

DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

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BBC SCOTLAND - NEW DOCUMENTARY ABOUT JOCKY WILSON

During the last week in January I was visited by Producer/Director Liam McArdle and award-winning cameraman Rick Walker from BBC Scotland who are making a documentary film about the late, great, unforgettable, Jocky Wilson, who passed away in March 2012.



According to Liam, it appears that my archive of cuttings, photographs and memorabilia relating to Jocky is the largest his production team could locate so he was keen to have access to it and to interview me. Liam and Rick can be seen here examining my photographs of Jocky and back issues of *Darts World*.

(I was very grateful to my friend Patrick Dee, known as 'The Curator of Darts', for the loan of a set of Jocky's Datadart darts, flights and ring stems for the BBC visit; things that my archive are lacking.)

Liam told me that, provided he can accumulate enough quotes from Jocky from my archive and other sources the, as yet untitled, documentary will be chronologically shaped around Jocky's own words. As far as I can recall, that's an original take on the life of a legendary darts player. Whatever the case, Liam's enthusiasm for his subject is amazing. (He and Rick were with me for *six* hours!) It is hoped that the film will be completed during April.

I will, of course, keep you all informed of developments.

BROKEN STEMS - FEEDBACK

Subscriber Tom Cole writes:

Hi Patrick, Just reading the latest newsletter (Bravo again on another enjoyable edition!) and I've just read the bit about Justin Pipe and his broken stem. Darren who runs Dartz Nutz made a video about dealing with broken stems a little while ago, which you might find useful/enlightening in answer to your appeal for information on the topic! Here's the link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir6sA_6TiB0

I've personally used his technique of using the point of the other dart as a 'key' to twist the broken stem out of the barrel and can vouch that it works.

Thanks Tom.

WORLD DARTS FEDERATION (WDF) RULES – SOME ENLIGHTENMENT

It's been a long while since anyone has asked for clarification of the rules of darts so I am very pleased that, after writing to thank me for featuring the Australian Legends in *DDN*, League Chairman Bob Weaver has raised a query about the WDF regulations.

Hi Patrick. Hope you can enlighten me a little. The rules to finishing can be a little confusing at times. Below are extracts from WDF rules as at 2018.



2.05 The Bust Rule shall apply, i.e. if a player in a throw scores more points than remain in the leg or match, or the same points as remain without finishing on a double, or leaves a score of one, then that throw shall not count and the score shall remain as it was prior to that throw.

2.06 A 'Game Shot' called by a Caller is valid only if the darts thrown achieve the required finish and remain in the dartboard until retrieved after the 'Game Shot' has been called.

(Bob: *This one is a no brainer.***)**

2.07 If a 'Game Shot' called by a Caller is invalid, then the player shall have the right to continue that throw, i.e. if all three darts have not already been thrown.

2.08 If as a result of an error in Clause 2.05 the player has retrieved any of the darts and not all three darts have been thrown, then the Referee shall replace the retrieved dart or darts in as near as is practicable the same position and permit the player to complete the throw.

(Bob: *This one is rather ambiguous. Does it mean if a scorer misinforms the player of what he has left (i.e. 32 but in fact needs 22) and the player hits it the scorer calls check darts. Do I then have the right to say that it's wrong as it was an invalid call? And as he has thrown his three darts is it treated as a bust score?***)**

2.09 The first player who finishes by obtaining the required double out shall be declared the winner of that leg or match, whichever is applicable. A dart thrown by a player after finishing shall not count.

Clearly, I was in no position to interpret the WDF rules but who better to turn to for expert advice than the legendary MC Richard Ashdown (popularly known of course as 'Little Richard') (pictured on the next page). Here's what Richard had to say:

To answer Bob's query...All darts thrown count, regardless of what the referee may tell you is left during the throw. For example, if you require 101 and hit T19 and I tell you that it's 54 left, and you hit 14 and D20... and THEN I realise that I made an error as referee and it

should have been 44 left... the darts in the board still count. No dart can ever be re-thrown. I would call no score (and apologise!).



