

The Bad Etiquette Classic Constitution

1. The Event

- 1.1. The Bad Etiquette Classic, hereinafter referred to as the Event, is an important fixture on the annual global golfing calendar founded by Mark Powderham, hereinafter referred to as the Founder Member, in conjunction with a couple of his college friends (Julian Malton and Peter Jacobs) and a bloke The Founder had met previously in Argentina (David Law).
- 1.2. These four persons, hereinafter referred to collectively as the Founder Members, shall form the foundation of the Bad Etiquette Classic Society.
- 1.3. The Founder Members shall meet prior to, during and after the Event as required to discuss matters regarding the Event and to consume one or more beers.
- 1.4. The name of the Event originates from a number of golfing fixtures in the 1980's which involved a variety of participants (many from Emmanuel College, Cambridge) who, whilst willing, demonstrated little or no golfing ability, little or no familiarity with the Rules of Golf, and certainly no knowledge whatsoever regarding golfing etiquette.
- 1.5. In those circumstances when it is inadvisable to refer to the society by its true name (The Bad Etiquette Classic), the acronym BEC shall instead be deemed, temporarily, to stand for Brothers of Emmanuel College in reference to the fact that three of the Founder Members were educated at that hallowed establishment and, by bizarre coincidence, so was the father of the fourth Founder Member.

2. Date, Duration and Venue

- 2.1. The Event shall take place once per calendar year. Only with the explicit and unanimous consent of all four Founder Members shall the Event not take place or take place more than once in any calendar year.
- 2.2. The Event shall normally take place over a period of three consecutive days (historically a Sunday, Monday and Tuesday), although the duration may be varied in accordance with the number of rounds of golf to be played.
- 2.3. The Event shall normally be played between May and September although this too may be varied with the explicit and unanimous consent of the four Founder Members.
- 2.4. The dates of the Event shall typically be agreed by the Founder Members (prior to the end of the previous calendar year) through a simple process of discussion and agreement or, when this proves impossible, through the application of the less-than-simple procedure described in paragraph 2.5.
- 2.5. The Founder Members will compile a list of of the dates of every Sunday/Monday/Tuesday combination (or other combination as deemed appropriate) in the period May to September. The names of the four Founder Members shall be inserted in and then shaken from the Bad Etiquette Classic Tea Pot to determine the 'Order of Veto'. The Founder Member with the first veto shall then specify the Sunday/Monday/Tuesday combination that he wishes to veto and that combination shall then be struck from the list of available dates for the Event. The Founder Member with the second veto shall then specify the Sunday/Monday/Tuesday combination that he wishes to veto and that combination too shall be struck from the list of available dates for the Event. This procedure shall continue (with the Founder Member with the first veto following the Founder Member with the fourth veto and so on in a seemingly never-ending continuous loop) until such time as only one Sunday/Monday/Tuesday combination remains. That remaining Sunday/Monday/Tuesday combination shall then be the date for the Event.
- 2.6. The host venue of each year's Event shall be agreed by a majority of the Founder Members. Where possible the Event shall each year seek to explore new territory either within or outside the United Kingdom and, only under exceptional circumstances (not least because few clubs may be willing to host the Event for a second time), shall the Event return to a venue that has previously played host to the Event.

3. Participants

- 3.1. The four Founder Members shall each participate every year in the Event. Financial hardship, domestic hardship (ie. scheduled chores such as car or gutter cleaning) and illness and/or incapacitation are the only permissible excuses for the absence of one of the Founder Members.

- 3.2. In addition to their own participation in the Event, the Founder Members may collectively invite any number of additional Participants to join the Event. The total number of Participants shall be at the sole discretion of the Founder Members but shall always be divisible by four in accordance with the desired format of the Event.
- 3.3. Each Participant invited to join the Event shall be known to, and proposed by, one of the Founder Members.
- 3.4. Proposed Participants shall be screened by the Founder Members and selected with due consideration of the following criteria:
 - previous participation at the Event;
 - golf handicap and known golfing ability;
 - golfing etiquette (or lack thereof) and;
 - official golf club membership and/or ability to acquire forged or loan handicap certificate(s).
- 3.5. All persons that have at any time participated in the Event shall be deemed to be Members of the Bad Etiquette Classic Society unless later expelled in accordance with paragraph 3.6.
- 3.6. The Founder Members may expel any Member from the Bad Etiquette Classic Society if that Member's behaviour is deemed to be inconsistent with the culture, values and traditions of the Event or society.

