

# The 25th Bad Etiquette Classic Prologue



How about we celebrate the 25th year of the Bad Etiquette Classic in some way? Celebrate? Yes, celebrate. What's there to celebrate? Lots. Like what? Like 952 rounds and 5,928,386 yards of golf ... like 195 gross birdies and 565 longest drives. But 8,834 double bogies and 512 furthest-from-the-pins ... they aren't much to celebrate. Well, may be not, but we should still mark the occasion and recognise 25 years of golfing endeavour on Britain's glorious links. 24 years. What? 24 years of golfing endeavour ... it's only 24 years since the first BEC. Oh, alright then ... to celebrate our 25th event and recognise 24 years of golfing endeavour. So how might we celebrate? Give everyone a year off? Play something other than golf? Oh, come on. How about this for an idea? We invite everyone who's ever played the BEC ... Everyone? ... Yes, everyone ... Even John Casale and Steve Buck? ... Even them ... to play one round of

golf ... But we usually play at least five rounds ... One round at Hadley Wood Golf Club ... Hadley where? ... Hadley Wood ... a lovely club ... and we play Stableford. Stableford? Have you gone completely mad? We've never ever played Stableford. We don't even know how to play Stableford! ... Stableford. Next, you'll be saying you want goodie bags for all participants and prizes for the winners. Now you're talking. Yes, BEC branded merchandise and prizes for the winners. Fantastic!

And thus was the 25th BEC Prologue conceived. The date was set for Tuesday 15th May, invitations were issued and poached salmon, the chefs choice of roasts and a seasonal fruit crumble were ordered for dinner.

On the day, we numbered 15 golfers including one current and 8 former BEC champions, and 9 of the BEC's 10 most prolific participants of

all time. Only Richard Reeves (prolificness ranking 5) was absent, selflessly toiling in the Saudi Arabian heat ... to get his game in shape ahead of the 25th BEC. Other noticeable absentees included John Casale ('el Bandito' ... winner in 1996), John Appleton (legendary owner of the 30 year old Sam Snead 2-wood), Rob Rees (record-holder for gross bogies per round - 8.67) and Charlie Rice (least number of holes played on the BEC Tour - 15),

And what a day it was; Hadley Wood Golf Club providing a magnificent setting, sunshine and blue skies, the course in superb condition, and the event run like clockwork ... with the exception of the less-than-convenient closing of the practice ground for the day at 10.30.

With 784 rounds of BEC golf between them and conditions favourable, BEC Prologue participants might have been expected to make



Andy Slamin - winner of the 25th BEC Prologue

short work of the 6299yds course. But, alas not. With swings a little rusty and the greens 'faster than you'll like them', it was left to the legendary names of yesteryear (Slamin, Buck, Lee and Player) to lead the way. And who better to win the first BEC Prologue event than 5 time BEC Champion, leader of the BEC Tour Order of Merit and proud contributor of the 1998 'Chip 'n' Chunder spectacular'? ... Andy! Congratulations Andy!



# On the Tee

## Group 1 - Paul, Steve & Mark



### Highlights

- Steve returns to the BEC after a 19 year absence, his last appearance having been at the 6th BEC in 1999
- At the 502yds 8th Steve hits an outrageous drive leaving just 170yds to the green ... from there he makes par 5 for 4 points
- At the 500yds 14th he goes one better, making 4 for 5 points ... only the second player ever to record a net albatross on Tour
- Paul starts slowly but finds form from the 7th recording 4 net birdies and 27 points for a respectable 5th place

- Steve makes 30 points for 2nd place and the group wins the team prize (3 bottles of Malbec) with 79 points

### Lowlights

- Mark plays steadily around the front 9 making 15 points, but the wheels come off at the 10th, he musters just 7 further points and struggles home in 9th place
- Amidst the genius, Steve records 3 blobs and 6 'one pointers' on his card
- The group fails to hit any of the par 3 greens and records just 2 pars and 3 bogies in their 12 attempts at the par 3's

### Highlights

- There's a wealth of experience on show in Group 2 with 35 Tour appearances and 7 BEC victories between them
- Martin hits a huge drive at the 8th only to find himself 30yds behind longest drive already claimed by Steve in the 3-ball ahead
- At the 183yds 10th, Julian takes nearest-the-pin with a tasty shot across the water to 12 feet
- At the 13th Martin hits another huge drive and this time edges out Mark's longest drive hopes by a yard
- After an 'in and out' front 9 with 11 points scored on just 4 holes, Martin steadies the ship for 17 points on the way in and overall 3rd place

