

DR DARTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue Six August 2010 www.patrickchaplin.com



www.winmau.com

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Issue Six.

Well, I've now attained the age of 60 yet still retain an enthusiasm for friendship and darts that I hope will never waver. Close family and friends gathered on 24th July to celebrate my 60th and my father Albert's 90th birthday and what an evening we had.

In a darts-themed piece of mid-party entertainment members of the family invited my father and I to participate in a game of *Bullseye*. Needless to say my darting skills meant that I kept hitting two-in-a-bed for which I won nothing. Pictured here are my nephew Andrew (Jim Bowen for the night), sister-in-law Sue, cousin Kathy and sister-in-law Margaret setting up Bully's prize board.



(Photo Credit 'Allensnapz')

But now more or less a whole month of celebrating is over and it's back to the day-job, researching the best sport in the world and writing the latest issue of *DDN*.

The response to Issue Five has been very good. Paul Gillings wrote

'Thanks Patrick. Great read as usual. So good I will still send you a birthday card despite you spelling my name wrong! I love the calameo idea, the future of publishing without a doubt! Cheers, Paul.'

I did indeed spell Paul's surname incorrectly in Issue Five (page 6, follow-up (f)) but he must still be mad at me because the promised birthday card hasn't arrived yet.

Ad from Holland wrote:

“I always look forward to your Newsletter. It does not bother me how I get it, but I want to get it. Please go on with it and I wish you much success.

OK Ad, thanks. If folks want me to continue then I need no more encouragement than that for the moment.

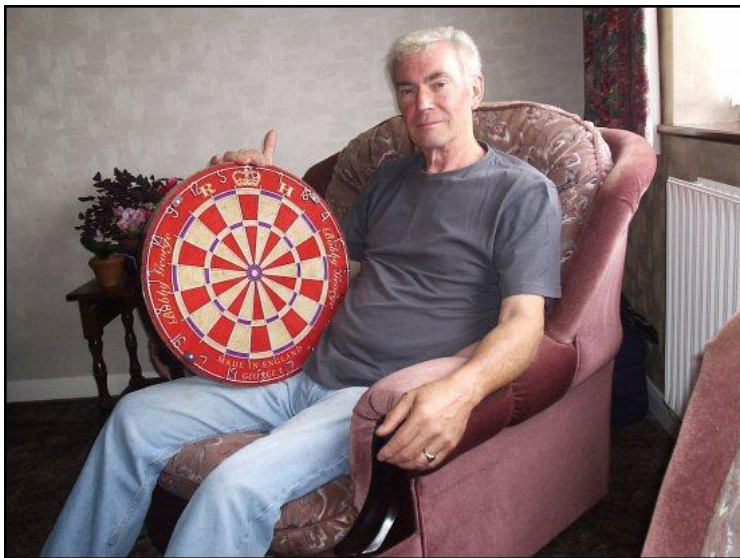
Let's see what Issue Six has for you...

FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

(a) The Malian Dartboard

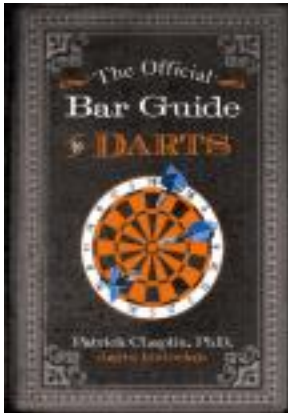
The lead article for Issue Five showed me puzzling over the **MALIAN** dartboard that I purchased at a car boot sale on the England/Wales border in June. To find the answer I went straight to the top, or rather to Haverhill in Suffolk, England and spoke with Harry Kicks jnr whose father Harry Kicks snr set up Kicks Bros in 1946; a company that was later to be renamed WINMAU.

