

DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

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EXPLORE THE WINMAU 2021 COLLECTION



Two pieces of great news.

Firstly, WINMAU has launched its 2021 Collection and can be viewed at <https://winmau.com/brochure>. WINMAU Sales and Marketing Director, Ian Flack told me

The entire 2021 collection is engineered specifically to deliver genuine improvement and maximum enjoyment through our internal obsession with functional design.

The 2021 highlight reel is very exciting, featuring new products from MvG, Joe Cullen, outstanding player special editions, three pioneering darts ranges and lots of stunning accessories.

The second piece of good news is that our friends at WINMAU have agreed to sponsor my research for another year so that will secure *DDN* for 2021. Thanks WINMAU!

MESSAGE FROM JAPAN

I am always pleased to receive any and all feedback from readers. Here's what one of my recent subscribers had to say:

Hello from Japan, Patrick. Although I am new to the mailing list I appreciate the effort you put into the newsletter and the interesting information that you provide. Information that some of us would not be able to find easily or rather at all! Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. All the best, Jay.

I am so pleased that Jay is enjoying reading *DDN*. Thousands of others are too and I pride myself on providing darts fans with information and articles that they would generally never find anywhere; not even on the 'net.

ALAN GLAZIER – FEEDBACK

Thanks to everyone who provided feedback from last month's issue particularly in relation to Alan Glazier's passing.

Brian H. wrote

Hi Patrick. Thanks for your bumper edition DDN & in particular the extensive remembrance of the life & achievements of the lately departed Alan Glazier. It was a bit of a shock to see him on the front page & I feared the worst before I started reading. It's only last month you were telling me about his recovery from a heart attack.



Being a cuddly hander [left-handed] myself, Alan was my favourite player when I first started playing; I'd try to emulate his distinctive throw with its forceful follow through, I bought the large Elkadart parachute shape flights he started using. As you quoted him as saying in your article, it was an achievement in itself to be a runner-up so many times with so many great players around. But your article also reminded me of his many great successes.

Sad to see another great of the game leave us.

(The photograph (above, left) shows Alan as Yorkshire Divisional Champion in the News of the World tournament in 1979. Alan travelled to London for the Grand Finals but was beaten in the final 2-0 by Bobby George, the Eastern Counties

Divisional Champion.) (Photo: © News of the World. Used with permission.)

Former England international and multi-title winner Dave Whitcombe wrote

Hi Pat,

Was a nice tribute to Alan Glazier you did and it brought back lots of memories. It was me who beat Alan in the Surrey Open final when Alan had loads of darts at a double to beat me. Later we became big pals and roomed together in many countries.

Alan was one of the greats and although the really big titles eluded him at home he always was thereabouts in the latter stages. Exhibitions was his forte and as well as Alan Evans they both excelled in these scenarios. And to top everything off, Alan was one of the nicest people you could wish to meet. Always up for a joke, great company, and someone who everyone liked. R.I.P. Alan.

From Eire, Tom Firth wrote

Hi Patrick. Following your article on Alan Glazier, thought I would drop you a line on some of my memories of my meetings with him.

I knew him well and was attending a World Airlines Darts Association [WADA] or Airline Sports and Culture Association [ASCA] which has been running Annual Competitions since 1980... I knew that a County event was taking place in Canvey Island, Essex, in the 80's. I knew he would be playing...I managed to get down to Canvey Island and watch the County match and myself and Alan had a decent conversation.

Anyway, he was heading off early from the match at his wife's request who was driving and before he left he said that he organized me a lift back to London, on the London county coach. I think he was playing for Durham at this time, not sure but did know it was a long journey home. He also left me [a drink].