Rule 2.08 is only in the case of a bust score or game shot being declared by the referee after one or two darts being thrown, and after retrieval the referee realising an error. The first dart(s) will be put back in the board and the remaining dart(s) can be thrown.

An example would be, a player requires 116. Hit's two T19 and the scorer declares 'no score', the player retrieves darts and then the referee realises (or is made aware) that it was only 114 scored. The two darts are put back in the board by the referee and then the player throws his last dart, requiring 2.

Please note that this is only in the case of the turn being declared as over (bust/game shot) by the referee. If a player during any turn walks up to the board and retrieves after one or two darts (thinking he'd bust, or checked out) the score is called at the moment of retrieval and the turn is over. They cannot return for their last dart(s).

This rule often gets queried, and in all my time officiating darts, I've never actually seen it happen.

I hope this helps!

It certainly does. Thanks Richard.

(Image of Richard © WINMAU, Used with permission.)

HOW OLD IS MY DARTBOARD? – FEEDBACK

In last month's issue I featured an enquiry from Mark S. asking how old his ACCUDART/WINMAU dartboard was and, thanks to my colleagues at WINMAU, I was able to provide chapter and verse. Having read that part of the February *DDN*, memories came flooding back to subscriber Don Way who wrote:

Dear Patrick, I have subscribed to your newsletter for a number of years now, and was surprised to see my dart board pictured in the February edition. I purchased the same board [See photo, right] August 1983 in Delaware, at the Base Exchange soon after I entered the Air Force. The last few years it has seen little use, but I have just hung it up again and I'm playing it regularly now. It's holding up well, but if you look closely [and] you can see where the wires and staples have bounced out a number of darts. Too bad it's not a "rare-find"!



I'm a huge fan of the newsletter, keep up the excellent work!

MOST DIFFICULT THREE-DART OUTSHOT - FEEDBACK

In last month's *DDN* I discussed a point raised by subscriber Mat Coward relating to awarding a prize for the most difficult three-dart outshot. I recalled a conversation during the commentary on the BDO/Lakeside World Championships involving Paul 'The Asset'



Nicholson (pictured left). I was unclear what exactly was said so I asked Paul. He replied:

Hi Patrick, It was myself and Chris [Mason] that outlined the 143 as one of the most difficult finishes. The reason we singled out that one was because Oliver Ferenc hit it in his first round match and we said that because he used a highly positioned treble, then a lower positioned treble, then a double which was laterally positioned thereafter, it made the 143 one of the

most difficult shots to get, alongside the likes of 147 (the traditional way), 139 and 153.

Thanks Paul.

(Image of Paul © Lawrence Lustig/PDC. Used with permission.)

Thanks too to those eagle-eyed *DDN* readers who pointed out to me the error in that piece on page 8 of #107 in which I stated that the finish for 143 was 'T19, T20, **D36**'.

AND from across the pond comes a response from Jay Tomlinson (pictured below, right) the now apparently, but I find it very hard to believe, 'retired' former owner and editor of *Bulls-Eye News* (*BEN*) the longest-ever running darts magazine in the USA. He writes:

Dear Patrick my friend... It's been a while since writing you, but know that I enjoy reading your Dr. Darts' Newsletters all the time. I guess it has something to do with devoting my career to darts and publishing the Bull's-Eye News for 35 years.

Anyway, your article titled "What About A Prize For The Most Difficult Finish" interested me to respond as, in my mind, there can be only one answer to this question (assuming, of course, that the article's title refers only to finishing dart games of 501). [Which it does.]

The article suggests that a finish requiring two different trebles and a double all in different parts of the board would be more difficult than hitting the 170 finish. Let's assume that's true, and let's assume that two different trebles and a double all in different parts of the dartboard is the most difficult finish. I suggest, however, that any combination of two different trebles and a double to finish are equally as difficult as any other. So why do I suggest there can be only one answer to this question?