Harry told me that the MALIAN dartboard was in fact invented by his brothers Malcolm and Ian, and that the version I had was a flock material (rather like you used to find on the walls of Chinese restaurants) glued and pressed on to a board of coiled paper. An earlier version had been made of elm. The example I found was produced in the mid-1980s and the name was simply a compression of the names MALcolm and IAN in MALIAN (rather like the WINMAU dartboard title was a compression of Harry Kicks' mother's names WINifred MAUde).



My photo here shows Harry Kicks jnr at home in July. He's holding one of the limited edition dartboards that he manufactures with darts professional and close friend, Bobby George.

(b) Book reviews – The Official Bar Guide to Darts



Charis Mutschler has written a very good review of my book *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* and you can check it out at her Global Darts website:

<http://www.globaldarts.de/globalDartsEN/misc/bookspraxis.html>

The book has also received excellent reviews from both George Silberzahn (one of the key darts tutors of our age) and Dan William Peek (author of *To the Point: The Story of Darts in America*). Both reviews can be found in the July/August issue of *Bull's-Eye News* magazine; reviews which will be copied to my website very soon.

Those nice folks at MSN also published an article mentioning my book and using quotes from it to tell readers 'How to throw perfect darts'. Check the article out at

<http://him.uk.msn.com/time-off/articles.aspx?cp-documentid=154103236>

(c) The correct height of a dartboard

In Issue Five I discussed the correct height at which to hang a dartboard; it being related to the average height of a man back in the 1920s. For those interested in reading more about this please see my latest Uniblog at www.unicorn-darts.com.

(d) Cyprus – even *more* follow up

Terry McGovern from the Pafos Darts League (PDL) has put a link on to the league's website linking Pafos darters to my *Newsletter*. Thanks Terry. I hope more players from Pafos and other enthusiasts across the island will log on and sign up.

Vic Hemming, Chairman of the PDL, e-mailed me to bring me up to date and told me "We hope this year to have five leagues and a ladies league, which has had a successful pilot. We and have over 40 teams which is fantastic." I agree with that Vic. That's excellent news indeed.

But even on the Island of Aphrodite (the Greek goddess of Love) there appears to be little love lost between the major darts organisations on the island. I don't wish to go into detail but it seems to me that Open tournaments on the island are being affected today in a similar way to how they were here in the UK after 'the split' in 1993/94.

Vic told me, "Our own Open this year is under review as we don't want to commit to prize money and then find we have insufficient entries to cover most of the costs as we do not have a sponsor." He added, "It's a shame that a simple game like darts can be embroiled in so much politics." Too right Vic. Folks don't seem to learn do they?

Sadly I will not be making by annual pilgrimage to Cyprus this year but I send my and my wife Maureen's very best wishes to Terry and Vic and all the darts players in Pafos and across the island. We hope that the current 'political' difficulties are sorted sooner rather than later and in the best interests of the sport.



To remind me of those balmy days in Cyprus the photograph published here (courtesy of Moppix) shows me in 2009 with Mick Saggs, landlord of the First and Last (darts mad) pub in Pafos. Also in shot is Mick's treasured dart shirt given to him and signed by 'The Power'.

(e) Trina Gulliver – Question of Sport



Once again the date of Trina's appearance on BBC TV's *A Question of Sport* has been rescheduled for Friday 13th August. Apologies to all those who set their recorders for the previous date but the revised details were not received until Issue Five had been published.

(f) British Classic and Teenage Open come to Essex

As I mentioned in Issue Five, the BDO British Classic and the Teenage Open came to my home county for the first time in July, transferring from Kettering to Towerlands Park, Braintree, about sixteen miles away from where I live.

Birthday celebrations meant that I was unable to attend the Classic on the Saturday (where Scotland's Ross Montgomery won the Men's Singles and England's Deta Hedman won the Women's Singles) but I did make it to the Teenage Open on Sunday 26th where I witnessed some stunning darts from the nation's up-and-coming youngsters.

I was keeping a look out in particular for Humberside's Leon Bailey who had won the Teenage Open title in 2008 and 2009 and was going for his hat-trick of wins. Sadly that was not to be as he lost 3-2 in the last sixteen to Gwent's Nick Kenny. The 2010 winner was Lancashire's Shaun Griffiths who defeated Wiltshire County's Chris Aubrey 3-1 in the final.



