

DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

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DARTS LOSES ANOTHER LEGEND

OBITUARY – LILIAN BARNETT

New Zealander, Lilian Broadbent (formerly Barnett) who made darts history in 1985 when she became the first non-British winner of the WINMAU Women's World Masters at the Rainbow Suite, Kensington, London in December that year, has died aged 76.



Back then the Masters was *the* most difficult top darts competition to win for both men and women. Starting from scratch, numerous floor rounds were played until the group final stages were reached where the last sixteen played off for a place in the quarter-finals.

In 1985 England's Dave Whitcombe won the Men's championship but it was a relatively unknown darter who lifted the Women's title, Lilian Barnett. Lilian hailed from New Zealand and was 8th in the BDO's Women's International Rankings but even so her name was not widely known but she certainly had experience on the oche. (Image PC/DW Archive. Used with permission.) Dave Whitcombe told me recently

Hi Pat. Yes I remember Lilian. Hailing from New Zealand I obviously didn't know her very well but I did speak to her a few times especially on the presentation evening of the World Masters. She was very pleasant to get on with and had a jovial personality. Lilian wasn't expected to win that day and if I remember rightly was one of the outsiders. But her darts play shocked everyone and she thoroughly deserved her title.

In the Group Finals Lilian beat Scotland's Margaret Drumm 3-0 and then, in the quarter-finals, overcame the challenge of Norway's Gierd Wage by a similar score line. Lilian's opponent in the semi-finals was England International and Manchester's Pat Connaughton. Lilian won 3-1.

In the legendary final outsider Lilian beat the England's Sonya Ralphs (who had won the title in 1983) 3-1. Lilian earned herself a cheque for £1,500 (over £4,500 in today's money) and twelve BDO world ranking points. She was the first non-British player to win the title since its inception in 1982 and the one and only winner to have played in the tournament in her bare feet! (The photograph here shows Lilian receiving a celebratory cuddle from



Big Cliff Lazarenko. Date and event not known.) Lilian later told *Darts World*, “I only play darts once or twice a month; just when I feel like it.”

Although she was not expected to win, anyone who had done their homework would have assessed Lilian as a threat. Since the 1970s Lilian’s catalogue of success reads like a darting almanac. She collected the New Zealand Ladies Singles on three occasions, the Australasian ladies singles, the New Zealand ladies pairs ‘several times’, the Pacific Masters twice, the Pacific Cup ladies singles and pairs, the Royal Hawaiian ladies singles and, in 1985, the WINMAU World Masters.



After the Masters win Lilian went on to lift the Mediterranean Open in 1986 beating England’s Gwen Sutton in the final and then third place in the British Open and runner-up in the British Gold Cup singles. The photo, left shows Lilian receiving the Mediterranean Open trophy from tournament sponsor Bob Brown.

Lilian also played County darts for Middlesex Ladies ‘B’ team, winning all her matches for that County without dropping a leg. Not surprisingly she moved to the ladies ‘A’ side.

Lilian told *Darts World*

Not only were my opponents skilful players but games were played in terrific spirit and friendship. Without the support, help and advice of those players I would not have been able to stay for so long.

Two years later Lilian was interviewed by *Darts World* magazine during which she revealed that she had only come over to Britain for three months, her visit sponsored by Puma Products. However, due to personal problems back home, decided to extend her stay for a further nine months. As soon as the sponsorship money dried up Lilian had been forced to dip into her savings. Although tournament prize money helped Lilian told *Darts World*

I had hoped to stay on at the end of the twelve months but when I applied for a work permit and extension to my visa it was turned down. This has put a lot of strain and pressure on my game, knowing that I have to find the fare to get back home.

Lilian added

I love the darts scene over here. It’s all-year round and of a very high standard. It is easy to appreciate why players are so good.

Lilian then returned to New Zealand and a little later married again and became Lilian Broadbent.

At the end of her *Darts World* interview in February 1987 Lilian told the reporter that her long-term aim was to return home and, with the lessons learned during her year in Britain, work hard on attracting new sponsors to the sport of darts in New Zealand. She saw these as

vital ingredients if the land of the Kiwi was to make a serious assault into the top echelon of world darts. In addition she planned to groom future champions. She said

I have tasted victory champagne. I should like others to have the chance. I want to promote the sport and bring fresh new players into the game because they are the players of tomorrow...Already in New Zealand we have junior darts nights but I think the key to attracting new young blood is through families... It's going to a lot of hard work but it is a challenge I am looking forward to.

