

DR DARTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue Eleven February 2011 www.patrickchaplin.com



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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME to Issue 11.

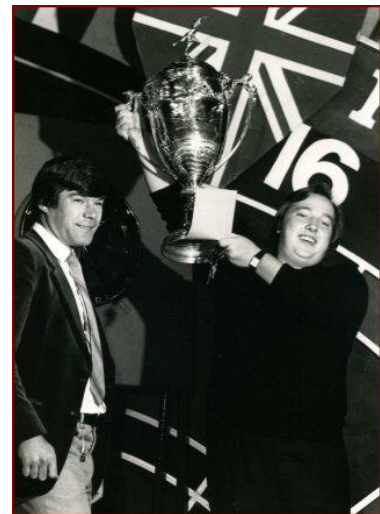
I hope you have all enjoyed the festive/holiday season and the darts on TV during December and January. What about that Adrian Lewis/Gary Anderson final? Was that the best world darts final you've ever seen?



As usual there was a primary focus on the men's games with the ladies losing out again in terms of TV exposure (and only the *Daily Star* and *Daily Mirror* national newspapers published any of the ladies' results) so just to balance it up a little I feature an image of the greatest ever ladies darts player, Trina Gulliver, taken after winning her ninth Lakeside Women's world title, beating Wales, Rhian Edwards 2-0. (Image courtesy of Henk Westerdaal)

I did receive one or two e-mails from subscribers asking why the January issue had not turned up but I did state in Issue 10 that I would be having a rest over the festive/New Year season and that I would be back in business this month.

I would like to welcome each and every new subscriber but I am particularly pleased that our number now includes the former Swedish darts champion Stefan Lord; a famous international darts player who, when representing the Stockholm Super Darts Club, became *News of the World* winner on two occasions. His first victory was in the 1977/78 season (when he beat John Coward (White Hart British Legion, Sedburgh, Cumbria) 2-0 in the final) and his second in 1979/80 when he defeated England's Dave Whitcombe (Naval Club, Chatham, Kent) 2-0. (The photograph shows Stephan after his 1980 win; the trophy having been presented to him by football star Malcolm Macdonald. (Image: *News of the World*)



Welcome too to Rob Kent of Diamondwire Promotions. Rob is the proud sponsor of the 2010 Gold Cup champion and Lancashire Open and Classic winner Andy Beardsmore. Let's also hear it for Andrew Wood, writer, creator and producer of the legendary darts quiz game 'Bullseye'.

It seems that you're enjoying reading *DDN* as I receive positive feedback every month and Issue 10 was no exception. 'Metalman' wrote 'Thanks Patrick. Stirling work as ever', whilst Dave said, 'Many thanks for another super issue of *DDN*. I really enjoyed this issue—again lots of interesting articles. Fabulous', and Steve H e-mailed me to say

‘Many thanks for another outstanding issue.’ Finally Barry Steptoe of OckeyRus wrote to say ‘It’s a good read and tells a lot of what I/we do not get to hear about normally. Love the Calameo format as well. Much easier to read.’

Cheers everyone. As long as you’re all happy with my work I’ll keep churning it out.

Now, onward to Issue 11.

FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

(a) WINMAU World Masters rocks!

In response to his rockin’ image which I published in Issue 10, WINMAU’s Sales and Marketing Director Ian Flack e-mailed me to say “Thanks for the interesting pic of yours truly!!! I guess I’ll never live it down, but at least it’s something to tell the grandkids!” Rock on Flacky!

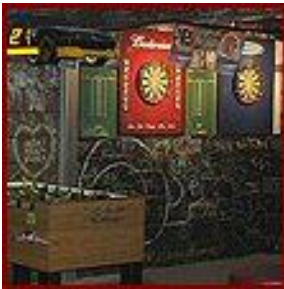
(b) Ryan’s World of Darts Statistics

In Issue 10 I featured Ryan Tibshirani, a second-year PhD student at Stamford University, USA who was combining his passion for statistics with his passion for darts. Ryan loved the article and wrote to me saying, “Thank you for the nice write up. That is very flattering!”

