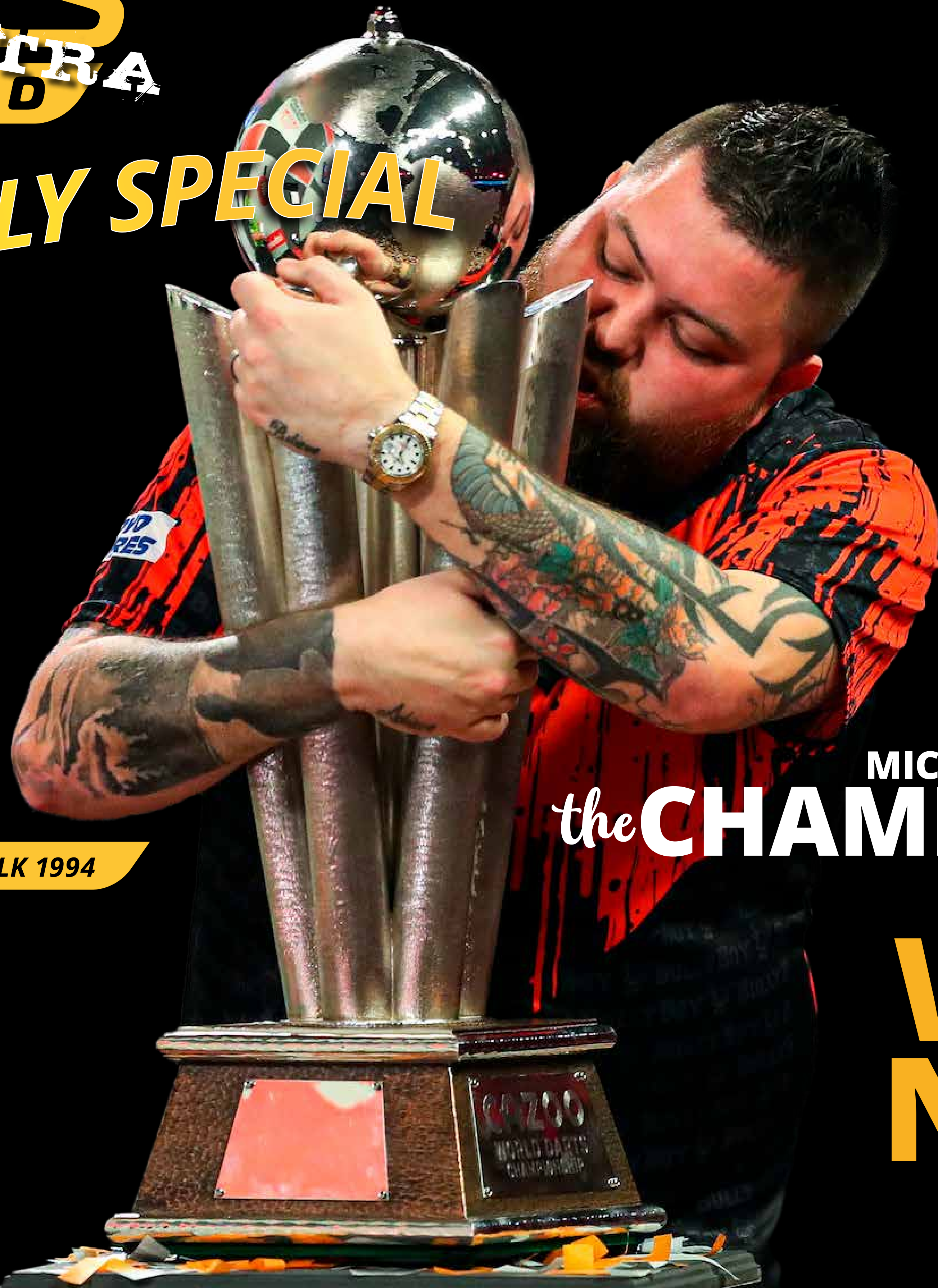


Darts EXTRA WORLD

DWE ISSUE 14

ALLY PALLY SPECIAL



DENNIS PRIESTLEY
the **FIRST**



PHIL TAYLOR
the **MOST**

MICHAEL SMITH
the **CHAMPION**

WHAT NEXT?

INSIDE...

