

DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 23 March 2012

INTRODUCTION

Welcome one and all to Issue 23 of *DDN*.

Despite continuing problems with the 'subscribe' feature on my website, I'm pleased to say that a good number of new subscribers have joined us via the Contact page on www.patrickchaplin.com. The good news is that work on revising and updating my website is now underway and I certainly hope to be able to bring you further news on that in Issue 24.



Amongst those new subscribers is 16-year-old Vedant Dalmia (pictured) from India. Vedant lives in Surat in Gujarat state and has been playing darts for nearly two years. Despite his young age Vedant (whose nickname is 'Prowess') plays for his school DPS Surat, for the Triples Barrel Darts Club and has also represented his State on one occasion so far, reaching the quarter-finals. Of his future aspirations, Vedant told me, "I want to be a brand ambassador for a darts company and become a player whom everyone looks up to and win in the PDC." With aims and enthusiasm such as he has, my guess is that we'll be hearing more about Vedant 'Prowess' Dalmia in the future!

OK my friends, let's see what I have to offer you this month.

(a) BDO website

The BDO website now features three of my articles, a brief history of darts, the story of the first Embassy World Championship and the origins of the oche/hockey. Check them out at www.bdodarts.com; go to New/Features and then click on 'Patrick Chaplin'.

The BDO webmaster Mick tells me that they're creating a lot of interest.

(b) *180! Fascinating Darts Facts*

I mentioned in Issue 21 (December 2011) that a publisher was at that time in the process of considering two of my books for possible publication namely *The Sport of Pints* and *180! Fascinating Darts Facts*. Well the decision has been made and The History Press has contracted me to write the latter. I'm due to deliver the text by the end of May.



Meanwhile I still have faith in *The Sport of Pints* so will continue to approach other publishers about that but only after I have received responses about *yet another* book (the biography of a very famous darts person). More soon I hope...

Before I leave the subject of books, I have also been involved with a major sports publication by ABC-CLIO in the States. Entitled *Sports around the World: History, Culture, and Practice*, I have contributed a chapter on darts. The book is due to be published at the end of this month.

(c) Ton, Ton-forty, Ton-eighty

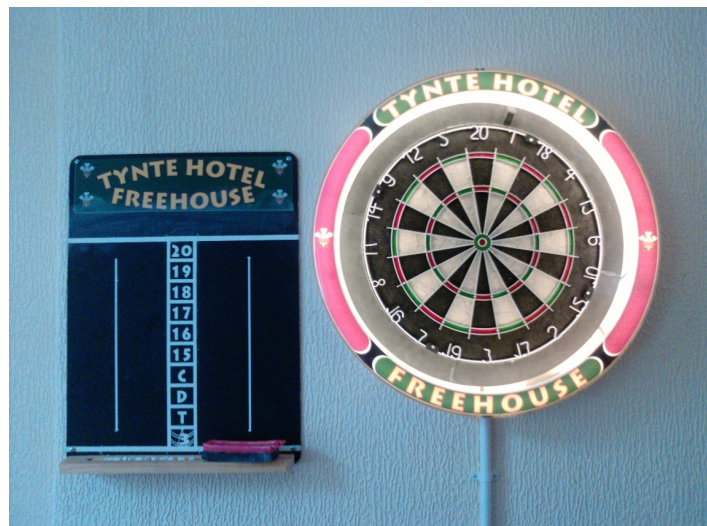
In the last issue (page 10) I featured US subscriber Doug J's question, "Why is everything over a 100 written on the scoreboard as 8T0, 7T0, etc?" I admitted that I'd never seen a ton-seventy or ton-eighty represented like that on a darts scoreboard here in the UK and asked for assistance from readers. No sooner had I asked the question that my trusty subscribers came up with replies.

Sharon Huffman, President of the Southside Dart League, Chicago, Illinois replied:

'Just loved your newsletter and will forward it to my league members. As far as using the 'T' and the side numbers when someone hits one hundred or more, we here in Chicago always use it whenever someone hits 100 and above (501/301). Of course some people who struggle with scoring still write out the number.'

Thanks Sharon.

