

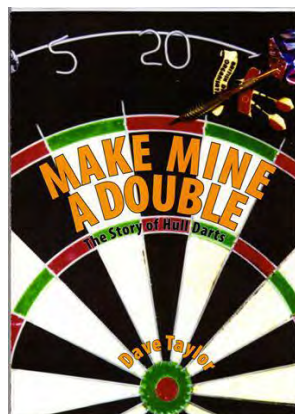
DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 58 March 2015



FABULOUS FEEDBACK

Welcome one and all to this month's *DDN* and especially to my new subscribers who include Gerry Macdonald from Nova Scotia, Canada who plays his darts at the Royal Canadian Legion in an 'over 50' league.



Welcome also to Dave Taylor whose ground-breaking book *Make Mine A Double – The Story of Hull Darts* (probably the only truly *local* darts history book written to date) was published back in 2007 (cover pictured left) and which, eight years on, is still in demand.

In my review of Dave's book in the September 2007 issue of *Darts World* I described his work as 'impressive' and that it made 'an excellent template' for anyone wishing to write a similar book about darts in their area. Sadly at more or less the same time as *Make Mine a Double* was being printed

Dave lost almost all of his research papers and photographs in a flood at his home. But for that disaster I guess we would have seen a Volume Two of his excellent work.

I've received fabulous feedback from a good number of subscribers during the past few weeks, much of it relating to the Stefan Lord interview featured in #57. Other feedback relates to earlier issues, one story going back as far as Issue 19, that's October 2011!

Here's #58...

'AWESOME' NEWSLETTER

Great feedback from *DDN* subscriber Nick Dunning when he wrote

Hi Patrick, just read this month's [January] newsletter and it was awesome as usual. Imagine my surprise when it opened and my name is there. LOL. Thank you for the mention. Also totally stoked about the Gary Anderson win [in the PDC World Championships] as that was what won me the DartsForum world's prediction competition.

It was close at the end as had Taylor won it there would have been three of us tied for the win. Not to mention I am a Taylor fan but Scottish roots so I had to go with my home boy Gary and I truly felt the way he was playing he was going to take it.

Eagerly awaiting my signed Stephen Bunting darts to arrive from Darts Corner who sponsored the comp. Thanks again for all your hard work every month and will be waiting for next month's issue.

Well done Nick. There are some great on-line competitions out there.

STEFAN LORD

The belated publication of my interview with Swedish darts star Stefan Lord (pictured right) has been very well received with a number of *DDN* subscribers providing feedback and memories of either watching Stefan play or actual playing him. (Image DW/PC Archive. Used with permission.)



Subscriber Mike Bailey wrote

Hi Patrick, Great issue (as always). Especially loving the Stefan Lord interview; what an absolute legend. The 'unflappable' Swede. Keep up the great work.

Chris Murray commented

If Stefan Lord was any further laid back he would be asleep. Remember him well - epitome of the man with no fear. Wish I had had some of that when I played.

Tom Firth of the World Airlines Darts Association (WADA) recalled both playing Stefan and meeting him some years later. Tom wrote

Patrick, another fine newsletter but you will have to stop bringing back these old memories because they make me feel even older!

This [time] you are talking about Stefan Lord who I played in the Finnish Open one time in the late '80's. This is when I was 'pitchin' some good arras.' [I] Played Stefan in about the third round and was 2-0 down so I can remember saying to myself, "Lose another one and you are out." So I won the next two games in, I think, 13 and 14 darts. (Things like that you tend to remember.)

In the final game I was well ahead but, lo and behold, Stefan threw 2 x 140's back-to-back, leaving himself on double top with myself needing 60 and three darts in my hand. With 20 first dart I pinned the wire with the other two. All to no avail, Stefan checked out on the double top. [I'm] Not sure how much further he went but I sort of lost interest after that. No doubt my Finnish friends would have been very happy if I had managed to pull that one off but it was not to be.

Some years later Tom was to meet Stefan again purely by accident. Tom recalled:

Then in 2014 at the World Airlines Competition in Pattaya [Thailand], which had been completed, at the time, everyone was relaxing the day after in 'The Legends of Pool Bar' where it had been held. The owner came over to me and said, "Do you know who that is over there?" "No," I replied. "Well it's Stefan Lord." he informed me.

Needless to say I went over and we had a conversation for quite a while, not that he remembered me any more than I recognized him from all those years ago. He explained to me how he was avoiding the cold weather in Sweden by spending those months in Thailand. Funny how though you can travel half way round the world and meet someone you know, from the other half of the hemisphere?