When Lilian contacted me out of the blue in 2000 via my website www.patrickchaplin.com I was thrilled and wanted to know more about her career. Lilian informed me that she had given up playing darts for five years following a work-related accident in 1989 but was, at the time of our correspondence, playing for Western Australia (WA). She had first played for WA in 1996 and 'went through with flying colours.' She told me

I topped the averages. When I first came to WA ladies the team were averaging 15 per dart so I guess it was easy for me. But since then ladies darts have made it bigger. They are now getting in with no less than 20 per dart. Even Dot McLeod [another top Australian lady darter at the time] is actually playing to the tune of 23 per dart.

In November 2000 I received the final e-mail from Lilian in which she wrote

Since I have been in WA I have won everything from State Masters and ranking tournaments [and the] mixed doubles [and] ladies doubles and I can still give Australia's number one a run for her money but I guess I am not so consistent because I don't get a mention by the selectors.

Lilian then told me about a 'legends group' in Australia which 'I might end up playing for them as they only take 45 years and over so there might be a chance for me there.' Whether or not Lilian joined the legends is unknown.

What is known is that, according to her husband David Broadbent, who was married to Lilian for the last 30-plus years

Lilian retired from darts around in the early 2000s after we moved to Gingin, about 80 km north of Perth as it was getting too [difficult to] travel, as I was working away from home and couldn't drive her to darts. She took up bowls and played for Gingin and Bindoon in the local league for a few years until her health prevented her from playing any longer, although she still enjoyed a game of social bowls and watching the game.

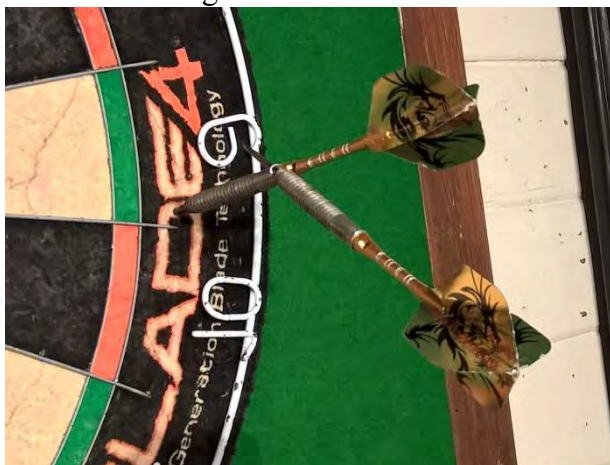
Still the only winner of the WINMAU Women's World Masters to hail from the southern hemisphere, Lilian will always be remembered as a bubbly happy-go-lucky, fun-loving extrovert New Zealander (a Maori by birth) darter whose darts skills stunned her opponents whilst in Britain and earned her life-long respect from the darts community both here and in New Zealand and later Australia.

Lilian was a true darts star.

(Lilian Broadbent (b. 16th June 1942 d. 13th August 2018) is survived by her husband David and two sons, Arthur and Robert, and a daughter Angela and 'many grandchildren'.)

COLIN'S 'ROBIN HOOD'

I still play 'casual darts' once or twice a month with my best friend Colin Barrell and have to mention a strange shot he achieved when we were playing at our local pub, the *Carpenters Arms*, last month; a shot that I have never seen before.



We've all heard of and witnessed 'Robin Hooding' where a following dart sticks into the stem or the flight of an earlier dart or where a dart hangs between the two previously thrown darts after failing to penetrate the dartboard but not fall out. Well, look at the photograph here and see what happened.

Colin threw his first dart looking to hit double six. When he threw his second it actually pierced the ring between stem and barrel! That surely begs the question "What is the strangest darts shot *you* have ever witnessed?" Let me know at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com. I will publish the best 'shots'.

BULLING UP

George Hakim, darts writer and long-time darts player writes

One interesting darting point I would like your opinion on. The other day I played a friend at darts we had one dart each up for centre to see who would throw first. He went first and hit the bull. I said "Leave it in and I will knock it out." I threw my dart knocking his out and leaving mine in the 25. He said he was first and called me a cheat when I said "No" as my dart was in the board but his on the floor.