18-year-old Shaun's best performance came in his semi-final win against Nick Kenny which he won 3-0 with legs of 12, 14, and 16 darts to produce an outstanding three-dart average of 107.37. There truly are some amazing darts being played out there by a lot of young people and long may it continue. The photograph shows Shaun with former *Darts World* editor Tony Wood being presented with the Barbara Wood trophy (named after Tony's late wife) and his prize of a laptop computer. (Image courtesy of Steve Daszko.)

After two days of top-quality darts I asked a BDO spokesman what they thought of the new venue. His said, "Yes, we will be back in Braintree next year. It's a great venue."

And talking of Leon Bailey...

BARBADOS DARTS FESTIVAL



(Image courtesy of Michael Heal)

Now in its ninth year, the Barbados Darts Festival is this year hosted by the well-known professional darts player and personality Wayne Mardle and will also feature Leon (pictured) takes place from 1st – 11th November.

Leon says he is determined to break into the top ranks as soon as possible but appreciates that he still has some way to go to combining his natural talent with consistency and tactical awareness. However, according to festival organiser Michael Heal, Leon reasons that spending ten days in the company of Wayne Mardle can only help develop all aspects of his game.

The teenager from Hull has a string of junior titles to his credit in his relatively short career and surprisingly he was only introduced to the game by friends three years ago. Leon plays regularly for Lincolnshire at County level.

For more details of the Barbados Darts Festival check out Wayne's web site: <http://www.waynemardle.com>

SHANGHAI

I mentioned Jacques Niewlaat in an earlier issue of *DDN*. Jacques is known in his native Holland as the 'Mastercaller' and he recently e-mailed me as follows:

Patrick, when we do commentary on the darts over here the audience can ask us questions. We have had the same question a couple of times and we don't know the answer, maybe you can help out? Where does the term shanghai come from when applied to a single, double and treble of the same number?

SHANGHAI is an alternative game of darts where numbers are drawn on the board and players have to score as many of that number as they can with their turn of three darts. At the end of the game, the player who has the highest score wins.

However, if during the game a player hits the single, double and treble of the number then he or she is declared the winner. . (Some versions dictate that they should be scored in a specific order, for example, double, treble, single, but the most popular way is any order.) Shanghai is only given on the number that everyone is going for, not accidentally hitting a Shanghai on the segment next door. Hitting the single, double and treble of the nominated number is known as 'SHANGHAI'.

The word 'shanghai' comes from nautical slang and means 'to drug or otherwise render insensible, and ship on board a vessel wanting hands.' Nowadays, in a general sense 'shanghai'ed' means anything that has interrupted someone's actions or train of thought, for example "The boss then shanghai'ed the meeting and talked about nothing but himself for the rest of the morning."

In the darts sense it means that, by hitting single, double and treble with one turn of three darts you have effectively 'shanghai'ed' the rest of the players out of the game - something none of them wanted to happen.

THE NORTH AMERICAN OPEN DARTS TOURNAMENT (NAODT)

Horror of horrors! An error has been discovered in my new book *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* and I need to set the record straight.

On page 122, having outlined the historical importance of the NAODT (dubbed by three-times World Darts Champion John Lowe as "the hardest and most difficult one to win") I wrote that, at the beginning of the 2000s, the format changed and then added:

"...today the NAODT has been reestablished as one of the most important tournaments on the world darting calendar."

Of course that is totally incorrect. Writers block perhaps? Who knows? I can't explain it.

Of course after the error was pointed out to me I had to be sure of my facts and so I consulted two of the most knowledgeable darts-persons in the USA, Paul Seigel (aka 'Dartoid') and *Bull's-Eye News* editor Jay Tomlinson.

Paul replied first and copied Jay in...

