

DR DARTS' NEWSLETTER

ISSUE

15

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the June 2011 issue of *DDN*. This is *the* month as far as Bobby George and I are concerned.



Yes, as you all know, *Scoring for Show, Doubles for Dough – Bobby George's Darts Lingo* hits the bookshelves on 25th of this month having already been available as a download to your Kindle via Amazon for some weeks. Early reviews are great so we're quietly confident that the book will be a success. (The image shows Bobby and I signing up at Lakeside in 2009. (Image: Chris Sargeant)

For more information go to www.apexpublishing.co.uk.

As you may have noticed, last month's *DDN* was a bumper issue of 18 pages. I just can't keep that up. My difficulty is that it takes me a long time to construct *DDN* that other work has fallen behind. For that reason – and I hope subscribers will not mind – I intend in future to restrict *DDN* to eight pages of text plus images, so I should still be averaging around 10-12 pages per issue. I hope that's OK.

DDN is now a global newsletter having subscribers from all over the planet. I am thrilled that so many people from so many countries are interested in my work and my research findings. A new subscriber, Johnny from Brugge, sent me an e-mail saying that it's a "Great job you do with the history...Keep up the good work" whilst from County Kildare, Ireland, Mark writes, "Great newsletter Patrick. Thanks a million. I must say I enjoy the monthly read." Another recent subscriber, Jan Janakiraman from India, wrote "I

knew Darts had a big history but was amazed to find the richness and content of it.” Thanks Jan. (There’s more about Jan and her recent darting success later on in this issue.)

In this month’s *DDN* I deliver everything I promised I would in issue 14 so that makes a nice change!

Onward Issue 15! But first...

ePub



I have received a couple of enquiries from *DDN* subscribers asking if my newsletter can be offered in an ePub (electronic) format. Following consultation with my e-consultant and webmaster David King we are able to offer Issue 15 as a trial ePub format downloadable from my website www.patrickchaplin.com

So what is an ePub version and how is this different from a PDF or online version? Good question. David told me, “Basically the content of the document remains the same but the formatting is different. Viewers can adjust the text size to their own preference without distorting the document and unlike a PDF (which is static) the file will automatically expand to suit individual devices.”

To help me further understand the concept David told me that there are many benefits with an ePub format, some of which are:

- Download and keep the file on your portable device
- Bookmark pages
- Internal search (depending on device)
- No need for printing
- Expand text size to your preference
- Images can be enlarged to fill screen for a better detailed look
- Keep a *DDN* Library
- Devices are portable therefore readership can be easily shared
- Environmentally friendly
- Keep all issues of *DDN* with you all the time
- Doesn’t require internet access to read after download

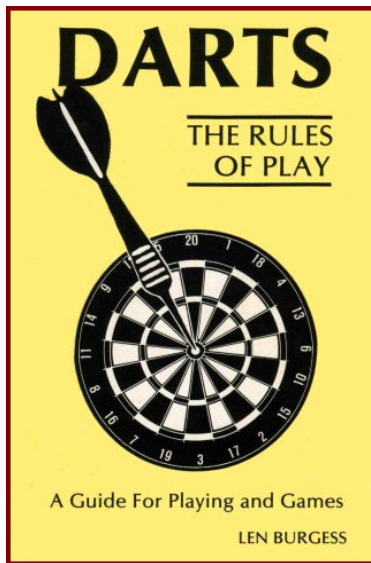
However, currently neither David nor I have any idea of how many subscribers would like to read *DDN* in this way. Therefore, please, if you have an ebook reader or Smart phone with a built in ePub reader, I would appreciate it if you could test this new format and let me have your comments via my website.

The new ePub version of Issue 15 has been tested by David with Apple iPads, iPhones and iPod touch electronic devices but if you use a different reader to these then feedback would be appreciated too.

Most ebook readers will also allow you to view PDF files. So the question also to subscribers is “Would you like ePub versions of *DDN* in the future?” Let me know.

FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

(a) ‘Tex’ Flight Darts



These unusual darts were mentioned in last month’s issue under the item dealing with the Unicorn Diver Darts. Mick S, who originally raised the query with me wrote to say that the darts he had described were indeed Tex darts and *exactly* as shown in the advert I published from 1946.

In addition Warren from Australia contacted me to say that Magnatex Ltd. came over to Oz and started Tex darts. According to author Len Burgess in his booklet *Darts – The Rules of Play* (pictured) published in Australia (I think) in the 1980s TEX arrived in Australia in 1946. Warren has been good enough to provide me with contact details of someone in Australia who should be able to help me with information about Tex. I plan to contact that person soon so hopefully I’ll be able to present to you the history of the company in a future issue of *DDN*.

