The 27th Bad Etiquette Classic

Once upon a time when aeroplanes filled the skies, people hugged, workers commuted, Zoom was an ice-lolly and no one had heard of Wuhan or Matt Hancock, Mark, Pete & Julian met up to discuss dates for the 27th Bad Etiquette Classic. *Met up?* Yup, for a beer in the Lamb & Flag, Covent Garden in January 2020. *Are you serious?* Yes. They met to set the date for the 27th Bad Etiquette Classic with not a hand gel dispenser, face mask or pangolin in sight. *Insane. Imagine the risks.*

More remarkable still, they agreed 4 potential dates for the 27th BEC and left the pub pleased with their progress. But … and perhaps you've read this somewhere previously … 'It's not that simple' when it comes to the BEC. Later that same week the Founder Member for Henley emailed to say that he had inadvertently failed to fully factor in a family holiday to Cornwall, a business critical board meeting and a much needed trip to Boston. As such available options to put to the wider group were Sat 19th Sept, Sat 19th Sept, Sat 19th Sept or, at a stretch, Sat 19th Sept.

By the end of February the itinerary was confirmed. As part of the ongoing BEC Nostalgia Series we would be returning to Dorset and taking in the Isle of Purbeck (host venue for the inaugural Bad Etiquette Classic in 1994) as well as Crane Valley, Broadstone and Ferndown. With the virus now established on UK shores, it was clear from Ferndown's 'Practical Guide to Golfing during Covid-19' that BEC participants would need to be open-minded to change during the 27th BEC:

- Golf equipment should be washed before a player leaves home. *Quite right … whether you're going golfing or not.*
- Golfers should travel to the club alone. *We've always found 8 cars to be the optimum number for 8 golfers.*
- Arrive at the course no more than 30 minutes prior to your booked tee time. *Two minutes is the BEC average.*
- Members and visitors may order from the bar but must not remain at the bar counter for more than 5 minutes. *After 5 minutes should we declare our drinks lost?*
- Do not touch a fellow golfer's equipment or balls. *We've known each other a long time, but none-the-less that is our general policy on Tour.*
- Golfers should stay 2 metres apart when walking to their balls. *Such is the variety of BEC shot-making, we rarely get within 50m of each other from tee to green.*

Seven month's later, amidst seismic disruption to the global sporting calendar, the 27th Bad Etiquette Classic went ahead as planned. Okay, so the Isle of Purbeck wasn't as good as we remembered it, we were missing BEC regular Richard Reeves for a second consecutive year, the specially commissioned BEC face masks were likened to 'budgie-smugglers' and were tighter than we might have liked them, and we couldn't celebrate epic golf shots with the usual high-fives, back-slaps, hugs, kisses and chest bumps, but Broadstone, Ferndown and the weather were majestic and the BEC came through the Great Pandemic of 2020 unscathed.

The Purbeck Gazette
20th September 2020
Issue no. 4537

Bad Etiquette Classic underway amidst Global Pandemic

Mark Powderham and Geoff Eaton took an early lead yesterday at the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club on the first day of the 27th Bad Etiquette Classic. In socially-distanced Match 1A, Geoff Eaton and Paul Smith battled to a 1 up win against Tea Pot holder Martin Lee and BEC legend Dave Grimbley whilst behind in hand-sanitised Match 1B, Mark Powderham & Julian Malton recovered from 1 down after 10 to record a 2&1 win against Pete Jacobs and David Law.

Match 1A - Geoff & Paul vs Martin & Dave G

- Apart from the big reveal of Geoff's 'hinge' on the first tee, the front 9 is a low key affair
- Geoff's 4, 3, 5, 5, 5 finish including a net eagle and 2 net birdies secures a 1 up victory as Martin's 5 footer for par at the last fails to find the bottom of the cup