Another subscriber had written to me about the article saying ‘Very intriguing piece on your statistical friend - also interesting looking bar that he play darts in.’ Admittedly the bar did look a bit ‘shady’ so I decided to investigate further. Ryan swiftly replied to my e-mail to tell me that the bar is called "Antonio's Nut House" on 321 California Avenue, Palo Alto, California and that its website is <http://antoniosnuthouse.com>

Ryan agreed with my brief assessment saying, “It is a very small bar, a bit shady, but it was actually featured in Time magazine in Mark Zuckerberg's Person of the Year piece

http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,2036683_2037183_2037185-1,00.html



Unfortunately, last time I went there, they had taken down the dartboards, which were very old. My hope is that they are replacing them.” On checking the ‘Nut House’ website it seems to indicate that this might well happen as the dartboards are still featured. (See image)

(c) Darts in Glasgow

It's all change again for the darts gig at Glasgow as my contact James Hope jnr now tells me the proposed exhibition with Bobby George & Eric Bristow in James' hometown of Cambuslang has had to be cancelled. However, James tells me 'Rocket' Ronnie Baxter will be appearing at the Village Inn, Cambuslang on Friday 8th April.

(d) The St. Dunstan Four

You might recall from Issue 10 that Dave B was enthralled by my story of the St. Dunstan Four, a group of sighted darts players who were formed in 1945 and played exhibition matches against all-comers, raising thousands of pounds for the charity that supports the war-blinded.

In my reply to Dave (which was included in *DDN* Issue 10, I mentioned the method by which blind darts players could assess the exact position of the bull's-eye using a length of string. Just in case my description was not entirely clear I feature here an image of an advertisement taken from *The Dart* dated Saturday 10th November 1945 which shows the process.



To Licensees and Club Secretaries

HELP

ST. DUNSTAN'S
and
Yourselves

BY TAKING A
ST. DUNSTAN'S DART
BOX

Dart Players appreciate the Dorwin True-Balance Darts which accompany the Box. St. Dunstan's will supply spare flights and replace the Darts when necessary.

Large numbers of gallant men and women have lost their sight for YOU. Here's your chance to do something for THEM.

GET YOUR BOX NOW!

TRUE BALANCE "DORWIN" DARTS
provided by
ST. DUNSTAN'S
to help your game

*Drop a coin in the box -
It will aid men blinded
in the war*

PLEASE REPLACE THE DARTS

BLINDED ST. DUNSTANERS ENJOYING A GAME

HELP THE BLIND TO LIVE FULL LIVES

Address your request to:
Mr. S. BUCKENHAM,
St. Dunstan's (Darts Appeal),
COLNBROOK, Bucks.

(e) Return of Ashfaque

Back in Issue 9 I informed you that the former India national darts champion Ashfaque Sayed was back in action and would be playing in the 8th (not 6th as previously stated) National Darts Championships held at the Bengal Rowing Club, in Kolkotta on 3rd-5th December last year.

Shortly after the event Ashfaque e-mailed me to inform me of the outcome. He told me, "I had a very unfortunate nationals in spite of being in form." After winning through the preliminary round an unfortunate incident occurred on the second day. One of the first to arrive at the venue on Day Two for practice and to warm up for the second round Ashfaque told me, "During this session I broke the point of one of my darts. The floor was hard tiles (usually the flooring is matted or wooden). I could not change the tip as it broke very close to the barrel." Unfortunately Ashfaque did not carry a spare set. Time was running out. Ashfaque said, "I could not pull it out and time was running out so I played with a friends darts set. Though they were the same weight, the length was different." As a result Ashfaque lost in the quarter-finals. The player who lifted the singles title was 16-year-old Amit Gilitwala from Gujarat.

So it was very much the story of a lesson learned for Ashfaque.

