



DR DARTS' NEWSLETTER

ISSUE ONE – FEBRUARY 2010

Welcome

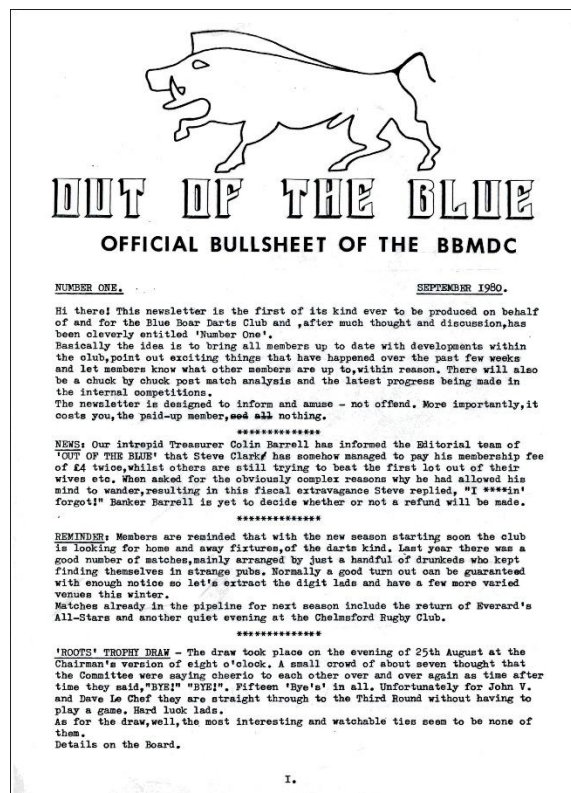
A very warm welcome to one and all and thank you for subscribing to my new, occasional *Newsletter* which I sincerely hope you will enjoy.

I have not compiled a *Newsletter* for nearly 30 years. Back in the 1980s I was editor, main contributor and cartoonist for *Out of the Blue – The Official Bullsheet of the Blue Boar (Maldon) Men's Darts Club*. In that more or less monthly newsletter (with special 'Beano' issues printed each year for our gentlemen's day out) I provided match reports, hearsay, forthcoming events, jokes and fragments of darts history. The latter was usually lifted from Derek Brown's *The Guinness Book of Darts* (Enfield: Guinness Superlatives, 1980) as that was the only darts book I had in my possession at that time. It was as a result of including historical notes in the *Bullsheet* (as it became affectionately known) that I started to research the sport. It happened like this...

Where it all started. Issue One of the *Bullsheet* (to the right and attached)

One darts night at the Blue Boar in 1985 after I handed out the latest issue to all club members present my best friend Colin Barrell said to me, "This history stuff is fascinating Pat but what are the real origins of the game?" Thinking the task a piece of easiness I confidently replied "Give me a couple of weeks mate and I'll find out." Twenty-five years later...

Clearly there's been a lot of water under the bridge since then and although some of my research has been published in my book *Darts in England 1900-1939: A social history* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2009) there remains much more for me to reveal and to discover. Thus my research continues apace.



This Newsletter that I am launching today is not intended necessarily to be an extension of my research or my website but merely a way of communicating more closely with those of you who are genuinely interested not only in darts history but also whatever else I may be doing or thinking about the darts of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

I hope you all enjoy the *Newsletter*. If you don't then please let me know and I will delete you from the mailing list.

OK. What's next?

New Website

My guess is that, by now, you have all seen my upgraded, new look website and I hope you like it. The feedback received so far has been extremely positive and credit for that has to go to my webmaster David King whose technical expertise (most of which goes way, way over my head) and skill has produced a much better ordered, presented and navigable site.

The new section 'Pub History' covers my other pub-related research (pub history, pub signs and pub games). I have plenty more pub-related articles like these to post on the site over the coming months. I am grateful to the Chairman and Committee of the Pub History Society for allowing me to re-publish my work on my website.

Another section with the working title 'Non-Darts' is also being planned wherein I hope to showcase a couple of my other 'talents'; short-story writing and cartooning.

Dr. Darts at the National Archive

Talking of pub history, I am pleased to announce that I will be one of the speakers at the forthcoming inaugural Pub History Society (PHS) annual conference which takes place at The National Archives in south west London on **Saturday 20th February 2010** (10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.). I will be giving a short talk entitled *Women, Darts and the Pub in the Interwar Years*.

