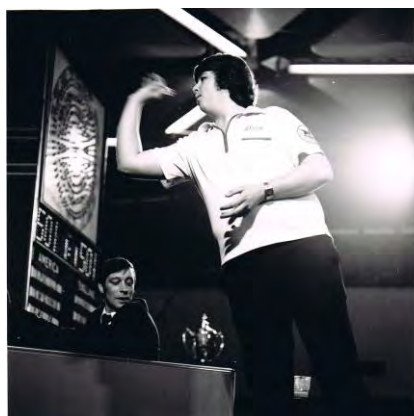


DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 62 July 2015

Hi everyone and welcome to the July issue of *DDN*.



New subscribers joining us since the last *DDN* include Joseph Pizzarro and his wife Helen from La Punta, a suburb of Callao in Peru, and to the US darts ace David Miller (pictured, left) who *DDN* reader Jerry Feather described to me as 'one of the best California shooters in the late 1970s and early 1980s.' (Photo courtesy PC/DW Darts Archive)

The main articles in this issue concern a 'surprise' for a Dutch darts team courtesy of the legendary darts players Alan Glazier and the first part of a look into the life and career of Leo Newstead.

Newstead was not only a member of the *News of the World* Team of Darts Champions (captained by Jim Pike) from about 1939 but also, after 1945, a member of the equally famous St. Dunstan's Four, captained by Joe Hitchcock. Newstead was known as the 'Champion of Champions' and for good reason: he had at one time or another beaten all of the top darters of his era.

There is also some sad news again this month as I report the passing of no less than *three* prominent darts players of the past.

DR. DARTS' LATEST BOOK

I am very pleased to announce that my latest darts book, titled ***Darts. Skills. Tactics. Techniques*** will be published by The Crowood Press (www.crowood.com) in early August as one in the popular series *Crowood Sports Guides*. Designed to give players 'that competitive edge' the *Guides* are the perfect tool for anyone wanting to improve their performance, from beginners learning the basic skills to more experienced participants working on advanced techniques.

Darts. Skills. Tactics. Techniques includes a history of darts, rules of the game, choosing the right equipment, with basic skills explained together with how to improve your throwing technique plus lots of suggestions for making practice more interesting. The book also features an introduction by Bobby George.



The 96-page book is lavishly illustrated with photographs and diagrams and will cost £12.99 (sterling). (ISBN 978 1 78500 005 8). For details of how to order in advance please e-mail my publisher at enquiries@crowood.com or phone (0)1672 520320.

More information will, of course, be included in the August issue together with a chance for one lucky *DDN* reader to win a signed copy of the book in an easy-to-enter competition.

FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

(a) How would the players of the distant past fare today?

It seems that the question I posed in last month's issue asking how players of the distant past, like Joe Hitchcock and Jim Pike, would do today against the top BDO and PDC players struck a chord with a number of you. (Comments on this subject by the ex-England International and WINMAU World Master Dave Whitcombe have been held over until next month due to lack of space.)

Bill Bell had recently been undertaking some research and wrote:

Patrick, after reading copies of 'The Dart' [a rare 1940s darts newspaper], I reckon Joe Hitchcock would have been a match for any of today's players. The more I read about him, the more it seems that he was really the best player out of himself and Jim Pike and any of the other players around at that time.

Mick Simpson makes a good point too. He wrote:

Patrick, Thanks for the latest DDN. Another great read. I will be very interested to see what other people think about players from yesteryear. The only problem I have is a lot of players are not of our age? I know we are very close in age but as your DDN is so popular I am betting a lot of younger players read it. Still will be very interesting to see what other people think.

By 'age', of course, Mick means 'over 50' (I think) and, yes, he does have a point; something which, in my haste, I had overlooked. The players of yesterday the younger (under 50) readers will remember are not Jim Pike, Joe Hitchcock, Tom Barrett, etc, but Eric Bristow, Jocky Wilson, John Lowe, Bob Anderson, et al, who first came to prominence in the 1970s and 80s.

So let's turn the question on to my 'younger' readers. If Bristow, Lowe, Jocky, Bob and other heroes of the 'first modern era of darts' were able to step up to the oche *in their best form* how would they fare against the skills of, say, Phil Taylor, Michael Van Gerwen, Gary Anderson and Adrian Lewis.