Ashfaque told me, "I wanted to mention about the tip of my dart breaking. All said and done I have learned my lesson but this does not take away my stupidity in not keeping a spare set of darts handy. I have been playing darts for some years now but it is still a steep learning curve for me." In fact, in my book *The Official Bar Guide to Darts I* emphasise the importance of carrying a spare set of darts at all times. On page 87 I tell readers to

'Establish a routine where you check your darts, flights, and shafts and make sure you have spare darts and accessories readily available.'



But fortunately all was not lost. The following day Ashfaque and his playing partner Amrish Negi won the Men's Doubles title. The image shows Amrish and Ashfaque receiving their Doubles winners trophies.

Finally Ashfaque added, "I was very furious with myself but have come back with a stronger resolve and not missing a single days' practice and hope to bounce back again."

Doubtless he will and I wish Ashfaque every success in the coming year. I am certain I will be able to provide positive reports of his 'bounce back' in future issues of *DDN*.

In addition Ashfaque has told all of his darting friends in India about *Dr. Darts' Newsletter* and posted a mention on his Facebook darts group too. I am already welcoming darts fans from India to our ever-increasing list of *DDN* subscribers. Thanks Ashfaque.

(f) Media news

January being the busiest time for the media to latch on to darts, it was not surprising perhaps that I was in demand by no less than three local and international radio stations to give them my impressions of darts today. On 4th January I was back in the studios of my very local radio station Saint FM talking darts with Steve Young and then on 12th I was on Talk Radio Europe (Spain). The latter interview was inspired by an article entitled 'Double Toff: How darts scored a bull's-eye with some very upmarket fans' by journalist Jane Fryer published in the *Daily Mail* on 6th January.

Articles on darts in the middle class *Daily Mail* are as rare as hens teeth but of course as soon as Prince Harry and his chums were spotted in the VIP area at the Alexandra Palace, the powers that be at the *Mail* dispatched Jane (a self-confessed 'darts virgin') to the venue and – Guess what? – she had a great time. To read the article, go to

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1344173/How-darts-scored-bullseye-Prince-Harry-toffs-World-Championship.html>



Talk Radio is Spain's largest English speaking radio station broadcasting to approximately half a million listeners. Steve Gilmour (pictured) is the presenter I chatted to for 15-20 minutes about how darts has changed over the years and how now it appears to be becoming a very trendy sport.

As a direct result of my Talk Radio performance I was approached by Claire Sutton of Newstalk Radio. Newstalk is a national broadcaster in Ireland and Winner of the title PPI 2009 Station of the Year. So later that same week I was on the afternoon show Moncrieff! (with Sean Moncrieff) talking about the history of our great sport.

What's the betting it all goes quiet again over the next few months?

(g) Patrick Dee – The Curator of Darts

Good to see that *We Love Darts* published my article on Patrick Dee in the January issue (#21). I hope the article results in further recognition for Patrick as one of the top collectors of darts memorabilia and that it also encourages more darts fans to seek out 'The Curator of Darts' and visit his museum. Keep up the good work Patrick.

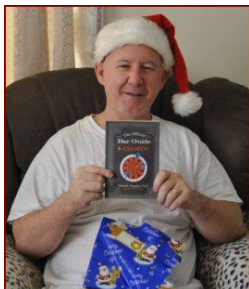
PHIL TAYLOR HONOURED BY THE PUBLIC

Whilst many darts fans are still calling for Phil ‘The Power’ Taylor to be officially recognised in The Queen’s New Year’s Honours List, Phil received popular backing from the voting public when over 70,000 phone votes placed him in the runner-up spot in BBC TV’s *Sports Personality of the Year Award* (commonly called the ‘SPOTY Awards’) on Sunday 19th December.



‘The Power’ was clearly thrilled with the award as can be seen in the accompanying photograph (which appears courtesy of BBC/Guy Levy) which shows him with winner jockey A. P. McCoy and third placed athlete Jessica Ennis and bloke whose name escapes me who used to play football for England. It was a real breakthrough for both Phil and the sport of darts and needless to say much was made of it in the national press here in the UK.

