives down the 398yds 18th and Geoff hits a superb approach before they realise they've played each other's balls from the fairway



Seacroft Golf Club's splendid clubhouse (1910)



Seacroft Golf Club's hideous clubhouse (2017)



Tuesday AM

Match 6A - Pete, Dave G & David L

- After 5 warm-up rounds, the Davids finally find form with David L carding 5 NB's, NE, NP, LD and Dave G chipping in at the 5th on his way to 4 NB's of his own
- Dave G reaches the turn 5up and 6up and wins both matches comfortably despite a 7, 6, ●, ● finish

Match 6B - Julian, Mark & Richard

- Richard is the player on form in the final group recording 4 NB's on his way to two comfortable wins
- Mark suffers a miserable round with nothing going his way until the 403yds 17th where he holes from 15ft for sandy par NB and rolls on the green in wild celebration
- Overnight leader, Julian, shrugs off a debacle de bunker at the 10th, makes net eagle at the 15th and draws a roar of approval from the packed gallery when he produces a BEC ball on the 18th tee for the final hole

Puzzle Corner

Word Search

Find 18 courses, 12 golfing terms, 5 legendary moments, 2 famous characters and one biography ... all associated with the Bad Etiquette Classic.

A N C E C H I P A N D C H U N D E R K C
N N O P J K I N G S B A R N S R E O I H
R E T R E V O S E D A R I T A I O S P A
S T T W A T E R V I L L E R G H S S R N
T E F B G W T Y A N L A R N S A Q H I N
E A Z O I A S A N D Y P A R L H U O N E
A G E K R R E X I O C L J C E E O R C L
R L A O L M D T A N A A E N P S A T E T
O E R N U R B I Z O S T A M K K L E S U
Y B H A T L T Y E S T L R C I E J S P N
A L I F E O N T H E L I N K S T O T I N
L E P F P E N G U U E I O R N H H D N E
O N N A T A R Q G L Z N C I E S N R K L
B S E T H E I S L A N D P E H U C I J D
I T S N O T T H A T S I M P L E A V A E
D H O L E I N O N E H Q U D S R S E C B
O A T D P O R T H C A W L O A K A V K A
S E A C R O F T D O N O G T R A L E E C
J B O X W E E P A R K S T O N E E S T L
B A Q U A P A N T H E R S T A T T O O E

Classic Quiz

Answer the following 8 questions. Take the first letter of your answer to question 1, the second letter of your answer to question 2 etc. and solve the anagram.

- 1) Which course would participants not exchange for Soren Meibom's Young Cool Stars Divided on the Issue of Rotation?
- 2) How many times have the 4 Founder members played in a 4-ball match combo?
- 3) Name the cocktail bar at the Scarisbrick Hotel where Richard wore his golf shoes
- 4) Name the par 5 hole where the two 4-balls recorded 98●8, 988● during the 15th BEC
- 5) Which shot into the Atlantic Ocean did Steve Buck perfect at Ballybunion?
- 6) Which participant has played the least number of holes on the BEC Tour?
- 7) Which course provided the setting for the BEC's first recorded net albatross?
- 8) Name the venue where Mark & Pete attended a foam party in 2006

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BEC Weather 1994 - 2017

