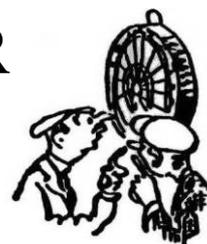


DR. DARTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 89

August 2017



WORLD RECORD-BREAKING COLLECTION OF DARTS FLIGHTS TO BE SOLD

Last month I was contacted by Christa, the wife of the legendary darts flights collector Freddy Olievier, informing me that Freddy is putting his record-breaking collection up for sale. I said that I would bring his decision to the attention of *DDN* readers to gauge interest.



Freddy (pictured left in 1996) first made contact with me back in 1989 by letter from his home in Gullegem, Belgium, after he saw an article I had written about dart flights (a large composite darts flight made of brewery-related flights) in an issue of *Darts Player 89* (a sister publication to *Darts World* magazine here in the UK). Freddy wrote:

I am a flight collector for about ten years and have over 7,500 different flights. I read your story in Darts Player 89. I have many doubles flights. Is it possible to exchange some with your doubles? I collect all flights, old, new all shapes, colours etc. You collect flights with beer advertising? If you are interested let me know.

I replied to Freddy in January 1989 stating that I was not a serious darts flight collector but was happy to send him some of my duplicate flights and that started exchanges of flights and correspondence which lasted a number of years and, of course, I started to properly collect darts flights. But my collection was never, ever, ever going to become anything like Freddy's. By the late 1990s his collection of darts flights had become by far the largest on the planet with thousands of examples kept in numerous albums and boxes.



Recently Freddy confirmed that his collection comprises of between 20,000 and 30,000 different items including feather flights, personalised flights (Lowe, Bristow, etc.) and modern flights. Recently Freddy told me:

I started in March 1979 and stopped about ten years ago because the interest faded, lack of time.



So the time has come and Freddy has decided to sell his collection either complete or for parts to be sold separately. Such a collection is so difficult to put a value on so I will not even try. It is a shame that such a massive collection of memorabilia built up over two decades by Freddy cannot find its way into a darts museum and put on permanent display but, sadly, no such museum exists anywhere in the world.

So, failing that, the collection is up for sale.

The collection, which also includes darts stars autographs (including Eric Bristow and Jocky Wilson) and darts badges is far too big to detail here. The colour photographs above (© Dennis Vandermeersch) show a mere *fraction* of what is for sale.

If you are interested in Freddy's amazing collection (in whole or part) please contact him or Christa direct by e-mail at brucescarlet@gmail.com for more details.

GOODWARD DARTS

Way, way back in the summer of 2016 I received an e-mail via my website (www.patrickchaplin.com) from Alex Sheridan who wrote

Hi mate, I have just been clearing out my grandads loft, and come across a set of Goodwards Nickel Tungsten 26g darts [pictured, right]. I've Googled Goodward Darts but there's nothing really about it. I just wondered if you knew anything about them.

My grandad is 83, used to play when he was a very young man in the Navy but being tungsten I think he probably got them around the 70s, as that's when they were first used. All his other sets I've discovered are brass, so I think this is probably his one and only tungsten set. He's not played in years, so I firmly believe they're probably an early tungsten set...any information would be much appreciated.



Not being aware of this particular company I asked around of my contacts in the darts business and, thankfully, Robert Pringle, Sales and Marketing Director of Harrows Darts Technology was able to help. Robert told me that the company was owned by Les and Viv Goodvin (that's right, spelt with a 'v' not a 'w') who traded under the name

'Goodwards Darts and Darts Accessories' and were based at 46 Mill Road, Henham, nr. Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire here in the UK.

Robert told me that Goodwards were not manufacturers but wholesalers. They would buy all their componentry in bulk and assemble it themselves. They did not produce printed brochures; just worked from samples, and supplying pubs and sports shops in East Anglia. Harrows used to make items for them, including flights. According to Robert, by the mid-nineties, Les and Viv had 'lost interest and the business fizzled out.'

Robert also found on file a letter dated 10th January 1978 on Goodwards headed notepaper from Les Goodvin addressed to 'Dear Landlord' and sent to various pubs in the area. It read

Would you be good enough to allow Mr. C. Johnson the facilities of photographing your Pub/Inn sign. There pictures are required with a view to compiling a book on Pub/Inn signs and their histories. Your cooperation would be appreciated.

