

GOLF EXHIBITION

THE 29TH BAD ETIQUETTE CLASSIC

Featuring Top Stars

GEOFF EATON
STEVE BUCK
PETER JACOBS
RICHARD REEVES
DAVID LAW
JULIAN MALTON
MARK POWDEHRAM
AND
DAVE GRIMBLEY

Spectacular Amusing
Highly Instructive

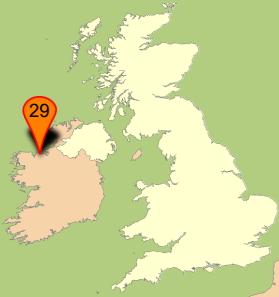


Dates

Sat 20th - Tues 23rd
August

Venue

County Sligo, Ireland



Accommodation

The Glasshouse Hotel,
Sligo (see right)

Courses

Strandhill
County Sligo - Colt
County Sligo - Bomore
Carne
Enniscrone

Stats

8 participants
81 holes
3,513 shots
27,608 yards

The 29th BEC will be remembered for many things. A fourth trip to the island of Ireland, early starts, long drives, great courses and good weather amongst them. This year we were joined by Steve Buck ... a name some of you will remember from the dim and distant past. 'Is he the chap who played with us in Ireland towards the end of the last millennium?' Yes, that's him. 'The one who started like a pro and finished shanking alternate shots into the Atlantic?' Yes. In joining us once again, Steve set a remarkable new record for the most years between appearances on Tour ... 23 no less (his first having been at the 6th BEC in 1999). Now, let us not dwell on why he chose not to join us for each of the 22 intervening years. Doubtless, there were 22 very good reasons. And, let's not forget that he did accept our invitation to play in 2021, but was later disbarred for a breach of Covid protocols.

There were other noteworthy appearances at the 29th BEC too. Richard back on the start list after a 4 year absence, and Pete defying the odds and medical science to compete just

three weeks after being admitted to hospital with concussion, broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Our Tour this year was arranged through Swing Golf Ltd with 'Swing' purportedly standing for South West of Ireland Golf. The observant amongst you will agree that this begs a number of questions. What does the "N" in Swing stand for? Natural? Native? Nothing? And, if nothing, shouldn't it actually be 'Swig Golf' or, in fact 'Swi Golf' given that the word 'Golf' is already neatly catered for by the word 'Golf'?



These and other questions remained to be answered as we headed once more to the Emerald Isle. Should we be concerned that a company specialising in the South West had booked us an itinerary in the North West? Who would we say had sent us? Dara? Daimhin? Daireann? Would Richard's bunker play amaze us all

after 4 years practice in Saudi Arabia? Would Pete's healing ribs and a reduced clubhead speed of 175mph improve or worsen his chances? Does Steve only play golf on the West Coast of Ireland? Would he start brilliantly and finish dismally as he had done in 1999? Or would he be dismal from start to finish? And, had anyone told him that he would be driving a bus (as well as a golf ball) for 4 hours a day?

Questions aside, we were about to embark on another epic BEC chapter. A chapter in which 20,000 holes of BEC golf would be surpassed at County Sligo and 7,000,000 yards at Carne Golf Links. Wow! And if that's not enough to wet your whistle, then throw in the most dramatic overhaul of the BEC handicap system since 2015 and the abandonment of negative extras. I know. It's a lot to take in.



Saturday Strandhill



David L leads on £17 ahead of Richard on £16

David L & Steve vs Pete & Dave G

- Dave G opens with a magnificent LD at the first and sinks a crucial par putt at the 9th to keep himself and 'Girdled Pete' in contention
- Steve hits some enormous drives for show, but it's his partner David L bringing home the doe with 4 NBs and securing the match 2&1

Mark & Julian vs Geoff & Richard

- Richard runs riot on the front 9 with 2 NBs, 2 NPs and birdie net eagle at the 7th to take he and Geoff 5 up
- Mark & Julian 'stop the rot' at the 8th and somehow scramble the back 9 at the 18th

David L & Julian vs Mark & Steve

- Mark & Steve storm around the front 9 in just 3 over gross par better-ball to go 5 up
- It's a fabulous course and the weather gets better and better, but it's a tough day in the office for David & Julian who are crushed 7&6

Pete & Geoff vs Dave G & Richard

- Richard contributes little on the front 9 and it's thanks to Dave that they reach the turn 1 up and are still 1 up after 12
- At the 13th Richard awakens from his slumbers and wins all 6 of the remaining holes to secure the match 4&2 and pocket £20

Sunday PM County Sligo - Colt



Richard leads on £36 ahead of Steve on £31

Late Sunday County Sligo - Bomore



Steve leads on £35 ahead of Richard on £32

Mark & Dave G vs Steve & Richard

- The golf's not great, but the match is a humdinger with the lead fluctuating back and forth. Mark wins the 6th and 7th holes and at the 8th Steve & Richard stare into the jaws of defeat as Steve settles over a 10ft putt to save the match. But hole it he does, and then adds insult to injury with a par 4 at the last to secure the match half.

