

DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

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BARBADOS SPECIAL EDITION

BARBADOS AND THE WORLD AMATEUR DARTS ORGANISATION



It's always great to hear from people far and wide who ask to subscribe to *DDN* and so this month I welcome Pierre LeFleuve and his friends from Barbados. Pierre writes

Dear Doctor Darts (Patrick)

Your address was given me by my wife's cousin Karl Groves in Aruba and I have please a query and a request. I play darts as a poor player and merely as a pub

hobby but I love more so the history of the game and I am reliably told by Karl anything anyone wants to know in the sport of darts you will have or will be able to supply the answers nothing is beyond your knowledge and talents.

(Well, thank you Pierre for that vote of confidence. I will, of course, do my best and, in this case, with a little help from my friend Eddie Norman.) Pierre continues:

I live and work here on our beautiful west coast of the Caribbean island of Barbados Would I be too rude if I could please ask you to send me your monthly darts history's magazine by e-mail.

(Not 'rude' at all Pierre. The more the merrier.)

Karl in Aruba has sent me a few past copies (when he remembers) but tells me that his long time contact has retired or will be retiring shortly and I would like to receive my own copy if possible.

The query that I have is a joint one from several interested darting Bajans here and is before my time. My late father told of how in 1982 darts exploded here on Barbados when the World Amateur Darts Organisation was set up here in St Philips. The first World Amateur Darts Individual Championship was played here and sponsored by Caribbean Airways. Eighteen countries took part including Jamaica, England, Australia, Guyana, Canada, Fiji, Venezuela and St Lucia.

The 1982 winner and Gold Medallist we have found after much research was a Bernie Manton of Worcester in England [pictured, right on next page. Photo © PC/DW Archive. Used with permission], silver Medallist was Herbie 'Tengeh' Brown of Jamaica and Bronze

Medallist was Kevin Hayes of the USA. Can you possibly fill in any gaps and advise us where these three players are now and a little background on them. Are they still playing darts?

Furthermore, who organised the event here on Barbados? We understand it was a fantastic week of darts. And is the World Amateur Darts Organisation still operating today? We do know it stayed and was organised on Barbados until about 1993/1994 and then had a new General Secretary I believe and left Barbados.



We hope you can educate us on the part history of darts a little in our country and others may also possibly be interested, we would love more information.

I have no doubts Pierre that others would certainly be interested. DDN readers will know by now that, whenever darts in other countries is mentioned, the name of Dr. Eddie Norman is always the first to spring into my mind. Barbados is no exception. I wrote to the recently retired Eddie and he replied as follows:

I travelled to Barbados in 1975 and 1977 where I had a client called Caribbean Sports and Darts Accessories. It was run by Evan and Pat Goddard who actually stayed with Anne and myself on a visit to Bristol to visit The House of Darts International.

I used to send dartboards, darts and darts accessories to Barbados from Avonmouth the major port here in Bristol. Ships brought in bananas from the West Indies, and part of the returning cargo was darts and darts and accessories from The House of Darts International heading for the sun.

Evan, at the time, was also a senior director of the Barbados Light and Power Company. He was a very keen darts player and I helped set up the Barbados Darts Association of which Evan became the General Secretary.

Working with Evan and other interested Amateur Darts organisations from around the world, I set up the inaugural World Amateur Darts Organisation and it was decided to hold a meeting to get up and running in Barbados in 1981 [not 1982 as Pierre thought]. We also decided to hold the inaugural World Amateur Singles Darts Championship at the same time.

Each country would hold play offs to send a representative. Dave Yeo from Canada and Ray Costello from Australia were founder board members.

Evan Goddard was elected General Secretary of WADO as it was known. Dave Yeo of Canada was elected President and I was elected the Global ambassador. Eighteen countries attended the inaugural meeting.

The first championship was sponsored by Caribbean Airways and Evan Goddard arranged complimentary hotels for all the participants. The winners were to receive medals, Gold, Silver and Bronze. The event was sold out and attended by the British Ambassador to meet the participants.

We had a friendly match against a local Barbadian team whilst waiting for the international players to arrive, and it was nine a side, and we were one player short so against my better judgment, I filled in, and was drawn against [an] undertaker... He was a wonderful guy who cheered us up. Needless to say I was soundly beaten.