*The most difficult finish to a 501 game of darts is the required finish **after throwing 6 perfect darts!** While the perfect 9-dart game has been performed many times, I would suggest that it is the least finish of any other finish, worldwide. A difficult finish is compounded by the pressure under which a player experiences during the game or match. However, there might be an even more difficult finish than the perfect game as sometimes the perfect game finish has less pressure than the following.*

*One might also say that an even more difficult finish might be two trebles and a double in different parts of the dartboard **with this game being the decider of the match** and your opponent is resting on 32, 40 or his favorite double. It would be difficult to prove, but if one could use the World Championships as the sample and count the number of perfect 9-dart games **hit and missed** over the time matches have been recorded and count the number of three darts match finishes requiring two different trebles and a double in different parts of the dartboard and with the opponent resting on his favorite double **hit and missed** over the same time frame, you might find that the match shot under this circumstance is a more difficult finish, statistically. There! The challenge has been laid down! Undoubtedly, someone will tackle this problem and try to go back through all the records to prove this true!*

So there you have my 2¢ worth opinion (and that's probably all it's worth!). Too much fun Patrick :-)) 😊! All the best my friend!

AUSTRALIAN DARTS LEGENDS – TERRY O'DEA

Following my mention of Australian darts legend Terry O'Dea in the February DDN I have found a story about him in my archive.

So often the photographs I hold have little information about the *where* and *when* such images were taken (which is very frustrating to say the least) but in this case all the necessary details are available.

Accompanying this photograph of Terry is a typed press release dated 28th May 1985 headed ‘‘VICTORIA’ MEETS AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DARTS CHAMPION’. It reads

Mr. Terry O'Dea, the 1985 Australian National Darts Champion visited Taylor Walker's 'Victoria' pub in Charterhouse Street [London] E.C.1., last Friday to throw a few darts with the locals and share in some draught Castlemaine XXXX lager newly arrived at the pub.



Mr. O'Dea took on 22 locals in separate games of best of three 501 as well as showing them some special trick shots. A playing fee of £1 and a bar raffle during the evening helped raise £170 for MENCAP (charity for mentally handicapped children).

Pictured here is Mr. Terry O'Dea (left) and the landlord of the 'Victoria', Mr. Richard Bellamy.

I am assuming that, as Australian champion, Terry would have, at the time, been sponsored by Castlemaine and that such evenings were part of his contractual obligations, promoting the lager throughout London and beyond, with trick shots always being included to amuse and amaze the customers.

Subsequent research has revealed that the *Victoria* pub, where Terry demonstrated his art of darts, although trading at least until 1989, was demolished in the early 1990s.

VOGELPIK

In *DDN* #97 (April 2018) Richard Phillipson of the Embsay & Eastby Garage Darts League (EEGDL), based here in the UK, asked where he could obtain a board for playing the darts game of Vogelpik. The EEGDL are well-known for playing on a wide variety of different dartboards and vogelpik was something they had not tried before. Now they can. Richard told me recently:

Thought you may be interested to know I've received a Vogelpik board, handmade in



Michigan USA along with 8 birch wood piks complete with turkey feathers. Big River Darts supplied the board with excellent efficient service and regular communication via email. I'd happily recommend them to anyone else wishing to purchase from abroad.

That's great news as Richard and his team mates can now plan a vogelpik tournament as part of their schedule of *al fresco* darts for the coming EEGDL season. Doubtless Richard will keep us informed. (The photo, left, shows a well-loved vogelpik board

from my collection.)

One thing that does concern me is that Richard was provided with *eight* birch wood piks. Why not six or nine? Perhaps my understanding that you need three piks per throw in vogelpik is wrong. Can anyone help clarify this for me? If you can help, please contact me at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com.

WHAT IS A 'BRISTLE' DARTBOARD MADE OF AGAIN?

