

DR DARTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue Nine November 2010 www.patrickchaplin.com



www.winmau.com

Dr Darts Newsletter is sponsored by Winmau Dartboard Company

INTRODUCTION

A hearty welcome to you all especially to my newest recruits who this month include Scotland's Jamie 'Bravedart' Harvey, more of whom later.

It's been a very busy four weeks especially in terms of research. However, I did manage to drag myself away from my desk to venture to Hull for the WINMAU World Masters. A report about my time there is featured in this month's issue. The Boys' and Girls' Masters receives little media attention so I thought I would feature the winners Zoe Jones and Reece Robinson here.



The image (courtesy of Henk Westerdal) shows Zoe and Reece with WINMAU Sales and Marketing Director, Ian Flack.

Reactions to *DDN* continue to be very favourable. Top darter Bob Anderson wrote "Thanks Patrick, a great read as always" whilst Chris M. commented "Nicely done again!" Scott H wrote "I'm an avid reader of Dr. Darts' Newsletter. It gets better with each issue. I hope you are getting the recognition you deserve for it." Thanks Scott. I think I'm making progress in the 'recognition' stakes as more and more darts fans hear of *DDN* and come on board. Glen H told me that the *DDN* makes 'great reading' and he encourages me to 'keep up the great work'. Will do Glen.

Mick S said, "Yet another great read. How on earth you find out all these facts is beyond me. I am amazed. You do a fantastic job." How do I do it Mick? It beats me sometimes

but I guess it's because I have been researching darts for 25 years, have built up a unique database and have a network of contacts, friends and fellow enthusiasts whose help and encouragement keeps me going. Finally continuing the 'fantastic' theme Jimmy T writes "Fantastic newsletter. I look forward to every issue."

In a packed *DDN* this month amongst other things I report on an England v Scotland charity darts challenge, rekindle a friendship with one of India's top darters, reveal what Prime Minister David Cameron said to three-time World Champion John Lowe and offer up a great idea for those who celebrate Christmas and of course I will be announcing the name of the first subscriber to solve the mystery of the 'What's the story...? dartboard that I posed last month - PLUS lots more.

Onward Issue Nine!

FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

(a) 1949 Darts Players Annual

In a piece in Issue 8 called 'Bristow Mad?' I made passing mention of the *1949 Darts Players Annual* which is an extremely rare darts publication. Andy S, wanted to learn more and wrote

I note with interest that in your latest newsletter you record that an early darts annual exists, namely the 1949 Darts Players Annual. Can you give me any more information on it such as an ISBN or anything else that may help me track a copy down?

Andy who has 'a fairly extensive library of books and magazines dating back many years' had never seen a reference this book before. My guess is that the existence of this book came as a surprise to many *DDN* readers who may also like to learn more. Here then is the essence of the reply I sent Andy:

The 82-page 1949 Darts Players Annual was published in late 1948 by a company called Darts Publications and Supplies Ltd., of Feltham, Middlesex which was owned and run by Frank Wolfe (long deceased) whose activities also included publishing The Dart (a small darts newspaper) from 1945 until 1948. Because it was published so long ago it was way before the ISBN system was introduced.

I published a scan of the front cover of the annual in Issue 8. For this issue I reproduce the inside title page not only to show you the contents of the publication but also to ask you to spot the 'deliberate' mistake which set the book back 100 years.

"THE DART PLAYERS ANNUAL" 1849

Published by :
Darts Publications & Supplies, Ltd.
2, Helen Avenue, Feltham, Middx

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I promised Andy that I would mention his search for this elusive text in the next issue of *DDN* in the hope that I can coax a copy out of the woodwork. If any reader has a copy then I would be more than happy to put you in touch with Andy.

(b) Two Nations Challenge

The Scotland v England two nations challenge mentioned in *DDN 8* took place on Friday 29th October at Harleys Sky Bar at Rutherglen, Glasgow. The night was organised by Scottish darts ace Tommy 'Hot Scot' McIntosh to raise funds for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness; Tommy having had a member of his family die of the disease and so he wanted to do something to raise both funds and awareness to the condition.