THE CHAMPIONS

MEET THE FIELD: 96 INTROS

EXCLUSIVE PLAYER INTERVIEWS

DENNIS PRIESTLEY & STEVE BROWN TALK 1994

LUSTIG, OSBORNE & GILBERT

DARTS HERO

Darts WORLD

ALLY PALI 23

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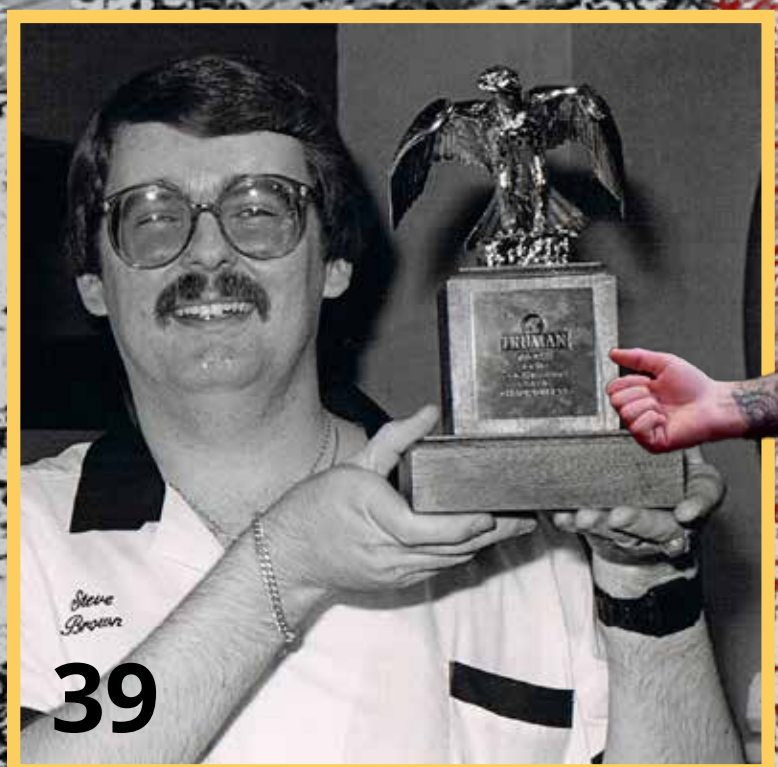
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BLADE 15

Welcome

When you reach your **30th birthday** it is rather tempting to look back over the time that has gone by and all those fabulous memories that have been shared with players, fans, and all those who make it happen, over three decades.

So our warmest congratulations to the PDC and all those who built today's annual testament to tungsten.

Luckily, in darts, there is always another event, and generation, to prevent you from navel gazing for too long.

This year the Alexandra Palace jamboree will be both the full-bore tungsten battle that we are used to, as well as a touch of celebration and nostalgia at a remarkable three decades of magic moments. This issue of Darts World Extra will attempt the same mix!

As you proceed through this additional World Championship issue you will find all of our regular features but with a festive tilt or Ally Pally flavour:

Our Palace-themed **Talking Points** or **Bullseyes & Bounceouts** are alongside special features on the early rounds, the trio of Women entrants, or highlighting the greybeards who may teach the younger generation a thing or two.

Our **Meet the Field** mini player-cards will familiarise you with players whether debutant or old hand, and help you see where they fit and the likelihood of upsets. Our friends at dartsdatabase.co.uk have again assisted us to **Dart by Numbers**

A couple of columnists who played at the palace give their thoughts in **Wizard's Wisdom** and **Webby's World**. A special edition of **Choose Your Weapons** features our own DW50 before we ask our **Practice Partner** how players can stay sharp over Xmas.

Our **Amateur** area covers everything from University darts to the **ADC's** remarkable rise and promise for the 2023 season and beyond.

Our DW team hopes you enjoy the 2023 Ally Pally festivities and wishes all our readers, advertisers, and contributors a superb Christmas and New Year period. Don't forget to visit the **Darts World store** for last-minute Xmas Extras (see what we did there?) or our 2023 special subscription offers.





Talking Points

The Venue

TWO VENUES have played host to the PDC's flagship event. The Circus Tavern in Purfleet provided an intimate and raucous home from the inaugural staging in 1994 until 2007. It now provides the same function for the fast developing World Seniors.

Moving to Ally Pally gave the PDC capacity and flexibility to expand and as any attendee will recount it is now an experience in itself. This redoubtable and unique venue can claim to pre-date any other current darts venue and to have outlasted them all.

One often hears venues wishing to be known, or thought of, as the *"Home of World Darts"*, Alexandra Palace has as good a claim as any. More than 15 years, through thick and thin, has seen the event expand in every direction.

Magical memories and moments include: Phil Taylor's last win and retirement run, MvG coming of age, Rob Cross's fairytale and the Fallon Sherrock breakthrough.

There will be many more as we move into a very healthy looking fourth decade. ”



The Trophy

THREE PIECES

of 'silverware' have been held aloft by PDC Champions. The first, a glass planetary style globe may have been first raised by Dennis Priestley but was effectively owned by *The Power* who raised it 11 times, including 8 in a row, before an update, silver and gold globe, was introduced with the change of venue in 2008.

Following the death of Sid Waddell in 2012, his contribution to the game was recognised by a new trophy, '*Big Sid*', being commissioned.

Since 2013 there have been 8 names engraved on the Sid Waddell trophy. Seven of the names were new title winners, the first is the only name to appear on all three: Phil Taylor. ”



The Prize

TOTAL prize fund for the inaugural PDC World Championship in 1994? £64,000. 1994's winner, Dennis "*The Menace*" Priestley, pocketed £16,000.

Although it was not to be sniffed at at the time, it certainly wasn't the life-changing sum that today's £500k winners' cheque can be. It has long been the ambition of those at the top of the sport to be able to offer a cool £1 million to the winner!

This year's event will offer a total of over £2,500,000. Players managing to qualify for the pally are assured of a bumper payday. Those managing a win or two can see their careers transformed, tour cards saved, or family finances eased with one cheque. Commercial earning power is turbocharged, by having a World Championship on your CV, or even a prominent run.

The place in the history books and the holding aloft of the Sid Waddell trophy is more important to most. Their families, however, may well benefit more from the £1 million total financial rewards.

Triumphing at the PDC's Ally Pally festival is a momentous moment that changes lives and adds another leaf to an ever-growing history book. ”

THE CHAMPIONS

THE 30 years since 1994 have produced only 11 men who can lay claim to the title of PDC World Champion. Each has left their own indelible mark in the history books of our game.