(b) Crowd noise



In the previous issue of *DDN* I featured Arthur Hook’s experiences of the crowd at the *News of the World* in the 1976/77 finals at Alexandra Palace where the noise and the throwing of chairs was evident. As John Lowe was actually on stage at the time playing Kent’s Mick Norris I thought I would drop John a line and ask him what he recalled of that match. He told me:

“I’m not sure about throwing chairs around but I can remember very well some guys throwing empty cans of beer at the camera man who was perched high up above the hall, almost like he was on a pole. It was quite funny, not nasty, and all in good humour, and, like the dart players, they missed.”

John also recalls that he was playing at the Ally Pally for the first time. He turned round to see the massive audience. He told me, "There were 13,000 people. I still think that was the largest audience ever in darts and makes the Premier League small in comparison." He added, "My thoughts were 'They are a long way from me, almost 40 feet to the front row so don't take any notice, just do what you have to do, on *your* stage.' It didn't work the first time but when I went back in 1981, albeit at Wembley Arena, it worked and I won that magnificent trophy and money."

John informed me that this was the first time money was awarded to the winner of the *News of the World*. He recalled, "I would have liked to have won the usual Mini Car [which had been the prize for the previous three years and 1976] but they changed, saying that giving money made the tournament more prestigious." (See image of cover)

JAN JANAKIRAMAN – QUEEN OF INDIAN DARTS



As mentioned in my Introduction one of the latest recruits to the list of *DDN* subscribers is a lady from India named Jan Janakiraman. What I did not know until she provided me with feedback on issue 13 was that Jan is the current Ladies Singles Champion of India. The image shows Jan from Bangalore being presented with her trophy at the Bengal Rowing Club in December 2010.

Jan learned of my website from the former Men's National Champion of India, Ashfaque Sayed. Jan checked it out and told me, "I was quite intrigued by it" and joined our happy throng.

Jan first met Ashfaque at the Indian Championships held in Kolkatta in December last year. It was in that tournament she won the ladies singles titles. However, this was the first time she had played in a major tournament in India. Jan first discovered darts in the UK. She told me, “I distinctly remember the day I started playing darts. I had come to the UK along with my husband in November 2008. A month after that I saw the Ladbrokes.com World Darts Championship on TV which Phil Taylor eventually won. I think it was the first or the second round I saw in which he played and won and just the way he played it was so good. I wanted to try my hand at the game.”

Without delay Jan and her husband went to a local pub in Slough, Berkshire and started playing darts on a regular basis and eventually every day. On moving to Reading Jan started to play for the *Nags Head* pub which was in the Reading Darts League. Jan said, “I played for the winter season league.” After a high degree of success in that league Jan was spotted by Stevie Lees, who plays in the Super League and is a county player for Berkshire. Jan told me, “Stevie, asked me to join her Super League team and after only six months playing at that level I was selected for the County team.”

Jan added, “Meeting Stevie was a big turning point in my life. I still consider her as my guru. She taught me many tricks and how important it was to think ahead in the game about big finishes. I then started playing for *Shepherd's House Inn*, Woodley, Reading from January of 2010 and at the end of the season I was 10th overall in the average rankings and 3rd in the available players for Berkshire.”

Then Jan’s husband was transferred to India and they moved from the UK to live in Bangalore. Jan told me, “The Berkshire team gave me a great send-off.” Although Jan describes leaving English darts as ‘one of the darkest days’ that was only as far as this part of her darts career was concerned. Jan thought that she had left her ‘darting life’ behind in the UK but that was to quickly change.

In December 2010, as previously mentioned, Jan (on the right in the accompanying image) became the Indian Ladies National Champion beating Vijaya Tecksingani (on the left) from Pune, Maharashtra in the final. For more information go to

<http://www.dartswdf.com/2011/01/07/8th-indian-national-darts-championships/>



What is Jan up to at the moment? “Right now”, she told me, “I am adjusting to the Indian darts environment which is very different from that of England that I am used to, especially there's a ‘No alcohol rule’!”

Once again I welcome Jan to the *DDN* fold and look forward to reporting on her further darting successes in the future.

