

DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

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JOHN PART INDUCTED INTO THE PDC HALL OF FAME



Canada's John Part (pictured left) became the 14th inductee into the Professional Darts Corporation Hall of Fame at the 2017 PDC Annual Awards Dinner, marking his achievements during a stellar career to date. (Image: © PDC/Lawrence Lustig. Used with permission.)

The sport's most successful North American player, John has won three World Championship titles and the Las Vegas Desert Classic, as well as a host of other ranking events during two decades as a professional. PDC Director Edward Lowy gave the Hall of Fame induction for John speaking highly of John's achievements and saying:

"How appropriate that the first non-UK player to win at Lakeside, the first non-UK player to win the PDC World Championship is now the first non-UK entrant to the PDC's Hall of Fame.

The most successful player ever from Canada, indeed, from North America. John, today the PDC take this opportunity to thank you and to acknowledge your unique contribution over so very many years."

John was quoted on the PDC website as saying:

"I love darts and I think there are a lot of great, fantastic things happening in the game. It's been really wonderful, and I'm so happy to have been at the onset of the current game, and to get some acknowledgement of that is fantastic.

All I've ever done is play a game I love, and I got to keep going to different places and do a lot more than play darts, and I've had a lot of good times. This means a great deal to me."

John recently told me:

"I feel great about my induction... In particular, I am only the fifth player so honoured, and that is extremely heady... The best bit of my inclusion is that I am the first player so honoured who was not among the founding 16 which goes well with my history of firsts as an outsider in the game. I am truly thankful and honoured."

He is now combining playing with his role as a commentator with Sky Sports - bringing his views to fans worldwide. John added:

“This year I’m giving Q School a shot. I always wanted to try it; just my competitive nature.”

And the great news is that John won through Q School, earning his PDC Tour Card for 2017. Also winning through, amongst others was Paul Nicholson.

SHANGHAI

During the Channel 4 coverage of the British Darts Organisation Lakeside World Championships last month Bobby George did a recorded piece to camera about darts terminology or, as he and I call it, ‘darts lingo’. (See our book *Scoring for Show, Doubles for Dough* (Apex Publishing, 2011).) (The image, right, shows Bobby and me at Waterstones bookstore in Chelmsford, Essex at the launch of the book. (Image © Marie George. Used with permission.)



One of the words Bobby explained was ‘shanghai’ which is when a player hits a treble, a single and a double of the same segment during a game of darts. Bobby explained that the ‘shanghai’ seen in most professional games is on the 20 segment where a player wins the game, set or match with 120 (treble 20, single 20, double 20). Bobby used this in his definition but, at the end, said “But I don’t know where that comes from.” I checked *Scoring for Show...* but it only included a *part* explanation!

Encouraged by my wife Maureen I e-mailed the production company with my detailed definition of ‘shanghai’ (extracted from my book *180! – Fascinating Darts Facts*) which was as follows:

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...

In the early days of darts if a player, in a friendly game, scored the single, double and treble of any number (without busting his or her score) with three darts during a match he or she was awarded the game and was said to have ‘shanghai’ed’ the opposition out of the game – something none of the opponents wanted to happen.

In the modern game ‘shanghai’ does not win you the game unless it results in the third dart hitting the winning double. However, the word has remained in darts

simply to mean hitting the single, double and treble of a number in three consecutive darts.

Clearly, the most-seen 'shanghai' in professional darts is treble, single and double 20 to finish a game, set or match on 120.

In the meantime subscriber Chris Barrell had already Tweeted a friend saying "I know someone who can tell him the answer..."

On Saturday 14th January I was sitting watching the darts when, during a conversation between Rob Walker and Paul Nicholson, Rob read my reply out on screen with Paul adding something like "Patrick knows more about darts than anyone else on the planet."

Soon after subscriber Mark W. e-mailed me: "Well done on putting Bobby George rite about the shanghai fact [*and*] it was very good to hear Paul Nicholson giving you credit for your knowledge about darts today." Another subscriber, Roger R. e-mailed, "Just heard your name on the TV with your explanation of the term Shanghai. Paul Nicholson was praising your knowledge of darts."