Words: THOMAS BARTLEY
Images: PDC

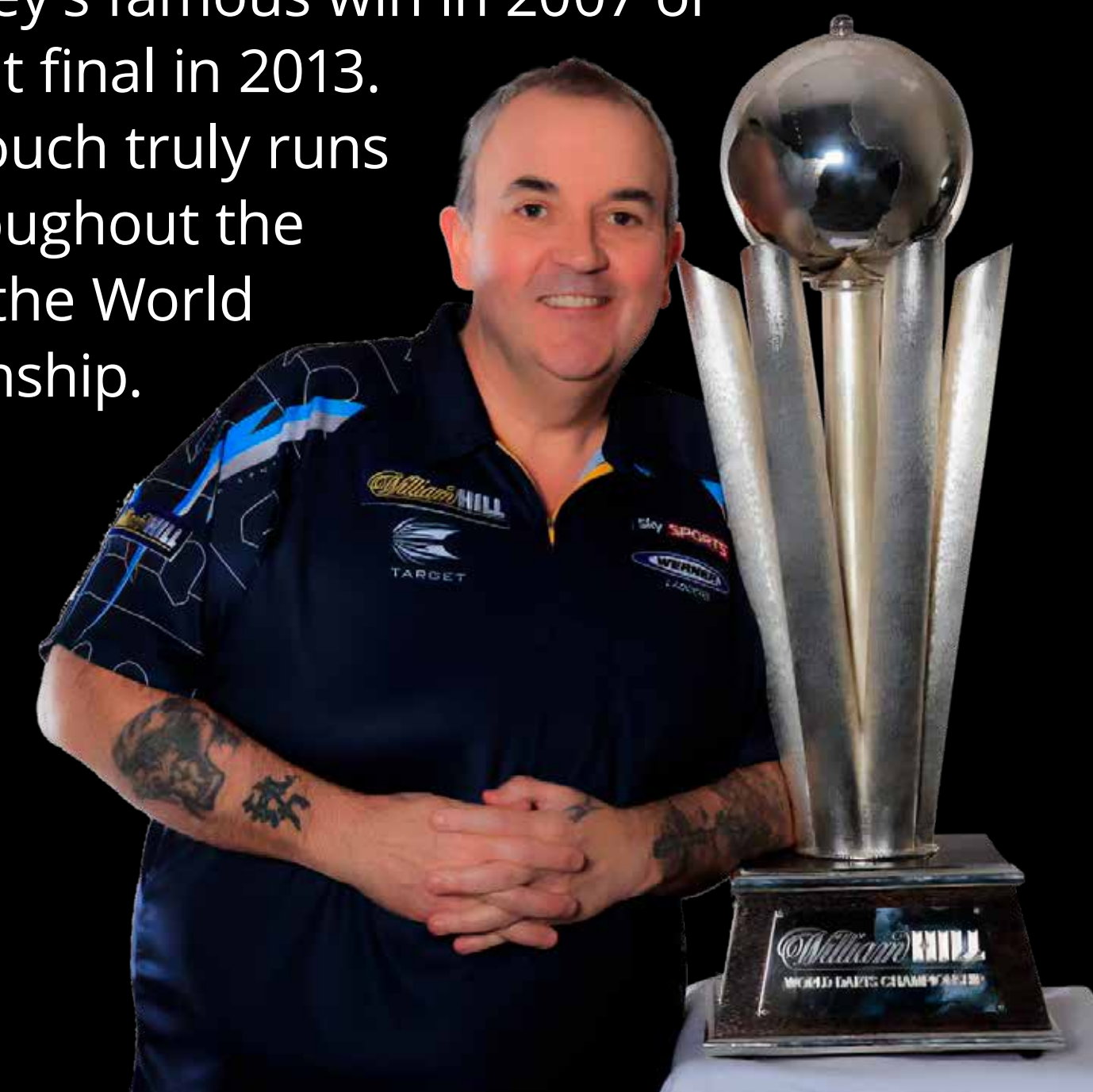
the FIRST



The First – To be the first person to etch your name on a trophy is a special feeling. 30 years ago, The Menace of Mexborough had that distinct honour. Conquering Phil Taylor 6-1 in the final, **Dennis Priestley** became the first ever PDC World Champion, following in the footsteps of Leighton Rees 16 years earlier to become the first world champion of a new darts code. Like Rees in the BDO, it would be his only PDC title. In fact, it would be the last defeat of Taylor at the Circus Tavern until John Part's victory in 2003. Priestley would fall at the final hurdle in four of The Power's subsequent run of 8 World Championship final victories. But to become the first, only Dennis can testify to that.

The Most – It is hard to believe it is nearly 6 years since the curtain came down for darts's most dominant figure. For over two decades, **Phil Taylor** was the World Championship and also

usually the World Champion. He picked up PDC crowns like clockwork, adding 14 to a tally of 2 won in the BDO. And so much of what the PDC World Championship became can be credited to Phil. He was the totemic figure who defined the early years of the nascent organisation and gave it a figurehead to rally around. The Power dispatched his opponents with what at times seemed a cruel callousness; his 14 final wins included 4 whitewashes. And he was also just as significant in those transitory moments when it felt as if the baton was being passed on, whether it was Barney's famous win in 2007 or MvG's first final in 2013. Taylor's touch truly runs deep throughout the whole of the World Championship.



