

DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 74

July 2016



WINMAU 70th ANNIVERSARY COMPETITION PRIZEWINNER REVEALED!

It is a truly international issue this month with news and questions from around the globe. Sadly I have news from the UK of the loss of yet another well-known darts player: this time a former Welsh International.



My new feature, the 'News of the World Snippet', kicks off with clarification about the *NoW* throwing distance. Plus you'll find 'Darts Lingo' (or the Language of Darts) raising its head for the first time for ages (a question from the USA), an Austrian darter looking for a Finnish darts book, a query from a Canadian subscriber about the legality of electronic scorers and much more.

And, of course, I reveal the name of the winner of the massive 70-item prize in the WINMAU 70th Anniversary competition featured in *DDN* #72. (See later in this issue.) My wife Maureen (pictured above) picked the winner from the huge number of correct answers but more of that later. First, some news from south-east Asia...

LATEST NEWS FROM VIETNAM

I'd not heard from subscriber Lee Dunton from Vietnam for some time but he recently reassured me that darts is still very much alive and kicking in Saigon. Lee told me

Just to keep you informed of darts here in Vietnam. We have just finished our Saigon International Darts Spring League (SIDL). We had 24 teams competing in Divisions 1, 2 & 3. Winners of Division 1 were 'The Vinyls', [pictured below, right] playing out of the Vinyl Bar, winners of Division 2 were 'The Bounced Checks' playing out of the Shrine Bar and winners of Division 3 were The Nomads playing out of the Malt Bar.

We are now at our mid-season league break, where we are contesting the Michael Keung Memorial Trophy, the SIDL Pairs and the SIDL Darts World Cup.



The successful Vinyls team shown here are standing left to right, Mario Jukic, Matevz Verbic, Kieran Murphy, Rick Horton, Lee Dunton, Bob Wittenbach. Front Row; Phuong Jukic, Paul Devlin and Huck Nguyen.

Lee has promised to send more information at the end of the Autumn Season in December.

WINMAU WORLD MASTERS 2016 – DATES ANNOUNCED

I have been informed by Ian Flack, the Sales and Marketing Director of WINMAU that the World Masters will be held on November 24th through to 27th this year. The venue is still to be advised. I will let you know when I hear more.

OBITUARY - ALLAN PLANT

I first met Allan Plant (pictured) a few years ago in Hull at the WINMAU World Masters and found him to be a very engaging and fascinating man. My wife Maureen and I were 'entertained' by him at Hull for several years. His stories were always interesting and his jokes terrible! We were both saddened to hear of his death.



Here John Williams, General Secretary of the Welsh Darts Organisation, pays tribute to Allan.

Former Welsh international and Gwent county darts player Allan Plant has died at the age of 76.

Allan represented Wales on eight occasions and was also well known in his later years for his darts accessories business. He was a familiar figure with his wife Shirley at his darts stall especially at the Welsh Open event in Prestatyn. The couple were married for almost 50 years before Shirley died in 2008. They leave behind children Stephen, William, Melvin and Darral, fifteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Allan was born in New Tredegar in 1939 to his parents Doris and Irvin, joining his sisters Iris and Norah and brother Victor. He and Shirley moved to Newport in 1965 and it was throughout the 1970s and early 1980s that Allan was most active on the Newport darts scene, winning countless trophies in singles and in pairs, where he and Tony Ridler enjoyed great success.

His love of darts started in childhood and his first dartboard was a telegraph pole outside his home. He was also a very handy snooker player but chose to concentrate on his darts.

As a proud Welshman, the pinnacle for him was being selected to play for Wales at a time when he was ranked joint-18th in the world, along with another left-handed player – Alan Glazier.

As the remainder of the top 20 were right-handed players, Allan and Alan Glazier were effectively the best left-handed darts players in the world. On one occasion, he even played right-handed for Wales when his left hand was injured.

Years later, Allan was also proud to serve as an official of the Welsh Darts Organisation. That passion for the sport saw the Plants start their business selling

darts equipment at Merthyr Tydfil market and in Porthcawl.