## Group 2 - Jez, Martin & Julian



### Lowlights

- The group gets off to a rough start with just 4 points between them on the first 3 holes
- Jez has an eventful round making 12 of his 19 points on just 4 holes
- Julian struggles early on and has just 5 points after 8 holes but he finds some form later in the afternoon for a total of 21
- Third place on the day is awarded in error to Mark II who walks off with Martin's bottle of Malbec and box of BEC balls
- It's not the performance they were looking for and the group finishes 4th with 68 points

### Highlights

- It's fantastic to see one-time only participants Rob (Dublin, 2014) and Tony (Northumberland, 2016) back in action and on the tee for another BEC outing
- Pete holes from off the green at the 6th and takes nearest-the-pin at the 7th
- Pete makes a steady 15 points on the front 9 but fades a little on the back 9 (better than a slice I suppose) and finishes 6th overall with 26 points
- After a wayward start, Rob gets things together to scramble 13 points on the front 9

- Tony makes net birdie with a 5 at the 367yds 6th

### Lowlights

- Like many others, Rob struggles around the back 9 recording just 8 points and finishes 11th
- Tony meanwhile (who hasn't played, practiced or studied the game intently since his last BEC appearance) is far from disappointed with his total of 13 points and last place
- The group brings up the rear (5th) with 60 points

## Group 3 - Pete J, Rob & Tony



# Next on the Tee

## Group 4 - Pete H, Mark II & David L



### Highlights

- David records longest drive and makes a tidy par 5 for 3 points at the 490yds 1st
- Mark is out of the blocks quickly too with an even tidier birdie 4 for 4 points at the 1st
- Mark takes Nearest-the-Pin at the 159yds 17th
- Mark matches 14 points on the front nine with 14 points on the back 9 and his 28 total is good enough for 4th place, missing out narrowly on a podium place to Martin on count-back

### Lowlights

- Despite frequent e-mails informing participants of everything they need to know, Mark II e-mails the day before the event with "Looking forward to tomorrow. What's the form? Start time, dress code etc.?"
- Like many others in the field, David and Pete find the going tough finishing 8th and 12th respectively
- The group finishes 3rd with 70 points

## Records set during the 25th BEC Prologue

- ⇒ First Stableford competition
- ⇒ Most participants playing in a single-round - 15
- ⇒ 6,000,000 yards achieved
- ⇒ Longest duration between BEC appearances - Steve (19 years)
- ⇒ 2nd person to achieve a Net Albatross on Tour - Steve (14th hole)

### Highlights

- The most experienced Group (37 Tour appearances, 5 BEC victories and 6 Scarisbrick titles) is out last
- Andy plays the most sensible golf of the day with no blobs on his card and 16 points on each nine
- Geoff makes a steady 14 points on the front 9 but adopts a less steady approach on the back 9 carding 3 net birdies and 4 blobs for 11 points and overall 7th place
- Andy records longest drive at the 14th and wins the 25th BEC Prologue with 32 points 'to take home the cut glass'
- The group comes 2nd with 74 points

## Group 5 - Geoff, Dave G & Andy



### Lowlights

- 122 rounds of BEC matchplay appear not to help Dave in the Stableford format ... he cards 17 points
- The expression 'to take home the cut glass' is used loosely; Andy forgets to take the trophy home and drops a text to the organisers the following day asking them to retrieve it

## Guests, Volunteers and Sponsors

Having responded to the BEC Prologue invitation with option (4) "I am unable to play as I am still undergoing therapy following my last BEC appearance", the Founder Members were delighted that Richard P chose to attend the event (an important milestone in his rehabilitation) in the capacity of Score Card Quality Assurance Supervisor and Official Photographer. Many thanks Richard.



The Founder Members were equally delighted to welcome Pete S to the Prologue despite his tenuous connection to the Bad Etiquette Classic. Purportedly Pete attended the Founder Member's 'stag do' at HWGC back in 1998. *What? That's it? That gets him an invitation to the BEC Prologue?* Yes. Many thanks to Pete for bolstering spectator numbers and complimenting good and bad shots alike.



**Paul, Steve, (Tom) & Mark - Group winners of the BEC Prologue**

And last, but by no means least, thanks to Julian for organising the BEC branded merchandise, to Mark for arranging the event and to the Founder Members and Dave G for their generous sponsorship of the goodie-bags and (lavish) prizes.

**See you at the 25th Bad Etiquette Classic in Cumbria !**