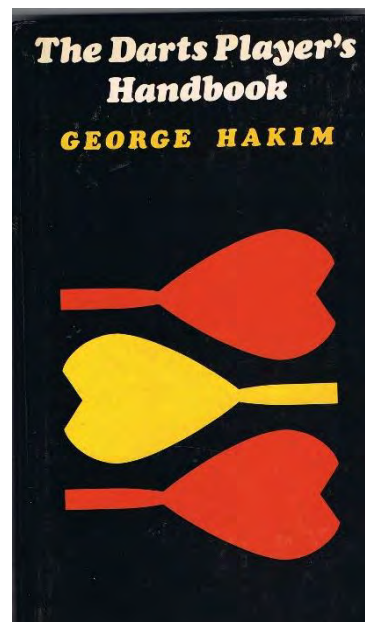
I allowed him another try but he did not beat my 25. In my view the shot I made should entitle me to go first as it is a very hard shot to pull off. However the rules are you have to have a dart in the board so I consider I was correct to give him another throw up centre.

Do you know of a rule to cover this event and who do you think was in the right?

I replied to George as follows:

I always thought that if you are 'bulling up' to decide who starts first and the first player hits the bullseye that first dart is removed so that the second player can see it properly.

Checking on the BDO rules, there doesn't seem to be a specific 'bulling up' rule except when it comes to a tie-break situation. Rule 24.04 states



'Darts that hit and remain in the Bull, or 25 bed, shall be retrieved by the player before the opponent throws a dart.'

Enquiring of the PDC, Head of Media, Dave Allen, told me

Regarding the bullseye rule, we changed in 2007/2008 to the system where the previous dart was removed. Now, the darts would be classed as either "bull, 25 or outside" when being thrown, and the second player would have a clear board to throw at.

Rule 5.12 in the Darts Regulation Authority rules is what applies to PDC events, where stated

<http://www.thedra.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DRA-Rules-final-140115.pdf>

In the Premier League, we would not do a bull-off during the normal league games, which are done on a "home and away" basis, so if the players meet twice during the league season, one throws first in the earlier meeting and the other throws first in the second meeting.

George replied

Hello, Thanks very much. As I thought. Nobody has allowed for such a skill shot. Perhaps it is time for it to be introduced, could be a subject for your newsletter.

Has anyone any further thoughts?

ALISTAIR FORRESTER AND THE SOU'WESTER BAR

I've recently been contacted by Scottish darts fan Charlie McTruth to whom I sent a copy of my obituary relating to Alistair Forrester which appeared in last month's issue. Charlie wrote

Sorry to hear of the passing of Alistair "Choo Choo" Forrester; a real nice guy [and by the way] the famous Glasgow pub, the Sou'Wester just closed its doors last month [August].

The Sou'wester was breeding ground for top Glaswegian and Scottish International players including the famous Harry Heenan. It's always sad to read of such a famous venue being closed. Perhaps Scottish readers of *DDN* can provide me with further information about its demise.

TONY LITTLEWOOD

Charlie then thought back to his own memories of playing darts three or four decades ago. He asked

Do you know of a darter called Tony Littlewood? He came to Glasgow in the 70's/80's. He was the best money player I've ever seen bar none. It was a pleasure to lose £10 [to him in] 1976.

To be honest I'd never heard of Tony Littlewood until Charlie mentioned him but then that's not really surprising given the huge number of very good players there were back in the day. However, upon searching through my archive I discovered the following information.

Tony was born on 21 July 1943. He hailed from Sheffield and was a Yorkshire County player and a bricklayer by trade.

He won the first Leicestershire Open (organised by the Leicestershire Darts Organisation) held at the Miner's Welfare Centre, Coalville, on Sunday 16th December 1979.



According to the then Leicester BDO Director, Bill Gibson, in a letter to *Darts World* the event was 'a great success' with 1216 entries with another 400 having to be refused; such was the popularity of this new competition. The Open was sponsored by brewers Bass Worthington and Mitchells and Butler. Tony beat Kent's Dave Whitcombe in the final to win a huge trophy and the first prize of £1,000. (That would be the equivalent of £5,500 today.)

In 1980 Tony crossed the Pennines into Oldham, Lancashire to enter the inaugural Lancashire Darts Open. A total of 658 darters entered that tournament, sponsored by Wilson's Brewery, including former World Champion John Lowe and the then British Open champion Cliff Lazarenko. Surprisingly, John, who was favourite to win the two-day event, went out in the early rounds while Cliff lost in the last sixteen to Lancashire and England star Eric Parkinson.