SANTA VISITS AUSSI DARTS FANATIC



There was no happier man in Australia on Christmas Day than dartist Warren Ackary. He told me, “I received your book from Santa [*actually his wife Diana*] and as has been tradition with us, we take photos opening our presents. So in true tradition we snapped away.” Warren provided this photograph and confirmed that “Yes I *always* wear that hat on Christmas Day...ALL day.”

Warren told me, "I read the first chapter in the morning and put it down, then today (Tuesday) I picked it up and just could not put the book down! I like the book very much Patrick, an excellent book and I even found a few tips in the book which I am going to try. I also found some very interesting sections in the book such as the NDA [*National Darts Association*]...never heard of it before and would love to hear more."

Thanks Warren. I'm glad you liked the book (It seems to be selling well) and I'll certainly try and include more about the NDA (the first national darts association in the UK set up in 1925) in a future issue of *DDN*.

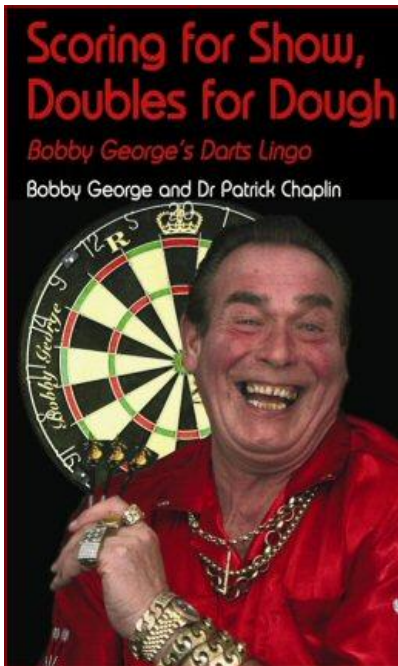
Darts fans can order my book *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* via Amazon.com.

And talking of books...

SCORING FOR SHOW, DOUBLES FOR DOUGH

The book everyone has been waiting for *Scoring for Show, Doubles for Dough*, the hilarious collaboration between top darter Bobby 'Bobby Dazzler' George and me (aka 'The Professor') will be published in the UK by Apex Publishing Ltd., on 25th June.

Here's the back page blurb that tells you all you need to know:



'Have you ever watched a darts match and wondered what on earth the players and commentator are talking about? Do you have any idea why a score of 26 is called 'bed and breakfast' and what being stuck in the 'madhouse' means? Darts has its own language and if you are curious to learn the meaning of these and many more terms, this is the book for you. ... *Scoring for Show, Doubles for Dough* not only explains the hilarious lingo that is peculiar to darts but also how much of this fascinating terminology came into being. So if you want to know what to do if someone shouts 'wet feet' during a darts match make sure you are not 'in the wilderness' and dip into this book. This informative and fun reference book will provide hours of pleasure, making it a must have for fans of the game and anyone interested in finding out more about the light-hearted and humorous side of darts.'

Sid Waddell has said of the book and its authors, "The 'Bling Boy' and 'The Professor' have really caned the lipstick with this 'top of the shop' darts compendium" whilst five-times world professional darts champion has said, "Bobby's language has always been a bit colourful. Now here's the proof!"

What better recommendations could you need?

Clearly I'll be promoting *Scoring for Show, Doubles for Dough* in every forthcoming issue of *DDN* (and at every other opportunity) but in the meantime more details can be found and advanced orders can be placed by going to www.apexpublishing.co.uk. The website also shows where Bobby will be signing our book at selected UK bookshops in and around the London/Essex area.

But enough about us... What have the girls been up to?

FROM PDC WITH LOVE?



The British Darts Organisation (BDO) recently announced that Russian darts star Anastasia Dobromyslova (pictured) has returned to the BDO and World Darts Federation (WDF) after two years of competing on the PDC circuit. BDO Chairman, Dave Alderman said, "Anastasia made the approach to us following her resignation from the PDPA [*Professional Dart Players Association*] and has made it clear that she now wants to return to the BDO and WDF and play in our future events."