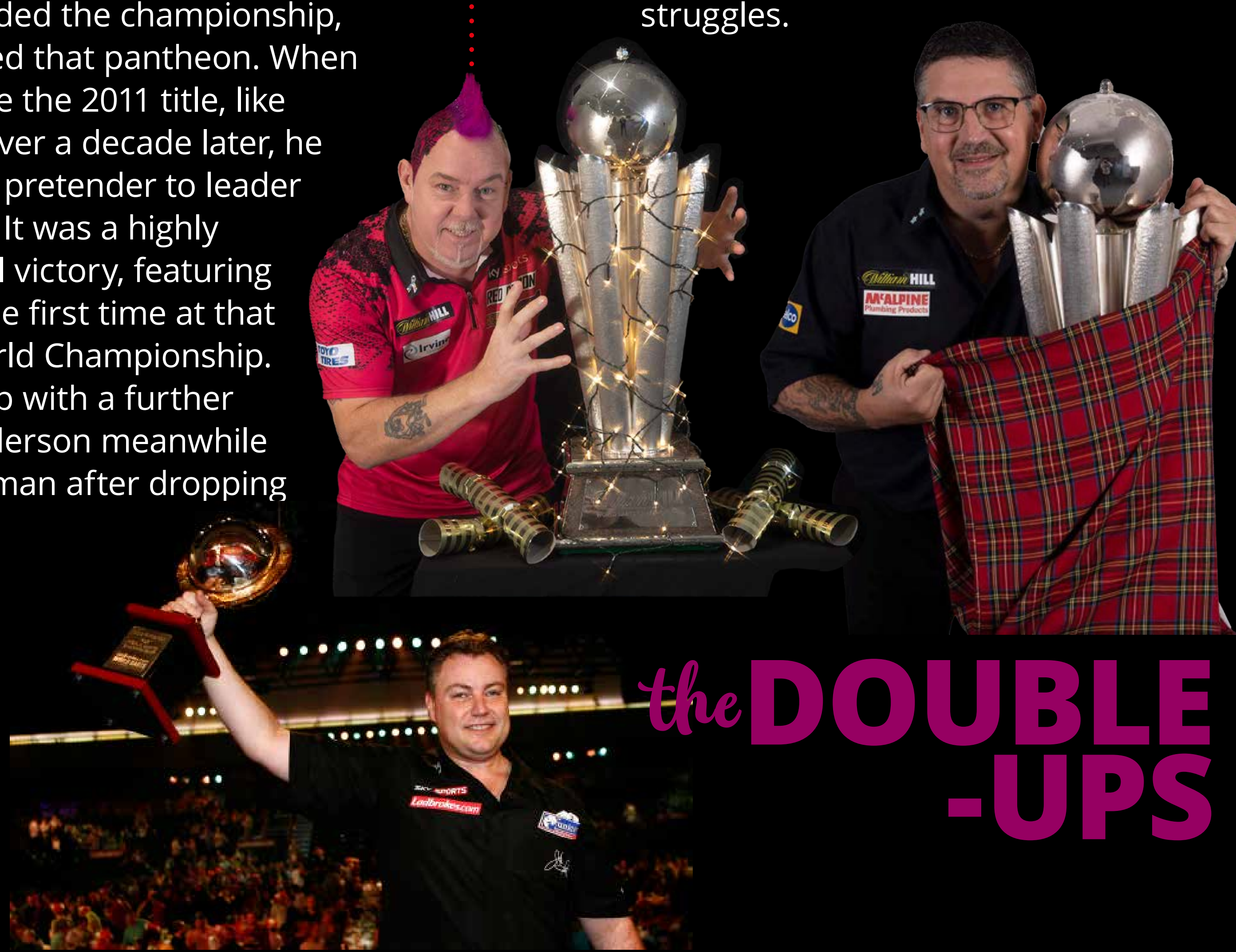
the MOST

The Dutch – Few moments in World Championship history are as seismic as when its trophy first departed the Commonwealth. The margins were small, all coming down to one sudden death leg, but when **Raymond van Barneveld** became the first Dutchman to capture the PDC World title back in 2007, the impact was immediate. Having come over from the BDO to challenge for Taylor’s crown, it secured the irrevocable supremacy of the now decade-old PDC, it’s one main challenger now under the same roof.