Scott H., inventor of the revolutionary 'Circumluminator' dartboard illumination system (pictured) sent me a note to confirm the use of designations such as '8T0' for Ton-80 and similarly for other Tons in the US. Scott told me, "This is not a completely uniform designation. I have a few trophies for Ton-80s thrown in league play that do not use this style."



He then added, "For scoring in tournaments, it's a matter of personal preference. I've seen 180, T-80 and 8T0 on scoresheets here in Austin. I have no idea who started this designation nor where or when. But we have some old-timers show up for tournaments here a few times every

year, so I'll ask to see if anyone knows.” So hopefully we'll have the definitive version of the history of this designation by the next issue.

By the way Scott, just out of interest, how old is an ‘*Old Timer*’?

(d) Soft-tip – ‘Mark darts’

When reporting on Daryl Hallam’s darts badge collection in the February issue (page 6) I mentioned that Daryl had about 100 badges from ‘the Mark dart or cricket format of darts’ which is played mostly in the USA. I then asked for clarification of exactly what ‘mark darts’ meant.

Like in the case of ‘Ton-forty, etc’ (above) I have the answer; this time courtesy of (and thanks to) Russell H. from Ridgeville, South Carolina. He explained:

“A mark is any scoring dart in a Cricket game. You have the same three scoring areas on the dartboard when playing Cricket as in ‘01, Singles, Doubles, and Triples. Awards are given for 5-9 marks in league play here in the States. Your achievement is written on the score sheet and the pin is awarded at the end of the season during the banquet along with the league trophies.

You will get a pin for your highest mark total made during the season. Should you score a 7 mark and later a 9 mark, you will only receive the nine mark award.

How do you earn these awards? A dart must score to count so a trip 20, trip 19, and trip 18 would be a 9 mark. Trip 20, Trip 19, and a single 18 would be a 7 mark. You might throw 3 trip darts but can only claim a 7 mark because your opponent had a number closed (say 19's). You only need only one 19 to close but hit trip 19, 18, and 17. While you scored 9 marks you could only claim a 7 mark award, because you only needed one 19 and you could not score points on your opponent because the 19's are closed on his side. When you have never scored a 9 mark this is very disappointing. I hope I've been able to help you understand the way Cricket marks are awarded.

Shoot well everyone.”

That’s that sorted then. Thanks Russell.

(e) The Dart-throwing slug responds

Staying in the USA, readers will doubtless recall that in the last issue I reviewed Paul Seigel’s new book *The Diary of an Unhealthy Dart Throwing Slug*. The book was all about Paul’s (aka ‘Dartoid’) period of dieting during which he lost 16 pounds. Through *DDN* I asked if Paul had piled the pounds back on or were oranges and vegetables still on the menu. Here’s his response:

'Dear Doctor...

Thank you for the kind review of my new book, *The Diary of an Unhealthy Dart Throwing Slug*. You are the only one who has read it.

You asked if I've maintained the 16-pound weight loss I achieved by, basically – as Harry Nilsson once put it, “puttin’ de lime in de coconut, an drinkin’ ‘em bot’ togedder” for nine miserable weeks. I also ate a lot of weeds and dirt.

The answer is NO, I haven't maintained. I've gained it ALL back PLUS about ten pounds.

I am now an unhealthy dart throwing SUPER slug.

Please don't ask again!

Dartoid'

Cheers Paul. I'm already looking forward to your next book!

OBITUARY – CARMELO ELLUL

Back in December 1988 when I was researching material to present at the *Dart & Cue Exhibition* at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester in the following May, I wrote to a number of darts organisations across the world asking for information about darts in their countries. One of the few to respond to my request was Carmelo Ellul, then Honorary Secretary of the Gibraltar Darts Association (GDA). He sent me copies of the GDA regulations, hand-drawn posters, a registration form, a result form and a note of league fixtures.

A few weeks ago I learned that this 'grand old man' of darts on 'The Rock' (pictured) had passed away. General Secretary of the GDA Darren Olivero, wrote:

'It was with great sadness that the Association learned on the morning of 3rd January last of the passing away of the Honorary President of the Gibraltar Darts Association, Carmelo Ellul. Carmelo was held in great affection by all who knew him and we have no hesitation in saying that the sport of darts in Gibraltar would not be where it is today without his efforts over the years.



