

The 30th Bad Etiquette Classic



July 2023

30
Years

111
Courses

1191
Rounds

113,774
Shots

7,373,575
Yards

Rookie winners

Players that have won the Bad Etiquette Classic at the first attempt:

- ♦ Julian Malton (BEC1, 1994)
- ♦ John Casale (BEC3, 1996)
- ♦ Andy Slamin (BEC4, 1997)
- ♦ Martin Lee (BEC18, 2011)
- ♦ James Powderham (BEC30, 2023)

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Bad Etiquette Classic celebrates 30th year

'Next Gen' strategy off to a flying start as 27 year old rookie wins on first outing

By NEMPNETT THRUBWELL

West Somerset's long term ambition to host the Bad Etiquette Classic was achieved this week with the event successfully staged on four of the county's top courses.

County officials and Bad Etiquette Classic organisers alike must surely be celebrating; the county having pulled off something of a coup by attracting the iconic event to West Somerset in its 30th year, and BEC organisers having watched on as their embryonic 'Next Gen' strategy was emphatically endorsed with a victory for the Tour's first Next Gen player, James Powderham.

The paying public will be delighted too, treated to an intriguing contest, some classic moments and a fitting celebration of the BEC's remarkable 30 year history.

Having shared the early lead and tight Yellow Cashmere with six time Classic Champion, Mark Powderham, 2016 winner, Richard Reeves, pulled clear of the field at Burnham and Berrow yesterday ahead of an absorbing final round at The Manor House. There, in the final fourball, a second Tour victory slipped through his fingers as rookie, James Powderham, secured the match win and with it the Tea Pot and Pink Jacket.

Drama wasn't limited to the tussle for the Tea Pot either. A 'robust exchange' between Richard Reeves and Julian Malton regarding Longest Drive at Burnham and Berrow's 8th required an official ruling (see The Alison Ruling - page 3) which later led to ugly scenes at The Fox & Goose as the BEC Constitution was brought into disrepute.



James Powderham - Winner of the 30th Bad Etiquette Classic

Taking change in its stride, the Bad Etiquette Classic is in rude health as it moves into its fourth decade. An updated handicap system is in place, negative extras have been abolished, the next generation has been invited into the fold, and prize money of £59 (average for the past 30 years) continues to mitigate the defection of players to other, more lucrative, tours.

To mark it's 30th year, the Founder Members have updated the BEC's Top 20 Courses (page 3) and Top 20 Moments (page 4). Enjoy! May there be many more in the years to come.



Saturday Weston-super-Mare



Mark & Richard vs James & Steve

- Mark plays a super chip from 65yds at the 3rd only to discover that he's played the wrong ball (belonging to an unsuspecting chap playing the 8th); James thinks he's made par NE at the 390yds 6th only to discover that he's played the wrong ball (belonging to his partner, Steve) ... like father like son!
- Mark plays the 6th to the 12th in 2 over gross par, putting he and Richard 4 up; James responds with 3 net birdies from the 14th, but the match is lost 3&2 and the back 9 as well when Richard makes birdie NE at the 482yds 17th
- It's a less than perfect start for the reigning BEC Champion, Steve, who finds himself in last place with losses of £22

*Mark and Richard
share the overnight
lead on £14 ahead of
Dave G on £8*

Dave G & David L vs Julian & Pete

- The first hole is kindly sponsored by a dementia nursing home; *What do we want? Better dementia care! When do we want it? When do we want what?*
- The opening 5 holes are hard work into a stiff wind and the front nine is halved
- Having lost the 10th, Pete nips into the clubhouse to 'remedy a movable obstruction' (Rule 15-2)
- Julian misses a crucial par putt at the 16th during 'a rain shower of biblical proportions', but he & Pete level at the 17th and the match is halved at the last