In a personal letter to the BDO Anastasia (nicknamed 'From Russia with Love') said: "I am writing to you in regards to my wish to compete in the British Darts Organisation and the World Darts Federation. I think it is fair to say that in the past I haven't always received advice that was in my best interests. However, it is now my intention to fully commit to the BDO and WDF in their events and competitions."



At first I felt a little disappointed that Anastasia, the 2008 Lakeside Women's World Professional Darts Champion, had not cut it with the PDC but clearly she gave it her best shot. She appears to me to be a young woman who knows her own mind and what's best for her career and I wish her well for the future.

Her return sets up the possibility of her meeting nine-time world champion Trina Gulliver in the 2012 Lakeside finals. Remember, Anastasia never stayed with the BDO long enough after her victory in 2008 to defend her title (or for Trina to wrest it back from her) so the prospect of a head-to-head clash is mouth-watering. Anastasia's return to BDO and WDF darts commenced at the 2011 Dutch Open earlier this month where she lost 2-3 in the last 16 to England's Karen Lawman. (Image courtesy of Henk Westerdaal)

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Two famous exponents of our sport, Bob Anderson and Alan Warriner-Little, have recently announced their return to the exhibition circuit.

After undergoing successful knee surgery in September, 'The Limestone Cowboy' is now fully fit and available for darts exhibitions. Details can be found at Bob's website www.bobanderson180.co.uk.



Five times World Number 1, Alan 'The Iceman' Warriner-Little also makes a welcome return to exhibitions. Contact details can be found on Alan's website www.theiceman.co.uk

THE LIGHTNING DARTS SCORER



As promised some time ago and then promised again in Issue 10, I am at last able to present to you the history of The Lightning Darts Scorer.

Some time during the 19th century the chalk and dartboard replaced the cribbage board as the standard method of scoring a game of darts. Since the early 'boom' days of darts in the 1920s, inventors had tried all manner of ways of making the job of scoring cleaner, faster and more efficient. This article is about just one of those innovations, Oliver Hilson's *The Lightning Darts Scorer*.

Like many a publican, Oliver Hilson was a devotee of darts. As licensee of the 'City of Hereford' public house in Upper St. James's Street, Kemp Town, Brighton, during the 1920's and 1930's, Oliver was very much involved with the game, organising regular matches and arranging darts leagues in the town. No mean player himself, he was presented with a silver cup by the members of his darts club to commemorate their winning the Section 'A' Cup and the Championship Cup in the 1934/35 season of the Tamplins Brighton Dart League.

Born in Brighton on 19 January 1906, Oliver Hilson was more than a popular licensee and more than a good pub darts player. He was also an inventor. On 3 February 1931 he submitted a patent application for the country's first automatic scoring machine for darts

which he dubbed 'The Lightning Scorer'. The patent was accepted on 31 March 1932 and improvements made and patented in February 1935 and September 1938.

The scorer was housed in a bakelite case, 14 inches square, and the front panel was divided into two compartments, one for each player. Each compartment had three telephone dials, one for the units, one for the tens and the other for the hundreds. Each also had a window to show the score remaining.



The machine was simply set up to show the total target score in each window and after each turn the player dialled his score and that was automatically deducted from the total.

In addition a 'DE LUXE' model was manufactured which had all the features of the standard Lightning Scorer but, rather than having a Bakelite casing, was available in 'Light Oak, Dark Oak, Walnut, Mahogany; and in Red, Green or Blue.' The Standard Lightning Scorer originally retailed for 60 shillings (£3) and the De Luxe for 80 shillings (£4) but these were revised from 1st May 1940 to 65 shillings (£3.25) and 85 shillings (£4.25) following a 'revision of policy due to war conditions.'

In the mid-1930's Oliver Hilson and his family moved from Brighton to Hounslow and he began producing the 'Lightning Scorer' under the name "Lightning Automatic Scorer Company", the machines being manufactured using workshops in both Hounslow and Chiswick.