4. Format

- 4.1. The Royal and Ancient Rules for match-play golf shall apply.
- 4.2. The format of the Event shall comprise of a minimum of four rounds of golf, each consisting of 18 holes. Further rounds may be played if agreed in advance by the Founder Members.
- 4.3. The Event shall take the form of a series of four-ball better-ball match-play games unless unavoidably some other format (eg. singles match-play and/or three-way singles match-play) is required to ensure the continuance of the Event.
- 4.4. In addition, throughout the Event Participants shall relentlessly pursue the recording of Net Birdies, Net Eagles, Net Albatross' and Positive Extras, and relentlessly seek to avoid the recording of Negative Extras, as defined in Annex I.
- 4.5. Earnings and losses shall be calculated as described in section 5 below.
- 4.6. Ultimately the Event is an individual event. The Champion shall be the Participant with the highest total earnings at the end of the Event taking into account earnings from match-play, net birdies, net eagles, net albatross', positive extras and negative extras.

5. Scoring

- 5.1. Four-ball match-play: Each member of a Pair winning the front 9 or back 9 shall be credited £3 and each member of a Pair losing the front 9 or back 9 shall be debited £3. Each member of a Pair winning the match shall be credited £4 and each member of a team losing the match shall be debited £4.
- 5.2. Singles match-play: Each Participant winning the front 9 or back 9 shall be credited £3 and each Participant losing the front 9 or back 9 shall be debited £3. Each Participant winning the match shall be credited £4 and each Participant losing the match shall be debited £4.
- 5.3. Three-way singles match-play: Each Participant winning the front 9 or back 9 (against each of the two other Participants) shall be credited £1.50 and each Participant losing the front 9 or back 9 shall be debited £1.50. Each Participant winning the match (against each of the two other Participants) shall be credited £2 and each Participant losing the match shall be debited £2.
- 5.4. Net birdies, eagles and albatrosses: When playing four-ball match-play, each Participant recording a net birdie shall be credited £3 and each of the other 3 Participants in the four-ball will be debited £1. Each participant recording a net eagle shall be credited £6 and each of the other 3 Participants in the four-ball will be debited £2. Each participant recording a net albatross shall be credited £9 and each of the other 3 Participants in the four-ball will be debited £3.
- 5.5. When playing singles match-play, each Participant recording a net birdie, net eagle or net albatross shall be credited £1.50, £3 and £4.50 respectively, and the other Participant shall be debited £1.50, £3 and £4.50.

- 5.6. When playing three-way singles match-play, each Participant recording a net birdie shall be credited £3 and each of the other 2 Participants in the three-ball will be debited £1.50. Each participant recording a net eagle shall be credited £6 and each of the other 2 Participants in the three-ball will be debited £3. Each participant recording a net albatross shall be credited £9 and each of the other 2 Participants in the three-ball will be debited £4.50.
- 5.7. Positive and negative extras: When playing four-ball match-play each participant recording a positive extra shall be credited £3 and each of the other 3 Participants in the four-ball will be debited £1. Each Participant recording a negative extra shall be debited £3 and each of the other 3 Participants in the four-ball will be credited £1.
- 5.8. When playing Singles match-play, each Participant recording a positive extra shall be credited £1.50 and the other Participant shall be debited £1.50. Each Participant recording a negative extra shall be debited £1.50 and the other Participant credited £1.50.
- 5.9. When playing three-way singles match-play, each Participant recording a positive extra shall be credited £3 and each of the other 2 Participants in the three-ball will be debited £1.50. Each participant recording a negative extra shall be debited £3 and each of the other 2 Participants in the three-ball will be credited £1.50.
- 5.10. The Founder Members may, at their absolute discretion, adjust the value of match-play wins, net birdies, net eagles, net albatross', positive extras and negative extras ensuring at all times an appropriate balance between the value of match-play wins and extras.
- 5.11. Maximum Liability Insurance (MLI): As a condition of playing in the Event, Participants must accept free Maximum Liability Insurance to limit their individual losses. The level of maximum liability shall be determined by the Founder Members prior to the start of the Event and will typically, although not necessarily, be the number of rounds scheduled to be played multiplied by £10. In the event that a Participant's losses for the Event exceed the maximum value, then earnings shall be deducted equally from all other Participants to restore the losses of the Participant concerned to the maximum value.
- 5.12. There shall be no equivalent maximum value of a Participant's earnings.

6. The Draw

- 6.1. The draw shall be determined through the application of pre-defined Match Tables tailored to the number of Participants. Match Tables for four, eight & ten participants are provided in Annex II. A Match Table for twelve participants remains one of the 6 great unsolved mathematical conundrums of the new millenium.
- 6.2. Prior to the start of the Event (normally in the presence of beers and baguettes) the name of each participant shall be written on an individual small piece of paper which shall be subsequently screwed into a small ball and inserted into the Bad Etiquette Classic Tea Pot. One of the Founder Members shall then shake the Tea Pot vigorously until such time as one of the paper balls emerges from the spout of the Tea Pot whereupon the Participant whose name appears on the paper shall be allocated the number "1". The Tea Pot shall then be shaken vigorously again until such time that a second paper ball emerges whereupon the Participant whose name appears on the paper shall be allocated the number "2". This process shall be continued until such time that all Participants have been allocated a number, the spout of the Tea Pot has become blocked or Participants have lost interest in the proceedings.
- 6.3. Singles, three-way singles and four-ball matches shall then be established by mapping the number assigned to each Participant with the applicable Match Table in Annex II. or variation thereof.