On another occasion Alan was over in Dublin in the Royal Hotel in Dun Laoghaire. I had been on the beach with my Mother, Father and all my family but myself, my Dad and my son left them there and went to see Alan in an exhibition match. During the match Alan asked for a volunteer to stand in front of the dartboard...Alan threw one dart to the right of his head, one to the left and what appeared to be, with the last dart, it hit him straight in the forehead. The crowd groaned but then burst out laughing, because, of course, it was just the stem and flight. The [volunteer] was that drunk he never even flinched. Do not think that would be allowed now under health and safety.

(The rare (undated) photo above shows Alan being interviewed by darts journalist and commentator John Gwynne. Note the hi-tech recording device! Image – Authors Collection.)

And from Seattle, USA Glen Huff wrote:

Alan Glazier - I was very sad to read of his passing. Sadly, I never got the chance to meet him or see him play darts in person when I went down to Las Vegas to the old North American Open. Alan's make of WINMAU Ton Machine darts were one of the first store bought sets I purchased via Postal Order from the darts shops advertised in Darts World, when I began collecting pro darts. I much later purchased store bought sets of his McKicks darts...such a classic well-made and balanced dart.

I can't imagine what it must've been like to be in that pub when Alan hit a 17-Dart 1001! I've read of that in various books and I can't imagine watching a game like that. What a once in a lifetime achievement that must be. I've only ever hit one 180 in all my years of play...the board seems to have a knack of moving out of the way of my thrown darts!

God Bless Alan Glazier!

Glen also provided feedback relating to Cyril Pearce. He wrote

Throwing Nails - thanks for enclosing the pic of Cyril Pearce's nails and the nice wallet with them. I still have the set of nails which Cyril gave me in Las Vegas when we met ages ago, as well as the set that WANT [World Association of Nail Throwers] secretary Mike Brown sent me in the post even longer ago that he had gotten from Joe Hitchcock.



I was very sad to read of Cyril's having passed away. We corresponded briefly after meeting in Las Vegas years ago. Wish I had kept in better touch. Was such fun to meet Cyril and enjoy a beer with him and game of darts in Las Vegas and watch him throw darts and nails. I'm still useless at darts and even worse with nails!

(Image above of Cyril © PC/DW Archive)

RONDART – A UNIQUE DARTS VARIETY ACT

I am grateful to Elaine Visor for recently rekindling my interest in Ronald Tomlinson aka 'RONDART'. (Image, right, Author's Collection)

Elaine has in her possession some fascinating memorabilia inherited from family and friends' connections with Rondart which she is hoping to find a permanent home for in either a local museum or perhaps even a national museum of entertainment and variety. Here's what I wrote about Rondart when I learned of his passing in 2005:

In the world of darts, Ronald Tomlinson was unique. Many darts players consider themselves entertainers. Well, Ron was exactly that.

Ron was unique in the world of variety.

When Roy Hudd wrote in 1998, "We had 'em all in Variety" he was talking about Ron.

Born in 1929 in West Auckland, County Durham, Ron was taught to 'puff' darts for amusement by his father at the age of eight. But it didn't stop there. When Ron came out of the RAF in 1949, he went into variety utilising his dart-puffing skills on stage and named his act 'RONDART.' Nobody had seen an act like it.

Described by Roy Hudd as 'a novelty act with darts', RONDART impressed crowds all over the world on both stage and screen for many years. Ron blew darts from his mouth with such accuracy that he could pierce a cigarette, burst balloons around the head of his lovely assistant Cristina as she stood in front of the 'Scotts' dartboard, propel a dart into the neck of a bottle from no less than 15 feet and as the closing feat of the act cut thin strands of cotton with a puffed dart to reveal a 'That's all folks' banner.



Ron passed away peacefully on Friday 28th January 2005, losing his battle with cancer.

In my personal and professional view, Ron deserves to have a permanent place in history and I hope Elaine succeeds in her quest to have Ron's achievements officially recognised and recorded. See more about Ron on my website at

<https://patrickchaplin.com/2019/05/21/puff-and-darts-dont-throw-blow/>

CHARLES BOWLEY – *NEWS OF THE WORLD* CHAMPION 1930

It was a chance conversation that my wife had with a colleague at work back in 1988 which revealed the story of Charles Bowley.