The winner [of the WADO darts tournament] was Bernie Manton from Worcester who represented the British Inter City Darts Organisation [BICDO] after winning the BICDO play-offs. Bernie played for Warwickshire in the BDO Inter Counties. I am not sure if he is still playing.

Hubert 'Tengeh' Brown, representing Jamaica was Silver medallist. I believe he is still playing and the last I heard he was on the board of the Jamaica Darts Association. ['Tengeh' means a true or dependable friend'.] The Bronze medallist was the late Kevin Hayes of Virginia, USA.

The World Amateur Darts Organisation still runs 'beneath the radar' as it is what it says 'Amateur' and is currently based in Spain.

Thanks Eddie.

Keen to find out if the event in Barbados was ever properly recorded, I set about researching back issues of *Darts World* magazine.

In the August 1981 issue I found a short article 'Amateurs off to Barbados' announcing just that and listing some of the participants. It included a photograph of Canada's Dave Yeo (shown here). The tournament was set for 8th-15th August. No information regarding the results of that tournament ever appeared in *Darts World*.



However, in October 1981 a headline on page 3 reads of the magazine read 'B.D.O. ACTS ON 'AMATEUR' EVENT - 'This is making a mockery of darts'. It tells of the controversy generated by the tournament in Barbados which resulted in the winner, Bernie Manton, being suspended from the BDO's inter-counties championship for participating in that event. The article added that the BDO (and later the WDF too) had outlawed the WADO. Eddie Norman confirmed that Bernie was later reinstated with Warwickshire and that bans on other participants by the BDO were short-lived or simply shelved. He told me, "No bans were ever enforced or mentioned again after the initial furore." Eddie added

"Olly did ban everyone who took part in BICDO from the BDO, but these things were never put in writing to anyone, and Olly would still ring up to see what was happening and never mentioned any bans. I think stating things in Darts World was as far as he wanted to go. Olly was, in effect, the WDF as well as the BDO and likewise he (the WDF) would tell people that they were banned but never in writing..."

The December 1981 issue of *Darts World* featured an article headed 'W.D.F. pleas to stay united.' It cited the case of the Barbados tournament which was 'organised by a body called

the World Darts Organisation [which] was not sanctioned by the W.D.F.' In the May 1982 issue an article titled 'W.D.O. don't want to upset anyone' in which the W.D.F. stated that their member countries should "stand united in their opposition to such rival bodies."

Eddie Norman confirmed recently that there never was a **World Darts Organisation** (certainly not that he was never involved with) and that clearly *Darts World* had meant the World *Amateur* Darts Organisation.

Of the winner and other players in the tournament Eddie recalled

Bernie Manton played in the British-Inter City Darts Organisation and also went back to playing for Warwickshire in the BDO. The almost entire Warwickshire County side played in BICDO, So did the West of England Darts Organisation, Devon, Wiltshire and Somerset teams. I do not know a lot about Bernie. He stayed a week for the tournament in Barbados, was an outstanding player and his big friend was Den Carver from Worcestershire, who also played for BICDO and took part in the 1981 tournament.

When Derek Brown's *The Guinness Book of Darts* was published in 1981, Bernard 'Bernie' Manton had already earned himself a mention. Brown wrote:

***Manton, Bernard** (b 21 Aug. 1938), from Worcester, is a left-hander who built up an impressive record for Warwickshire county. In 1980, the first year of the Inter-City League, which then used the half-size doubles and trebles board, he topped the tons table.*

Back to Eddie:

Hubert 'Tengeh' Brown, I contacted a few years ago. He still plays darts and was on the Jamaica Darts Association council. But believe he now plays darts in Florida, but still plays for the Jamaica National Team.

When 'Tengeh' arrived in Barbados [in August 1981], he was the smartest player there, in a green blazer, and smart trousers and came with his manager equally as smart. When 'Tengeh' won the silver medal, his manager was over the moon, and got so excited he was thrown in the swimming pool, blazer and all. But he loved it and the tournament.

Kevin Hayes, I believe, died in the USA a few years ago. He visited The House of Darts International in Bristol several times.

[I can find little information about Kevin although Anne Kramer in her book *The Ultimate Book of Darts* (2013) does record that in the 1982 North American Open 'the late Kevin Hayes became the first player in NAODT history to achieve a Perfect 6-Dart 301 game, and he did it twice (back to back) in the Singles event.' Kevin was clearly a talented player.