In the 1950's there was a Services darts league and a Civilian league. It was Carmelo and the late Joe Goldwin, together with a then R.A.F. Corporal, Dave Obee, who amalgamated the two and the Gibraltar Darts Association was born in 1958.

Carmelo served as GDA President for many years and amongst his many contributions (*which still run today*) he was instrumental in getting the Association recognised as a full member of the World Darts Federation in 1977 (*a year after that body's formation*). He also ensured a Gibraltar National Team attended the inaugural World Masters Singles Championships in 1974 (*which we still attend to this day*). These contributions were indeed instrumental for Gibraltar players of the GDA to gain invaluable experience and recognition worldwide.

Although age and health prevented him from taking a more active role in the sport in recent years he always took an interest and attended presentation nights and Gala dinners regularly. He was particularly pleased to attend as guest of honour alongside Dave Obee in our 50th Anniversary Gala celebration in 2008.

In honour of Carmelo and to ensure his name lives on in GDA History it has been decided to dedicate the second Ranking Tournament of each season to him, which will now be known as the Carmelo Ellul Ranking Tournament.

Carmelo will be missed by many. The sport that we love so much owes a great debt to him. Our tribute to Carmelo is to continue the hard work and keep developing the sport to the best of our abilities.

Our sincere condolences go to his wife & family.

Rest in Peace Carmelo.'

JOHN 'THE LEGEND' WESTWOOD

The GDA dedicating its second ranking tournament to Carmelo Ellul brings to mind a darts player from the West Midlands who died suddenly on 21st July 2006 at the age of only 59, following a massive heart attack. His memory is kept alive and his life in darts celebrated by his friends and John's widow Nita (pictured here with John) and son Carl by the annual running of the 'John Westwood Memorial Open Darts Knockout'.



John was never a pot hunter and he did not appear on our TV screens but he was clearly what we call over here in the UK 'a local darts hero'. John won numerous trophies and played for many teams across the Black Country (which includes Dudley, Stourbridge, and Brierly Hill, Pensnett where John was born in 1947). Such was his darting prowess that during one season in the 1980s the league made a 'Grand Slam' trophy to be presented to John for winning everything: highest start, highest finish, most wins, most 180s in one season; a feat that has never been repeated. John was also a Worcester County team player for many years. But despite all the trophies John won, he once told a friend that his proudest moment in darts was when he was selected to play against the formidable Sports Argus charity darts team. (I'll have more about Sports Argus later in this issue of *DDN*.)

All this was achieved by a player who was registered blind.

Top darts players around the country, including Eric Bristow, Ted Hankey and Bobby George, knew John by name and he was well-respected throughout the darts community. Formally dubbed 'Johnny Dartboard', in later years he became known simply as 'The Legend'.

Immediately after John's death plans were in place to run a darts tournament in his memory. In 2011 the tournament was held on Saturday 9th April at the Nags Head, Wordsley, Stourbridge where a packed house saw eighty-one darters of all abilities. The eventual winner was Joe Turner of Gornal who beat Stefan Oakley from Wordsley, in the final. In addition to being a great night, a total of £385 was raised for one of John's favourite charities, Guide Dogs for the Blind.



(The image reproduced with permission, shows the 2011 winner Joe Turner being presented with his trophies by Amy Pritchard, son Carl's partner.)

This year the John Westwood Memorial Open Darts Knockout will be held at the *Nags Head*, Swan Lane, Wordsley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 5TZ on Saturday 21st April. The tournament commences at 2 p.m. with registration at 1.45 p.m. For details of format and entry fees contact Jack Pearson on 07905275057, Shaun Breeze on 07775434422, Nathan Bird on 07966035782 or e-mail neatbaggie@hotmail.co.uk or check out the website www.john-westwood.co.uk.

I hope that any and all *DDN* readers living in the area compete for this prestigious trophy and that the day goes well for all concerned.

I am grateful to Phil (the Postman) who first brought my attention to John's story.

SPORTS ARGUS CHARITY DARTS SQUAD

It's always a pleasure to record the achievements of the Sports Argus Charity Darts Squad (pictured) which was formed in 1947 and now with 64 years completed, continue to travel the Midlands of England playing all-comers and supporting local charities.