Other subjects by other speakers include '*Lost London Pubs*', '*Pub Signs and Names*' '*The Pub and the People - Pubs in the 1930s*' and '*Behind the Scenes of the Coaching Inn*'.

Admission is FREE but booking is essential so call 0208 940 6884 or book by e-mailing the PHS Conference organisers at werringtonhistory@googlemail.com. (Please visit www.pubhistorysociety.co.uk for more information about the conference.)

I hope at least some of you will be able to attend the event and look forward to seeing you there. If not then I understand that the sessions will be recorded so I am hoping that a podcast of my talk will be available on my website by the end of March.

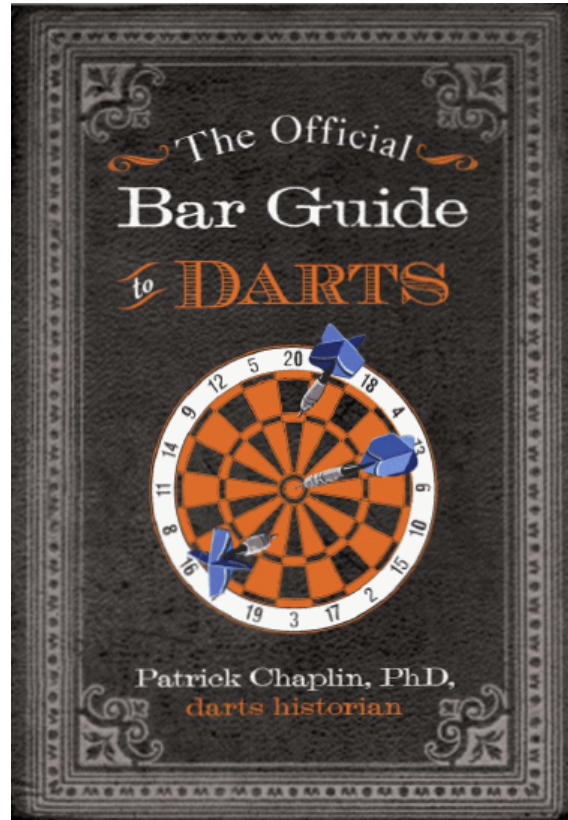
Books



After having two books published in 2009 in collaboration with three-time World Darts Champion John Lowe (*Old Stoneface* (Revised and updated paperback edition)) and *The Art of Darts*) plus the book based on my PhD (*Darts in England 1900-1939: A social history*) I am pleased to announce that my assault on the bookshelves continues into 2010.

My tuition book *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* is currently scheduled to be published in the USA by Sterling Publishing of New York in May/June this year and shortly afterwards in the UK. (Details for pre-ordering can be found via Amazon.) But “What’s that?” I hear you scream, “What does our old friend ‘Dr. Darts’ know about actually *playing* the game?” In fact that might be its primary selling point. To date all tuition books have been published by well-known and some not so well known darts players and enthusiasts ranging from John Lowe, Eric Bristow, Dave Whitcombe and the prolific George Silberzahn to Madeline Dolowich.

Well, I’m an enthusiast too and I see this book as a natural progression from my work on the history of the sport and working with the likes of John Lowe and Trina Gulliver on their autobiographies and the material I write for *We Love Darts*, *Darts World* and *Bull’s-eye News*. I can’t wait to see what the darting public make of it.



Talking of Trina Gulliver, you may recall that I ghosted her well-received autobiography *Golden Girl* which was published in 2008. Such a lot has happened in Trina’s life over the pass few years that I am trying to encourage publisher John Blake to produce a paperback version which will include additional chapters and material to bring her life story bang up to date including that ‘eighth wonder’; Trina regaining her world title at Lakeside in January. I’ll keep you informed of any progress.

George Foster

In April last year I was honoured to meet George Foster at a John Lowe/Bobby George exhibition in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. George was the ex-pat darter who with Australia’s Kevin White won the Unicorn World Pairs Championship for his adopted country in 1976.