The scorer was exhibited at the Brewers' Exhibition in 1938 and on 14th December the Morning Advertiser described the product as 'popular', 'successful' and 'foolproof'. The Lightning Scorer also had the approval of the National Darts Association (NDA) who declared:

'The scoreboard as submitted by you was pronounced the most perfect, neatest and easiest to work and understand, that the Executive Council of the National Darts Association have ever viewed. It has the approval and approbation of the said N.D.A. who think it will be a great asset to the game of darts and they compliment the inventor upon his achievement.'

The scorers were popular and were manufactured by Oliver up to 1939. However, the company was operating at a slight loss and more funding was required for its success so in May 1939 the company was sold and a limited company formed called “Lightning Scorers Limited” with a registered office in Holloway Road, London N7. Oliver remained as one of its three directors being personally responsible for ‘manufacture and invention’. During the period 13 February 1939 to 31 May 1940 over 2,000 scorers were sold but despite this the company continued to run at a loss. Because of the war it was extremely difficult to obtain the necessary parts for the manufacture of the scorers and this was a major problem for the company.

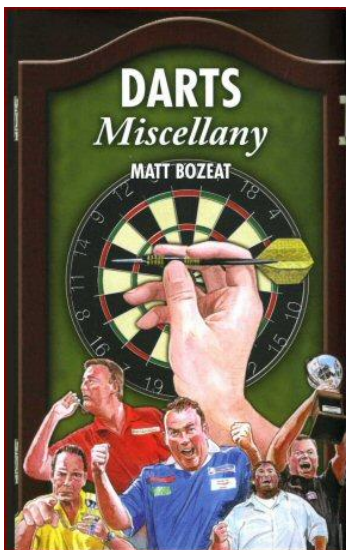
In February 1940 further applications were made for letters patent and this time the machine had only two dials for each player, one for the units and the other a combined dial for the tens and hundreds operated through concentric wheels. It is not known if this revised version was ever manufactured but it is thought unlikely as Oliver died soon after the application was made. Shortly after his untimely death the business collapsed.

Owing to the heavy bombing of the Hounslow area Oliver had evacuated his wife and children to Reading, Berkshire, two incendiary bombs having previously fallen on their home and caused some damage. Oliver had taken to sleeping regularly in a cupboard under the stairs in order to take shelter from the air raids. One night in October 1940 his home was struck for a third time. Gas from a fractured main (undoubtedly caused by the bombing) leaked into the cupboard and Oliver died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The pub that Oliver ran, ‘The City of Hereford’ is now long-gone. It was demolished in 1971, after a long battle by customers, whose 380 signature petition failed to sway the planners’ decision to keep it open. The site was then developed into multi-storey flats.

(Images courtesy of the late Professor Barry Hilson)

BOOK REVIEW – *DARTS MISCELLANY*



Darts journalist Matt Bozeat has found an original approach to darts writing by producing what I believe to be the very first miscellany of darts, certainly of the modern era.

Concentrating mainly on fascinating facts and lists of the ‘new age’ of darts, though paying due respect to the past kings of the oche, including Lowe, Anderson, Wilson and Bristow, Matt provides an entertaining read which will appeal to all darts fans.

Encouragingly Matt also makes room for the ladies in a chapter titled ‘It’s A Woman’s Game’ although I felt that a little more space could have been given to Gayl King’s achievement in 2001 of being the first woman ever to play in a World Championship tournament against the men.

There are also lists a-plenty of past winners of major tournaments plus some really original material including chapters on 'Quickest Throwers' and 'Flashes in the Pan'; the latter chapter I would suggest could provoke some heated discussions on darts forums.

In the chapter entitled 'Leighton Rees and the Perfect Legs' Matt makes reference to John Lowe's first nine-darter on TV and that John won £102,000 for that achievement and then an additional £12,000 for winning the tournament. What is not mentioned is that John also received £1,000 for the highest checkout, making a total payday of £115,000.

All-in-all *Darts Miscellany* is a welcome addition to any darts fans bookshelf and Matt is to be congratulated on his achievement.

Darts Miscellany is published by Pitch Publishing and is available from all good bookshops in the UK or via Amazon.com.