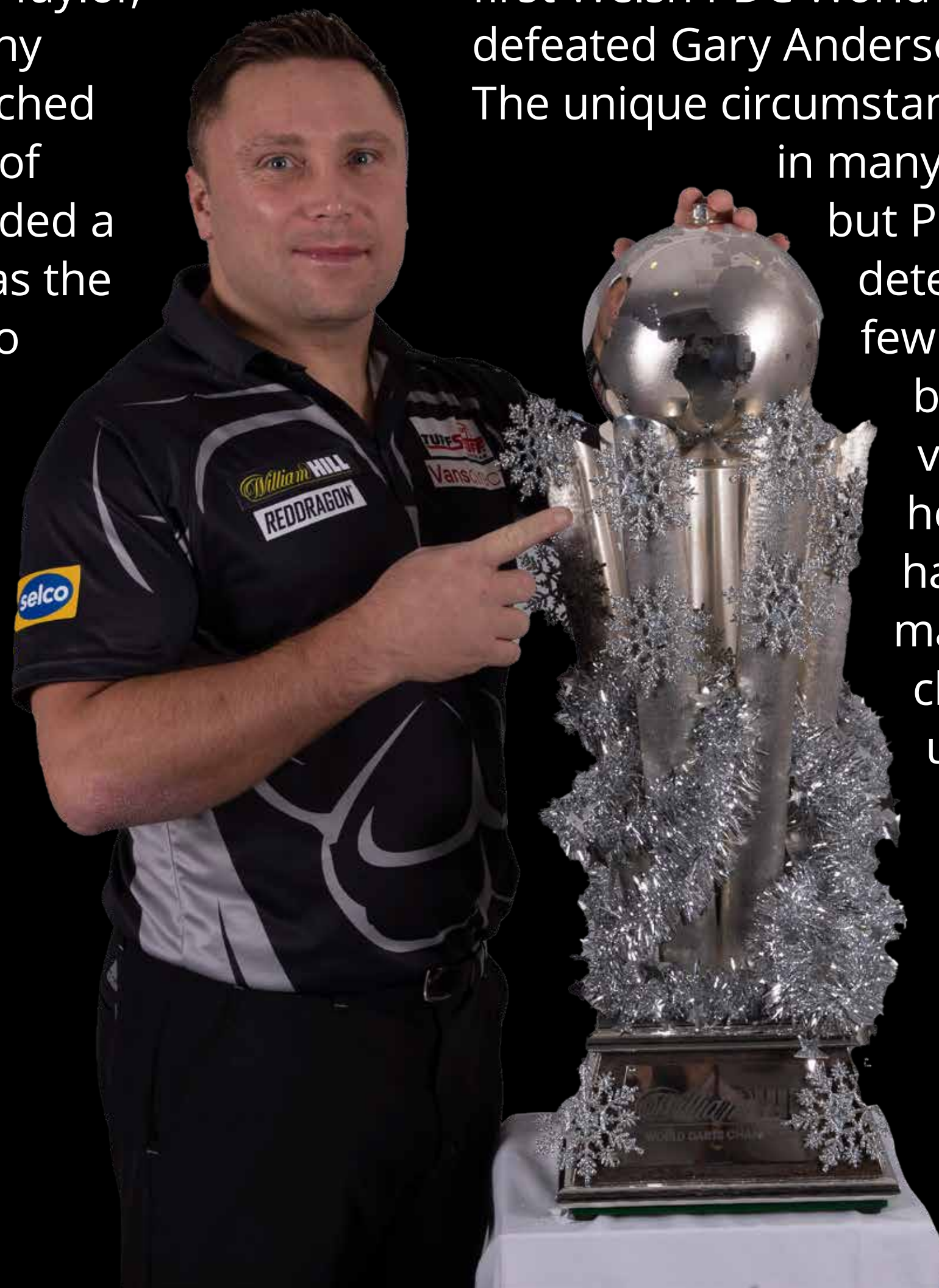
Importantly RVB’s win helped lay the foundations for **MvG’s** later successes as well as the depth of Netherlands talent in the current field. The nation remains a leading force in the sport and may well be for many more years to come.

The Double Ups – To win one world title is a feat, but two? It confirms your worth in an already cosy club of greats. When **Adrian Lewis** and then **Gary Anderson** not only doubled their tally of world titles, but defended the championship, they surely joined that pantheon. When Lewis took home the 2011 title, like Michael Smith over a decade later, he graduated from pretender to leader of a generation. It was a highly memorable final victory, featuring a 9-darter for the first time at that stage of the World Championship. He followed it up with a further win in 2012. Anderson meanwhile was a resolved man after dropping

out of the 2014 competition to Michael van Gerwen. A superb 2015 win over Taylor was followed by a 2016 victory over fellow two-timer Lewis. This is of course not forgetting another pair of two-time winners, **John Part** and **Peter Wright**. Darrh Maple showed that The Power could be beaten and became the first new dual code champion. Snakebite’s remarkable late career surge ensured a first title aged almost 50 and an almost poetic bookending of our sports pandemic struggles.



The Fairytale and The Dragon – To win any major title at the first attempt would be regarded as a fairytale. To do so at the World Championships knocking out both the new king, Michael van Gerwen and defeating the immortal Phil Taylor, in the final is a tale that many would have declared far-fetched before **Rob Cross**' triumph of 2017. Voltage not only provided a wonderful handover story as the old lion stood down but also validated the PDC's entire development system in one go!



The Iceman may have had a patchy year, but like his national creature, he is always waiting in the wings ready to pounce. Remarkably given his nation's darts heritage, **Gerwyn Price** became only the first Welsh PDC World Champion when he defeated Gary Anderson in 2021's final. The unique circumstances of Covid were in many ways far from ideal, but Price had a very clear determination for those few weeks. He may be without a major victory this year, but he is in a favourable half of the draw and may well fancy his chances for a follow-up.