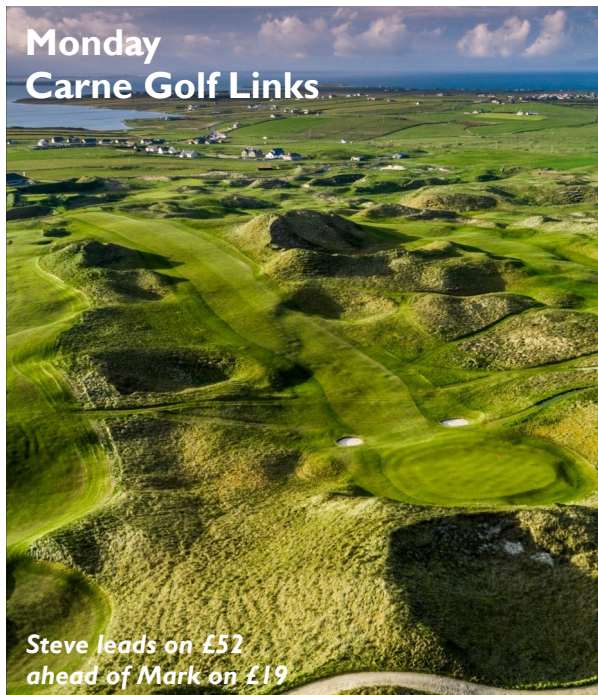
David L & Geoff vs Julian & Pete

- There's not much to write home about as Julian & Pete slide to a 3&2 defeat with Geoff recording the only positive extras on the card with an LD at the 5th and an NB at the 6th
- Geoff and Pete regret their choice of shorts on a course with a prevalence of gorse

Negative Extras - An End to the Suffering

After 28 years of angst, anguish, and (occasional) argument, Shortest Drives (SDs) and Furthest from the Pins (FPs) were consigned to the scrapheap ahead of the 29th BEC. 222.5 Shortest Drives and 606 Furthest from the Pins (at a total cost of £2,475.50 to their contributors) banished to the annals of BEC history. SD, FP, RIP.

Monday Carne Golf Links



Steve leads on £52
ahead of Mark on £19

The course is both spectacular and immaculate and the sun shines for us once again.

Mark & Richard vs Steve & Geoff

- Steve & Geoff have it all their own way and reach the turn 6 up, but Richard's 5-iron to 18 inches for birdie NE at the 11th gives he & Mark renewed belief ... but nothing comes easy
- Richard hits a 273yds drive at the 15th but then loses his approach shot, and Mark 5 putts the 17th from the bottom of a 20ft high bank
- Steve & Geoff win the match 4&3, but Mark & Richard manage to salvage the back nine

Julian & Pete vs David L & Dave G

- Julian & Pete are 2 up after four, but Dave G unleashes a barrage of net birdies over the final 10 holes to win the match 5&3 and bag £27
- The pace of play is described as 'swift and purposeful' on account of Pete's taxi waiting to whisk him off to Knock for his early flight home

Handicaps - Time for Change

Since the BEC handicap system was introduced in 1999, changes have been made periodically to ensure its effectiveness. Ahead of the 29th BEC, the Founder Members once again deemed the system inadequate and sought to implement radical change. Out with all that totting-up of net scores shenanigans and in with a new earnings-based system imposing a 0.1 cut for every £2 won and a 0.1 increase for every £2 lost. Simples.

Set on The Mullet Peninsula, 80 miles west of Sligo, this is 'Golf at the End of the Earth'. There's some drizzle to begin with, but before too long we are playing in the sunshine.