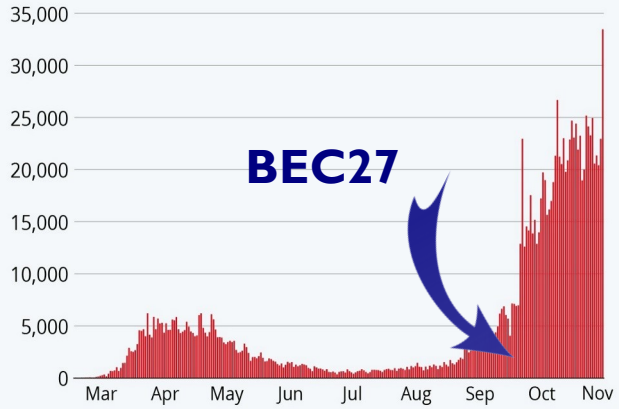
Match 1B - Mark & Julian vs Pete & David L

- Mark pars the 359 yds 1st for the first NB recorded during a global pandemic
- Pete records not a single positive or negative extra all afternoon; his par 4 at the 324 yds 17th goes unrewarded due to his unprecedented 15 handicap
- Mark & Julian's 2&1 match win maintains Julian's 27 year unbeaten record at Purbeck (played 3, won 3)
- The course condition is a major disappointment; it's nothing like as good as we remembered it from the inaugural BEC in 1994

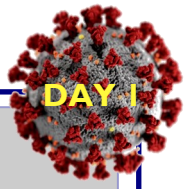
Mark leads overnight on £21 ahead of Geoff on £18 and Julian in 3rd place on £5

Daily UK Covid-19 cases

Did the staging of the 27th Bad Etiquette Classic cause the 2nd wave of the Global Pandemic?



BECoronavirus Quiz keeps participants occupied



Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a nationwide 'lockdown' from 23rd March and the UK population's interpretation that Zoom quizzes were the only permitted social activity for the next 3 months, BEC Founder Members wasted no time in establishing the BECoronavirus Quiz programme to provide a much needed distraction for BEC participants through the difficult months ahead.

Five rounds of the quiz took place between early May and late August and it goes without saying, that the scoring system was of the utmost complexity, Why just give one point for a correct answer, when you can have bonus questions, positive extras and negative extras?

Mark wins the BECoronavirus Quiz ahead of Julian in 2nd and Dave G in 3rd place

Round	Mark	Julian	Peter	David L	Dave G	Richard
1	---	11	8	(1)	10	(1)
2	21	---	(2)	(16)	6	(15)
3	4	3	10	2	---	8
4	11	8	---	4	1	0
5	0	2	1	---	3	0
Total	36	24	17	(11)	20	(8)
Position	1st	2nd	4th	6th	3rd	5th

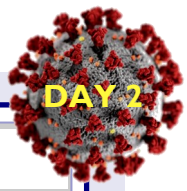
Top questions from the BECoronavirus Quiz

(*Answers on page 3*)

1) *Name the 2 courses we have played on Tour beginning with the letter 'K'*
2) *What is the longest gap (in years) between BEC's played outside of the UK?*
3) *In which year were branded balls first introduced on Tour and on which course were they first used?*
4) *How many courses with the prefix 'Royal' have we played outside of the UK?*
5) *Excluding 'one-time only' participants, which player has the highest average earnings per BEC played?*
6) *What do you get if you add a mashie iron to a spade mashie, multiply by a niblick and divide by a midiron?*
7) *How many one time BEC winners have their been and can you name them?*
8) *What is the most inland course played on the BEC Tour?*

Music recommendations for a Covid-19 impacted Bad Etiquette Classic

- Can't Touch That (MC Hammer)
- How Deep is your Clean? (The BeeGees)
- Don't Stand so Close to Me (The Police)
- Heh, Mr Pangolin Man (Bob Dylan)



Breakfast at the Ferndown Premier Inn

Whilst many things are 'not that simple' at the Bad Etiquette Classic, breakfast is rarely considered to be a challenging aspect of life on Tour. Securing 8 participants - yes; navigation - always; the Side-Bet-Sweep-stake of 2010 - definitely, but not breakfast. Not, that is, until Sunday at the Ferndown Premier Inn.