Stefan had described his victory in the 1980 *News of the World* Individual Darts championship grand final against England's Dave Whitcombe as 'the most memorable.' Dave recently recalled:

I played Stefan a few times over the years and the only one I lost was in the News of the World. To be honest I was a little overwhelmed by the occasion. Everyone had me down to win and all of the crowd were cheering me on. I suppose it was an England v anyone scenario, and that put more pressure on me I think.



I never played badly just not good enough which in hindsight was silly because he [Stefan] never played that much better. I was absolutely gutted afterwards and thought my chance had gone.

Dave's chance might have gone for that year but he persisted and eventually became *News of the World* champion in 1989 beating Yorkshire's Dennis Priestley 2-1 in the final. (The photo above shows 'Dr. Darts' with Dave at his pub *The Gore Arms* in the Kent town of Sittingborne in 2004. (Image © Chippix. Used with permission.))

Subscriber Mick Simpson wrote:

As ever a great read and to be honest an even greater read for me when as you know you write about my [favourite] dart tournament [the News of the World]. I remember Stefan winning the NoW. The way he threw his darts was almost like he did not care. He was, in my opinion, one of the great winners.

Do you think you will ever have a chance to write about another great tournament the Lord Lonsdale Trophy? [Mick: Leave that request with me.]

Finally, I am thrilled to report that Stefan himself contacted me to say that the article, 'Looks great. Thank you.' adding 'Thanks again for remembering an old timer.'

My interview with Stefan is now going to be included on Charis Mutschler's website www.globaldarts.de at some stage in the future so hopefully there will be more reaction from that source. Charis is also planning to interview Sweden's new star Peter Saijwani, who played so well in the Lakeside World Championships. Charis told me, "It would be quite interesting to contrast Swedish darts long ago with Swedish darts today."

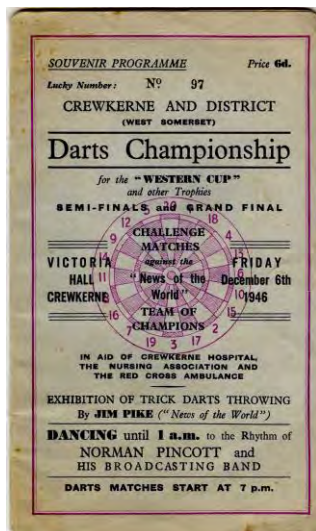
AND TALKING OF CHARIS...

Regular readers will recall that Charis interviewed me in Hull at the WINMAU World Masters last October. The interview has now been published on Charis's website and, if you want to learn more about 'Dr. Darts', here's the link:

<http://www.globaldarts.de/globalDartsEN/interviews/PatrickChaplin.html>

JIM PIKE'S SIGNATURE

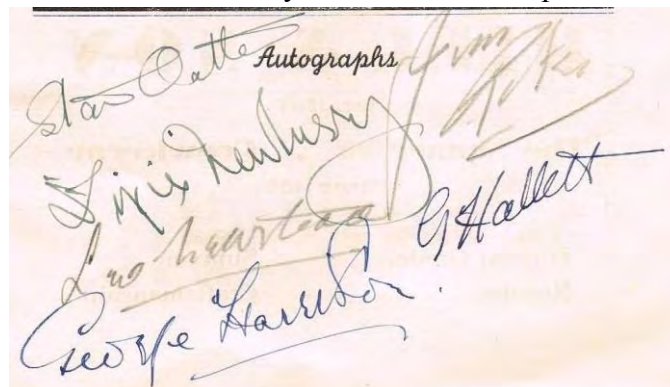
I received an interesting request from subscriber Bill Bell recently in which he asked, 'Do you have or have seen Jim Pike's autograph anywhere maybe on a program or a book?' Bill was thinking of buying a set of Jim Pike darts with an autograph on the box and wanted to be sure that it was genuine.



In my archive I have several examples of Jim Pike's signature, one of the best being taken from the programme for the Crewkerne and District (West Somerset) Darts Championship for the "Western Cup" (and other trophies) semi-finals and grand finals night held at the Victoria Hall, Crewkerne on Friday 6th December 1946. The programme of events also included challenge matches against the *News of the World* Team of Champions (of which Jim Pike was Captain).