As regards the World Amateur Darts Organisation continued, as far as Eddie Norman knows, successfully until at least 1995. Eddie adding "I understand that in a smaller way it is still running with enthusiasts today."

But what of darts organisation in Barbados itself?

The Barbados Darts Association

During my research I discovered further information about darts in Barbados in *The Leighton Rees 1978 Darts Year Book and Diary* (which, incidentally, was compiled by Eddie Norman at the time when he was manager of the Welsh darts legend). Chapter 7 'Darts in Barbados' shows the senior officers of the Barbados Darts Association at that time to be:

President: Evan Goddard (Seventh consecutive term)

Vice President: Rudy Walcott

Secretary: Mrs. N. DA Silva

Treasurer: Tony Mathews

Floor Managers: Brian Evelyn, Jim Haugh and Dennis DA Silva

In addition annual international matches, Barbados v Trinidad, were mentioned for the period 1968 to 1976 and show that Barbados were winners in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1973, 1975 and 1976 whilst Trinidad were victorious in 1971, 1972 and 1974.

Matches were started between Barbados and Guyana in 1975. Barbados were winners in both 1975 and 1976.

The first British Touring Party visited Barbados in March/April 1977. Led by Wales' Leighton Rees, the rest of the team comprised Steve Rollings (England), Harry Heenan (Scotland), Gordon King (England) and Mike Butt (England).

Interestingly the first West Indies International Open Individual Championship was held in Barbados in April 1977. This was won by Leighton Rees who beat England's Steve Rollings 3-1 in the final: Leighton checking out two of his three winning legs on the bullseye.

Today Barbados continues to be a fully constituted member of the World Darts Federation (WDF). If anyone can fill in the history of darts in Barbados since the early 1980s please contact me at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com.

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On receiving an advanced copy of this Barbados special report, Pierre LeFleuve replied:

Dear Patrick

Thank you so much for sending me the History of The World Amateur Darts Organisation and Barbados Darts. I can hardly believe that you have been able to find out so much. We have asked around for years without success.

Ours is just a small country in darts but it is nice to know that things really did start here for amateur Darts players from around the world. Your kindness in sourcing the history for us is very much appreciated and your story will be treasured.

We do indeed need all the to be grateful to all those who founded the World Amateur Darts Organisation here in Barbados almost forty years ago and without your story we would have never known We would love to see the story in a future magazine to let other darters know

about Bernie Manton. Tengeh Brown, Kevin Hayes, Eddie Norman and all the others that set the ball rolling here in the sun. Thank you very much. Pierre.

WHO NEEDS A FISHING ROD WHEN YOU CAN PICK UP A PIKE?

Thanks to subscriber Chris Lovell for this fascinating by-line which certainly made me want to immediately open his e-mail and read it. Chris wrote

Hi Patrick. With storm Dennis at its finest, a trip down the beach was a must; well for some anyway. Who doesn't like the wind high tides and rain? Walking along the beach spotting the usual washed up rubbish and then what catches my eye sticking out the exposed clay? Is it a bullet? No, you guessed it. [No I didn't, but Hey...]



A Jim Pike dart barrel of all things. I wonder what stories that had to tell so who needs a fishing rod when you can pick up a Pike? You just never know what Mother Nature is going to throw at you next!

It was only after replying to Chris's original e-mail and thanking him for it that I realised *exactly* what that was doing on the beach. It was nothing to do with any darts match held *al fresco* but everything to do with fishing, or more specifically beach-casting. This Jim Pike darts barrel had been used as a weight. My guess is that the weight eventually broke off from the fishing line, was deposited into the sea and then over the years has been washed up on the beach; either that or the weight was surplus to requirements and left there perhaps buried for what the angler might have thought was all time, the sea eventually giving up the dart for a passing beachcomber, in this case Chris, to discover. What other explanation could there be?