Let me have your views please and drop me a note at info@patrickchaplin.com and I'll publish the best in the August issue.

(b) Alan Evans – More feedback.

Keith Watkins writes:

On the subject of Alan Evans, [DDN #60 and # 61] I played him in an exhibition match in 1978 best of 3 x 1001, which he won 2-1, but what was memorable was the

fact that he hit 3 maximums consecutively in the third leg, I wonder if anyone else has achieved this.

Does anyone know if this is a record?

(c) Seven Darts

In issue #61 I mentioned the ‘Seven Dart’ competition back in the 1960s when players had to score as many as possible with - Yes, you’ve guessed it! – seven darts. One player, named Farrell, played like a man possessed scoring **414** points with his seven darts! DDN subscriber Chris Murray wrote:

That Farrell who played out of the Prince of Wales, Bow (now the Greedy Cow restaurant!) must have had a hot streak. Six treble 20s and then popped one in the treble 18 presumably because there was no more room in the treble 20 bed!

Unfortunately Farrell achieved this feat in an early round of the competition and never made it to the grand finals.

LEO NEWSTEAD

Whenever I write about the legendary Jim Pike I always receive positive feedback from readers. Jim was a renowned darts player of the late 1930s through to the late 1950s and was probably best known as the formidable captain of the equally formidable *News of the World* Team of Darts Champions. The Team was established during the Second World War to raise money for wartime charities and particularly the Red Cross and to keep *News of the World* darts in the public eye whilst the individual darts tournament was suspended during the war years.



However, there was more, much more to the *News of the World* team than Pike. The regular team also included Johnny Ross, Harry Head and Leo Newstead (pictured left, on the left) and it is this latter name that I am concentrating on in this article.

Way, way back in October 2013 I received an e-mail from Chris Laurence who had heard about my book *Darts in England 1900-39 – A social history*. Chris wrote, ‘*Just wondering if there is much info regarding my granddad Leo Newstead in [your] book, and if so I would like to purchase a few copies.*’

Sadly, for both Chris and my book sales, *Darts in England* did not include any reference to Newstead as he did not come to prominence in darts until the Second World War: my book ending in 1939. However, I was able to (eventually) provide Chris with some information, replying to him along these lines:

I am aware of your grandfather and his prowess on the dartboard but regrettably none of my books, to date, include him.

I am also aware that he spent time as a member of the News of the World Team of Darts Champions. When Leo died in early 1980f Leo's death in early 1980 in a tribute to your granddad in Darts World (February 1980) John Ross, President of the National Darts Association of Great Britain (NDAGB) and a former member of the News of the World Team of Champions wrote that Leo 'would be a match for any of the professional players of today.'

Noel E. Williamson, the compiler of that obituary, wrote that Leo Newstead was, indeed, one of the most consistent darts players of the [twentieth] century who could 'hold his own with the best of the local players on all types of boards, on all kinds of 'throws', at all distances, from 6ft to 10ft, and the games he lost were few and far between.' For this reason perhaps he was dubbed 'The Champion of Champions.'

Your granddad won the Police Individual Championship in 1942 and the National Police Championships in 1943, 1944 and 1945. I also understand that, during the 1950s, he was 'European Champion' but regrettably I have no formal confirmation of that achievement.

He also travelled extensively during the 1940s, 50s and 60s doing darts exhibitions. He was also to become known as 'The Man Who Has Beaten all the Champs.' That's how good he was.'

(Note: I will continue the Leo Newstead story in next month's DDN.)

OBITUARY – LUC MARREEL

The world of Belgian darts was stunned recently with the announcement of the death of Belgium's first top international player, Luc Marreel. Luc was born in Gullegem, near Menin on 5th February 1949 and died on 11th May this year.

Luc (pictured, right) first came to prominence when he won the Frankrijk Open in 1978. A short time later Derek Brown, author of *The Guinness Book of Darts*, wrote that Luc, a railway worker, had 'emerged as his country's most dangerous player of 1980, his record including some fine scoring in the Europe Cup.'