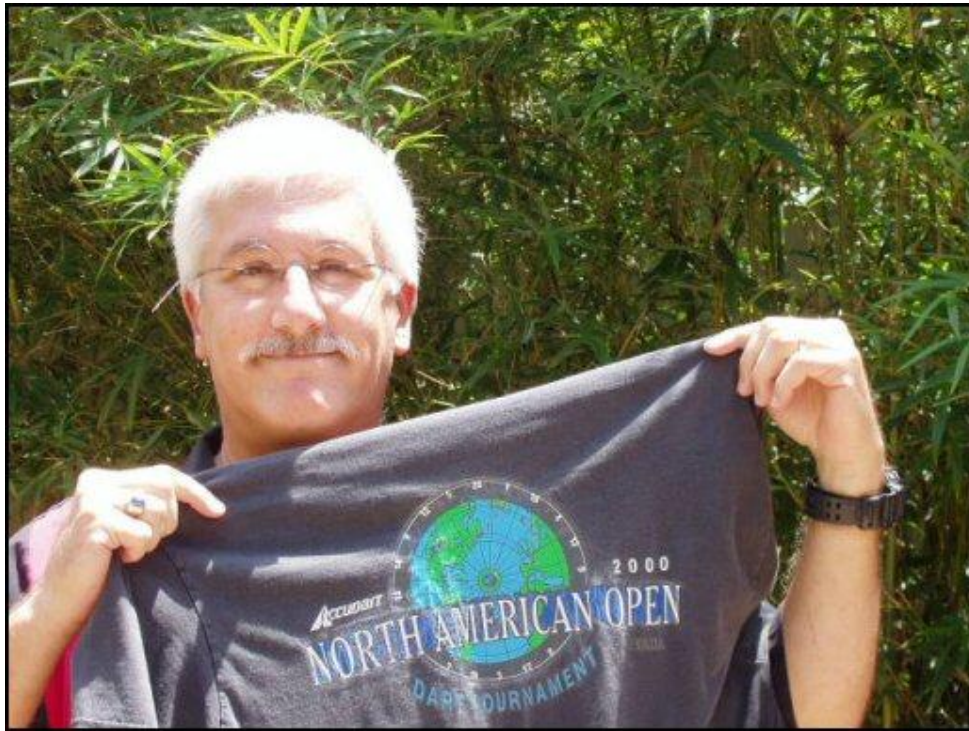
'Hey Patrick...

This isn't scientific (because I actually can't remember for 100% certain) but based on the shirts in my closet (I'm a big darts shirt guy - always get a shirt) the last NAODT was in 2000.'

But could I rely on Paul's 'shirtific' research?

Indeed I could.

Jay confirmed “Dartoid is amazing! His NAODT dart shirts in the closet tell the true story.” Jay added that the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) did promote and run the NAODT in 2000 ‘increasing the prize money and dropping the number of events offered.’ So that’s confirmed then; the last NAODT ran in 2000 and afterwards was consigned to history, Jay confirming that the PDC then launched The Las Vegas Desert Classic in 2002 with a prize purse of £100,000.



Thanks guys for your responses. The photograph (courtesy of Marylou Images) shows ‘Dartoid’ proudly displaying the final (2000) NAODT shirt.

HOLIDAY DARTS



Subscriber Dave B recently returned from a fantastic cruise around the Mediterranean and sent me this great photo of ‘darts on the beach’. He snapped it at San Vicente, Ibiza where he and his wife had stopped off during their cruise in June.

If anyone thinks I’m being sexist, please look again. The two ‘girls’ either side of the female dart-thrower are in fact young men wearing wigs!

If any other subscriber discovers darts in unusual places whilst on holiday or generally travelling around, send me a photo and I’ll try and find room for it in a future issue of *DDN*. In the meantime, thanks Dave.

