The 25th Bad Etiquette Classic Prologue

How about we celebrate the 25th year of the Bad Etiquette Classic in some way? *Celebrate?* Yes, celebrate. *Whatôs 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 arenôt much to celebrate.* Well, may be not, but we should still mark the occasion and recognise 25 years of golfing endeavour on B links. *24 years.* What? *24 years of golfing endeavour ... itôs 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 everyo 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? Weôve never ever played Stableford. We donôt even know how to play Stableford!* ... Stableford. *Next, youôll 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 i 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 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 (ôel Banditoõ 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 clock-work ... 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 õ have been expected to make short work of the 6299yds course. But, alas not. With swings a little rusty and the greens ôfaster tha themõ, it was le 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 ôChip ônõ Chu.nder s õ Andy Slamin. Congratulations Andy!

Andy Slamin - winner of the 25th BEC Prologue

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 b l o b s a n d 6 ô o n e p o i n
- 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 õ s

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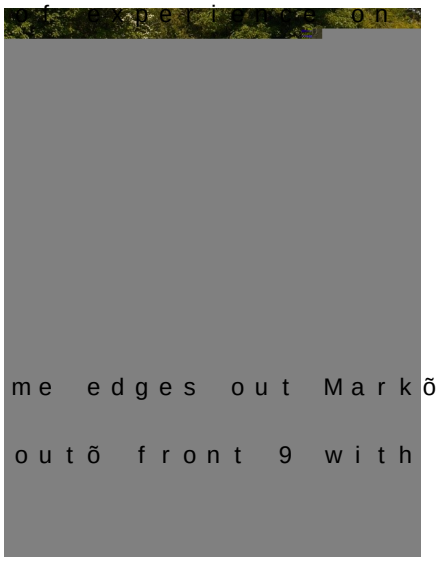
Group 2 - Jez, Martin & Julian

Highlights

- T h e r e õ s a w e a l t h 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 d r i v e a n d t h i s t i m e e d g e s o u t M a r k õ s longest drive hopes by a yard
- A f t e r a n ô i n a n d o u t õ f r o n t 9 w i t h 1 1 points scored on just 4 holes, Martin steadies the ship for 17 points on the way in and overall 3rd place



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 BEC balls
- I t õ s n o t t h e p e r f o r m a looking for and the group finishes 4th with 68 points

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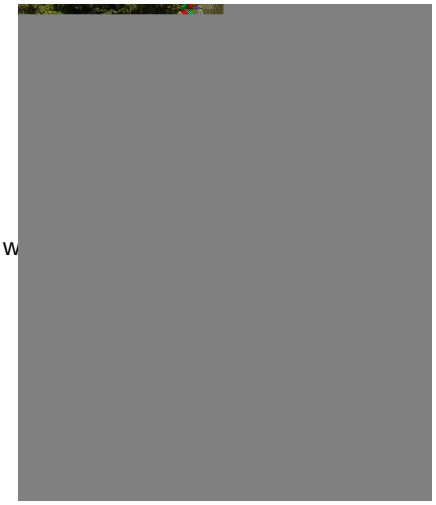
Group 3 - Pete J, Rob & Tony

Highlights

- I t õ s f a n t a s t i c t o 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
- T o n y m e a n w h i l e (w 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



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 forward to tomorrow. form? Start time, dre
- 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

Group 5 - Geoff, Dave G & Andy

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 ôto take home the cut glassõ
- The group comes 2nd with 74 points

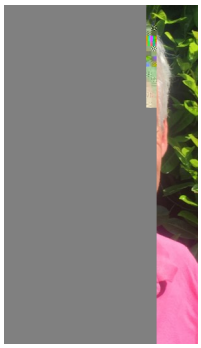
Lowlights

- 122 rounds of BEC matchplay appear not to help Dave in the Stableford format ... he cards 17 points
- The expression ôto ta glassõ is used loosel take the trophy home and drops a text to the organisers the following day asking them to retrieve it

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)

Guests, Volunteers and Sponsors



Having responded to the BEC Prologue invitation with optimism (ó I am still play as I am still undergoing therapy following my last BEC appearanceó, 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 Membersõ ôstag doõ at HWGC back in 1998. *What? Thatôs 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 !