Luc was the first Belgian to play in the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship. He was seeded 15th for the 1981 tournament which Brown described at the time as 'a rare honour for a Continental player.' In that year Luc beat Jan Larsen (Denmark) 2-1 to make it through to the second round where he was beaten 2-0 by England's Tony Brown.

He then qualified for the Embassy in 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985 but never made it beyond the second round. In the second round of both the 1982 and 1983 Embassy it was Sweden's Stefan Lord who halted Luc's progress even though their averages were very similar.

Luc also participated in many other top darts tournaments including the WINMAU World Masters (1981, 1982, 1983, and 1984), the Nations Cup (1977, 1980-85), the Europe Cup (1980, 1982 and 1984) and the World Cup (1983). Luc was a top-class player who was well-known and respected by players in his own country and throughout the world of darts. Learning of Luc's death, England's John Lowe wrote on Facebook:

Luc Marreel one of the pioneering dart players of the 80's and one of Belgium's greats passed away at the weekend. Luc was 66. Luc played in the BDO World championship five times. I remember playing against him on numerous occasions and one that stands out from the rest an exhibition in Gullegem, Belgium where 600 people turned out, many of them to support Luc. That was the night I met Luc's family member. It was Luke's sister Christa who informed me of Luc's passing. I know he will be sadly missed. RIP my good friend.

On hearing of Luc's death DDN subscriber Thierry Gellinck wrote:

Sad to say that one of my idols I looked up to when I started darts died today (11th May), our very own Belgian great player Luc Marreel. Too soon he's gone to the other side. My condolences to his sister Christa Marreel and sons Geoffrey Marreel and Marreel Wesley. I for sure will never forget him.

From the USA Steve Brown posted:

Sad news. Great player, great character, and a lovely guy.

(My thanks to Danny Desmidt for information relating to Luc's career. Image of Luc courtesy DW/PC Archive.)

OBITUARY - KEVIN WHITE

On 20th May the death was announced of top Australian darts player, Kevin White.

Kevin (b. 6th August 1938) (pictured below, on the right of the photo) has been described as 'One of Australia's greatest darts players'; a man who competed at the top level of the sport both in his home country and overseas for more than three decades.



He first came to the fore in Australia in 1964 when he was selected for the New South Wales State team eventually representing NSW on no less than 21 occasions. In 1971 he was runner-up in the Australian Singles and achieved a hat-trick of wins in that event (1983, 1984 and 1985).

Kevin played in the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship on four occasions (1981-1984). In 1981, having beaten Sweden's Stefan Lord in the first round, Kevin lost in the second round to Scotland's Jocky Wilson. In 1982 he was knocked out at the first hurdle by his

fellow countryman Terry O'Dea. 1983 saw Kevin beating Scotland's Rab Smith 2-1 in the first round. However, once again he found himself facing Jocky Wilson. Kevin lost that match 3-0. His last appearance in the Embassy was in 1984 when Kevin lost in the first round to Northern Ireland's Steve Brennan.

Although Kevin won numerous titles throughout his career perhaps his most memorable triumph was in 1976 when he and his great friend George Foster (of course representing Australia) won the Unicorn World Championship doubles beating the Belgian pairing of Willy Dalaere and Omer Bauwens 3-0 in the final. They won the Unicorn trophy and a cheque for £2,000 and were featured on the front page of *Darts World* in May 1976.

Kevin is yet another great loss to the world of darts.

(My thanks to Kevin Berlyn for some of the information relating to this obituary.)

Judy Campbell

Long-time subscribers to *DDN* may recall that in #38 (June 2013) I recorded the life of the English ladies darts player Judy Campbell winner of numerous titles here in the UK including the British Open Ladies singles title in 1979.

The article was produced following a request from Judy's grandson, Paul Chappell, for more information about her darting career. Sadly, only last month I received an e-mail from Paul informing me that his nan had passed away peacefully on January 25th.

DR. DARTS AND THE MEDIA

I was interviewed on 1st July by some great lads from Radio Wolfgang, an independent London-based radio station. George Lamb, formerly of the BBC, together with his sidekicks Rick and Mark questioned me about the history of darts for about twenty minutes. I have to say it was great fun during which time I managed to mention most of my books, my website and the Pub History Society (of which I am currently Chairman).