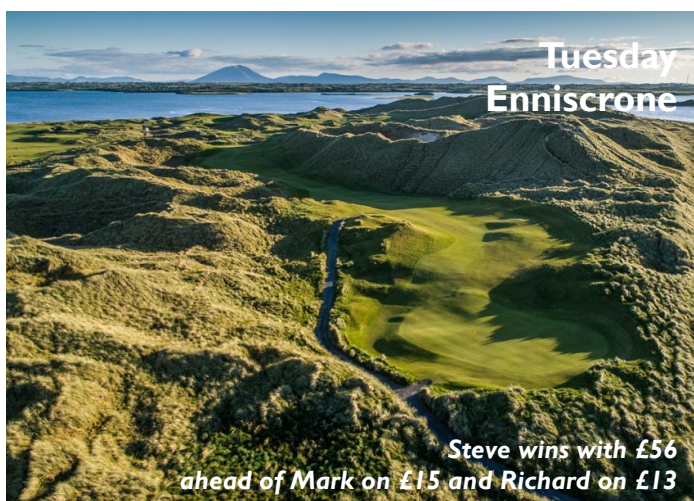
David L & Richard vs Steve & Geoff

- David & Richard think they've won the front nine 1 up until they realise Steve had a shot in the match at the 6th and 8th and they have in fact lost the front nine 1 down
- Steve & Geoff prevail 2&1 with seismic consequences for the leader board

Mark & Pete vs Julian & Dave G

- Mark starts strongly to put himself & Pete 4 up after 5
- Julian makes birdie 2 net eagle at the 7th and hauls himself & Dave back to just 2 down after 14, but from there the match slips away 4&2

Over lunch, we are joined by the Club Chairman who recounts the history of the club. The lights dim momentarily as he tells us that 'he feels a connection with the earth'.



Tuesday Enniscrone

Steve wins with £56
ahead of Mark on £15 and Richard on £13

RECORDS SET AT

THE 29TH BAD ETIQUETTE CLASSIC

- **Most expensive BEC Tour - £1,150pp (excl. losses)**
- **Most enthusiastic wearing of the Pink Jacket by a BEC victor - Steve**
- **20,000 holes surpassed at County Sligo**
- **7,000,000 yards surpassed at Carne Golf Links**



Mark

Playing little golf and saddled with (in his view) a ridiculous BEC handicap of 14, Mark approached the 29th BEC with modest expectations. But after a poor opening round, he played better than expected at County Sligo and Carne elevating him to an unlikely 2nd place where he ultimately finished. Entirely dependent on fellow players to watch and find his ball, Mark looks forward (literally) to playing BEC30 with improved vision following a scheduled cataract op.

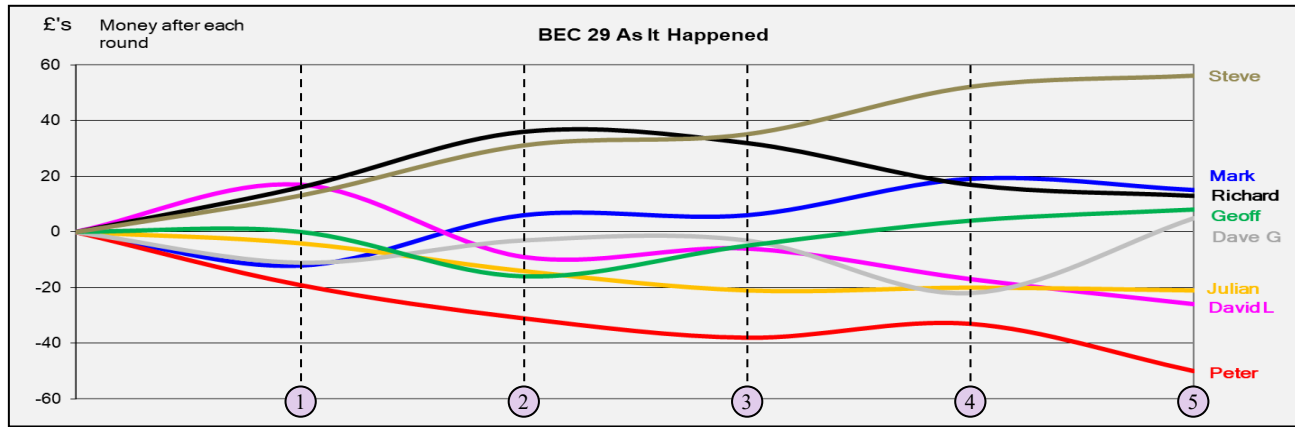
thought that Pete would make it. His doctors gave him no chance at all, but Pete the Determined was ruling nothing out. 'I won't be allowed to fly so looking at ferry options' (26 July); 'Perhaps I'll just bring 7-iron, wedge & putter' (28 July); 'Doctors still saying 6 weeks' (8 Aug); 'Played 8 holes today with no ill effects; assume I'm in' (12 Aug). And sure enough Pete made it to Ireland. Okay, with a limited swing he didn't play that well, lost 4 of 5 matches, parted with £50 and came last, but most importantly his 100% Tour attendance record was maintained. Congratulations Pete on a medical-science-defying recovery!