The teams were SCOTLAND: Jamie 'Bravedart' Harvey (captain), Robert Thornton, Tommy McIntosh and Anthony Dundas; ENGLAND: Alan 'The Iceman' Warriner-Little (captain), Dean Allsopp, Anthony Urmston-Toft and Phil McCracken (of DJ Rock Radio). The accompanying photo (provided by Paul Gillings) shows the two team captains and two walk-on girls; both named Laura.



Victory went to the England team by three matches to two. In the singles matches Alan Warriner-Little beat Jamie Harvey 3-1, Robert Thornton beat Dean Allsopp 3-1, Anthony Urmston-Toft beat Anthony Dundas 3-0 and Tommy McIntosh beat Phil McCracken 3-2. England won the team match and were thus declared the victors 3-2. (Further details can be found at <http://www.glasgowdartsnight.co.uk/>.)

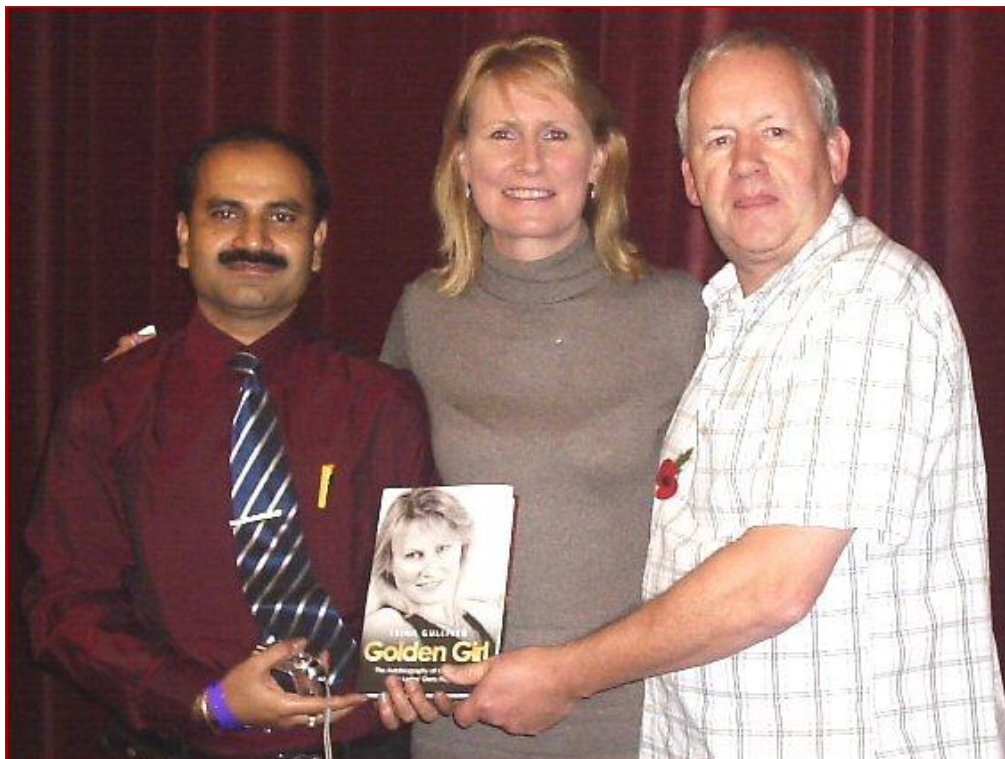
Alan Warriner-Little told me afterwards that he had jumped at the chance to play and to captain the England team. He told me, "It was a brilliant night and enjoyed by all." Alan added, "I was so looking forward to meeting Jamie again as I have not seen him in the flesh since he was ill. We had kept in contact via phone and Facebook etc but not crossed swords. The bottom line is he has been very ill and it was good to see him with a smile on his face. We played each other which rolled back the years and his reception was fantastic." (I will be including an article based on my recent interview with Jamie in *DDN 10*.)

My good friend James Hope jnr was in the audience at Harley's Sky Bar and confirmed that the event was a complete success. James said "The fact that England beat Scotland 3-2 was irrelevant because over £2000 was raised and donations are still coming in. It was great to see Jamie Harvey back again so a great night to be had by all."