'Good morning gentlemen. Before seating you at your Covid-secure table, can I remind you that breakfast is table service only and that breathing is not permitted in the restaurant.' *Thank you. Yes.* 'Can you confirm please that you've all read the BreakfastSafe Guidelines? Lovely. And, if I could remind you that all of our breakfast tables come with a 30 minute CleanProtect Guarantee and seat a maximum of 4 persons in England, 5 in Wales and 5.3 in Scotland.' *Thanks.* 'Okay, gentlemen, here are your disposable menus and a selection of cereals for the table'. *Thank you ... I would like* … 'Sorry sir, Covid protocols require me to start with the person furthest from the nearest point of natural ventilation.' *Oh, sorry.* 'So you sir.' *Yup. Can I have the* ... 'Let me stop you there sir. Can you first confirm for me that you showered this morning and attended the hand-sanitisation station on entering the restaurant area.. '*I did. Yes.* 'Lovely.' *Okay, could I have the half sanitised grapefruit and then the Covid-free full English breakfast with no tomato.* 'Lovely. And how would you like your eggs?' *Scrambled please.* 'Sorry sir. We're unable to do scrambled at the moment due to the risk of air-turbulence caused by whisking in the kitchen.' *Oh. Okay. Fried please.* 'One or two?' *Two please.* Hash browns? *Yes please.* 'How many?' *Two please.* 'Bacon?' *Three please.* 'Sorry sir, guests are permitted a maximum of 2 rashers in accordance with our Pandemic Bacon Promise.' *Okay. Two.* 'Baked beans?' *Yes please. 117, if that's permitted by the Premier Inn Baked Bean Protocol.* 'Tea or coffee?' *Coffee, please.* 'Milk?' *Yes please.* 'Whole, semi-skimmed or virus-free?' *Umm ... virus free, please.* 'Lovely. Now you sir …'

Excuse me, could you refill my water-bottle? 'I'm sorry sir, due to …' *Ah, yes, The Covid Guest Hydration Charter, silly of me ... could I have a jug of water?* 'How much water would you like sir?' *Ooh, I don't know, 1747 millilitres? And could I have a funnel please ... and before you ask, white, 100mm diameter reducing to 8mm, impermeable, painstakingly sanitised and dolphin-friendly ...*

Coronavirus Quiz Answers

(1) Killorglin, Kingsbarns **(2)** Fifteen (1999 - 2014)
(3) 2003, Dunbar **(4)** Three (Portrush, Dublin, Obidos)
(5) Martin Lee (£40) **(6)** 45 (4 + 6 x 9 ÷ 2) **(7)** Four
(Casale, Ellison, Player, Reeves) **(8)** Rotherham (c55 miles)

DAILY ECHO

Bournemouth 21st September 2021

Eaton edges ahead and Malton closes to within 2 metres at Crane Valley

Following 9 holes on the controversial Crane Valley Woodland Course, Geoff Eaton edged ahead of playing partner Mark Powderham in the afternoon at the Crane Valley Valley Course (so good they named it twice) on day 2 of the Bad Etiquette Classic.

Matches 2A and 2B

- Second round matches start on the Woodland Course and are scheduled to finish the following day

Match 3A - Mark & Geoff vs Dave G & Pete

- Dave G's tee shot at the 7th strikes an overhead pylon. Local rule 6b confirms that 'powerlines, pylons and power poles are immovable obstructions' so Dave abandons plans for major electro-mechanical works and replays the shot
- Overnight leaders Mark & Geoff cruise to 4 up after 8, but they are reined back to dormy 1up by the 18th. The 18th green is steeply sloped and lightening fast. Mark's 12 foot par putt narrowly misses requiring him to hole a pressure putt back up the incline for the 1 up match win

Match 3B - Julian & Paul vs Martin & David L

- Julian & Paul are 4 down after 6, but Paul's golf improves markedly following the provision of medical supplies by Martin (isn't there a rule against that?) and he & Julian prevail 3&2
- Martin elects to take his 3 wood at the 17th only to find that it has been snapped in half … that's the thanks you get for offering medical supplies

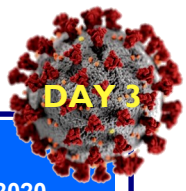
Geoff leads the BEC on £30 ahead of Mark on £21 and Julian in 3rd place on £19

Après golf at the 27th BEC

Saturday - At the Chianti Restaurant Geoff expresses his concern for the wellbeing of workers in the hospitality sector and seeks to ensure that our waitresses have the biggest tips. But there's little support for his proposed BECSHIT scheme (BEC Supports Hospitality Incomes & Tips).