Richard, but we were soon to find out. Match wins at Strandhill and County Sligo with a feast of positive extras established him in the lead on £36 after 2 rounds. However, from there he faltered, losing money in each of the remaining rounds to finish third with £13.



Dave G

Having briefly bided his time mid field, Dave was caught in the crossfire at Carne as he and Julian fell to their 13th defeat in 15 outings. But, unperturbed, Dave



Julian

Losing five out of five matches was never likely to be a winning formula, but losses of just £21 suggest that Julian must have been doing something right. Indeed he was, recording the most LDs (7) and NPs (4) on this year's Tour. To some extent though Julian was let down by his partners. Failed by Mark at Strandhill, only to be roughed-up by him at Sligo, then failed by Dave G at Carne before being battered by him at Enniscrone. It was ever thus.



David L

Not for the first time, David made a fast start and found himself sporting the Yellow Cashmere after round one. From there (also not for the first time) he slipped out of contention to finish 7th with losses of £26 causing some to question whether negative extras (abolished this year) were not after all the principal cause of David's year-on-year woes. A big thanks to David for his unswerving efforts over 500 miles at the wheel.

saved his best until last, recording 5 net birdies, and a net eagle at Enniscrone on his way to a 5&3 match win and an 8th Scarisbrick title. Final round earnings of £27 catapulted Dave up into 5th place on £5, his second finish 'in the black' in 27 starts. Congratulations Dave.



Geoff

Defeat at County Sligo with losses of £16 presented an unexpected and unwelcome setback for the reigning BEC Champion. From there, 3 hard-fought match wins just about kept Geoff in the running, but ultimately a lack of net birdies and positive extras thwarted his attempts to ascend the leader board and mount a serious defence of his title and the Tea Pot.



Pete

In hospital with broken ribs and a collapsed lung just 3 weeks ahead of the 29th BEC, few



Richard

Back after an absence of four years, no one knew quite what to expect from

Steve

Despite not having played on the Tour proper since 1999, second place in the 2018 BEC Prologue had served notice (if notice were required) that Steve might be a contender at the 29th Bad Etiquette Classic. And, frankly, from the outset there was to be no stopping him. Third after the opening round at Strandhill and established in the Yellow Cashmere on £35 by Sunday evening, the writing was on the wall. Only Richard in second place on £32 had any chance of stopping him. But that chance was short-lived and emphatically snuffed out at Carne where Steve & Geoff beat David L & Richard 2&1 contributing to a £32 swing that put Steve out in front and out of reach. The final round at Enniscrone was little more than a procession as Steve notched up a comfortable 4&3 match win to remain unbeaten and secured the Tea Pot with earnings of £56. Congratulations Steve!

Finally, a big thanks to Steve for keeping the wheels on the bus going round and round.



**SEE YOU AT THE
30TH BAD
ETIQUETTE
CLASSIC**

BEC29's Longest Drives

Our itinerary this year was nothing short of insane. First we had to get to Dublin. *'No problem sir. How about the 8 of you fly from 5 different UK mainland airports on flights so early that you're each up just after dawn?'* Perfect. Thank you. Then, after our 300 mile flights, we needed to drive 135 miles to Sligo. *'No problem again sir. Can I recommend one car and one bus for the 3 hour journey getting you to Strandhill at least 10 minutes before your scheduled tee time?'* Super. Yes. Wise counsel indeed.

So, off we set with David L driving the car and Steve driving the bus with our journey to Sligo taking us past Ballinalack (*always a risk if you don't keep your head down*), Ballinamuck (*can be cleaned without penalty under rule 14.1*), Strokestown (*'Pete appears to have slowed his Strokestown'*), Ballinafad (*a ball moving from left to right*) and Sli Monear (*quite possible after a recovery shot from Ballinamuck*).

On Sunday we thankfully had little distance to travel, but Monday was to be another gruelling day. Where should we we play? *'Perhaps I could recommend, sir, an early start, an early breakfast and an 80 mile drive west to Carne Golf Links for 27 holes?'* Mavellous. Thank you. So off we set once again, this time to The Mullet Peninsula through Ballysadare (*'My Ballysadare somewhere'*), Bundeelin (*'Come on everyone, Steve's here with the bus, Bundeelin'*), Ballinavode (*'Does one get relief for a Ballinavode?'*) and Tristia Bog (*'Would you Tristia Bog with no cistern?'*). In the event, we only had time for 18 holes before embarking on another LD back to Sligo.

And what plans for Tuesday? With a long drive back to Dublin later in the day, perhaps something in an easterly direction? *'Sir, might I suggest a 35 mile drive west to Enniscrone?'* *'West you say? Genius. Why didn't I think of that? You chaps at Sli Golf have it all worked out.'*