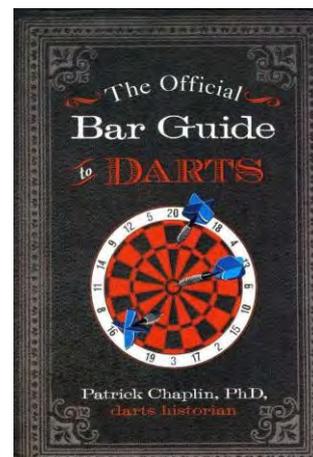
Robert thought the letter would raise a smile with me as Harrows shortly afterwards were asked by Les Goodvin to produce flights with inn sign designs!

THE FIRST DARTBOARD IN AMERICA

I seem to be receiving an increasing amount of mail (for which I am very grateful) from darts fans in the USA. One, received from John Grossman, intrigued me. He wrote

Hi there, I just finished your Official Bar Guide to Darts! Loved it and I will be picking your next book 180! – Fascinating Darts Facts very soon.

In your official guide, you mention the American tavern owner John Pearson putting up the first dartboard in the US. Do you happen to know the location of this tavern and/or what issue of the Evening Bulletin from 1952 it was referenced in? I am not far from the area you mentioned and my dart partner lives almost in that exact area! Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated!



During my research I had discovered the facts about the first dartboard to be hung in a US tavern from Dan Peek's ground-breaking book *To the Point – The Story of Darts in America* (Rocheport: Pebble Publishing, 2001). On page 113 Dan (pictured) revealed



In the March 25, 1952, issue of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, in a feature column titled "Any More Questions?" a subscriber's inquiry relating to darts was addressed. The question...was "Which game is older – shuffleboard or darts?"

The columnist Don Donaghey...After a discussion of the history of shuffleboard...concluded the article with a notice that:

“It’s related that the first dartboard in America was made in Philadelphia by English immigrant John Pearson for use in his tavern at Ridge and Nicetown Lane. It was a cross section slab from a fat tree, bound with an iron hoop and dunked in a horse trough until the fit was snug...”

I contacted Dan Peek who verified the source, adding that

If your correspondent wishes to follow up with some research he can visit the Temple University Archives and view this and other information on the subject of Darts in America.

I forwarded the information on to John G. who described the response as “Awesome!” I wished him well with his research and within a few hours he came back to me with a



photograph taken towards the end of the 19th century of the *Swan Tavern* (also known at some stage as *The Dove and Swan Tavern*), which was located in ‘Ridge Avenue above Nicetown Lane’. (Image © Free Library of Philadelphia.)

When I informed Dan Peek of this more or less immediate progress in the case, he replied

Wow - I believe there is an excellent probability that this is the place. The dates would be right and I have reason to

believe that Pearson and his family lived on the second story of the building housing the tavern. Although I am no longer doing any darts history research I remain fascinated by the subject.

Dan and I very much look forward to hearing the outcome of John Grossman’s further research into the first dartboard ever hung in a US tavern.

Dan Peek’s book *To the Point – The Story of Darts in America* has been out of print for a few years but Dan tells me that it is available ‘from several internet sources.’ My book *The Official Bar Guide to Darts* is no longer in print but *180! – Fascinating Darts Facts* is still available. Both can be found on various websites but both can be purchased direct from me, signed, and including a set of my ‘DR. DARTS’ darts flights produced by WINMAU. For details please contact me at patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com.

‘WORLD RENOWNED’ DR. DARTS?

In one of his e-mails to me about the above Dan Peek added

On another note, you and I are cited in a 2014 PhD dissertation at the University of Toledo. You are referred to as the "World Renowned" expert on the sport. Here is a link to the document

<http://utdr.utoledo.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1569&context=graduate-projects>

The PhD project *Reality, virtual reality, and imagery: quality of movement in novice dart players* was written by Reggie R. Kehoe (The University of Toledo - The University of Toledo Digital Repository Master's and Doctoral Projects - 2014) and he did indeed describe me as 'World Renowned'...