Sunday - At the Beefeater Restaurant, we are required to sit at 2 tables of 4 and elect to have a winners table and a losers table. The former has aggregate earnings of £76 and the latter has aggregate losses of … well … £76.

Monday - At the Cinnamon Indian & Bengali Restaurant Geoff encourages us to 'Reject the Meal Deal for a more philanthropic feel', but there's ongoing opposition to his BECSHIT proposals.



Swanage .NEWS 22nd September 2020

BEC Leaders distance themselves around controversial Woodland Course

Unperturbed by fellow competitors who described the Woodland course as 'nothing more than a farmer's field', Mark Powderham finished today what he'd started yesterday, recording 80 net 64 and a 5&4 match win with partner Dave Grimbley to regain the lead after three rounds of the 27th Bad Etiquette Classic.

Match 2A - Peter & Geoff vs Paul & David L

- In a BEC first, round 2 is played over 2 days and is (counter-intuitively) completed the day after round 3
- Paul and David lose 3&1 in a match reportedly without highlights … but a leak from an unnamed source said David 'threw his golf clubs' when 3 putting for a net birdie at the 9th

Match 2B - Mark & Dave G vs Julian & Martin

- Mark notches up 3 nearest pins, two birdie 2's, 3 NB's and 2 NE's … and his partner isn't complaining about the course either with 4 NB's on the front nine and a net eagle at the 10th

Swanage .Breaking News

Big Banking leak shows HSBC moved Scam Millions

HSBC allowed fraudsters to launder $20b around the world even after it had learned of their scam. Julian Malton, HSBC Global Head of Global Risk said 'This is a local issue for the Neasden Branch Manager and I see no reason to cut short my golfing holiday in Dorset'.

Mark leads on £49 ahead of Geoff on £48 and Dave G in 3rd place with a handsome £0

Geoff calls home to inform the family that his earlier call that day to tell them that he was leading the BEC was perhaps a little premature and not entirely accurate

Wimborne & District COMMUNITY News 22 SEP 2020

Field blown apart at spectacular Broadstone

Overnight leaders Mark Powderham and Geoff Eaton went head-to-head today in the 4th round of the Bad Etiquette Classic. Both players appeared to let their partners take the strain around the front nine, but from the 10th Powderham found form, returning in 42, while Eaton struggled, rallying only for par net birdie at the last after the match was lost 3&1.

Match 4A - Mark & Paul vs Geoff & Julian

- Julian is quickest out of the blocks with a longest drive at the first and net eagle at the 2nd
- Mark and Julian both hit superb irons at the 152yds 6th, Mark to 5ft and Julian to 7ft, but neither hole their birdie putts
- Paul levels the match with an impressive bogie 5 at the insane showpiece 7th (SI 1) and steals the front 9 with a (less impressive) 7 at the par 5 ninth
- Geoff & Julian fight back from 3 down after 11 to one down after 13, but they're 3 down again after 15 and this time there's no way back

Match 4B - David L & Dave G vs Martin & Pete

- Pete makes a gross sandy par at the 167 yds 11th and reports a past history of ticks in his groin area
- David L hits a low fizzing 3-wood followed by a low fizzing 5-wood into a nasty hollow at the 13th. From there he pitches to 3ft, holes for par NE and refrains from providing details of his past medical conditions
- Pete describes Martin's par 4, net birdie at the 18th as 'cynical' on account of their already having won the match at the 15th

Mark leads on £73 ahead of Geoff on £28 and Pete in 3rd place with losses of £4

Records set and milestones achieved at the 27th BEC

- First BEC played during a global pandemic
- Geoff records the BEC's 300th Net Eagle at Isle of Purbeck's 14th hole (377yds, par 4)
- First matches played over two days (matches 2A & 2B on the Crane Valley Woodland Course)
- The BEC's 100,000th shot is struck early on day 3 (back 9, Crane Valley Woodland course)

DAY 4

BOURNEMOUTH Herald

Issue 2,371

23RD SEPTEMBER 2021

Powderham seals sixth Tour victory at immaculate Ferndown

With a £45 lead heading into the final round Mark Powderham was never likely to be caught during the final round of this year's Bad Etiquette Classic. And caught he was not, nullifying any chance of a comeback with a 5&3 match win over closest rival Geoff Eaton to secure a record sixth BEC Tour victory.