Incidentally James tells me that Australia's Simon Whitlock is coming to Scotland next year to James' hometown of Cambuslang. James is already honing his darts skills in the hope of being selected to take on 'The Wizard' on Friday 18th March 2011.

(c) Golden Girl

In *DDN 8* I mentioned Trina Gulliver's book *Golden Girl* (which I co-authored with Trina) and said that fans can buy copies of her book *signed* for a mere £5.00. More information is available by going to Trina's website <http://www.trina-gulliver.com>. (The photo shows Trina and me with South Asian Darts Federation General Secretary Prasanta Saha for whom we have both signed the book.)



At the time *Golden Girl* was published (2008) it was well-received and reviews were encouraging. Two years on and I have received an e-mail from Denmark, from Kent Bovin who has been involved in darts in that country for many years. Kent informed me that he has been catching up with his reading of autobiographies/biographies of darts players and had recently finished reading *Golden Girl*. Kent wrote:

‘First of all it's very, very interesting to read a story from a female point of view. Everybody knows that ladies' darts will always somehow stand in the shadow of the men's more aggressive approach to the game. But the achievements Trina, and some of the other big names in ladies' darts, has made is still remarkable and fully deserves respect.

I was afraid it would be a dull affair reading the book since I had just finished reading Bristow's and Bobby's autobiographies and they are some very entertaining profiles both in their past and present. But I think Trina did right in writing the first book from the ladies' point of view because she is probably the best known of the female players at the moment.

It's especially interesting to read about the impact a darting career has on Trina's private life. Leaving home to play darts is very much a men's thing so I'm glad Trina and you chose to include that part even a little more detailed than the men do in their books.

The humor in the book is also a great plus and makes it easier to read.’

Thanks Kent.

I thoroughly enjoyed helping Trina write her life story and hope that others who have read Kent's ‘review’ and who may not as yet have read *Golden Girl* will now do so.

(d) What's the story...?

I received a number of responses to the poser I set in *DDN* 8 about the mystery dartboard.

The first to respond was Russell H from the USA who told me that he started playing darts in the late 70's in the Philippines while in the Air Force. He wrote

“It took a lot of searching and I am still not positive. I could not get a clear view of the numbers inside the treble ring. I found an image of a board with dots in the double ring marking minutes. The clock hands sort of gave it away. The board in the newsletter has three colored wedges per each number wedge totaling 60. One for each minute? I think it is a clock face board.”

So close Russell...



The first correct answer to be received was from Anthony U who wrote “The answer is that it was used by Oasis for one of their albums. I think it was ‘Stop the clocks’.” Correct! The cover of the album is reproduced here together with CD1 of the two-CD set so readers can see the dartboard *in situ*. (If my memory is correct I believe there was also a dartboard in the background of the Oasis video for their single ‘Wonderwall’ so presumably they are fans.)

In his e-mail Russell suggested “You could give away your new book to the first person to get this right.” Thanks for the idea Russell. I’ll be doing that AND sending you a signed copy. Russell now intends to include the question and answer on his own website <http://www.wix.com/flowertown/flowertown-dart-league>.

Don’t forget to tell them about *DDN* too!

(e) Wheelchair darts

I have mentioned in previous issues the sterling work of Russ Strobel in Australia with regard to his invention the Wildfire 137 Dart Frame and of course his passion for bringing the sport of darts within reach of all disabled people.

Recently Russ brought me up to date telling me that The Wildfire 137 now has a home version. Russ was also interviewed by Annecto, a disability support organisation keen to promote the practical benefits as an example for their “inclusion” program. Russ told me that Annecto have angled their story towards national media, both print and television.

Russ said, “The dart frame is also set to become part of the disability sports equipment library of Wheelchair Sports Victoria and will be taken around Victoria to rehabilitation and disability organisations next year on a weekly basis as part of their new venture.” In addition on 3rd December ‘International Disability Day’ the frame will be part of an Expo

held in Melbourne's Federation Square and displayed and demonstrated. Russ will also be speaking as part of the mini conference on the procedure used to gain such a landmark ruling.

He added, "Player support continues to be inspirational wherever the frame is displayed and bodes well for its continued promotion and success. I am intending to spend a few weeks in England next year to build some frames and get them out to key locations within the UK."

Russ I hope you find time when you're over in the UK to pop in and see me.