FEEDBACK – DARTS PLAYERS PLAY BETTER WHEN THEY'VE HAD A BEER OR THREE

In #88 I included a link to a university paper produced in the 1920s which hinted at darts players playing better after a few alcoholic drinks. Subscriber Mick Simpson wrote

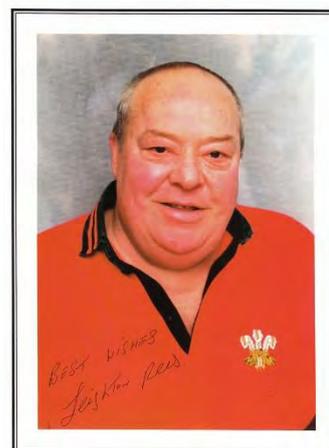
As to your question about people playing better once they have had a drink I believe they do. The reason for this is simple. You are more relaxed so your arm is not so stiff. You feel more confident about yourself as well.

Whilst Chris Murray said

As for playing darts when under the influence; if there had been an Olympic event played under those rules the British team would have been laden down with gold medals.

I watched Leighton Rees (pictured) play a pub exhibition match taking on all-comers from before 6.00 until after 10.30 in which he drank pints steadily all night. He won every game often finishing on the bull and afterwards stood up and made a speech!

In my own (much humbler!) experience a few beers often helped with keeping in "the zone" and counter-intuitively increased concentration. Not that I am championing the concept of drinking all night in order to play better darts - they were different times back in the 1970s/1980s and the down side of overindulging was not really understood as well as it is today.



Nonetheless I should be interested to see any research into this area since the anecdotal statistics seem to suggest that the scores were just as good at the end of the evening as they were at the beginning.

(Image of Leighton Rees © Ryan Rees.)

Mark Riggs from Sale, Victoria in Australia wrote:

It was interesting to read about drinking and darts. When I was playing every week (in my early 20s circa 1990-93) in a six-man team called the Gippy Strikers for the Gippsland Hotel, Sale in the Sale and District Darts Association league. I would have dinner at the pub and have a beer. Then when playing I would drink scotch and ice. I would play my best darts between the fourth and sixth. Whether this was simply getting into the game as we played two triples, three doubles and six single matches or the alcohol, I don't know.

Some games were VERY long as we were VERY Amateur. I don't recall anyone ever getting a 180! 100 was impressive enough. But 4-6 drinks in 3-4 hours was not enough to get me "drunk", but I certainly felt my throw was more relaxed. After 6 though, there was very little

correlation between what I was aiming for and what I was hitting! Though I was still not drunk – certainly unsafe to drive (I did walk to darts).

As to the Uni test, it does seem strange that they were given darts. How many were dart players to start with and how many were getting better simply by practise?

I think it is time you did some research!

THE OUTSHOT CHART – FEEDBACK

Chris Murray also had a view about the introduction of outshot charts, something else discussed in *DDN #88*. Chris wrote:

Outshot chart! Pshaw! Back in the day when I played practically every day I simply learned the best outshots as a matter of course as did all my friends and opponents. Yes, there were a few moot points for discussion - should the bull/25 ring be used as a bona fide option, should the player always go down the route of reduction through to double 16 / double eight / double four etc (rather than aiming to leave double 20 - the argument being of course that the 20 segment was the area most thrown at and therefore more likely to prove successful).

As darts were made denser and therefore more slender the chance of a higher score due to there being more room in the treble led to a higher reliance on knowing the "correct" sequence for the outshot. It still surprises me that some pro dart players still seem to pause when the first (or second) treble is missed on an outshot. All good players should be aware of the "Plan B" shot in the event of the dart finding the single bed instead of the treble. Of course most pros do but to see a player lose his or her rhythm due to not knowing immediately the right next shot is frustrating.

Subscriber Steve Doyle wrote

Greetings from America Doc!! As always I love reading the newsletter! This months was excellent as always! Since the topic of out charts came up I thought you'd be interested in an item I had back in the 80's! Sadly I no longer have it, but it was an Out Shirt! It was a t-shirt with an out chart printed on it upside down....so when you wore it you could just look down and see your out combos! It was a pretty cool item that looking back I wished I had kept! Can't say as I've seen one since!

I don't recall ever seeing a t-shirt like that described but I bet there is a subscriber out there who collects darts-related t-shirts and who now can't wait to put it on and send me a photo of him/her wearing it. Come on. The address is patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com.