His funeral was held on Tuesday 12th May at Lliswerry Baptist Church and Allan was buried at Christchurch Cemetery in Newport.

[This obituary was first published in *Darts World* last month. My thanks to John for granting his permission to reproduce the obituary and photograph here.]

FEEDBACK FROM THE JUNE ISSUE

“Another cracking read,” writes Owen W. adding, “I think it is a good idea to do features on the *News of the World* stars”, while Bill Bell e-mailed, “Good idea for the *NoW* snippets. Loads of good stories will come out of that.”

Globe-trotting Eddie Norman wrote

Hi Patrick, Thank you very much for sending the June DDN. I love the News of the World articles. I never know where you get this stuff from. It must take you hours and hours but I find it absolutely amazing and totally emblematic reading about those great names of the past and yesteryear. Those great players help make up the true history of the sport of darts. I look forward to the next one.”

Talking of which...

NEWS OF THE WORLD SNIPPET

This month's *News of the World* item only relates indirectly to the *NoW* stars of the past. It concerns the length of throw.

Robert Sharp contacted me via my website (www.patrickchaplin.com). He wrote:

The News of the World darts comp used an eight foot oche every year until it stopped in 87-ish but when Phil Taylor won it ten years later on its restarting it was from seven foot nine and a quarter. Is this correct?

In reply I informed Robert that when the *News of the World* started in the 1927/28 season, players threw from *nine* feet for all the Divisional finals. (There was no single national finals until after WW2.) From 1948 until 1990 the throw was *eight* feet. The tournament was then suspended until the 'Taylor final' in 1997 when, somewhat surprisingly, the oche was set at 7' 9" and not, as one would have suspected, at the then standard throw of seven feet nine and one quarter inch.

I did not attend the 1997 final so the information about the throwing distance is taken from the official programme. However, I have often wondered if that was a printer's error. If anyone can confirm the official distance for that final, final please contact me at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com.

NEW INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIBERS

It is always a pleasure to welcome new subscribers. Welcome to you all. However, the last few weeks have seen an unexpected increase in international subscribers. For example, Brian Porter from Porto, Portugal contacted me to say

I was given your e-mail address yesterday by a friend of my wife Margaret, who met a gentleman from the UK at a darts lecture in Carcavalos and was very impressed with what she heard. In her words she learned a lot on darts at the lecture.

I own a small darts shop here in Porto and I am an occasional darts player who plays with my friends for fun; nothing serious but really enjoy playing. My wife also loves to play darts.

My wife's friend was told that you send out a darts flyer each month by e-mail and said the UK guy spoke very highly of you. Not sure if you know him but, if you do, please ask him to come back again soon for us that missed him.

Would it be possible please to send me a copy of your flyer each month? There is only about thirty-five of us here who play but we would all be interested and I will ensure everyone receives a copy.

Please do not worry if this is not possible and you only send to more professional players. We will understand. Thank you.

I was very pleased to inform Brian and Margaret that, although a good number of present and past professional darts players subscribe to *DDN*, my newsletter is for *everyone*. I have, of course, added them to the growing list of international, fun darts players and fans. [The 'gentleman' from the UK was, of course, Dr. Eddie Norman.]

George H. from California is another recent subscriber. He told me

Thanks for adding me to your list. I enjoy your website. I'm just getting into darts. Good fun. I'm really enjoying it. I'm a bit of a beer history buff, and your website seems to coincide nicely with that. I like seeing how all aspects of history mesh together. Take care, and thanks for providing all of this information for free. It's got to be a lot of work for you.

And, from Israel, Mirza C. contacted me to say

Dear Dr Darts,

My name is Mirza C. and I live with my wife and two daughters here in Haifa, considered by many to be the most beautiful city in the Middle East. We are the third largest city in Israel and a multi-faceted city with many unique characteristics. I work in the Port of Haifa. I am a member of a small darts club/organisation here in Haifa, which now has about 114 members.