SO YOU'RE A BELOPTEROPHILIST – DART FLIGHT COLLECTING



Martyn C of Widley, Hampshire wrote to me recently. Martyn has recently taken up the hobby of darts flight collecting and was seeking my advice on the best way of keeping and displaying them. He wrote, “I was considering buying some of those plastic coin display sleeves to put in an album but I was not sure whether the flights would react with the plastic.”

Fortunately, as part of my general collecting of anything to do with darts over the past 2½ decades, I have a collection of flights kept in five albums so was able to advise Martyn that the plastic coin display sleeves would work fine. This was the way I began when I first started organising my collected flights and sought similar advice from the great Belgian dart flight collector Freddy Olievier. I told Martyn

‘Clearly there are other types of flight (folded paper, hand plastic combined flight and stem, feather flights, etc) which will need to be preserved separately and of course will not fit in the albums. With such items I merely keep them in boxes marked appropriately. Ideally I suppose they should be in small display cases.’

Martyn collects full sets of three flights whereas I only keep one example of each flight so that I can exchange the remaining two examples with other flight collectors. However, Martyn’s view is that as dart flights are sold in sets of three then that is how they should be collected, which is fair enough; each to his (or her) own. That’s what makes collecting such a fascinating hobby.

Martyn was grateful for my advice and, as you can see from the image of him, he has begun to file away his already impressive collection. Martyn is also keen to make contact with fellow collectors so if you would like to contact him then they can do so by e-mailing Martyn at carlyle_m@hotmail.com .

One of my Australian friends Warren A is also an avid collector of everything darts and recently e-mailed me to say that he couldn’t wait to read this article on flight collectors. Warren also has a substantial collection of flights which can be viewed on his website at

http://www.wazzasworldofdarts.com/wwod/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=117&Itemid=196

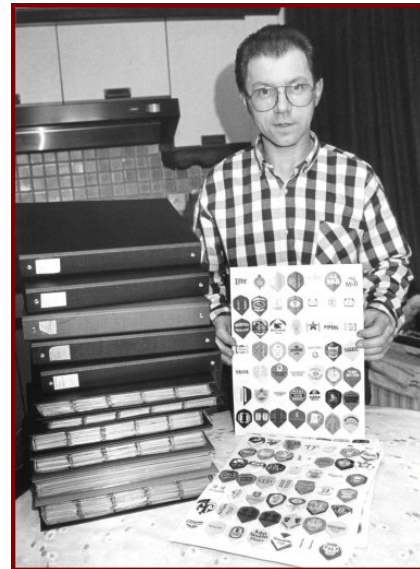


Also shown here is the 'Flight of Flights' that I had made for the *Dart and Cue* Exhibition back in May 1989. It was constructed by my good friend Ian Hughes from flights in my collection (all brewery-related) as part of my 'Darts Heritage Room' display for *Dart and Cue*. (Ian also took the photograph.)

So what is this 'belopterophilist' mentioned in the title of this section? Well, years ago I approached The Queen's English Society and asked them if there was a 'proper' word for dart flight collecting. There wasn't so they very kindly invented one for me; 'belopterophilist'. Sadly it was never introduced into our language (maybe because 'belo' is a bit too close to 'belly') so for the moment we

remain simply 'dart flight collectors'. (You can read more about the construction of this word in *Scoring for Show, Doubles for Dough*.)