Then I received a message from three-times World Champion John Part who wrote:

Regarding your mention just now and Shanghai, I prefer the noodles to the outshot but they are both pretty good! Was the game Shanghai long after the first uses of the term in darts?

That made me think some more so I replied:

I still stand by that definition but it may well be that the term came into general darts play as a result of being transferred from the game of shanghai rather than simply being a term in ordinary, casual darts play for hitting a double, treble, single of any number which later became engrained in general 'dartspeak'.

Certainly Shanghai is amongst the earliest recorded alternative darts games. As many of you will know, the first ever book *totally* devoted to darts was the cunningly titled *Darts* by Rupert Croft-Cooke which was first published in December 1936. Croft-Cooke wrote

Of all the lesser-known games which can be played on a dart-board, there is none which combines such fascinating elements [than shanghai]... And it remains exciting to the very last throw.

NEWS OF THE WORLD - DDN #81

Thanks to all those that pointed out that the 1975/76 *News of the World* championship final was not held at the Hammersmith Odeon as stated but at the Alexandra Palace and that Bill Lennard beat Wales' Leighton Rees 2-0 to take the title and not 2-1.

It's a good job some of you are paying attention. I've sacked myself.

MORE MEDIA ATTENTION - SKY NEWS

On 10th January a researcher from Sky News contacted me and asked if I would appear 'live' on Sky TV the next day (11th) to discuss the question, "Is darts an Olympic sport?" It's a question that comes up every now and again. This time I believe it was because cheer leading had just been recognised.

The researcher then asked me if I could find a pub where darts was played for the filming. There was really no contest as my local, the *Carpenters Arms* in my home town is where I regularly throw a few 'arrows' and fitted the bill exactly; an award-winning traditional English pub with a dartboard.



SKY's Colin Brazier in the studio asked the questions and it included the participation of Dalton Grant, Captain of Team GB at the 2012 Olympics, in another location. It was a great experience which I enjoyed immensely. The interview not only helped raise the profile of darts but also ensured that the *Carpenters Arms* appeared on satellite TV for the first time.

(Above: The award-winning *Carpenters Arms*. Image © Stephen P. Nunn. Used with permission.)

Asked whether or not darts *should* become an Olympic sport I replied, "It's unlikely as there are too many things working against it, least of all a world darts organisation seemingly ill-equipped to present a convincing case to the IOC."

THE INDOOR LEAGUE – BACK ON TV

Too late to be included in the December *DDN* was the news that free to air TV channel Front Runner was bringing back the 1970s Yorkshire TV programme *The Indoor League* - where players competed in traditional pub games including table skittles, shove ha'penny, table football, bar billiards and darts. - on Boxing Day (26th December). As many of you will know, the show was presented by the legendary English cricketer Fred Trueman and was produced by Sid Waddell.

The good news is that Front Runner will be broadcasting the show during February. It will be available on SKY channel 468, Freesat channel 250, Freeview channel 91, Talk Talk/ BT channel 91 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 6pm. On Sundays, it will be screened at 10am.

Ryan Scarratt, from Front Runner announced, "We're delighted to be bringing it back to television screens. John Fairley, who was Executive Producer on the series, said:

"I remember how amazed we all were at the skills our players produced. You really had to be very expert to get into any of the final rounds. "The best people ranged from a school headmaster to the Ukrainian landlady of a Yorkshire pub. They often looked as though they had put in a lifetime of practice!"

This is a real opportunity for darts fans to see this incredible (and typical) 1970s series.

RUBBER DARTBOARDS

DDN subscriber Mick Simpson was *very* pleased with the January issue. He wrote:

Patrick. A fantastic read NODOR, Jim Pike, News of the World... What more could a dart fanatic ask for? I know I have told you before Patrick but I make no apologies for saying it again. YOUR NEWSLETTER IS FANTASTIC THANK YOU.