Ken 'Top Cat' Herbert became Manager of the squad in 1974, following in the footsteps of Harry Beesley (1947-1963) and S. L. Bailey (1964-1973). Ken recently achieved a milestone in his 38 years as Manager, reaching 1,000 games played for the squad – and he's still going strong. Last month his record stood at 1,003 matches played, 929 wins and just 74 defeats.



Now with the squad being '64 Not out' Ken has submitted the following report of yet another very

successful year:

CURTAIN FALLS ON ANOTHER GREAT SEASON

With the help of many friends throughout the area, together with the top class performances from our players the 64th season has proved to be a record-breaking one.

Twenty-eight games were played which resulted in twenty-five wins and just three defeats. All credit to those three teams who won against us, namely Tamworth Select, Coventry/Warwickshire and a 'This is Darts Select'.

Our 64th season produced a record-breaking total for charity when, thanks to the magnificent work done by our opponents throughout the season, a total of £16,000 was collected for charity. Topping the list of fund-raisers were Smethwick Labour Club with a superb £3,700.44, a big thank you to Bunny & Terry. Stokesseys Select playing for the Victoria School for special needs collected over £1,140, well done Dennis & Andy, finally £1,000 from a "Pint Pot Select" organized by Callum Harris.

Charities supported throughout the season were Birmingham Children's Hospital (£5,050), County Air Ambulance (£6,424.74), Lifeboats RNLI (£2,262), *Sunday Mercury* "Give a Child Health Fund" (£626.86), Victoria Special Needs School (£1,390.55) and the Meningitis Fund (£248.60).

What a wonderful reason for continuing our long run of games since 1947!

I would take this opportunity to thank all the players, officials and spectators for helping to continue the history of the Sports Argus.

Back to the players, it has been as Manager a privilege to watch them perform each week, they have been brilliant. Dave Bourne recorded the most wins 20 in 24 outings. Most tons were notched by “The Rock” Adrian Arnold, ‘The Postman’, Andy Hutchings, hit the most 180s, whilst Bob Nixon was involved in 8 match awards. However, all credit to the whole of the squad for it is a team effort that produced the results. Also credit to the stage crew, Jim Gilfoyle, Keith Duggan and Val Arnold and to Audrey who maintains our weekly records.

During the season Mark Wall received a memento on completing 300 games and Roger Kinsella also received a memento on playing 200 games. Congratulations too, to our Christmas Knockout winner Nick Fullwell and to our Sports Argus Individual Championship winner Martin Bowley (Rugby).

Finally, thank you Dave and Yvonne of Davon Garage Equipment Ltd for their continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Ken ‘Top Cat’ Herbert

The photograph on the previous page shows the 2010/11 Sports Argus squad:

Seated - Mark Wall, Jim Norris, Derek Duggan, Ken Herbert, Audrey Herbert (Secretary), Bob Nixon and Jim Gilfoyle (M.C.)

Standing - Tony Randell, Nick Bache, Dave Bourne, Wayne Matthews, Pat Sinnett, Martin Tibbetts, Adrian Arnold, Val Arnold (Marker), Keith Duggan (M.C.), Craig Hall, Andy Hutchings, Dave Marsh, Tom McGlone, John Sidwell, Roger Kinsella and Dave Duncan (Sponsor)

Winners all!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JACK!

The Republic of Ireland’s legendary darter Jack McKenna from County Kildare, celebrates his 70th birthday on 10th March. Equally legendary darts organiser and historian Arthur Hook told me that Jack started playing darts in the 1960s and that one of his claims to fame was a quarter-final place in the 1974 WINMAU World Masters. Another is his captaincy of the Ireland National Darts Organisation (INDO) Republic of Ireland’s men’s team at the 1979 World Cup in Toronto when the national team finished in third place. The full team of Jack, Dublin’s Tony O’Neill, John Dunne (Laois) and Mick Hogg (Westmeath) were recently honoured by the INDO as being ‘the best Irish darts team of all time.’