Littlewood's road to the final was not always easy with his toughest game coming in the quarter finals against Parkinson and then Blackpool's Jack Kellard in the semi-final. Having made the final Littlewood met with England team-mate and Derbyshire's Jim Beardmore. Tony secured the win 3-0 winning another £1,000.

Interestingly, the report of the Lancashire Open mentioned a *lady* player! Competing against the men, the lady to go furthest in the competition was Lesley Kershaw who, according to *Darts World*

'...kept the flag flying for the ladies until she was beaten by Lazarenko in the last 32. She [received] a consolation kiss from Wilson sales executive Brian Lemmy.'

Condescending or what???

If I discover anything further about the career of Tony Littlewood I will publish it in a future *DDN*.

OLDEST WDF WORLD CUP PARTICIPANT?

Jacques 'Mastercaller' Nieuwlaat (pictured below) has e-mailed me. He wrote:

Hi Patrick. Greetings from Holland. Been catching up on reading the DDN's from the last months. Keep up the good work. It's always a pleasure reading them.

I have a question to which I hope you may have an answer. One of my friends from Iceland asked me this via e-mail and I didn't really have a definitive answer for him. The question was:

Our player, Thorgeir Gudmundsson is turning 74 in October. Could he be the oldest national team player in the A-Team in the world?



To be honest, I couldn't think of a player who was older during one of the WDF Cups I've been working at, but that doesn't mean there hasn't been someone older. Do you know of someone?

I've scoured my archive and can find references to over 70s (both men and women) playing darts but only at a local level. I had never given any thought to who the oldest international player is/was or for that matter who the oldest *County* player is here in the UK.

So can you help? If so, please write to me at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com.

DYFRI JONES – FEEDBACK

In #100 I recorded the darting life of Dyfri Jones (nicknamed 'The Rabbi'). I am grateful to Glamorgan Team Manager Kevin R. Jones who has told me Dyfri played 47 matches for the Glamorgan County side.

Dyfri is shown here (pictured right) on his retirement from Glamorgan County Darts circa 1990. (Image © PC/DW Archive. Used with permission.)



TOM BARRETT AND THE FRASERBURGH DARTS LEAGUE

In last month's issue I detailed, in his own words, the story of how darts legend Tom Barrett donated his *News of the World* cup, awarded to him for his 1964 tournament win, to the Fraserburgh Darts League to be competed for in perpetuity in memory of those who died in the Fraserburgh Lifeboat disaster of January 1970.



Tom also donated the Brown Bear cup, a cup that was regularly fought for at his local pub, the *Brown Bear* Hanworth, Middlesex. The team from the pub was so good that, after winning the league seven times out of eight years, the league went into liquidation!

More recently legendary darts commentator John Gwynne (pictured left) took a trip to Scotland and reported back, on line about his visit. He told his fans

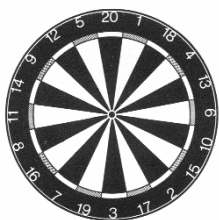
A long trip but well worth it. Thanks to the Fraserburgh League for looking after me, my brother Alan and Scott Waites over the weekend. This is the league's individual champion's trophy, donated by the legendary Tom Barrett when he travelled up from London to do their presentation in the 1970s. It's the actual 1964 News of the World trophy, the first of two the great man won in successive years.

As far as I am aware the Tom Barrett *News of the World* cup is still contested for at Fraserburgh but I have no confirmation that this is correct. Is the *Brown Bear* trophy still fought over? Perhaps DDN's Scottish readers can help.

THE KENT DOUBLES DARTBOARD

Former WINMAU World Master and England international player Dave Whitcombe has contacted me for help. He wrote

I wonder if you or any of your readers of DDN can shed some light on what is the true Kent Doubles Board. Here in Kent we only have a few Doubles Board leagues left as most of them have changed to the trebles board over the last 30 years. However, those that are still going play on two different boards.



The first, and the one that I grew up with, is played in the Medway area and is very much like the Lincolnshire [or Yorkshire] Board.

The second, which is used in Sittingbourne and Maidstone, has a larger playing area which almost reaches to the edge of the board, thus numbers have to be stencilled onto the surround.

[pictured right] *But which one is the true Doubles Board of Kent, or to make it easier, the oldest? Would you have that information or maybe your readers can help?*



Can you help solve this dilemma? If so, please contact me at the usual address.

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