7. Handicaps and Handicap Certificates

- 7.1. It is the explicit intent of the Founder Members that the quality of golf exhibited at the Event shall progressively improve and therefore, where possible, Participants shall have, and once-in-a-blue-moon shall play to, a handicap of 18 or less.
- 7.2. The maximum handicap permissible for any Participant is 28.
- 7.3. A Participants handicap at the start of the Event will be the lower of their official club handicap (if they are a member of golf club) and their handicap at the end of the Event when they last participated.
- 7.4. Frequently the Event shall take place at golf clubs of some repute which do not wish for their tees, greens, fairways and adjacent facilities to be scuffed, dug-up or materially damaged by a bunch of hackers. Such clubs may wish to inspect the handicap certificate of each Participant prior to payment of the green fee. Participants shall therefore carry a forged, stolen or loaned handicap certificate for presentation on request. Furthermore, Participants shall commit to memory and rehearse the name of at least one very obscure golf club in the United Kingdom which can be named on request without risk of being contacted to confirm membership details.

- 7.5. In the unlikely event that a Participant possesses a legitimate handicap certificate through valid membership of a real golf club, then such a certificate may be carried and presented, but only with the upfront consent of the Founder Members.
- 7.6. All Participants shall have an actual handicap and a playing handicap. Actual handicaps shall be recalculated after each round to an accuracy of one decimal place by applying the adjustments specified in the table below:

Earnings before start of round	Greater than zero	Zero	Less than zero
Net score			
5 or more over handicap	No change	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
0 - 4 over handicap	No change	No change	No change
Under handicap	- 0.4 per shot under	- 0.4 per shot under	- 0.2 per shot under

- 7.7. A Participant's playing handicap for any round will be their actual handicap rounded to the nearest whole number (with 0.5 rounded up).
- 7.8. Following completion of the Event, and prior to the following year's Event, the handicap of the Champion will be cut by 2.0, the handicap of the runner-up will be cut by 1.0, and the handicap of the Participant in third place will be cut by 0.5. These cuts will be applied in addition to any adjustments made during the event (including adjustment made after the final round) in accordance with paragraph 7.6.

8. Score Cards and Score Sheets

- 8.1. Where possible score cards shall be marked by one of the Founder Members. Other Participants may only mark a score card if they have received Bad Etiquette Scoring Accreditation Diploma (BESAD)
- 8.2. Score cards shall be marked with the match number (1A, 1B, 2A etc.), the names and handicaps of all Participants in the group and match pairings (as appropriate).
- 8.3. Score cards shall be marked with the gross score of each player at each hole. Net scores shall not be recorded.
- 8.4. Alongside the gross score of each player, net birdies, net eagles, net albatross', positive extras and negative extras shall be annotated using the following abbreviations:
- NB, NE, NA Net birdie, net eagle, net albatross
 - NP, FP Nearest-to-the-pin, furthest-from-the-pin
 - LD, SD Longest drive, shortest drive
 - SP Sandy par
 - CI Chip In
- 8.5. In addition, the match-play result (+, 0, -) shall be recorded against each hole showing whether the marker or marker's pair won, halved or lost the hole.
- 8.6. As soon as possible following each round the marker of each score card shall complete a score sheet recording all necessary information regarding the match result(s), net scores, net birdies, net eagles, net albatross', positive extras and negative extras. The marker shall add-up the total value of earnings or losses of each Participant in the group and shall record noteworthy information regarding the round.

9. The Bad Etiquette Classic Tea Pot

- 9.1. The Bad Etiquette Classic Tea Pot shall be presented to the Champion by the Champion of the previous year (the Tea Pot Holder). In the event that the Tea Pot Holder is not participating or that the Champion is the Tea Pot Holder, the Tea Pot shall be presented to the Champion by the Founder Member. In the event that the Champion is the Tea Pot Holder and the Tea Pot Holder is the Founder Member, the Tea Pot shall be presented by Rob Gussinklo.
- 9.2. The Champion shall have the Bad Etiquette Classic Tea Pot engraved at his own cost with the year of the Event and his name in an identical style to that already appearing on the Tea Pot. The use of a larger font to accentuate a particular victory will be frowned upon.
- 9.3. The Tea Pot shall take pride of place in the home of the Champion, normally on the mantle-piece above the fire-place and never amongst or behind other trophies such as rowing tankards.