Some time ago we had Dr Eddie Norman visit us here for two days, and he got many more people interested in darts. Before he came we had just 18 members.

Eddie told me all about your monthly darts magazine that you send out by e-mail and all about your great writings and gave me your e-mail address. He gave me one of your books 180! – Fascinating Darts Facts and I have read it several times.

Do you think that I could possibly receive your magazine each month? I will forward it on to our members. I first met Eddie in Singapore where I was working and out of curiosity went to a darts lecture of his and to be honest got hooked on the game of darts.

On my sending him the two most recent issues of *DDN*, Mirza e-mailed me again to say

Thank you again for sending your Darts News magazines, both have been forwarded on to all members tonight by e -mail.

Loved the story from Dr Eddie Norman on his memories of Winmau, truly great memories and after meeting him I can associate myself with that great story.

My wife and I were also fascinated about the earliest Darts Trophy article, it is through your magazine that we hope to learn more about the great game of darts. We never knew it had been played so long. Thank you so much for involving us. We know nothing about the history of darts but will be keen to learn more.

The conversation here tonight at the Haifa Darters Club has been nothing but reading your magazines. With thanks.

So within the space of only a few days the global circulation of *DDN* has increased by 150!

Welcome one and all!

TOBACCO DARTBOARDS

For many years, before the ban on cigarette advertising in the UK, a number of dartboards were manufactured promoting tobacco products.

Back in April I received an e-mail via my website from Chris L. from Coventry here in the UK. He wrote

I have recently acquired what appears to be a fairly rare and interesting dartboard but unfortunately darts collectibles is a subject I know next to nothing about. The dart board in question seems to be a piece of advertising merchandise, branded with the Hamlet cigars logo and comprising of a striking red and cream colourway...[see photo, above]...It also seems to have a date on the back ('15-7-91') suggesting that it is perhaps about 25 years old.



I've searched the internet to find any evidence of similar items or for any information and have so far found nothing - which brings me to e-mailing you.

I found your website after searching darts collectibles and would like to ask if this is an item you happen to know anything about, or even if you know whether it has any value to it? I hope to hear from you soon and thank you for taking the time to read my query.

As you all probably know, I do not give valuations, mainly because I have so little time to deal with such enquiries that usually do not inform my research. However, in this case, I was interested to find out more.



Contacting NODOR, top man Vince Bluck confirmed that the dartboard was made by NODOR in 1991. He also told me that tobacco companies regularly used darts as a promotional tool throughout the 1980's and

1990's but that, obviously, legislation prevented this after 2003; the year of the tobacco advertising ban. The dartboard shown above, left, is another NODOR dartboard, this time advertising Marlboro cigarettes. And talking of the USA...

DARTS LINGO

From Austin, Texas I have received the following e-mail:

Hello doc, Name's Rocky. I started shooting darts back in 1984. We used to have a term for when a darter shoots a high number count, like 180, then on their next turn shoot a very low count, like a 26. I've long since forgotten the term. Would you happen to know it?

I play in a 501 league, and see this happen quite often. It would be fun to be the person everyone would know found a term no one knew existed. I know I read it in a book before, just don't remember which one. Your help would be appreciated. Thanks. Rocky.

I replied as follows:

Hi Rocky, It's a long time since I received an enquiry about darts terminology or



'lingo' as we call it over here in the UK. Spookily, I started researching darts about the same time you took up shooting: over thirty years ago and we're still both going strong!

The only term that I have collected over all those years that describes a large score followed by a poor one is AFTER THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW. In my book SCORING FOR SHOW, DOUBLES

FOR DOUGH (co-authored with England darter Bobby George) back in 2011 the definition of 'After the Lord Mayor's Show' reads:

'A glorious shot by a player has been immediately followed by a bl**dy awful one in that player's next turn. Lingoistically (if there is such a word) speaking it's like a ton-forty followed by Bed and Breakfast.'