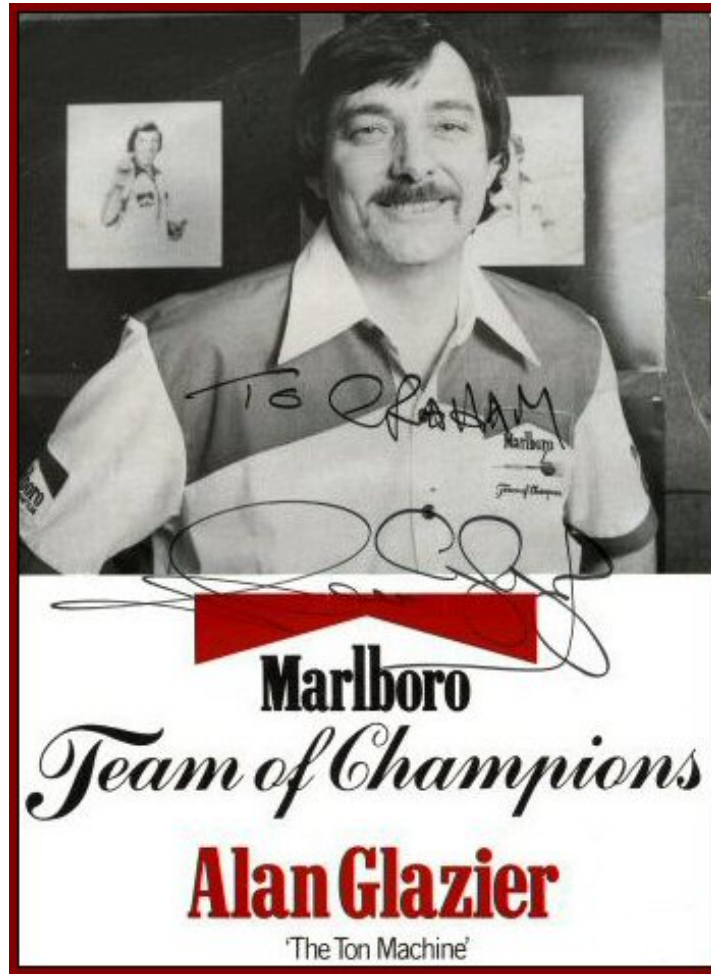
I mentioned earlier Belgium's Freddy Olievier. Freddy (pictured here) is one of the greatest darts flight collectors of all time and no article about this hobby would be complete without him. I was first contacted by Freddy as a result of the publication of the 'Flight of Flights' and an accompanying article in the magazine *Darts Player* 89. For about a decade afterwards Freddy and I exchanged flights and correspondence until eventually we lost touch. Freddy's collection of darts flights is probably the biggest collection, in 1996 numbering over 20,000 different flights! The photograph shown here was taken in that year and shows Freddy with only a fragment of his collection. Surely he must be the 'King of Belopterophilists'! Whether he still collects today I do not know. (Freddy if you're out there, please contact me and let me know.)



If you are a darts flight collector why not drop me a line via my website www.patrickchaplin.com and tell me about your collection? While you're doing that, send an image of you with your collection. Thanks.

WHO CURRENTLY HOLDS THE RECORD FOR THE LEAST DARTS THROWN IN A PRO GAME OF 1,001?

That was the question posed by 'Postman' in an e-mail to me recently. He was aware of Alan Glazier's claim of an unofficial perfect 17-darter at The Crown public house in Wetherby in 1976 but as 'Postman' rightly pointed out this was not in a competitive match. I spoke to Alan recently and he said that he is unaware of his record being equalled in tournament play.



(The image, taken from my personal collection, shows Alan in the 1980s as a member of the Marlboro Team of Champions.)

As no official report or record of Alan's amazing feat exists, I sought out my copy of Derek Brown's *The Guinness Book of Darts* (1981) which reveals that, up until that year, the best game of 1,001 was a 19-darter by Cliff Inglis. Inglis, who won the inaugural World Masters in 1975, shot these sensational darts during an exhibition at the Bromfield Working Men's Club, Devon on 11th November 1975.

Derek Brown recorded that 'Inglis confesses...that he was lucky because in his first throw one of the darts aimed at treble 20 slipped and instead landed in the double 20.' His scores were 160-180-140-180-121-180-D20.

So the answer is still not clear. 'Postman' asked what the record for the least darts thrown in a *pro game* of 1,001. Were there ever pro games where 1,001 was played? Let me have your thoughts via my website.

TONY BROWN



Capped for England on twenty-three occasions, a Kent County player for eleven years, a member of the famous Marlboro Team of Champions and a top professional darts player for eight years, darts folklore will have us believe that Tony Brown (pictured), who reached the semi-finals of the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship on no less than four occasions, simply gave up darts in 1984 and disappeared from the scene.

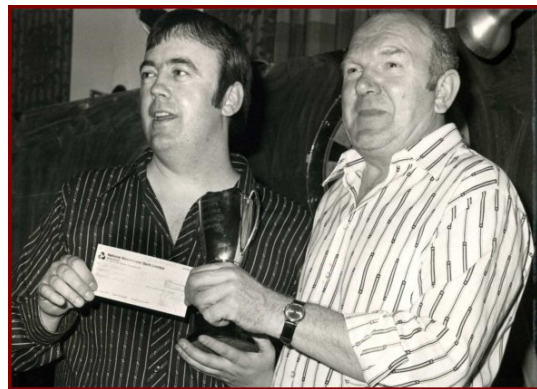
Recently, I caught up with Tony and he spoke to me about his amazing career and the real reason he left the sport he loved, apparently, so suddenly.