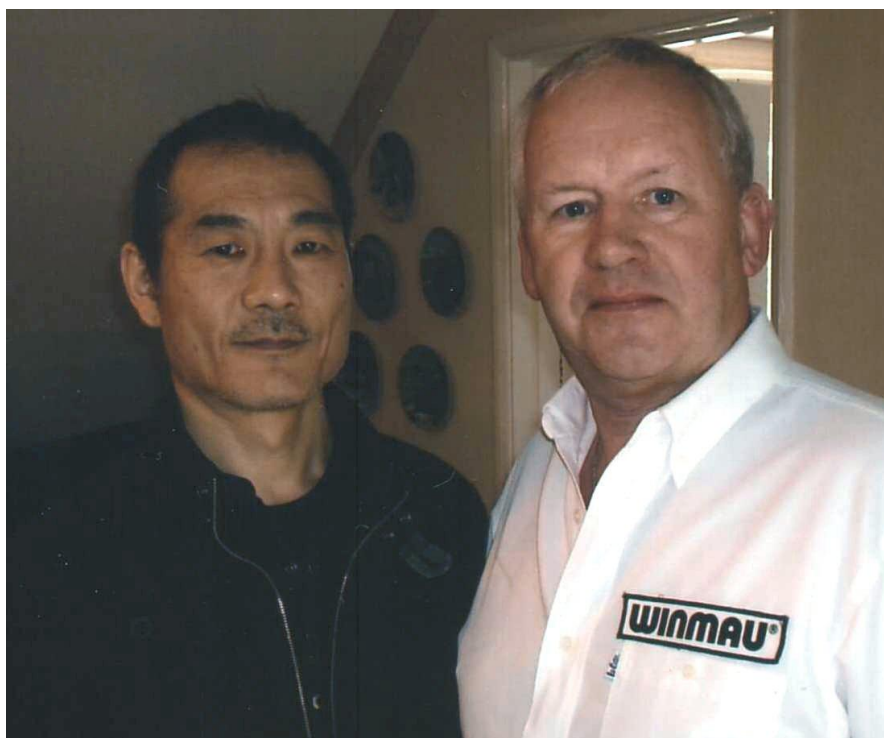
George with 'Dr. Darts' – April 2009

George and I had a few beers together and he agreed to a more formal interview via e-mail once he returned to Oz. The article resulting from that fascinating interview has been a long time coming (my fault entirely, not George's) but – Trust me. I'm a doctor – the article will appear on my website during March.

Japanese TV

One of the highlights of 2009 for me was the visit to my humble abode of Mr. Toshikazu Tani and his crew from Japanese TV. I was interviewed about the history of darts and a good deal of my darts memorabilia (particularly vintage dartboards) was filmed.





I meet Mr. Tani, Japanese TV producer – June 2009

It was great experience and I was allowed to wear the logo of my sponsors the WINMAU Dartboard Co., Ltd which was a bit of a result. The programme, titled 'Darts Night' was transmitted for the first time in Japan on 29th June. My Essex accent overdubbed in Japanese was one of the funniest things I've ever heard. Perhaps I ought to put it on YouTube?

Vietnam

Apologies are due to Lee Dutton and the Saigon International Darts League (SIDL). As with George Foster, I promised to include something on my website about darts in Vietnam. However, it took a reminder from Lee (who captains one of the SIDL teams) to prompt me to write it. All is now well though and the article 'Darts in Vietnam' was posted on my website at the end of January.

Darts History – Farebrother Darts

About five years ago I included in the 'Questions I can't answer' section of my website a request for more information about the London-based darts company Farebrother Darts. I am fascinated with the industrial history of darts and am now pleased to say that sufficient information has now been received to enable me to write about the company. The article was posted – AT LAST! – during January.



Sponsorship

I cannot end this *Newsletter* without a note of appreciation and to record my thanks to Nodor International Ltd, for agreeing to sponsor my research for another year. In particular I would like to thank Vince Bluck, Managing Director of Nodor International and Ian Flack, Sales and Marketing Director of the WINMAU Dartboard Co.

Coming up next time

I will be formally announcing my latest writing collaboration this time with Bobby George on a hilarious darts gift book that will be out in time for Christmas. Put *Bobby's Darts Lingo* on your Christmas list right now to avoid disappointment.

I will also be bringing you up to date on my research and anything else that I feel might fascinate you. Until then keep visiting www.patrickchaplin.com and reading my monthly revelations in the 'Madhouse' section of *We Love Darts* magazine.