It was around that time that I was collecting material for the Darts Heritage Room at the ill-fated DART & CUE Exhibition at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester which was to be held on May Bank Holiday Monday 1989.

Maureen was passing time of day with a gentleman named Frank Bowley (a member of the security team where my wife worked) telling him how, in my spare time I collected facts and memorabilia about the game of darts. "My grandfather won that championship in 1930", said Frank in a very proud, yet nonchalant sort of way. Did he now!

In the mid-1920s representatives of the major breweries in London, licensees and the trade press met in the capital with the view to finding a way to promote darts in their pubs through organised leagues. In 1925 the National Darts Association (NDA) was formed and introduced the first proper rules of the game. During that same year the NDA was called upon by the *News of the World* Sunday newspaper to help them organise and run a darts competition, the newspaper having supported other workingmen's pastimes such as pigeon-racing and fishing.

By the beginning of the 1927/28 season the NDA and the *News of the World* had worked hard to run their first individual darts competition specifically in the first instance for players in the London Metropolitan area. The entries totaled 1,010 and the winner was a Boer War veteran and father on nine, Sammy Stone representing the New South-West Ham Club. (For more about Sammy see elsewhere on this website.)

Charles Bowley was born in 1883 and came from Italian stock, his parents changing their name to Bowley when they settled in Whiskin Street, Finsbury, London E.C.1., later moving to Wynatt Street, also in Finsbury. Charles showed an early affinity to darts and showed 'crushing leadership form' in the mid-to-late 1920s. In 1925 and 1926 he captained the *Three Crowns* darts team to victory in the Finsbury Darts Cup and then on to win the NDA, also in 1926. Charlie also captained *The Fox* darts club, winning the Whitbread League title three years in succession, 1926-28.

With this type of experience, it was no wonder that Charlie, an asphalter by trade, entered himself for the *News of the World* Individual Championship. Undoubtedly, although not proven, he surely would have entered the competition from the outset. Whatever the case, Charlie made the Grand Finals in 1930, representing neither the *Three Crowns* nor *The Fox* but the *Shakespeare's Head*, Finsbury.

The quarter finals (then called 'The Last Preliminary Round'), semi-finals and the final were all held on one night at the *New Merlin's Cave*, Clerkenwell on Saturday 10th May 1930. A reporter for the *News of the World* who attended the event wrote of his hesitancy, his 'mixed feelings' about being there. He wrote: *'To be candid, we did not expect any particular skill to be displayed at this apparently simple game, nor did we expect enthusiasm to run high. In both cases we were wrong.'*

Skill was indeed evident and, as far as the supporters were concerned, the reporter stated that 'partisanship ran a bit high at times...but who cares?' The reporter also surmised that *'If the Merlin's Cave had been capable of accommodating four times as many people there would have been no difficulty in filling the hall.'*

Those appearing in the last eight with Charles Bowley were William 'Bill' Hayward, a former Tottenham Hotspur centre-half, from Clapton, F. Toulouse (Chiswick), W. Gentry (St. Pancras), a left-hander, Sid Howes from Islington (who would later become well known as a member of Joe Hitchcock's St. Dunstan Four after the Second World War), J. Jeeves (Putney), E. E. Eaton (Peckham) and W. Ling (Notting Hill).

The *News of the World* reporter was certainly impressed with the never-ending display of skill; the players locating their targets 'with an accuracy that was really surprising' and, when the scorer called out "Player wants twelve" the dart 'goes into the double six as if guided by electricity.' The report of the match read as follows

C. Bowley, the ultimate winner, played wonderfully throughout, and made top score for two darts – two treble 20's – and had his third dart "on top" [This is assumed to mean he 'Robin Hooded' a following dart into one of the first two thrown.] robbing him of a highest possible – 180... W. Hayward had the satisfaction of scoring the highest number of points with three darts – 141, as well as another 137. In his match with F. Toulouse, 100 or over was registered on eight occasions. One of the veterans – affectionately styled "Mary Pickford" – played well against J. Jeeves who scored most points for two darts in a "finishing leg" recording a treble 18 and a "bull's-eye" (104). W. H. Gentry who was runner-up, is a left-hander, and played well throughout.