LIMBLESS ARROWS

And while I'm on the subject of making darts available to people with disabilities, Alan Warner of the charity the Limbless Association has written to me.

Alan has devised a darts competition for the Limbless Association in the hope that he can 'get it rolling nationwide'. He has called the competition 'Limbless Arrows' and describes it as 'a fun game, suitable for all dart players, from inexperienced amateurs to professional champions, one which will probably challenge the regular dart player the most!'"

'Limbless Arrows' was launched at the Mobility Roadshow in Edinburgh earlier this year and achieved its aim of giving able bodied people a glimpse into the world of limb loss. Alan told me, "Many found it really helped them understand how reduced mobility affects daily life."

He added 'Limbless Arrows' is played using nine darts, three from three different positions, highlighting the change from able bodied through to life after limb loss. All you need is a dartboard, darts, wheelchair if possible (or ordinary, preferably armed, chair) and some willing players!"

Full details of the scheme that will be running from November until late December can be found on the charity's website www.limbless-association.org.

WINMAU WORLD MASTERS – 29th-31st OCTOBER 2010

My wife Maureen and I were proud to attend this prestigious event at the City Hall, Hull as VIP guests of my sponsor the WINMAU Dartboard Co.

It was a weekend of top-quality darts with local boy Reece Robinson taking the Boys' Masters trophy beating another English player Kurtis Atkins 4-1 in the final. In the Girls' competition England's Zoe Jones powered her way to the title with a 4-0 win over Sweden's Sarah Rosen.

After experiencing a few problems in the earlier floor rounds at the Royal Hotel it was Wales' Julie Gore who took the Women's title beating the ever-present Francisca Hoenselaar 4-1. Francis was unable to repeat the amazing form she had been in when narrowly beating England's on-form Lisa Ashton 4-3 in the semi-final a match which was, in my opinion *the* best of the women's matches on stage.



The picture of Julie with Men's champion Martin Adams appears courtesy of Yvonne Andrews.

Unlike the Men the Women do not have the luxury of having their top eight seeds going through automatically to the last sixteen. It was therefore a true reflection of the top ladies' talent that so many of the seeded players made it through to the stage finals.

Martin Adams won his third consecutive Masters title, beating England's Stuart Kellett 7-3 in a more closely fought and exciting contest than the final score indicates.

Possibly a 'first' for any major darts tournament anywhere in the world was the news during the afternoon of Saturday 30th October that the City Hall venue had run out of beer! This truly amazing feat is a tribute to the thirst for darts that the World Masters

creates amongst darts fans and the inadequacy of those in charge of City Hall bars to predict demand. In actual fact I did hear one of the bar staff say to her colleague as she pulled at an empty lager tap “I was told yesterday that this would happen.”

Fortunately supplies were replenished in time for the start of finals day on Sunday.

At last I met up with Stiofan the top man at the University Darts Association of Ireland (UDAI) for whom I am a darts ambassador. We hope to meet up again in 2011 (more of this to follow later). I was also pleased to meet up again with my webmaster David King (of www.harlequinwebdesign.co.uk) and my wife was thrilled when top darter Scott ‘Scotty Dog’ Mitchell tempted her with his unique ‘Scotty Dog’ promotional chocolate bar (for human consumption only of course!). (see image)

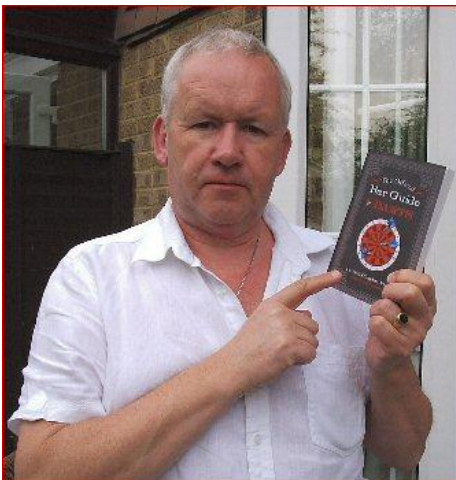


Then there were two young darts enthusiasts named Paul and Christian (also pictured) who were there for the darts in general but in particular to see Hull’s Reece Robinson play. They were both having a great time. I gave Chris, who plays darts for the Lord Nelson pub in Division 2 of the Hull Thursday League, a copy of my new book *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* in the hope that it would help improve his play. Within days Chris e-mailed me to say “It’s great thanks Patrick, really useful information regarding the practice games. Started playing 51 last night to improve my doubles.” Chris hopes to progress to playing in the Premier League within the next couple of seasons.