HISTORIEN OM JOHN LOWE

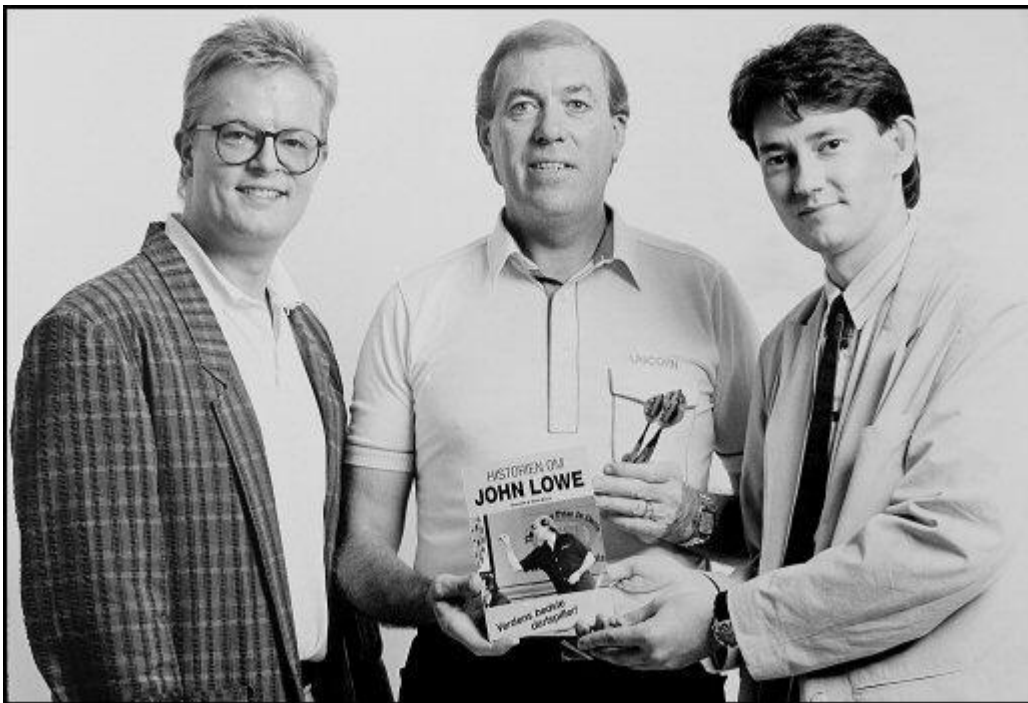
No my spellchecker hasn’t failed.

The full title is *Historien om John Lowe – Et kig bag kulisserne i den professionelle dartverden* and it was (as far as I know) the first English darts book to be translated into *Danish*. The original title of the book which was written by John Lowe and co-authored by Bryan Cooney, is *The John Lowe Story – Inside Pro Darts with the World Champion* which was first published in London by Kingswood Press in 1987,

Kent Bovin, who in the 1980s was the Danish editor of ‘Dartsport’, recently revealed to me how the translation happened. Kent explained:

“I bought the book when visiting Tony Wood at Darts World and when I showed it to my friend and teammate back in Denmark he complained about not being very good at reading English. I said, "I'll just translate it for you." I meant it as a joke but he looked at me and said "Would you do that?" And that's how the idea came up.”

Kent asked John if he would allow him to print the book in his magazine, one chapter per issue. John said "Sure, go ahead" so Kent started translating. Kent added, “But before I got around to printing the first chapter, I told another friend about the project. We were both board members in the Danish Darts Federation and he worked in advertising. So suddenly we found ourselves printing the book and promoting it with John at the 1989 Danish Open.” (The image, supplied by Kent shows exactly that happening.)



I wonder if any other English darts book has been translated into another language or perhaps you know of one that has been translated into English?

PDPA SETS UP ‘FANZONE’

Denise O’Malley, Membership Secretary of the Professional Dart Player’s Association (PDPA) e-mailed me mid-July to tell me that the PDPA had launched their brand new FANZONE on their website www.pdpa.co.uk.