Jim Pike's signature can be seen clearly top right of the image (below right). The other signatures are (from top left anti-clockwise) Stan Outten, 'Dixie' Newbury and Leo Newstead (the other three members of the *News of the World* Team of Champions), George Harrison - No. Not that one! - a member of the organising committee and sponsor of the event who also recorded a commentary for the BBC excerpts of which were broadcast on the West of England Home Service – "Sports Magazine" the following evening.

Games in the Championship semi-finals and Grand Final of the "Western Cup" were the best of three legs 1,001-up, start and finish on a double. The "No Bursting" rule applied to all games.



The darts matches started at 7 p.m. and the event ended with 'dancing until 1 a.m.' all proceeds from the event being in aid of Crewkerne Hospital, the Nursing Association and the Red Cross Ambulance.

What a great night of darts that must have been but what were the results? Did the Crewkerne Champions beat Jim Pike and his team of champions? Surely the local newspaper(s) would have recorded this historic event.

Sadly, despite a detailed search being made of the *Somerset Gazette* and the *Western Gazette* newspapers by Wilf Deckner of the Somerset County Record Office, nothing was found about the 'Western Cup' finals evening, except an advertisement in the *Western Gazette* the week before the event which stated 'All tickets have now been sold.'

A sell-out event the results of which would seem to have been lost to history.

NATIONAL DARTS – GEORGE EDWARD JONES

In last month's *DDN* I mentioned the darts inventor George Edward Jones, this following an enquiry received via James Masters of www.tradgames.org.uk from George's great-grandson Crispin Jones.



I was able to shed some light on George's achievements including the fact that George submitted a patent for approval to the Patents Office on 16th May 1922 under the general category of 'Improvements to Darts or like Missiles.' (See #57 for details.)

I have subsequently discovered that George, whose darts business was run out of Bow, east London during the 1920s and 1930s, actually traded under the name 'National Darts.'

I am indebted to my good friend Patrick Dee ('The Curator of Darts') for allowing me to photograph these two different sets of George Jones's 'National' brass darts from his collection.

THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF DARTBOARDS IN THE WORLD?

Way back in issue #19 (June 2011) I reported on Mark Brindza's amazing collection of dartboards. Mark who lives in Warminster, Philadelphia, USA told me at that time 'My passion for this game is so great I am constantly searching for more dartboards.' As of September 2011 Mark had collected 79 dartboards and was concerned that he was already 'running out of room.'

Mark recently contacted me again to bring me up to date and revealed that today the number exceeds *two hundred*! The image, left, shows only one wall! Mark told me,

I wanted to send you updated pictures of my game room. I am close to maxed out but I do have some ideas for displaying more. I also added a storage bench which is almost full. I currently have a little over 200 dartboards. If you mention my flickr address (www.flickr.com/photos/dart-dartboard/) DDN readers will be able to view all my pictures.



Surely that has to be a world record...

THE COLOUR OF THE 20 SEGMENT

Bruce T. e-mailed me recently and posed the question 'Is there anything in the rules of darts that stipulates that the 20 sector must be coloured black (as opposed to white)?'

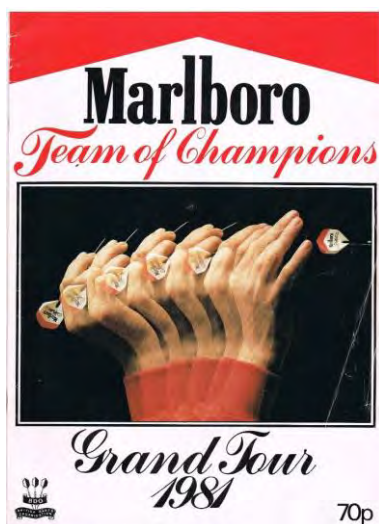
As far as I can recall for the past 40 years and probably more the sections of the twenty segment on a tournament dartboard have always been black and the double and treble segments red.

For the official answer I referred to the British Darts Organisation (BDO) official rulebook. **Rule 13.09** clearly states that:

The dartboard shall be fixed such that the '20' segment is coloured 'black', and is at the top of the dartboard.

MARLBORO TEAM OF CHAMPIONS – BEATEN FOR THE FIRST TIME

Back in September (DDN #52) I included an obituary for Reg Harding the Sussex professional darter who sadly died from cancer in August 2014; a great loss to the darts community.



In that obituary I mentioned that Reg had been a member of the first team ever to beat the Marlboro Team of Champions, a star-stunned line-up of professional players captained by John Lowe, in Eastbourne in 1980. Sadly I had no details of that victory...until now.