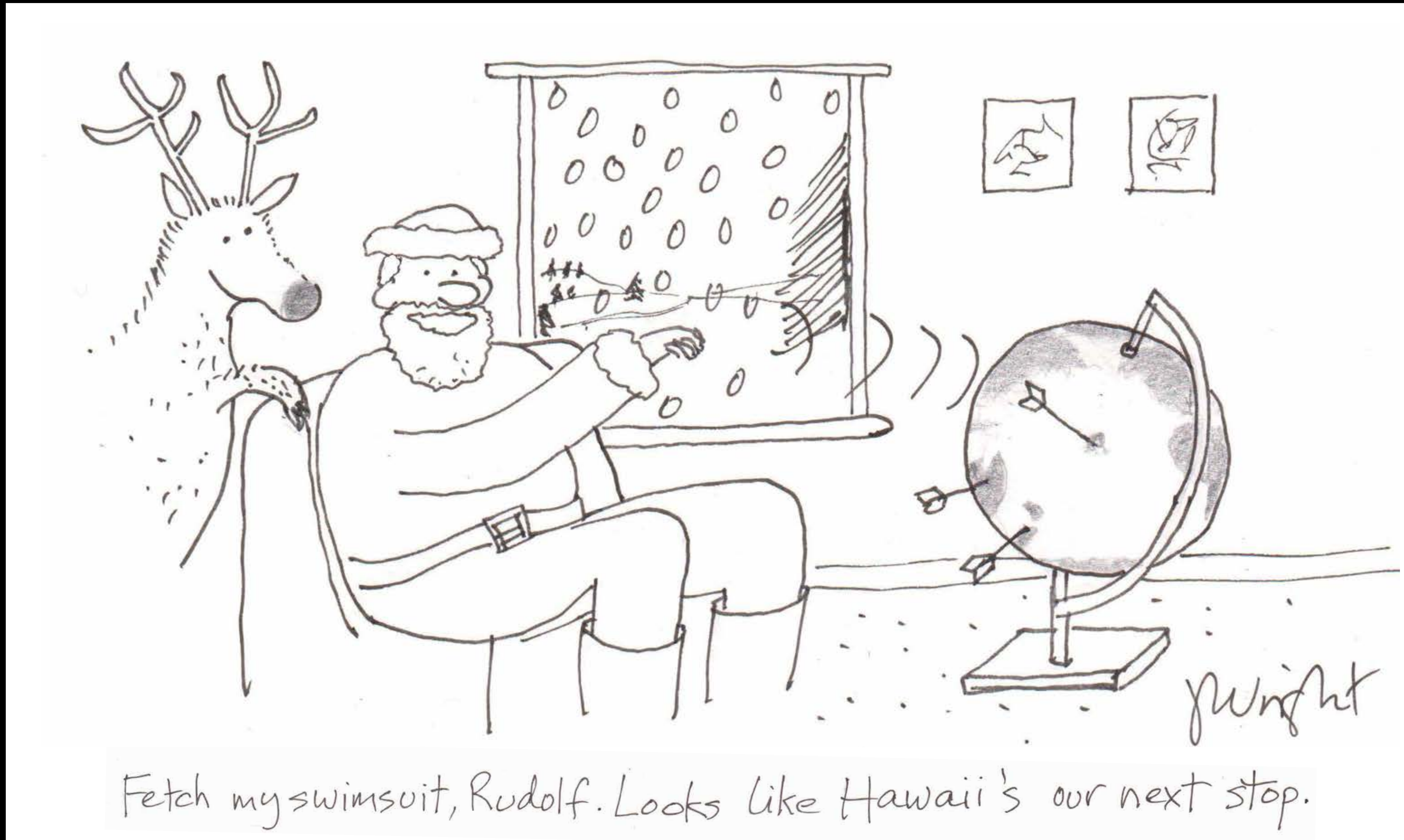
The Champion – When we talk of Taylor turning points, it is also hard to avoid his 2014 culling at the hands of **Michael Smith**. When the fresh-faced 23-year-old got the better of the defending champion, he seemed poised to follow in his footsteps. But journeys are rarely smooth, and it would take 8 years before Smith picked up a first TV title let alone world crown. When the moment finally came, it was surely all the sweeter? An explosive final with van Gerwen proved a fitting scenario, showing a fearless Smith who had truly come of age. For now, it seems as if the odds are stacked against a repeat this time around. But there is an aura which comes with this crown.

There are our 11 tungsten titans with one title to link them all. Could 2024 see the dozen rounded off?

the FAIRYTALE & THE DRAGON

THE WRIGHT

AMG GLE E



Fetch my swimsuit, Rudolf. Looks like Hawaii's our next stop.

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DENNIS Priestley changed darts, both on the board and off. The Mexborough Maestro's longest lasting legacy may well be that of being the first PDC World champion. We caught up with *The Menace* and sought his thoughts:



DENNIS PRIESTLEY
the **FIRST**

What were your early impressions, did you realise (or believe) you were involved in something so important for darts?

"No, not at the time at all. I didn't know the significance of what we were started. Who could have foreseen what it has built up to today? So, no I never expected it. We had to start some where and the 14 who stuck together stood fast and proved that what we were doing was what was needed."

"Obviously, it was a new venue, smoky atmosphere and low ceilings, I wouldn't like to say seedy, but. To think back then we were giving tickets away and now you can't buy them for love nor money!" ▶

► Was there extra pressure due to the controversy of 'The Split' and what was your view back then?

"I went into it not expecting to win, to be honest. My form wasn't great and I hadn't had time to do a lot for it. But I got better and better as the event went on. I felt no extra pressure. I was already 43/44 years old and had seen many things happening and just took this as it came."

Having played both, did you prefer a group stage or the straight knock-out of later years?

"Although I prefer a straight knockout the group stage was needed at the time. Tommy Cox and Dick Allix probably wanted it to be that the winner played the same 5 games as at the old Embassy event. So two groups games, a qtr, semi and final to win it. It also filled a lot of airtime that SKY was giving us!"