In 1990 Jack won a place at the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship at the Lakeside Country Club. He won his first round match 3-1 against 'The Fen Tiger', Peter Evison and then met the Singapore-born USA representative Paul Lim in the second round. It was during this match that both Paul and Jack wrote themselves into the history books, when the former hit the first (and to date the only) nine-darter in Embassy/ Lakeside history.



Ten years ago I interviewed Jack for an article for the programme of the 2002 Paddy Power Grand Prix. Jack had just qualified for the event and I asked him if he was hoping to win. Modestly he replied, "I'd like to do well of course, but I just love the game. I love playing darts and love supporting other who are playing."

Happy Birthday Jack.

(The image of Jack shown here is of him being presented with the *News of the World* trophy for Eire in 1986.)

INSIDE DARTS

Great news that a brand new darts magazine has been launched this month called *Inside Darts* and yours truly is contributing a regular article entitled 'An Appointment with Dr. Darts'. The March issue is full of exciting stuff so check out www.insidedarts.co.uk for more details and how to subscribe.

CHANGING HANDS

S. from Staffordshire has been in touch asking for this Doctor's help. He wrote:

'Hi Patrick, I have just returned to the darts scene after twenty odd years. I was county standard and was even selected for Staffs but I was starting with a grip problem (which I

thought was darditis) that lead me to hang up my arrows. The problem escalated over the years... and...unfortunately my feeling in my right hand is still damaged.

The reason I have contacted you (“At last!” I hear you say!) is to ask if you have any info on a darts thrower switching from right hand to left. I started a while ago and although I was hitting the wall, lights, and dog at first I have started getting it together and even hit 180. My throwing is still a little erratic but I am practicing for three hours a day and would appreciate any help you can give.’

As this Doctor wasn’t able to help, my immediate thought was to write to Dr. Linda

Duffy a Sports Psychologist specialising in darts. Linda replied saying:



'Hi Patrick...I do know of one player that changed his throwing hand and actually reached International level, he played for Wales in the 80's.

There is evidence to suggest there is a “transfer” of learning bilaterally, therefore if one were to

start practising with the non-preferred hand, or kicking with the non-preferred foot, the attainment of proficiency would be quicker than starting completely from scratch as some of the prior learning (for the other hand/foot) would be utilised. Of course the younger you are the more efficient this is.'

So it looks as though, with determination and focus, S. will be able to throw darts well with his other hand.

And yes...for those of you who recognise the name Linda Duffy, it is *the* Linda Duffy (pictured) (formerly Batten and Batten-Duffy) a former top UK ladies darts player.

COMING UP IN ISSUE 24

I have decided not to continue with this feature of *DDN* as so often I have to postpone publication of the items I promise. Therefore, to save me any further embarrassment in the future, ‘Coming up...’ will now occasionally be replaced by...

HOMEWORK

Yes, this new feature relates to questions I receive, the answers to which I am currently unable to find an answer. Starting us off this month is Conrad T. from the UK who

contacted me saying, “I have searched the net but can’t seem to find any info regarding a nine dart game in doubles. Would you perhaps have any?”

For the purposes of this enquiry I suggest that we are looking for any nine-dart perfect game in a top-level doubles darts tournament; that is something that can be proved and ratified, say, through reference to the pages of *Darts World* in the UK or, in North America, *Bull’s-Eye News*.

Whilst not yet able to find the answer to this question, my good friend DartsMad Lee, has advised me that someone has posted the following short video on his darts forum thread

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GspbUSu1NT4&feature=player_embedded

Lee wrote, “It’s Bob Anderson checking out 801 in 15 darts – 180, 140, 180, 180, 121 out on the bull. Slap bang in the centre as well..! Awesome.”

So enjoy the link whilst thinking about that perfect game in a doubles tournament. Please send any answers to me via the Contacts page of my website www.patrickchaplin.com. Cheers Lee.

So that’s it for Issue 23. Back soon with some April Foolishness.

Best wishes,

Patrick

Text © 2012 Patrick Chaplin. Images © Patrick Chaplin or as stated or sourced

Neither text nor images can be reproduced without prior permission of the copyright holders.

**PATRICK’S DARTS RESEARCH IS
SPONSORED BY THE WINMAU
DARTBOARD COMPANY**

WINMAU.COM