Deep within a hidden recess of my ever-expanding darts archive I recently discovered a newspaper cutting from the *Evening Argus* dated Wednesday 5th November 1980 which reveals all about the historic match that had taken place the night before. Headlined 'Sussex four stun darts superstars' the newspaper reports on the 'First-ever defeat for Lowe & Co.'

The Marlboro Team of Champions comprised John Lowe, Tony Brown, Colin Baker (England), Leighton Rees (Wales) and Scotland's Rab Smith. Colin Baker was not in the Team on that fateful night.

The *Evening Argus* reported

Reg Harding, from Lewes, Ivor Henty, of Brighton, and the Bognor pairing of Arthur Danahar and John Avery won the match 4-3 in front of a packed crowd at the Dixielander Showbar on Eastbourne Pier.

Harding beat Rees in the deciding tie to give the Sussex team, dubbed the Hemerling challengers and backed by Charringtons, a dramatic victory.

The team, led by non-playing captain Les Griffiths of Brighton, picked up £125 for their triumph, but more important than the cash was the prestige value to Sussex darts.

The Sussex players won one of the two doubles, through Harding and Henty, but lost the four-a-side match. The crunch came in the singles. Although Henty was beaten by Smith, there were wins for Avery, over England captain and former No. 1. Lowe, and Danahar, against Brown.



That meant everything depended on the final match between Harding and Rees, who was world professional champion in 1978 and won the World Cup singles the previous year.

Incredibly the showdown went Harding's way, and the Sussex player brought the house down as he clinched a win which will go down in darts history.

Indeed it did and is now fully recorded here...all except for that winning double. What was it I wonder?

(Images of Marlboro Grand Tour programme 1981 and the team with their luxury tour bus courtesy of the PC Darts Archive. Used with permission.)

DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER – BINDERS

I mentioned in the last issue that subscriber Jim MacNeil had prepared binders for his back issues of *DDN*. Another good friend of mine, David King, has a more ecologically-friendly idea. He wrote, 'Reading that some of your subscribers place your newsletters in purposely made binders I thought I would share my folder picture with you. (see right) As much as I like the printed book, I am a firm believer of saving a few trees where possible!'



DR. DARTS' PRODUCTS AND PUBLICATIONS

As mentioned in previous issues of *DDN*, my 'DR. DARTS' flights, are now being produced by WINMAU as part of their 'Rhino Long Life' range, (see image, left). You can now purchase your very own 'Dr. Darts' flights through suppliers including Red Dragon Darts and Darts Corner or direct from me.



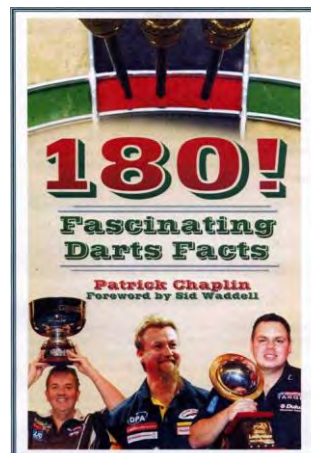
My books *180! Fascinating Darts Facts* and *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* continue to sell well, one recent purchaser

telling me:

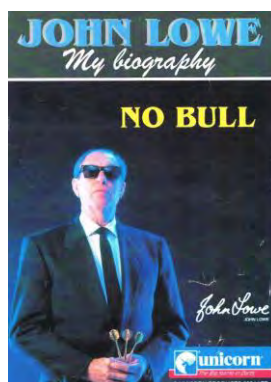
'Patrick I've just finished your 180 darts facts book. Really good read. Not how I expected it to be. I thought it would be a numbered list of facts but it was written really well in different categories and chapters. I should expect that from the master darts writer!'

Signed copies of both my *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* and *180! – Fascinating Darts Facts* are available direct from me. As long as you have PayPal I can post them to you anywhere in the world. (UK subscribers can pay by cheque if that helps.) Please contact me for details at info@patrickchaplin.com.

The book based on my PhD *Darts in England 1900-39: A social history* is now available in paperback at £15.99 (plus postage and packing) and can be obtained via NBN International at www.nbninternational.com.



AND FINALLY...



I cannot believe that it is *ten years* since the publication of the book I co-authored with John Lowe, his autobiography *Old Stoneface*. It is a little-known fact that the original title of the book was something entirely different.

I recently discovered John's earlier version in my archive and think that it is appropriate to show it here to celebrate the book's tenth anniversary. Cheers John!

OK, so that's it for this month. I hope you've enjoyed it.

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