You came through your group very strongly, but your game with Jocky was a belter. What are your memories of that stage?

"I have great memories of it, I didn't quite realise how good it was until recently. 30 years ago in a group stage and we both averaged close on 95. My first visit to the board was 140 and Jocky followed in with 180 and off we went."



Your Qtr and Semi looked solid, with the win over Evison being tough looking, did they seem comfortable?

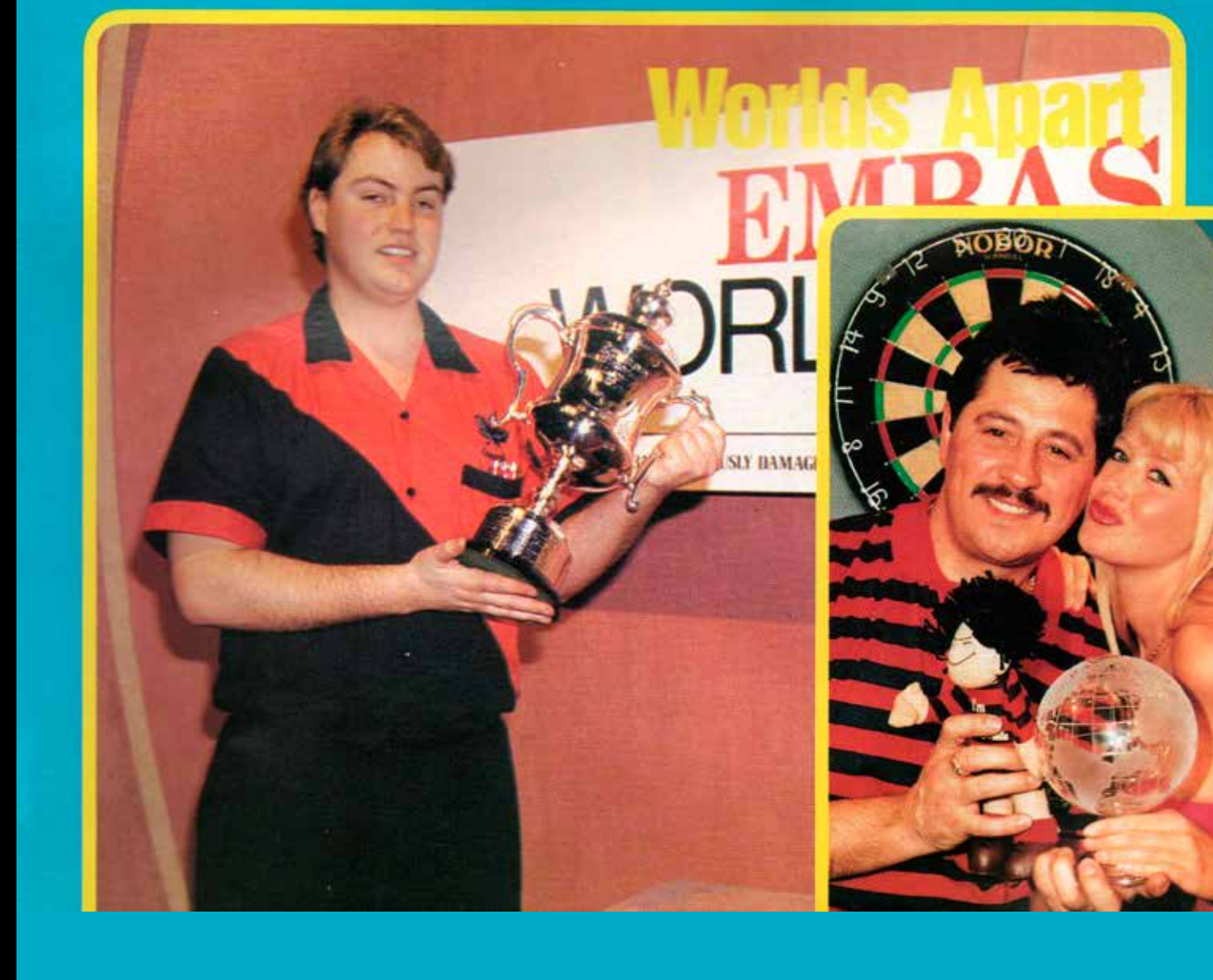
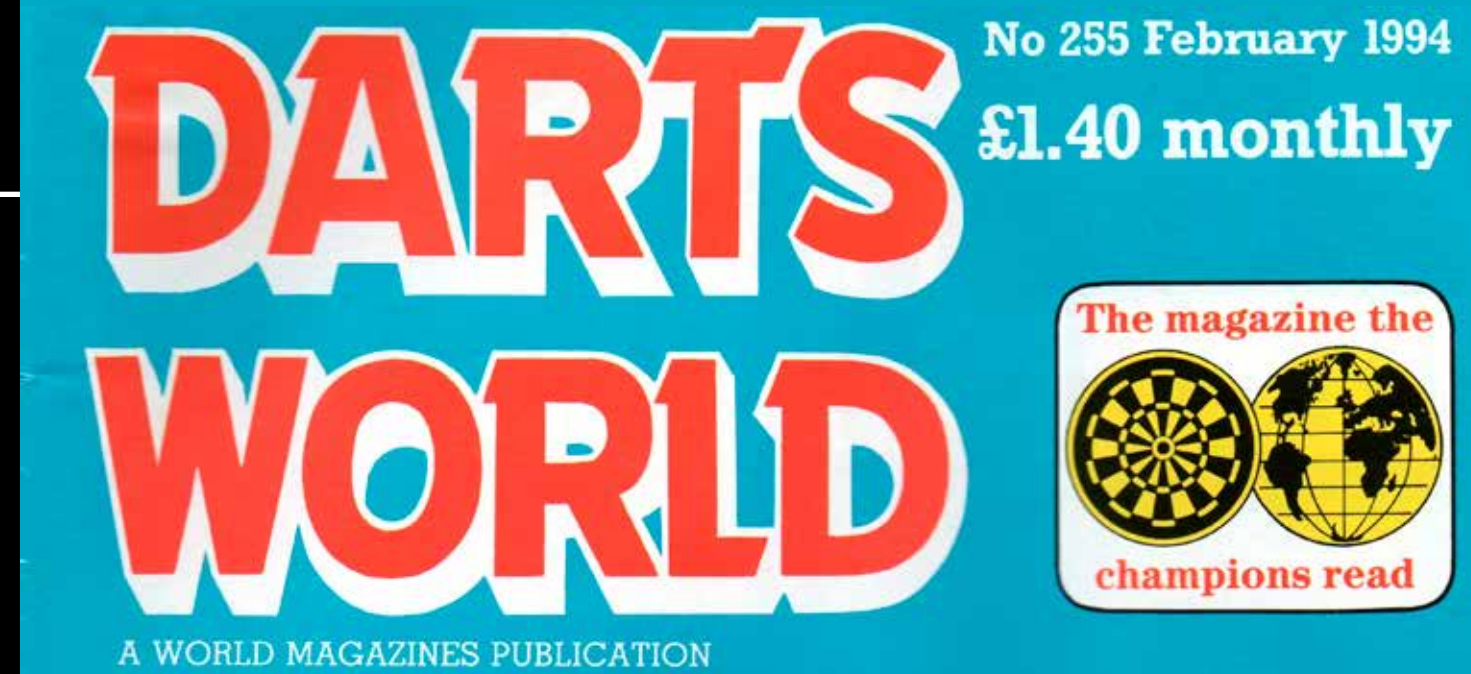
"Looking back, yes, they did seem comfortable. Although Peter was the only player to hit a higher average than me in the event. He hit a 97+ in the before we played, perhaps I took out the form player."