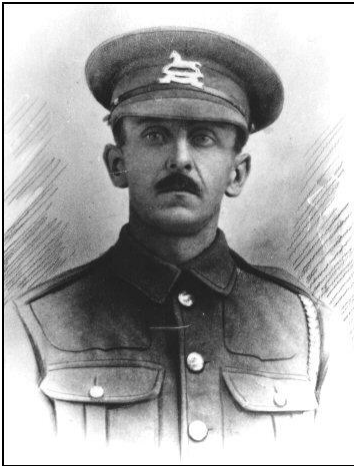
It’s full of interesting stuff and fans can enter the Monthly Darts Quiz, pit their wits against the professional tipsters, send in their photos for the fans photo gallery, read the monthly interview on one of the top professionals and even visit ‘Nostalgia Corner’ where fans can let Denise know what their favourite piece of darts footage is. There’s also the ‘Fanzone Discussion Board’ where you can chat with fellow darts fans and also

the professionals. Denise told me, “You can also send in your questions – and the professionals will try and answer them!”

PDPA Chief Executive Alan Warriner-Little challenged me to answer the first monthly quiz. I have to admit that I only scored five out of ten before having to ‘cheat’ and refer to my archive and back issues of *Darts World* and *We Love Darts*.

Talking of the latter...

WE LOVE DARTS HISTORY ARTICLES



I’m pleased to say that I continue to write the ‘Madhouse’ feature and history articles for *We Love Darts* magazine. The history piece in the August issue is entitled ‘The Devious Dartboard’. In it I explain why the numbers on a standard dartboard are in the order that they are and I reveal that, contrary to popular myth, it was not Brian Gamlin (a Lancashire carpenter) who came up with the sequence but a Leeds man named Thomas Edward Buckle (pictured).

I am also hoping that the editor of *Darts World* will be publishing my article about Bob Sinnaeve at some stage in the future. I will keep you all informed.

PEGASUS DARTS - CAN YOU HELP?

Calling all UK darts enthusiasts...

Andy W. of the University of Southampton recently e-mailed me. He wrote:



“I was helping my father clear out his garage when I came across two sets of ‘Pegasus Darts.’ They were made in England and seem to have a brass body and feather flights.” Andy has been unable to find out any information about the company so asked if I could help find out more.

Even though I am aware of numerous of the lesser-known darts companies, ‘Pegasus’ is not a name that is familiar to me. But

then there were hundreds of darts distributors and manufacturers that came into being after the Second World War so that admission shouldn’t really surprise anyone.

From Andy's brief description (and seeing the darts (pictured) I would guess them to be 1950s /early 1960s. There is no more information on the box although the barrel of each of the darts includes the capital letter 'E'. (Most unusual.)

If anyone can help with this enquiry please contact me via my website.

CONGRATULATIONS STACY!

Many congratulations to the USA's Stacy Bromberg for becoming the first Unicorn Women's World Darts Champion at Blackpool last month. As you all probably know Stacy had a narrow 6-5 win over England's Tricia Wright.

That man Taylor won the Matchplay *again*. Is there nobody out there who'll test this man?

COMING UP IN ISSUE SEVEN

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Apologies to all those of you who were expecting to see pieces on Stefan Lord, Patrick Dee (possibly the only darts museum curator in the world), darts on 'The Rock', the 'Lightning Darts Scorer' and Russ Strobel's wheelchair dart frame in this issue.

Information about Stefan and Patrick may well see the light of day as articles for *We Love Darts* and Russ's dart frame *will* feature again soon but I have some more work to do with Russ before that happens. However, the pieces on 'The Rock' and the 'Lightning Darts Scorer' **WILL** feature in Issue Seven.

The rest of the forthcoming content of the next issue will remain a mystery to all (including me) until early September.

AND FINALLY...

Thanks to Chris M. for sending me this scan of an advertisement for 'Treble Top Ale'. The image dates back to 1957. The ale was, as you can see, made by the famous Scottish brewers Younger's of Alloa.

Interestingly, darts was first played in serious league format in the County of Clackmannanshire in 1938 and was sponsored by the Alloa brewery.

That's it for this month.

Cheers!

Patrick Chaplin

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