Chris told me that the Hull Thursday League web site is <http://www.craig07.karoo.net/>. It also has links to the Monday night Doubles League, Super League and Humberside pages. Well if my book can help Chris...

THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT?



Why not purchase a copy of *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* to help improve your game? Better still why not purchase a copy as a Christmas or birthday present for friends and relatives who simply enjoy the sport of darts? It retails at £6.99 and is available to purchase on line at

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/The-Official-Bar-Guide-to-Darts/Patrick-Chaplin/e/9781402755248/?itm=1&USRI=official+bar+guide+to+darts>

or Amazon.com.

HOWEVER, as a special offer to *DDN* subscribers I am offering **signed** copies of *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* for only **SIX POUNDS** (including postage and packing). For technical reasons this offer is only currently available to subscribers in the UK. Interested

subscribers from overseas should contact me for further details. All those interested in taking up the offer should e-mail me at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com and I will send further details as regards where to send the cheque. **Please order early in time for Christmas.**

The ideal present? Of course it is! Trust me. I'm a doctor!

ENCYCLOPEDIC DOCTOR

During October I received an e-mail from Professor John Nauright of the George Mason University, Manassas, Virginia, USA. He wrote "I am editing *Sports Around the World: History, Culture, Practice* with ABC-CLIO press in the USA. I am in need of an expert on Darts to write an entry of up to 1000 words. If you can do this or know someone else suitable..."

"Hold it right there John". I told him "I'm your man."

Having published widely on darts including working with ABC-CLIO some years back on the 'Encyclopedia of British Sport' (2000) I volunteered my services. The completed entry was sent to John towards the end of October and has already been approved for publication.

WE LOVE DARTS

As you may know, I write regularly for the UK darts magazine *We Love Darts* and recently began a series on *Darts History*. I was also the supplier of much of the material for the *Madhouse* feature in *WLD*.

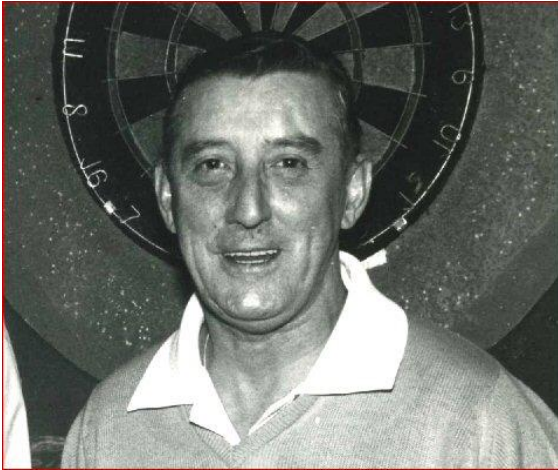
I have recently been informed by the editor that *We Love Darts* has decided to discontinue the *Madhouse* feature. Clearly this is a disappointment for me but the good side is that a brand new feature, to which I will be asked to contribute, is planned for the New Year. I hope to have more information for you soon.

One of the outcomes of this is that I had already written some more material for the *Madhouse* before I received the news so here are a few bits that readers of *WLD* will have missed.

Nicknames - Denis 'The Heat' Ovens

Part of the *Madhouse* feature related to players' nicknames. PDC professional Denis Ovens was the next on the list, his nickname coming from his surname but who gave him that nickname and when?

Trivia - Philosophy



The *Madhouse* also featured 'Trivia' with occasional bursts of philosophy. Here's a slice of that from England's Bill Lennard (*News of the World* Individual Darts Champion 1975/76 and England International). In 1976 Bill said,

"One thing I never do is blame my darts when I lose. Players who complain about losing form and worry about it, don't seem to realise that what they have lost is interest in the game."