Back in issue #104 (November 2018) in a feature titled 'The Dartboard made of Biscuits' I mentioned that 'bristle' dartboards were made from sisal and definitely *not* pig or hog bristles or horsehair.

The 'pig bristle' myth had first been introduced in the 1930s and became part of dart lore, being included in one dart book in particular as late as the 1980s. Through my work of dispelling darts myths I had included this outrageous theory in my book *180! - Fantastic Darts Facts* (Stroud: The History Press, 2012, pp 34-35).

I thought that this would be the end of it but, more recently, Vince Bluck, Managing Director of NODOR International Ltd, the company which originally patented the bristle dartboard in 1932, wrote to me saying

Pat, you'll love this one...I've just phoned a local company we deal with and ended up speaking to someone who used to work [for NODOR] in 1986. I didn't recognise his name, so I asked what department he was working in. His response was, and no word of a lie:

Moving the bins with the Camel Hair in....

And this is from someone who used to not only work here but actually worked in the department processing sisal!!!

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Now camel hair is being added to the myth!

As we were discussing 'biscuits' I wondered whether or not NODOR, or any other dartboard manufacturing company, has ever in the past made a bristle dartboard advertising actual **biscuits**. I can't recall any 'Cream Cracker', 'Garibaldi' or 'Custard Cream' dartboards or, in fact, any biscuit company that ever used darts in its advertising but, hopefully, *DDN* readers will be able to clarify this, especially those amongst you who collect dartboards.

Drop me a note at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com if you can help.

NEW eBooks LAUNCHED

Back in 2015 Nigel Boeg, a darts enthusiast, player and collector of darts stats, contacted me. He wrote:

I've been collecting/compiling tournament results from around the world for the last 25 years. As you can imagine it's a lot of data and the electronic files are getting bigger every year. I'd like some advice/help on actually publishing this work. Any suggestions?

More recently Nigel he contacted me again, thanking me for the advice I had given him and bringing me up-to-date. He told me about himself:

I've been a dart player for over 30 years and reside in the UK. I've played at all levels in the game except for County (I was in the team for London but did not play) and the PDC tour but I have played on the Challenge tour and various qualifiers.

I got into dart stats as I was always interested in past tournament results and just couldn't find details unless they were the majors within the BDO. When I came across results in newspapers and magazines I collated them and filed them in the respective countries that those tournaments were based. The research has just grown.

The good news is that Nigel has published not one but two eBooks.

He told me:

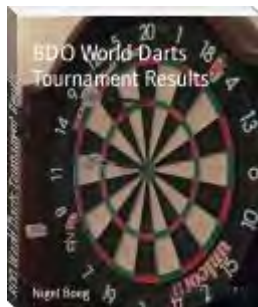
One is about Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) tournament results with useful dart links, details of past and present players, nicknames and walk on music and a bibliography of material published about Darts.



The eBook that is available is titled “PDC Darts” and is available on Amazon, Apple iBookstore, kobo, Google, and some other stores (using Bookrix.com as the publishing platform). The cost is £2.99 (sterling). ISBN 978-3-7438-9084-8.

Nigel added

This is a very basic eBook and provides links to other resources as well as basic facts all in place without having to search the internet and go to different sites.



Nigel's second eBook concerns the British Darts Organisation (BDO) World Championship results using the same format as the PDC publication with the exception of dart player's details. The BDO edition costs £1.99 (sterling). ISBN 978-3-7438-9183-8.

His publishing will not end there. He told me

Later this year I'll have another publication (following the same format) for UK Darts Tournament Results which will provide details of tournaments in England, Scotland, Wales, Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland.

Nigel is also hoping to publish more books which will cover the European countries, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, etc.

Doubtless Nigel's collecting of stats continues apace.

AND FINALLY...AN APOLOGY

Sincere apologies to Scotland's darts historian, Jim MacNeil, who I mentioned in the lead article in last month's *DDN*. I inadvertently moved him to Aberdeen when in fact, as I well know, he lives in Inverness!

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