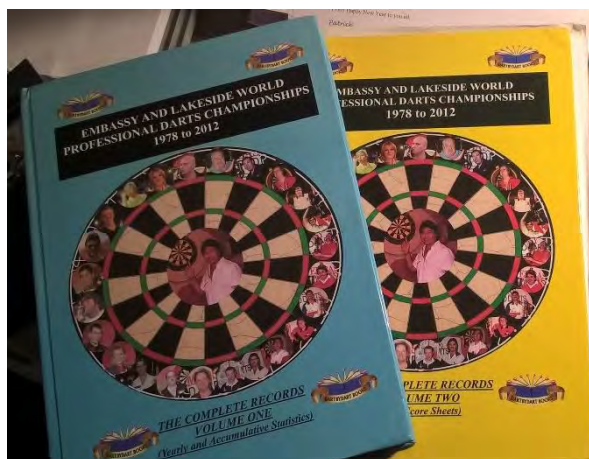
Chris's story brought back memories of another darts-related 'find'. It was a *News of the World* medal found in a country park, I *think* in South Wales, probably about 20 years ago and was discovered by a metal detectorist. I know I wrote a short piece for *Darts World* magazine about it so I'll seek out the details for a future issue.

CAN YOU HELP? IN SEARCH OF DARTS STATS PUBLICATION

Subscriber Robbie Dove writes

Hi Patrick. I hope you're doing well. In one of your DDN Newsletters recently, you were writing of the publication "25 years of the PDC World Darts Championship", and referred to one other book that you can recall which had been published, outlining stats for the BDO. [British Darts Organisation] I'm just wondering if you can recall the name of the publication in question. I've been looking through the newsletters and can't seem to find it!

I replied



Hi Robbie. As regards that book, I attach my review for Darts World published back in 2012. [Books pictured, left.]

The author, Colin Saunders, published the two volume set (over 900 pages) privately and [as I understand it], really caught a cold making a thumping loss (apparently). [There simply wasn't enough demand for the books.] Colin had a house full of old BDO score sheets and Volume Two featured them all!

I tried to contact Colin on Robbie's behalf but all to no avail. Colin's 'dartbydart' website no longer worked and he was no longer at his Isle of Wight home address. Sadly whilst I was writing this part of DDN I found the following information on the English Darts Organisation's website (dated 14th December 2019):



Everyone at England Darts was saddened to learn that Colin Saunders [pictured] passed away overnight. Colin was one of the original Directors of England when it was formed in 2007 and he was instrumental in finding and agreeing an initial deal with Bunn Leisure, which was built into a long term partnership that we still enjoy today and this is a fitting legacy for Colin. In addition to his position with England, he was County Secretary for the Isle of Wight and he also spent time as a BDO Director.

Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

R.I. P. Colin.

I will always remember our lengthy conversations on the phone over the years talking about anything darts-related. The other legacy you have left the darting community is your books.

As I told Robbie Dove, my guess is that, given that only fifty or so of each were ever published, Colin's books are going to be very difficult to find and now that Colin is no longer with us, even harder.

So...over to you, subscribers of *DDN*. Can you help Robbie track down these books? If you can help please let me know at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com and I'll pass your details on to Robbie. (Image of Colin Saunders © EDO.)

Subsequent to writing this article I heard from a *DDN* subscriber that he purchased a large quantity of videos from Colin some years ago. I well recall Colin telling me that, at one stage, his hallway was crammed full of videos so I am well-pleased that not all of his darts-related material has been lost.

AN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S LADIES DARTS PROJECT

As you all know, I am always willing and happy to help and advice where I can any university student who is undertaking serious research into the sport we love. Such a student is Gail Barton from Perth, Australia who is currently undertaking a media degree, which incorporates history, at Deakin University in the state of Victoria.

Influenced by and impressed with Fallon Sherrock's recent success at the World Championships Gail decided that for her media/video project element of her course she would focus on ladies' darts. Gail wrote to me saying, "I am compiling a five-minute short on the sport of darts/ women for a university assignment" and asked for my assistance which, of course, I was happy to give. As a result Gail later wrote

"I have loved reading it and although I did have some interest in darts before I would say that I definitely have more knowledge now. I have used some of your information and cited you in everything I have done. I hope my assignment does you proud. My hero was the Crafty Cockney. Eric Bristow was an amazing darts player with an attitude that was electric."

The result is an excellent video titled "Why is it so difficult for women to break into the sport of darts?" which earned Gail a 90% pass mark for the project. Well done Gail. Her excellent video can be found at <https://youtube.com/watch?v=ltP9HIEYydk>.

NEXT ISSUE: Detecting darts – Darts-related discoveries by metal detectors.

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