Weird Story

Another section of *WLD's Madhouse* was 'Weird Stories'. This always took me longer to research than other sections (such as 'Pub Games') and what follows was one of the stories that would not have otherwise seen the light of day.

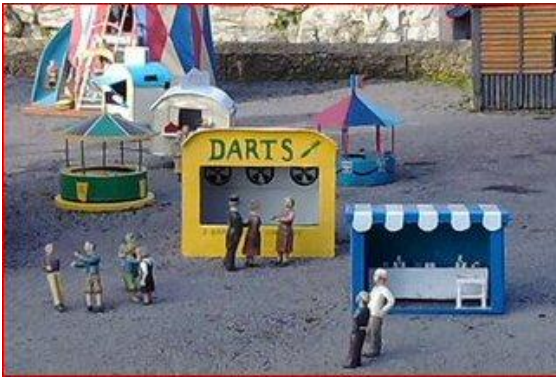
Nothing to play on - In 1982 a dispute featured in the *Stockport Messenger* about whether or not the darts team would be welcome after a pub had been refurbished. The publican is recorded as telling the *Messenger* "...it not true to say that there will be no welcome for them. They are valued customers of many years' standing. However, it is true to say that there will be no dartboard on the premises after alterations."

I am looking forward to continuing to contribute to *We Love Darts* in the months and years to come. Anyone wishing to subscribe to the magazine can do so via www.welovedarts.com.

FAIRGROUND DARTS – IN MINIATURE

Justin Irwin ('The Bachelor of Darts' www.justinirwin.com) has dropped me a note about some dartboards he spotted in Buckinghamshire a few weeks ago.

He was visiting the Bekonscot Model Village in that county and whilst walking round discovered a model fairground, designed to reflect the style of the 1920s/30s and there amongst the attractions was a darts stall. The image (kindly provided by Justin) shows the miniature stall which features as Justin said, "unless my eyes deceived me...some form of Fives Board."



I replied to Justin stating that showmen were notorious for their degree of invention to ease cash from punters' hands. The miniature board does look a bit like a fives board but it simply does not have enough segments. My guess is that the board is an invention of the designer of the model village but I am, of course, prepared, as usual, to be corrected. (Let me know if it is a board *you* recognise.)

Justin added, "I saw it and thought of you - not sure there's too many of us that get excited by spotting this sort of thing!" Oh, I don't know...

ASHFAQUE IS BACK...



In fact India's former national darts champion Ashfaque Sayed has never really been away; we just lost touch that's all.

It was back in 2007 that I helped secure Ashfaque a place in the PDC Ladbrokes.com World Darts Championship at the Alexandra Palace for the four-times India national champion (see image). It had long been Ashfaque's dream to represent India at the highest level and that dream was at last realised. After that I heard nothing from the

Indian champion until a week or so ago.

Apologising for his 'slumber' Ashfaque informed me that there had been no darts tournaments at national level for over a year. However, just recently the dates for the 6th National Darts Championship have been announced; 3rd-5th December to take place in Kolkotta.

Ashfaque, who has been playing serious darts for seven years, assured me that his is 'very much live and kicking with darts' and is in serious preparation for the nationals. He is very pleased with his current practice regime although he does admit to asking England's Rod Harrington for occasional tips. Ashfaque told me "Rod has been very kind in providing me with both advice and encouragement." He added, "I have recently bought a new apartment and I have set up my dart board on the big terrace it has which is covered and not windy so it's been a secluded place for practice."

I am thrilled that Ashfaque Sayed has been in touch with me again and I wish him well in the forthcoming national darts championship and hope that he secures his fifth national title in Kolkotta next month. Ashfaque has promised to keep me informed.

CHILDREN IN NEED

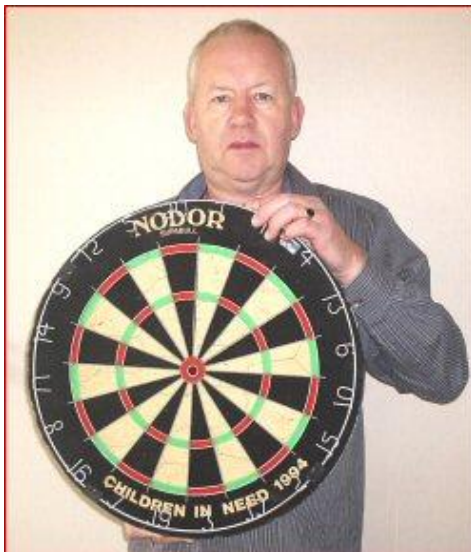


Yes, it that time again in the UK when BBC TV launches it's 'Children in Need' (CIN) campaign for 2010. This is a time when people across the country, young and old, able and those with disabilities raise millions of pounds worth of cash for children's charities.