Tony was born in Enfield, North London on 1st April 1945 and moved to Dover with his parents Kenneth and Pauline in 1956 when they became licensees at *The Falcon* public house in the town. It was there that eleven-year-old Tony first played the game that he would eventually master.

In those early days Tony was inspired by the darting skills of two local players Arthur Young and Tony Fox and learning from these players certainly paid dividends. In 1973 Tony was selected to play in a Kent 'North versus South' representative match and as a result of participating in that tournament he earned a place in his County side. In his first season playing county darts Tony won half of his matches but in the following year he won all of his games which earned him a call-up for the England squad.

Tony's big break came in 1977. He told me, "Jim Mangan, who was managing Eric Bristow at the time, asked me if I would join Eric and John Lowe in the Queen's Silver Jubilee Triples." Tony worked in the paper industry but wanted to take up Mangan's offer so asked his employer for time off which was refused. "So," said Tony, "I gave in my notice and took a chance on becoming a professional."

The team of Tony, Eric and John won the Triples tournament and success for Tony followed success. That same year (1977) Tony appeared on television for the first time when he appeared on Yorkshire TV's *The Indoor League* and won the men's darts trophy beating David 'Rocky' Jones in the final. In 1979 Tony won the British Open (beating Brian Langworth in the final), the *Darts World Tons Trophy*, was a member of the World Cup winning team in Las Vegas (other members being John, Eric and Bill Lennard), beat Alan Evans during England's win over Wales in the Nations Cup and reached the semi-final of the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship. The image shows the BDO's Sam Hawkins presenting



Tony with another trophy he won that year; the Kent Open Singles. (Image copyright unknown: DWPC Archive)

Tony reached the semi-finals of the Embassy on three other occasions, in 1980, 1981 and 1983. One of his finest memories of his career in professional darts was when he beat Cliff Lazarenko into third place in 1980. His last appearance in the Embassy was 1984 when he was beaten in the first round by John Lowe.

During that same year Tony decided to call it a day and give up professional darts. He said, "I wanted to get back into the paper industry before I was too old. Some people say I quit too early. I just did what I wanted to do at the time. I have no regrets."

Tony returned to darts after an 18-year break. It was at his mother's wake. "I was dragged on to the oche late in the evening. I was very drunk but managed to hit a 180 and a 134 finish with old brass pub darts." Now retired from the paper industry Tony plays regularly for the Diamond Hotel, Dover. I asked him how he thought he would fare against the top players of today and he replied "I would certainly have enjoyed competing with them when I was in my prime."

Does he have one over-riding special memory of his darting life? Yes he does and it dates back to his earliest days as a Kent county player. Tony told me:

"The one I will always remember is when Tom Barrett, who won the *News of the World* in 1964 and 1965, came and sat beside me for a chat after I had just played my first county game. Although I had scored quite well my finishing let me down and I was feeling a bit despondent. Tom reassured me and bucked me up and I remember thinking what a gentleman he was as well as a great champion."

Tony, you too were a great champion and a credit to the sport of darts.

THE DUNLOP DARTBOARD



Mike and June Wilde from Great Yarmouth have been in touch with me via my website. They asked what, if anything, I know about the DUNLOP promotional dartboard which Mike is seen holding in the accompanying image. The dartboard dates from 1938 a fact borne out by factory marks on its cardboard box container which has also survived intact for more than seventy years.

I know that Dunlop were a keen supporter of darts during the 1980s and sponsored a number of events, the most important of which was the Dunlop Masters, and a number of players including Tony Brown). They also produced specific darts-related products at that time

including darts, flights and dartboards. However, I have no record of that company producing dartboards for general sale in the UK in the late 1930s. Thus my theory is that this was a special dartboard produced not for darts players but a promotional device for Dunlop customers building on the strength of the darts 'boom' of 1936-39 when all classes were playing the game.

But of course I could be wrong. If anyone can provide more information about this Dunlop dartboard I would be pleased to hear from you. I can then pass it on to Mike and June and add the knowledge to my archive.

COMING UP IN ISSUE 16

The next issue of *DDN* will feature

- An exclusive interview with Loveday King, a top lady darts player of the 1970s and first winner of *The Indoor League* televised ladies' darts tournament
- Twisted Terror tungstens – I investigate probably the world's craziest dart



- What the reviewers think of *Scoring for Show, Doubles for Dough*
- DARTEX - 'The thrilling new card game of skill and as exciting as darts'

PLUS even more stuff you will not find anywhere else.

See you next time!

Patrick

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