Sunday Minehead and West Somerset

Morning 2-balls

- The club secretary has asked that we play in 2-balls as we're out ahead of the Ladies Club Championship ... but the club pro says that a slow 8-ball wouldn't hold them up
- The course zig zags back and forth and the 10th green is defended by a pill box at the rear
- **David L & Pete** canter round in 3 hours 5 mins which Pete claims is the fastest round in BEC history; he wins 5&3
- **Mark & Steve** halve each of the first 3 holes, but Mark is 5 up after nine and cards 82 gross for a 5&4 win
- **Dave G & Julian** trade net eagles before Julian takes a 3 hole lead; Dave fights back to all square after 17, but Julian secures victory at the last
- **James & Richard** record 12 NBs between them. 4 up after 13, James is pegged back to 1 up before prevailing 2&1. £13 changes hands in a result crucial to the outcome of the 30th BEC



Afternoon 4-balls

Dave G & Richard vs David L & Mark

- Richard gets the afternoon 4-balls underway at the 235yds 1st hole with a driver to 4ft and a tidy putt for eagle 2
- 3 up at the turn, Dave & Richard keep their feet on the gas (and the throats of David & Mark) carding net eagles at 13 and 15 and securing a comfortable 5&4 win

Pete & Steve vs James & Julian

- Despite Steve's use of 'advanced sonar techniques' from the trees at the 6th, he & Pete are 5 down after 9 to James & Julian
- They reduce the deficit to three, but lose the match 4&2

*Richard leads
on £20 ahead of
James on £18
with Mark &
Dave G tied for
third on £14*



Anyone
seen
Dave?



Monday Burnham & Berrow



Morning - 9 holes on the Channel Course

- We're warned in the pro shop that members consider the Channel Course to be harder than the Championship Course, and it's certainly a challenge
- For starters, there are a bewildering number of tees; white, gold, red, blue and often two pairs of each to cater for front and back nines

- Partnered with Dave G against David L & James, Steve demonstrates a breadth of skills; at the 5th he hits his approach to 3ft and holes for birdie NE; at the 6th he hits to 6ft and 4 putts



- Level after eight, Dave G & Steve win at the last
- As Pete prepares to drive, a truck dumps 10 tonnes of soil behind the first tee. Pete resettles the truck bed descends with a clatter followed by a series of excruciating intermittent squeaks



- Only Richard shows any kind of form with pars at the 3rd and 4th taking he and Pete 2 up on their way to a comfortable 3&2 win against Julian & Mark

Afternoon - Championship Course

- Not wishing to be upstaged by the Channel Course's 4 tee colours, the Championship Course has 5 (black, orange, green, violet and turquoise) and each set of tees has its own course name and card; Burnham Blacks, Brassie, Baffy, Spoon and Cleek. Insane! We elect to play the Spoons
- Steve purportedly loses 13 balls over the opening 13 holes which goes some way to explaining why he and Julian lose 7&6 to David L & Richard



- James hits a 4-iron 240yds at the 13th for LD and another 260yds at the 18th for well nothing, as his 9-iron approach lands deep in a boundary hedge
- Besides his 4-irons, James is complimented for his remarkable ball-spotting and general on-course energy and enthusiasm on his way to a 4&3 match win with Pete against Dave G & Mark

The Alison Ruling

There's controversy at Burnham & Berrow's 451yds, par five 8th ('Alison'). Richard's drive is longest from the tee, but Julian's nearer to the green. Both lay claim to Longest Drive. The issue is not resolved until dinner at the Fox & Goose in Brent Knoll when with reference to the definition in the BEC Constitution, the Founder Members find in favour of Richard. Julian then calls the Constitution 'an ass', and it's some time before order is restored.

*Richard leads on £37 ahead of James on £22,
Pete on £9 & Dave G on £8*

THE TOP 20 COURSES PLAYED ON THE BEC (1994 - 2023)

Following a comprehensive review by the Founder Members, Dave G and Richard, the official list of the BEC's Top 20 Courses has been updated and can be found at becgolf.uk

Top 10 BEC Courses

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Kingsbarns (BEC 15) | 6. Royal West Norfolk (BEC 26) |
| 2. North Berwick (BEC 10) | 7. Ballyunion - Cashen (BEC 6) |
| 3. Nefyn & District (BEC 17) | 8. Royal Dornoch - Champ (BEC 20) |
| 4. Tralee (BEC 6) | 9. Royal Porthcawl (BEC 12) |
| 5. Royal Birkdale (BEC 7) | 10. Royal Portrush - Dunluce (BEC 11) |

Did you know?