The reporter added

Promotors and officials desire to thank the spectators for their orderly conduct and help under trying circumstances, and promise that overcrowding will be obviated in future tournaments.

The results of each round were as follows:

Last Preliminary Round (aka quarter-finals)

W. Hayward beat F. Toulouse 2-1
 W. H. Gentry beat Sid Howes 2-0
 J. Jeeves beat E. E. Eaton 2-1
 C. Bowley beat W. Ling 2-0

Semi-final

W. H. Gentry beat Jeeves 2-1
 C. Bowley beat W. Hayward 2-1

Final

C. Bowley beat W. H. Gentry 2-0



The photograph featured above of Charlie Bowley (on the right) outside of the *Shakespeare's Head* is reproduced courtesy of Frank Bowley. The cartoon (above) is an extract from the celebratory cartoon featured in the *News of the World* the day after Charlie Bowley's victory. (Image © Bowley family. Cartoon © *News of the World*. Both used with permission.) The names of the faces looking out of the window in the photo have, sadly, been lost to history.)

And so, another year was over for the *News of the World* individual darts 'test' (as it was called back then). The tournament would remain London-only until the 1935/36 season when it was expanded to London and the Home Counties. A Wales division was established in 1936/37 and a Lancashire division in 1937/38. The latter was extended to Lancashire and Cheshire in the 1938/39 season and that year Yorkshire, North of England and Midland Counties were also added making six Divisions in total.

The Second World War then intervened scotching the *News of the World* organisers plans to make it a national (England and Wales) tournament. However, this was achieved when the competition resumed at the beginning of the 1947/48 season.

Special thanks to the late Frank Bowley for information and photograph and to David King (darts501.com) for 'repairing' the *Shakespeare's Head* photograph.

TERRY O'DEA HAS JOINED DDN



A very warm welcome to all those who have subscribed to *DDN* over recent months.

I am particularly pleased to announce that Australian darts legend Terry O'Dea (pictured here on the front cover of *Darts World* in November 1983) has joined our happy band.

A while back I was discussing with former *Darts World* reporter Wayne Baker about the possibility of revisiting the subjects of his popular 'Star Profile' series that Wayne wrote for the magazine back in the 80s and our preferred 'starter' was to be Terry O'Dea.

I will be chatting to Wayne again early in the New Year to see if we can go forward with the idea which I think *DDN* readers will find of great interest.

BOBBY GEORGE AND THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

In late November Marie, wife of two-time *News of the World* champion Bobby George texted me to ask if I knew if any other player (or players) who had ever equaled or bettered Bobby's **five** appearances in the competition: 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982 and 1986. As many of you know, Bobby won the title in 1978/79 (see left) and 1985/86.



It took me a while to research Marie's question; going back to the first post-war *News of the World* tournament in 1947/48 and then forward to the final 'proper' competition in 1990. I know that many *DDN* readers are fans of the *News of the World* so what do they think? Is Bobby the only player to make it to the Grand Final on five occasions? Let me know what you think. Drop me a line at patrick.cahplin@btinternet.com. The results of my research will be revealed in the February issue. (Image © News of the World. Used with permission.)

AND FINALLY...

After the trials and tribulations of 2020 *surely* 2021 has to be better. Covid-19 has decimated the pub trade and reduced our chances of being able to play darts in a proper public house to zero. (All praise to the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) for keeping the sport on our TV screens.) A very '**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**' to you all.

MY RESEARCH IS SPONSORED BY

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