Match 5A - Mark & Martin vs Geoff & Pete

- Geoff recommends a BECSHIT Pro's Tip of £100, but this is once again rejected by other Tour participants
- Mark & Pete are told to tuck their shirts in by the course starter in what years ago might have been classified as an 'Altercation with a third-party'
- Geoff enjoys 2 moments of brilliance with a birdie 3 NE at the 8th and a 30ft putt from off the green for birdie 2 NE at the 14th
- Pete cards a rarest-of-rare shortest drive, sandy par, net birdie (RRSDSPNB) at the par 5 13th
- 6 up after 11, Mark & Martin fall apart, but win 5&3. Mark finishes in style with two 10 yard tee-shots into the heather in front of the 18th tee

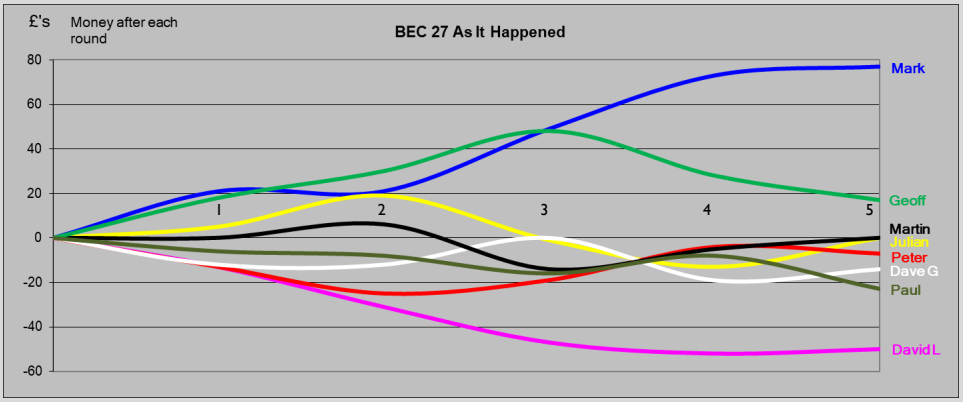
Match 5B - Dave G & Julian vs Paul & David L

- Famous duo Dave G & Julian are looking to improve on their 'played 13, won 1' prior match-play record
- All square after 9 it's 'tighter than they'd like it', but from the 10th they unleash a golfing broadside with 6 NBs, an NP, LD and a sandy par to go 4 up
- They wobble briefly at the 14th with 2 blobs, but secure an emphatic 4&3 victory at the 15th
- Faced with a difficult lie under a tree, one player reportedly 'takes the knee', underlining the BEC's support for the 'Bad Flat Lies Matter' campaign

Mark - Five match wins out of 5 and a healthy collection of positive extras see Mark lift the Tea Pot for a record-breaking sixth time with earnings of £77. Congratulations Mark.

Julian - Following a solid start at the Isle of Purbeck, Julian loses ground and slips to 6th place, but he & Dave G record a rare match win at Ferndown to bring him home 3rd= with a classy £0.

Pete - Off his new 15.2 handicap, Pete finds himself back in an uncharacteristic 7th place. A win at Broadstone restores him to 3rd, but at Ferndown he loses again finishing 5th with losses of £7.



David L - With 5 consecutive match losses, David resides in 8th place for the duration of the event until ultimately bailed out by MLI for only the 2nd time in his BEC career.

Dave G - Avoiding early heavy losses Dave briefly resides in 3rd place. But losses at Broadstone and Ferndown see him fall to 6th and narrowly miss out on an 8th Scarisbrick Tittle on countback to Paul.

Martin - The 2019 champion doesn't threaten in 2020 residing mid field following 3 match losses. But match wins at Broadstone and Ferndown assist him to a respectable 3rd= position on £0.

Geoff makes a strong start at the Isle of Purbeck and Crane Valley, but suffers heavy losses head-to-head with Mark at Broadstone. Congratulations Geoff on a well-earned £17 and 2nd place.

Paul - 2 early match wins position Paul mid field where he remains until the final round at Ferndown. There, he records his heaviest loss of the week (£14) but none-the-less wins the Scarisbrick Title.