- ◆ The BEC has played 58 of the 210 links courses, and 35 of the Top 100 courses, in the British Isles
- ◆ Royal Dornoch is the highest ranked course we have played (5th in the Top 100) whilst Nefyn & District and Ballyunion - Cashen are not ranked at all



Tuesday The Manor House



The helpful chap in the pro shop tells us the code for the men's locker room, but fails to mention that the 3rd (500yds, par 5) is closed for maintenance. In hindsight, we should have asked for a £35.55 (one 18th) refund, or perhaps £55.17 (based on yardage).

The Also Rans - David L & Julian vs Mark & Steve

- David makes a trademark par 4 at the first, and Julian hits an iron to 2ft at the 2nd to put them 2 up after 2
- At the 6th, David hits a tee-shot even more outrageous than his tee-shot at Kingsbarns' 15th in 2008. His horribly miss-hit 3-wood disappears from view into the lake, skims across, jumps out on the far side and claims Longest Drive!
- Neither Mark nor Steve can make much impression and they lose 4&2



David, Julian & Steve on the tee, 127yds from and 120 feet above the 17th green (Burton Brook)

The Leaders - Richard & Dave G vs Pete & James

- There are some crazy showpiece holes including the 446yds 12th (Doolittle) ... in fact, requiring one to 'doo a great deal', and the 127yds 17th (Burton Brook) played from an insanely elevated tee
- It's also seriously hilly with some long walks and steep climbs between holes; only Richard is sensible enough to hire a buggy
- Another buggy (this one full of Koreans) catches Pete by surprise as he seeks relief ... thankfully not from a movable obstruction this time... by the 4th tee
- Not wishing to be upstaged by David L's antics at the 6th, Dave G seeks to entertain there also; his tee shot ricochets off a tree for LD and his approach ricochets off another en route to the heart of the green



Richard, James & Pete show off their balls having each found the island fairway at the 12th (Doolittle)

- You can tell why these guys are in the leading group; James and Dave G halve the 7th in net eagle, Richard makes birdie net eagle at the 9th, and the group makes 10 net birdies on the way round
- Pete & James are 2 up after nine and retain their lead for a 3&2 match win

James wins the 30th Bad Etiquette Classic on £38 ahead of Richard on £25 and Pete in third place on £13

THE TOP 20 BEC MOMENTS OF ALL TIME (1994 - 2023)

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No change at the Top

1. Forgery, impersonation & deception on an unprecedented scale, Royal Birkdale (BEC 7)
2. The Great Channel Tunnel Debacle ... "We're on the train, where the @:^\$ are you?" (BEC 5)
3. Pete's third-party altercation in the pub at Deal ... it was always going to be Pete, but the first death threat on Tour still came as a surprise (BEC 19)

New Entrants

14. Pete defies the odds and medical science to compete just 3 weeks after being admitted to hospital with a punctured lung (BEC 29)
17. Steve rejoins the BEC Tour after an absence of 23 years, wins the Tea Pot and sports the Pink Jacket all the way home (BEC 29)
20. James brings energy, enthusiasm and eye-sight not seen on the BEC for 30 years, and wins the Tea Pot at the first time of asking (BEC 30)

Mark

Mark's form looks promising early on as he records an impressive 16 pars in the first 36 holes. Indeed, with 2 match wins he leads on £27. But the going gets tougher, the net birdies stop flowing, he loses the next four matches and slides progressively to a disappointing 6th place finish with losses of £19.

Julian

Julian's BEC campaign fails to gain real traction, but a 4&3 match win at The Manor House earns him £14 for a 4th place finish on £9.