JIM PIKE ON FILM



I was thrilled to be contacted again recently by Jim Pike's granddaughter Jo Day.

A few years ago I had met Jo at her home and she had showed me the London Area *News of the World* silver cup that Jim had won in 1939 (see image courtesy of Chippix).

Jo dropped me a line to tell me that her granddad can be seen in action on the British Pathe website. It's an amazing piece of film which can be viewed at

<http://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=48459>

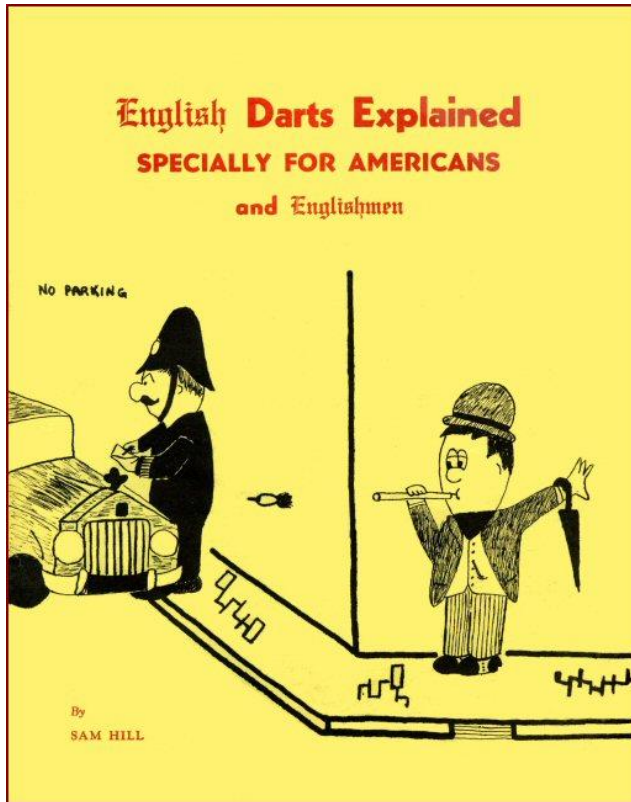
By the way, when you view the film note the guy with the cigarette in his mouth. He is the late, great Johnny Ross who was a member of the *News of the World* Team of Champions (captained by Jim) during the Second World War. He often played stooge for JP at his exhibitions and *NoW* team matches.

EVERYTHING COMES TO HE WHO WAITS #1

Well that's what some people say but I've always found that hard work normally works better than waiting around for something to happen. *However*, here's a story that proves that sometimes things *do* come to those who wait; in this case me.

Back in 1999, when I first launched my website www.patrickchaplin.com, I included a list of darts books I had for sale. At the end of that I set out my own small 'wants' list which included a booklet by a man named Sam Hill entitled *English Darts Explained Specially for Americans and Englishmen*. I had never seen the book but had learned about it by chance.

Years went by during which time I acquired Sam's other work, the self-published book *The Tale of Two Taverns* (1985) which records his hilarious exploits as an ex-pat Brit publican in the San Francisco Bay area of California, USA. (Sam was originally from Liverpool, England but settled in the US and was an enthusiastic supporter and player of darts, particularly in the San Francisco Bay League.) The late last year out of the blue Linda Brown e-mails me from Milpitas, California (a small community suburb next to San Jose) asking if I was still interested in the booklet.



Linda told me, "I found the booklet on the garage floor of my elderly neighbors' while helping them prep the house for sale. Luis and Marlene are wonderful folks. Luis was quite the charmer and he and Marlene were in their garage all the time, had a TV set up out there... Luis was the "mayor" of our tiny neighborhood." Linda Googled the book title and found my website then e-mailed me and the rest as they say is history. Once Linda had found a home the booklet she wrote to me saying, "Luis & Marlene were wonderful neighbors for 22 yrs and would be so happy to know that the book is in the hands of someone with your passion. I am seeing Marlene tomorrow for a cup of coffee and bringing her home made pumpkin bread...I cannot wait to tell her about you."