Back in issue #59 (April 2015) I reported on an interview I had with student Robbie Dove from Bournemouth University. Robbie was in his final year studying for a BA (Hons) in Radio and wanted to interview me as part of his final project: a 30-minute programme about darts. I was very pleased to help. A few weeks ago Robbie contacted me with great news. He wrote:

I'm just writing to inform you that I achieved a grade in which I'm very satisfied with, for my documentary on darts. The piece got 76%, which equates to a first. There was particularly positive feedback given on your contribution, saying how having a darts historian gave some interesting historical insight to the piece.

My piece wouldn't have been as good as it was if it wasn't for your contribution, so I'd like to thank you once again for your willingness to help me!

I'm always pleased to help any students who are featuring darts as part of a project or dissertation.

A SURPRISE FROM 'THE MAN IN BLACK'

Subscribers who have been with *DDN* for some time may well recall my writing about the Hanntje team in southern Holland whose team members all play with Alan 'Ton Machine' Glazier darts.

Alan (pictured below left), also known as 'The Man in Black,' was probably the first professional darts player of the 'modern era' of darts. He played numerous times for England and was the winner of many top darts titles. The high point in his career was probably the 'golden summer' of 1977 in the USA when Alan won both the Santa Monica Open and the North American Open (the latter being a tournament described by John Lowe as 'relentless darts'). Alan also won the Swedish Open in 1980 and been runner-up to Bobby George in the *News of the World* Individual Darts Championship in 1979.



When Alan read in *DDN* that the Hanntje darts team all played with his darts he decided to send them something by way of thanks. Team member and *DDN* subscriber Ad Kobbenaegen e-mailed to tell me:

Yesterday when I came home from work there was a package from Alan in the mail. You can imagine our surprise! In the package was the plaque from a dart contest in 1983 organized by the BDO [British Darts Organisation] called "Arrows Chemicals". The match was between England, Wales and Scotland. It listed all the names of the participants.

Furthermore, there were several sets of flights from the "Ton Machine" for our whole team and a letter in which he wished us luck for the future and that he was pleased that you told him that here in our region so many players dart with his arrows.



The photograph shows Ad and his team with the plaque. The players are (from left to right) Bjorn Lejeune, Ad Kobbenaegen, Emiel Claessens, Ed Ackermans, Justin Latour, Dennis Cleber. Players missing due to work commitments were Kevin Royen, Sjors Qoudbach, Ivan Ramaekers and Patrick Brouwer.

Ad informed me that the regular team comprises Ed Ackermans, Justin Latour, Dennis Cleber and himself.

The 'contest' mentioned by Ad was the 1983 Arrow Chemicals British International Championship, an annual tournament between England, Scotland and Wales. The



England v Scotland match was held on 27th February 1983 at the Royal Centre, Nottingham, with Scotland suffering an 11-4 loss, England's performance being described by Marcus Robertson in *Darts World* (Issue no. 125, April 1983) as 'formidable.'

Scotland's Rab Smith was unavailable for the match so 'Merseyside exile' Peter Masson was asked to take on the mantle of Captain for the first time. Masson was drawn against Alan Glazier in a match that Robertson called 'the dual of the left-handers.' According to Robertson:

A revitalised Glazier shared in a match of high drama and with the score at 2-2 it seemed that neither man had the will to hit that elusive final double. In fact between them the two men had 14 darts at a double before Glazier finally hit double 2.

For the record Scotland's ladies lost 3-2 to England on that occasion.

On Sunday 13th March England played Wales at the St. David's Hall, Cardiff and were victorious by a margin of 10-5. (England's ladies, captained by Maureen Flowers, beat the Welsh ladies 4-1.)

Once again Alan was in action, this time against Glamorgan's Jimmy Hughes, who in 1982 had been runner-up in the *News of the World* Individual Darts Championship. (Alan had been runner-up in that same tournament in 1979.) Hughes tore into a 2-0 lead only for Alan to hit back to take the match 3-2.

AND FINALLY... On 22nd July I hit 65 years of age. Time to retire do you think?

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