Rocky, 'Ton-forty' of course refers to a score of 140 but you may not be familiar with the term 'Bed and Breakfast'. This means a score of 26 and alludes to the cost of bed and breakfast in England in the early part of the twentieth century - two shillings and sixpence (written 2/6) so 2 and 6, 26 - 'Bed and Breakfast'. Despite a change in currency over forty years ago 'Bed and Breakfast' is still occasionally heard in friendly darts matches.

The general rule is that to call 'Bed and Breakfast' only applies if the score of 26 is achieved by hitting single 5, single 20 and single 1 with your three darts.

Sadly Bobby and my book *Scoring for Show, Doubles for Dough* is now out of print but copies can still be found on internet auction sites going for very silly money!

(Photo on page 6 of Bobby and 'Dr. Darts' celebrating the launch of the book © PC and BG.)

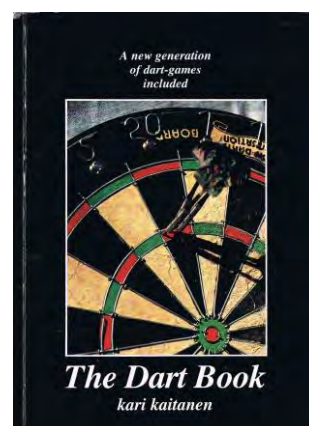
AUSTRIAN DARTS FAN WANTS HELP FINDING FINNISH DARTS BOOK

Andi Zahalka has e-mailed me via my website. He writes:

Greetings from Vienna!

I am searching for the following book for a long time: The Dart Book by Kari Kaitanen (First Edition 1994, 270 pages, ISBN 951-96680-1-2). As part of this search I now wanted to ask if you have any idea where I can get a copy of it. Thank you already now for your help!

This is not the first time that I have been asked about this extremely rare (and very technical) darts book published in Finland by Raison Painopojat Ltd. in 1994.



In any event I told Andi that I would try to track down a copy for him so am hoping that subscribers to *DDN* can help. If so, please contact me at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com and I will pass your information on to Andi.

ELECTRONIC SCORERS

Don C. of the Lambeth Dart Club, Canada, wrote:

Patrick, Your site is fascinating, most informative and interesting. I am looking for some clarification on a current matter. What are the rules (if any) regarding the use of Digital/Electronic Scoreboards? I can see where they might violate the 'coaching'

rules in a sanctioned tournament (ODC, NDFC or World's). For a Club-house, Pub or Legion or Senior Citizens environment there seems to be no evidence of rules regarding their use. I would appreciate your input on this issue.

My contact at the British Darts Organisation (BDO) and my local Essex County darts, JW, told me:

The [BDO] BICC rules now cover electronic/digital displays as used at Chelmsford and Lakeside etc. There are a number of portable electronic scoreboards around - I think WINMAU do several that cover the scoring and averages etc.

SALLY HOOD

It was with great sadness that I learnt recently of the death of Sally Hood, daughter of the legendary Jack Hood. Regular readers of *DDN* and those of you who have read *Darts in England 1900-39 – A social history*, the book based on my PhD, will be aware that Sally's memories of her father Jack were crucial in my being able to reconstruct the history of Jack's East London-based interwar dart and dartboard-making company; information I found impossible to discover elsewhere. Over the years, Sally and I communicated, originally via e-mail and then via her daughter Sally Anne. Sally Hood celebrated her 100th birthday last year. (See *DDN* #66 – November 2015.) My sincere condolences to Sally Anne and all the Hood family.

AND FINALLY...

The winner of the seventy-item prize in the WINMAU 70th Anniversary competition run during the May issue is **Ian Simmonds** of Lueneburg, Germany. The answer to the question "What is the name of the Sales and Marketing Director of WINMAU?" was **IAN FLACK**. On hearing the news Ian (the winner) replied,

Hi Patrick! Just got back from training...poor...kept missing my doubles. Couldn't have hit a barn door with a cricket bat. Just watching the team game between Norway and Gibraltar as I opened your mail. Over the moon! Many thanks to Maureen!!

MY DARTS RESEARCH IS SPONSORED BY



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