Darren of www.dartsnutz.com e-mailed me to say

Hi Patrick, Great newsletter as usual! Love the story of the missing link board, very interesting!

I have some of the Harrows outshot charts, only the series 2 though, see

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dazdart/8211689280/in/photolist-gXuCT9-dvD48E-dvxtCa>
and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dazdart/8210600997/in/photolist-gXuCT9-dvD48E-dvxtCa/>

Darren also told me that he has two of the Klokit scorers in his collection and was also puzzled as to whether they are actually for darts because, like me, he cannot as yet see how the thing works. Darren wrote *'I hope you can find more info on them and instructions.'* (Nothing yet Darren.)

Finally, referring to my reference to 'Electrodart', a darts-related electronic penny slot machine last time, Darren added

Not sure if you have seen this before or if it will be of any interest for your newsletter, it's a DIY electric dart game from December 1955:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dazdart/8549420570/in/dateposted-public/>

Beyond my craft skills though!

Mine too Darren but I'm sure it will be of interest to *DDN* readers. Thanks.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO TERRY DOWN?

Terry Down (pictured below) was the Justin Pipe of his era. After some very complimentary comments on last month's *DDN*, subscriber Tom Cole wrote



I hope you won't mind my asking this, and please don't go to any trouble over it, but I wondered if you knew off-hand whatever happened to a very slow darts player called Terry Down, who beat Jocky Wilson on TV in the 1985 Blackthorn Masters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5FOe0UCGbo&t=5s>

This guy has the strangest, slowest throwing action ever - and the fact that he was a slaughterhouse worker from Devon with a thousand-yard stare, a 'tasche and a mullet also make him a thoroughly fascinating figure in my eyes. But according to the darts database

<http://www.dartsdatabase.co.uk/PlayerDetails.aspx?playerKey=8376> *this was the only major tournament he ever played in. Can you remember him cropping up anywhere else? Or know anything about him – any biographical details or anything?*

In the following year Jocky was playing Devonian Terry Down in the first round of the 1985 Dry Blackthorn Cider Masters at Oldham Civic Centre. According to *Darts World*, Down was a man who could claim to be 'the slowest player in the country', some people within the sport believed that it took up to three minutes for Down to throw three darts!

From this match the 'fact' emerged that Jocky had become so frustrated at the speed (or rather lack of it) at which Down released his darts that he brought a chair on to the stage, sat down and watched his opponent play. Twice World Championship finalist Dave Whitcombe was there and has told me, *"About the chair business. Jocky threatened to take a chair on stage because [Down] was very slow but it never happened. The story has been repeated so many times that people believe it."* (Down beat Jocky 2-0.) (Image: PC/DW Archive.)

I will try and trace Terry Down to see if he is still around and prepared to be interviewed.

NEWS OF THE WORLD SNIPPET – THE FINAL

Last month I revealed the results of research into a *News of the World* player named Albert Carpenter and said that I would publish details of the final in which that player appeared in this issue. (I was waiting to hear from my contact in the News UK archive.)

Surprisingly, but for a good reason, full details are unavailable. My contact wrote

Dear Patrick, I cannot provide you with a report from the News of the World as it was not published between March 20 and April 17, 1955 due to industrial action which affected all London newspapers.

But, fortunately, he added

However, the divisional finals programmes have the results typed in and these reveal that Carpenter beat S. Wise 2-0 in the quarter-final and E. Grove 2-0 in the semi-final before losing 2-1 to T. Fox in the final.

‘S. Wise’ was the Surrey Area Champion (playing out of the *Rats Castle*, Guildford) and ‘E. Grove’ was the Sussex Area champion who represented the *Vine Inn*, Tarring.

IT’S BEEN A HARD DAY’S DARTS

I was interviewed a few weeks back by Dave Gilyeat, a journalist at BBC News Online here in the UK, about pub games. A little while afterwards he contacted me again saying that he had found a ‘Lost’ scene from The Beatles’ film ‘A Hard Day’s Night’ which never made the movie. It features Ringo Starr in a pub scene which involves table skittles (aka Devil Among the Tailors) shove ha’penny and, of course, darts. Take a look by clicking on this link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjd2M_UER8Y

NEXT ISSUE: Why, in darts, does the score of 501 decrease to zero?

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