- 9.4. The Tea Pot shall be handled with care at all times, shall be kept well out of the reach of small children and the infirm, and shall be cleaned regularly.
- 9.5. The Tea Pot shall be the focus of conversation and admiration.

10. The Pink Jacket

- 10.1. An old Emmanuel College rowing blazar dating from 1929 (hereinafter the 'Pink Jacket') shall also be passed on to the Champion and shall be worn by the Champion when being presented with the Tea Pot as described in paragraph 10.1.
- 10.2. The Champion shall wear the Pink Jacket on the journey home and all suitable occasions throughout the following year.
- 10.3. The Pink Jacket shall take pride of place in the home of the Champion; normally in the spare room wardrobe.

11. Write-up and Statistics

- 11.1. Following the Event, a write-up shall be prepared by one of the Founder Members. The write-up shall be descriptive, insightful, well presented and amusing (unlike reports of the first 21 years of the Event). Regardless of custom & practice, the write-up need not necessarily be prepared by, nor be the sole responsibility of, the Founder Member.
- 11.2. Comprehensive statistics shall also be maintained by the Founder Member. These shall be relevant, accurate, insightful, well presented and impressive. In accordance with custom & practice, the statistics will necessarily be prepared by, maintained by, and be the sole responsibility of, the Founder Member.
- 11.3. The Founder Member may, during any extensive period of unemployment elect to establish a web site for the storage and presentation of the write-ups, statistics and any other materials regarding the Event.

Net Birdie (NB), Net Eagle (NE), Net Albatross (NA)

Net birdie, net eagle or net albatross shall be awarded to any Participant making a net birdie, net eagle or net albatross on any hole; the net score being the gross score less the number of strokes received by the participant on the hole concerned based upon the Participant's handicap and the stroke index of the hole.

<p align="center">Positive Extras shall be awarded as follows:</p>	<p align="center">Negative Extras shall be awarded as follows:</p>
<p>Nearest-the-Pin (NP) Nearest-the-pin shall be awarded to the Participant in any match group (of 2, 3 or 4 players) whose first shot at a par 3 hole is both on the green and nearer to the pin than any of the other players in the group. Every par 3 hole played shall be subject to nearest-the-pin.</p>	<p>Furthest-from-the-Pin (FP) In the event that no player's first shot is on the green, furthest-from-the-pin shall be awarded to the Participant in any match group (of 2, 3 or 4 players) whose first shot at a par 3 hole is further from the pin than any of the other players in the group. Every par 3 hole played shall be subject to furthest-from-the-pin.</p>
<p>Longest Drive (LD) Longest drive shall be awarded to the Participant in any match group (of 2, 3 or 4 players) whose first shot at a par 5 hole is both on the fairway and further from the tee (NB. not nearest to the pin) than any of the other players in the group. Every par 5 hole played shall be subject to longest drive.</p>	<p>Shortest Drive (SD) In the event that no player's first shot is on the fairway, shortest drive shall be awarded to the Participant in any match group (of 2, 3 or 4 players) whose first shot at a par 5 hole is nearer to the tee than any of the other players in the group. Every par 5 hole played shall be subject to shortest drive.</p>
<p>Sandy Par (SP) Sandy par shall be awarded to any Participant making a gross par (or better) involving at least one bunker shot on any hole.</p>	
<p>Chip In (CI) Chip in shall be awarded to any Participant who holes-out from off the green on any hole with any club other than a putter for a gross score of no more than two over par for the hole.</p>	

Four Players

Match	A
1	1 & 2 v 3 & 4
2	1 & 3 v 2 & 4
3	1 & 4 v 2 & 3
4	1 & 2 v 3 & 4
5	1 & 3 v 2 & 4
6	1 & 4 v 2 & 3

Eight Players

Match	A	B
1	1 & 2 v 3 & 4	5 & 6 v 7 & 8
2	1 & 5 v 2 & 6	3 & 7 v 4 & 8
3	1 & 7 v 3 & 5	2 & 8 v 4 & 6
4	1 & 8 v 2 & 7	3 & 6 v 4 & 5
5	1 & 4 v 5 & 8	2 & 3 v 6 & 7
6	1 & 6 v 4 & 7	2 & 5 v 3 & 8

Ten Players

Match	A	B	C
1	1 & 2 v 3 & 4	5 & 6 v 7 & 8	9 v 10
2	4 & 10 v 6 & 7	8 & 9 v 2 & 3	1 v 5
3	4 & 9 v 5 & 7	8 & 10 v 1 & 3	2 v 6
4	2 & 10 v 5 & 8	1 & 9 v 4 & 6	3 v 7
5	2 & 9 v 1 & 7	5 & 10 v 3 & 6	4 v 8