Peter

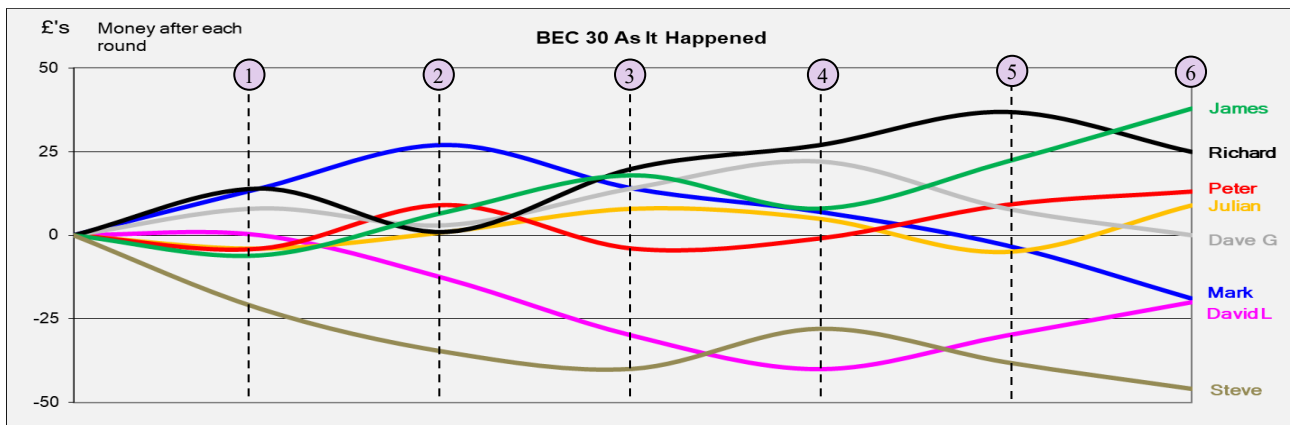
Four match wins and only one loss provide the foundation for Pete's third place finish ... his 14th top 3 finish on Tour.



Julian with Alison's particulars at Burnham & Berrow

David L

Playing off of 26 and with negative extras consigned to BEC history, David appears to be at a loss to explain his continuing losses on Tour. This year's losses of £20 (7th place) are his fifteenth consecutive finish in the red. David's last positive earnings (£16) were recorded long ago in Fife during BEC15!



James

Seventh after round one, James moves through the field positioning himself in 2nd place on £22 before the final round.

At The Manor House, he produces his best golf of the week (85 net 64) to secure the match 3&2, overhaul Richard's lead and win the 30th Bad Etiquette Classic. Congratulations James!

Having caught too much sun at Burnham and Berrow, the Champion's face and neck are a good match with the Pink Jacket.

Dave G

Following a good start at Weston-super-Mare and fourball match wins in rounds 3 and 4, Dave finds himself in 2nd place on £22. But it's all down hill from there, the £22 is lost and he finishes 5th.

Steve

Finishing eighth with losses of £46, Steve becomes the first player in BEC history to follow a Bad Etiquette Classic victory with a last place finish the following year.

Congratulations Steve!

Richard

Richard's campaign for a second Tour victory gets off to a strong start with 4 fourball match wins from 4 starts. He is certainly playing some good golf; every round including an array of NBs, NEs and LDs, not to mention 3 gross birdies and an outrageous eagle 2 PM at Minehead's 1st hole

Ultimately it all hangs on the final round. There his overnight lead of £15 proves not enough, and he comes up short, runner-up for a 4th time with £25.

Head-to-Head

	James	Richard
Match wins	4	4
Match losses	2	2
Net eagles	2	4
Net birdies	22	12
Nearest Pins	2	2
Longest Drives	2	3

Ablaut Reduplication

This year amidst the chit chat, Julian introduced us to the important subject of Ablaut Reduplication. All those years that we've criss-crossed and zig zagged our way around Britain's finest courses without knowledge of this unspoken grammatical rule. When a word is duplicated to form a new word or phrase, the vowels typically go **i** then **a** (riff raff), or **i** then **o** (tick tock), albeit occasionally **e** then **o** (heh, ho).

So, don't let anyone tell you that the BEC is just a mish mash of golfers dilly dallying about upon Britain's finest links. We may not be tip top golfers, and we may hit the odd shit shot, but we enjoyed a sing song in the Early Years and a ding dong battle on the Lancs links. We've not yet seen Richard in his dish dash, but we've seen Pete in his flip flops at Saunton, and we once heard the pitter patter of his putter (when he missed a short one) at the Rolls of Monmouth.