Shortly before Christmas an envelope arrived containing *English Darts Explained*... It is dated 1967 and consists of only 12 pages including cartoons drawn by Dianne Marion and photographs taken by Robert A. Lyons. Though short it strongly reflects one man's enthusiasm for our sport. Sam, who at the time was the publican at The Lord Nelson Pub at 970 Sutter Street, recognised that there was a local demand for a booklet on how to play darts as the popularity of the game grew. He wrote in his Introduction:

During the past year the game of English Darts has become quite well known in the San Francisco Bay Area and has proven to be as popular with Americans as it is with the British. At the present time there are 38 teams in the San Francisco Bay Area and many more are being formed. Every Wednesday evening Dart players gather for a few serious games followed by hours of enjoyment with new found friends.

Sam added, 'The game is played by women as well as men. In fact one of the Bay League teams is captained by a lady.' That lady was Marion Carter of Oakland, California who was team captain of The English Public House.



As its title suggests Sam's booklet included the rules of English darts. However, it also featured some examples of darts terminology and alternative dart games together with local Bay Area team and league information and 'How to choose your own dart set'. The latter was also a lead-in to the fact that Sam was also a supplier of darts and darts accessories claiming to have 'The finest selection' around.

I wonder what happened to Sam. Is the Lord Nelson Pub still there?

So that's another gap in my darts library filled. The only two remaining 'wants' I have are John Harter's *Finer Points* (I have no other information about the date or place of publication) and *International Darts* (1993) by Bob Leeming. (The latter could well be a Canadian publication.) If any of you out there have either or both of these books I'd be pleased to hear from you via my website.

EVERYTHING COMES TO HE WHO WAITS #2

In 1992 I wrote an article called 'The *Real* History of Darts' for *Darts Player 93* (the annual sister publication to *Darts World*). It was accompanied by a fabulous black and white photograph that I had discovered in the London Metropolitan Archive back in the late 1980s showing a darts match in progress in 1927 between the 'home' team from The Aberfeldy, East India Dock Road, London and the visitors from The Young Prince, Poplar.

I had sent the text and the photo to the editor of *Darts Player* (this was long before e-mails and scanners) but sadly the photograph never found its way back to me. Since 1992 I often thought about that image and when in 2007 I came to write the book based on my PhD I wished that I had had the photo handy as it would have made a great cover. But alas...

Then last December I received an e-mail from subscriber Ray A. His message simply read '*Dear Patrick, Came across the attached photo the other day - you have probably already seen it. Epitomises the cloth cap image of darts rather well. Cheers,Ray.*'

Yes, it was *THAT* photo. *This photo.*



Ray is absolutely right. The photo epitomises darts at that time; a time when darts leagues, especially in the south of England and in London, were growing like topsy. This photograph may possibly have been 'set up' (for the image came from *The House of Whitbread*, the house magazine of the brewery Whitbread & Co) but it seems genuine; the teams and spectators intensely watching the match from every vantage point.

By the way, amidst the mass of cloth caps and bowler hats you can just see the right hand of Bill Turner, captain of The Young Prince, throwing for his team.

My sincere thanks to Ray for reuniting me with the image after nearly twenty years. The copyright remains the property of the Whitbread Archives.

Ray, you are a STAR!

AND FINALLY...

DOUG McCARTHY

Let's hear it for ex-England international Doug McCarthy (the man who played darts at his own wedding) who not only reached his 68th birthday on Christmas Day 2010 but also celebrated 60 years of playing darts. Doug told me, "I got my first dart board at age of eight. 60 years and still practicing!" Congratulations Doug!

COMING UP IN ISSUE 12

The next issue will include

- The story of Canadian darts legend Bob Sinnaeve
- Lawn Darts – Banned in the USA as 'too dangerous'



- John Lowe – Poet
- *The Arrow* - Looking back at this short-lived darts magazine

and a couple of subscribers air their views about crowd noise at major darts events.

See you next time.

Cheers!

Patrick

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