Back in 1994 John Lowe raised over £3,000 for CIN by smashing the record for the number of bullseyes (that's centre bulls not 25s) hit in a ten hour period. The previous record stood at 1,261 bulls but on Thursday 27th October 1994 at the Unicorn pub in Chesterfield John shattered that record by hitting 1,320 in the time allowed.

The dartboards John used were special too. Vince Bluck of NODOR told me at the time:

"We have only made seven dartboards in this unique format which includes the Children in Need logo, special 'edge-on' profile wires to significantly reduce bounce outs and the new Nodor Supabull II. The Supabull II incorporates all the proven advantages of the original and unrivalled staple-free bull's eye made from solid steel and patent by Nodor in 1984. In addition however, it includes a revolutionary taper projection. This breakthrough means that the probability of a bounce out from the inner bull ring is virtually eliminated."



Five of these special dartboards were used by John during his record attempt. I am pleased to say that I have this dartboard in my private collection. I wonder what happened to the other six...

The 'Children in Need' fundraising evening begins at 7 p.m. on BBC TV on Friday 19th November BBC TV and will be hosted by Sir Terry Wogan and Tess Daly.

Talking of John...

THE DARTBOARD IN DOWNING STREET

A few months ago a lot was made of UK Prime Minister David Cameron's interview where he mentioned that he played darts.

Shortly afterwards three-time World Champion John Lowe sent the PM a copy of his masterclass *The Art of Darts*. In his personal reply David Cameron told John,

“Although I don't play as much as I would like to, I still find it enormously relaxing to throw a few arrows now and again. My dart board has come with me from my former office in the House of Commons to 10 Downing Street, and I find it a great way to unwind.”

John, who had previously met the PM at a ceremony switching on Christmas lights a while ago, told me, “To be honest I expected him to reply. He was genuinely friendly when I switched the lights on with him and he did know who I was.”

Perhaps we'll see a coalition team taking on the Legends of our sport in the not-to-distant future!

SPONSORS NEWS



My sponsor WINMAU recently announced the launch of the Winmau Blade 4 dartboard.

This revolutionary dartboard utilises a revolutionary new wiring system that dramatically reduces bounce outs and provides the opportunity for maximum scoring potential. Its predecessor, the Blade 3, set the standard as the World's finest staple-free dartboard and the Blade 4 has taken this to a completely new level.

The DSW (Dynamic Sector Wire) is now over 50% thinner for best-in-class performance and optimum scoring possibilities. This unique wiring system is constructed from a hi-tech, ultra-strong material that is designed to deflect the darts into the target area. The advanced molecular structure of the high tensile steel facilitates total accuracy right across the whole playing surface, whilst lasting even longer.

The Blade 4's introduction to major competitions was at the recent WINMAU World Masters in Hull where the new board was used not only on the stage and also in all of the floor matches too.



COMING UP IN ISSUE TEN

I really shouldn't promise items that I simply cannot deliver. I've said this before but I find myself saying it again. Once again lack of time and space has made me postpone (again) the item on the Lightning Darts Scorer (promised in Issue 7) and the Perranporth Victory Spring Darts and darts statistician Ryan Tibshirani of Stanford University (both promised in Issue 8).

So here's what I plan to do.

The Perranporth piece and Ryan *will* appear in Issue Ten. The Lightning Darts Scorer article will be delayed until Issue 11 but will, I hope, be worth the wait.

Issue 10 will also include an exclusive interview with Scotland darts ace Jamie 'Bravedart' Harvey PLUS a sideways at prize money in the women's game prompted by an article written by darts journalist Wayne Baker over twenty years ago.

Admit it. You'll never find this stuff anywhere else but in *DDN*.

Cheers!

Patrick

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