Feedback

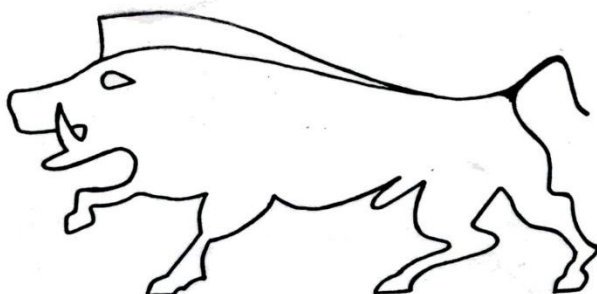
Well, that's it for the first 'Dr. Darts' *Newsletter*. I hope you've enjoyed it. I would be grateful for any feedback (positive or...) so just drop me a line.

Cheers!

Patrick

February 2010





OUT OF THE BLUE

OFFICIAL BULLSHEET OF THE BBMDC

NUMBER ONE.

SEPTEMBER 1980.

Hi there! This newsletter is the first of its kind ever to be produced on behalf of and for the Blue Boar Darts Club and, after much thought and discussion, has been cleverly entitled 'Number One'.

Basically the idea is to bring all members up to date with developments within the club, point out exciting things that have happened over the past few weeks and let members know what other members are up to, within reason. There will also be a chuck by chuck post match analysis and the latest progress being made in the internal competitions.

The newsletter is designed to inform and amuse - not offend. More importantly, it costs you, the paid-up member, ~~see~~ all nothing.

NEWS: Our intrepid Treasurer Colin Barrell has informed the Editorial team of 'OUT OF THE BLUE' that Steve Clark has somehow managed to pay his membership fee of £4 twice, whilst others are still trying to beat the first lot out of their wives etc. When asked for the obviously complex reasons why he had allowed his mind to wander, resulting in this fiscal extravagance Steve replied, "I ****in' forgot!" Banker Barrell is yet to decide whether or not a refund will be made.

REMINDER: Members are reminded that with the new season starting soon the club is looking for home and away fixtures, of the darts kind. Last year there was a good number of matches, mainly arranged by just a handful of drunks who kept finding themselves in strange pubs. Normally a good turn out can be guaranteed with enough notice so let's extract the digit lads and have a few more varied venues this winter.

Matches already in the pipeline for next season include the return of Everard's All-Stars and another quiet evening at the Chelmsford Rugby Club.

'ROOTS' TROPHY DRAW - The draw took place on the evening of 25th August at the Chairman's version of eight o'clock. A small crowd of about seven thought that the Committee were saying cheerio to each other over and over again as time after time they said, "BYE!" "BYE!". Fifteen 'Bye's' in all. Unfortunately for John V. and Dave Le Chef they are straight through to the Third Round without having to play a game. Hard luck lads.

As for the draw, well, the most interesting and watchable ties seem to be none of them.

Details on the Board.

I.



INSPIRED GOSLING - By now I expect that you have all been wondering which brain hit upon the title of 'OUT OF THE BLUE' for your very own newsheet. Well, credit has to go to our fully paid up colleague young Kevin Gosling, who is also the man responsible for copying facilities AND the designer of the newsheet logo.

DARTS LADDER SHOCK HORROR! A vicious rumour is going the rounds that one or two members are still playing games, jockeying for position at the top of the ladder. They are to stop this immediately and report to their psychiatrists.
Note: It is hoped to repair the ladder in the not too distant future.

NEXT NEWSHEET:

If required, the next sheet should appear around about 24th September. It all depends on your reaction to this first one. If you don't want it. Fair enough. Anybody with ideas or items for inclusion in a future ish should approach Pat or Kevin. DEADLINE-Wednesday 17th September.

COMING SOON!

SHOCK! - Banker Barrell reports on the Club financial state.

CRY! - At the emotional meeting of Patrick and his long lost (in fact never even knew he existed before) second cousin by marriage, Simon.

LAUGH! - with Vincent and Manning as they watch others playing their first and second round 'ROOTS' Trophy matches.

CHORTLE! - as Patrick brings out yet another different set of darts to further ruin his already fast deteriorating darts style.