Have you ever seen or played on a rubber dartboard? I remember as a boy a school mate had a solid rubber dart board. I don't know if his dad made it for him as I have never seen another one. Have you?

Mick, I don't believe I have but I have heard of them. Can anyone supply any details or photographs of such a dartboard? (Surely the darts would bounce out?) If so, please contact me at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com.

BRITISH DISABILITY DARTS ASSOCIATION – EVENTS FOR 2017

My mention of the WINMAU World Disability Darts Masters in last month's issue prompted some interest in learning where in the UK could go and watch and support disabled darts players in tournament play.

I approached Sarah Smale of the British Disability Darts Association (BDDA) (the British arm of the World Disability Darts Association (WDDA)) and she informed me that disability darts will feature in the following tournaments on the 2017 calendar:



11th and 12th March - The BDDA WINMAU Classic 2017 – Venue: Weoley Castle Working Men's Club, Birmingham.

12th May (with finals to be played on the 14th May) - The Welsh Open at Pontins, Prestatyn, North Wales.

11th June 2017: (Tournament details and venue to be released at a later date)

15th July 2017 - The WINMAU/BDO Wolverhampton Open – Venue: The Wolverhampton Indoor Community Sports Centre, Racecourse Rd, Wolverhampton WV6 0QU.

29th to 30th July 2017 - The Shownights.com WINMAU European Darts Open (venue to be advised).

22nd to 24th September 2017 - BDO British Open at The Spa, South Marine Drive, East Riding, Bridlington, YO15 3JH

For up-to-date information checkout www.world-disability-darts.org.

NEWS OF THE WORLD SNIPPET

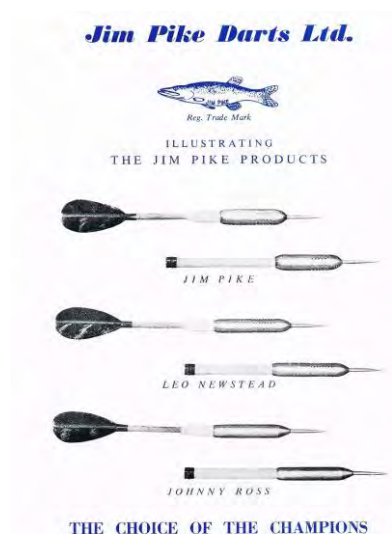
Subscriber Owen W. wrote in praise of the December *DDN*:

Hello Patrick, Another cracking issue. Nice to read about NODOR's history & also the News of the World tournaments. Keep up the good work!!

It does seem that the *News of the World* 'snippets' are very popular as indeed are items relating to Jim Pike, captain of the *News of the World* Team of Champions during the 1940s, and runner-up in the *NoW* London and the South divisional tournament 1938/39. Here's another fascinating (and unusual) Pike-related enquiry...

Subscriber Lyndon H. e-mailed me

Hi Patrick. I am a subscriber for your newsletter and always look forward to it. Can you tell me what did Jim Pike do for a living and where is he buried?



I was able to confirm to Lyndon from my records that Jim Pike (b. 1903 at Battersea, London) was a metal die caster by trade but after the war set up his own darts and dartboard company, Jim Pike Darts Ltd. (Image, left, a Jim Pike Darts products flyer. From my personal collection.)

Jim died on 26th February 1960 at the age of only 56 years. As for where Jim Pike is buried, I contacted Jo D., one of Jim's granddaughters, who confirmed that on his death her grandfather was cremated and his ashes were kept by a lady friend named Alice on her mantelpiece where they remained until Alice's death.

Unfortunately, Alice was *persona non grata* as far as the Pike family were concerned to the extent that they do not even know her surname. Thus, when Alice died is not known and so, as a result, no one in Jim's family seems to know what happened to his ashes after that! However, Jo is making further enquiries of the family and will let me know as soon as she knows.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE DARTBOARD EVER?

The Jonathan Adler dartboard, priced at a mere **£355**, mentioned in January's *DDN* prompted WINMAU's Sales and Marketing Director, Ian Flack, to contact me about the most expensive darts set he has ever seen. Ian told me:

WINMAU manufactured a personalised dartboard for Dunhill, the luxury goods brand, in 2003 and also supplied them with a cabinet that Dunhill encased in leather. I cannot recall the exact retail price, but I believe it was close to £2,000 per set!

501 BEING OUTPLAYED BY CRICKET IN THE STATES? – PART 1

Over recent weeks I have been having a dialogue with Jason Carter, a darts player and researcher based in the USA who told me he is on a mission to find the history of the dart game of Cricket and how it became so popular in the U.S. Jason has read countless books and posted to multiple forums and had come up with nothing.

Our first exchanges were all about the derivation of the name 'cricket' which, after all, is nothing like the English game of cricket or even the English *darts* game of cricket. Indeed US Cricket resembles more or less exactly the English darts game of 'Tactics'. I sent Jason the complete section on both forms of 'Cricket' as played on a dartboard extracted from my book *180! – Fascinating Darts Facts* and, although that satisfied Jason to an extent, there were more issues to look into.

Jason told me that he was still trying to find the game's origin and how it became so popular in the U.S. From my own research I'd found the earliest mentions of cricket in the U.S. in the early 70s. I expressed the view that it would probably be safe to say darters in the U.S. were playing it in the late 1960s. As far as its popularity was concerned, even up until 1975, the U.S. (darts) Open was still a best of three 501 format.

I am certain that US 'Cricket' was copied from England's 'Tactics' and was probably brought over to the USA by allied troops returning home after WW2. However, the US did not pick up on darts as an organised sport until the 1970s and then it was primarily 501. This fitted in with the spread of 'English darts' via Tom Fleetwood and the American Darts Organisation. Who 'invented' 501/301 is not known but the origins are. I feared that the same would apply to US cricket.

Ivan Brackin and William Fitzgerald in their book *All About Darts* (Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1975) actually called what we know today in the US as 'Cricket', 'Chase'; those authors also giving alternative names 'American Cricket', 'Mickey Mouse', 'Sweaty Betty' and 'Coach and Horses.' Brackin and Fitzgerald also stated confidently that 'Chase' was at that time 'Second in popularity only to the standard game.'

Thus it looked to me that US Cricket was not truly popularised until post-1975. Another question for Jason would then be 'When did 'Chase' fall into disuse to be permanently replaced by (American) Cricket?'

I told Jason that I was sure in my own mind that 501 is still more popular in some States than Cricket. I asked him if his research proved beyond doubt that cricket *is* more popular today than 501 and what factors would have caused that seismic shift. Which States had he researched?

Jason is convinced that US Cricket has become the U.S.A's preferred darts game and that 501 would eventually be consigned to history.

The downfall of 501 in the USA is being caused by the increased and ever-increasing popularity of Cricket.

What a thought-provoking statement, especially when the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC), having failed to penetrate the potentially highly lucrative USA



market with its various high-profile darts tournaments in previous years, has announced recently that the biggest names in the sport are returning to Las Vegas this year to compete in the US Darts Masters at the Tropicana Casino Hotel Resort 13th-15th July...and that's not Cricket! (More next time.)

AND FINALLY...

I hadn't heard from subscriber Steve Metalman for ages and then, out of the blue, he contacted me and we exchanged e-mails about all sorts of darts-related matters. In one of my e-mails to Steve I told him that I had not added anything to my 300+ page website (www.patrickchaplin.com) for ages. I added that I was thinking of closing it down for a while and upgrading it. Steve's response was immediate. He wrote:

Ha! Ha! A website overhaul? I wouldn't do that if I was you. It would be like finding your favourite pub's been done up.

Steve, as Chairman of the Pub History Society, I appreciate the pub analogy which has actually made me think again.

What do *you* think?

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