What were your thoughts and expectations before taking on a certain Phillip Douglas Taylor?

"Ahh, I had not got a scarred mind at the time. I had been beating him almost every time back then. He only really got the better of me after 1995/96. Until that point I was a lot better."

The final score board looks rather one way, how did it seem to play out?

"It was one way. Yes, I thoroughly outplayed him. Although I didn't realise how good we had actually played until later. We averaged in the mid-90s. I had been used to that, having done it in all five matches of my Lakeside win. But it still stands up now."



Being the first to lift a major trophy is something that can never be taken away, how did it feel then?

"Back then, you are in the moment when it happens. It's a great feeling and to have won it so convincingly was very satisfying. But, the significance of it 30 years later is mind-blowing. When you see how it's progressed since."

Now keep it quiet but, despite the remarkable feat of winning both Lakeside against Eric Bristow, and the first PDC World Championship against The Power, The Menace's fondest memories are from a different event altogether... Shhh

Looking back across the 30 years or more what is your own favourite memory and do you have a moment from another year that you especially enjoyed playing or watching (either yourself or another).

"I always said the hardest to win was the Winmau World masters. The very best I played was when I won that in 1992. I had an over 35 average to defeat Alan Warriner I the semi and nearly the same again to beat Mike Gregory in the final."

What did it feel like to be in that zone Dennis?

"You've hit it on the head, at my best I could block everything out and concentrate 100%. As much as I wish I could play like Michael Smith or Luke Humphries, it wasn't me. I based my game on mental strength and concentration."



Dennis, a sprightly 73, is recovering at home after recent gallbladder surgery.

Everyone at DW and, we are sure, the entire darts world wishes him a speedy and strong recovery and a fabulous festive season. There can be only one first World Champion!

THE SEEDS



Michael Smith [1]

"Bullyboy"

ENGLAND

World Ranking **1**

World Champion 2023



Gerwyn Price [5]

"Iceman"

WALES

World Ranking **5**

World Champion 2021



Michael van Gerwen [2]

"MVG"

NETHERLANDS

World Ranking **2**

World Champion x3



Nathan Aspinall [6]

"The Asp"

ENGLAND

World Ranking **6**

World Matchplay 2023



Luke Humphries [3]

"Cool Hand Luke"

ENGLAND

World Ranking **3**

3x 2023 Majors



Danny Noppert [7]

"Mr Freeze"

NETHERLANDS

World Ranking **7**

UK Open Champion 2022



Peter Wright [4]

"Snakebite"

SCOTLAND

World Ranking **4**

World Champion x2



Rob Cross [8]

"Voltage"

ENGLAND

World Ranking **8**

World Champion 2017



THE SEEDS



Jonny Clayton [9]
"The Ferret"

RED DRAGON

WALES

World Ranking **9**

Premier League Champion 2021



Damon Heta [10]
"The Heat"

HARROWS

AUSTRALIA

World Ranking **10**

World Cup & World Series Winner



Dave Chisnall [11]
"Chizzy"

HARROWS

ENGLAND

World Ranking **11**

Lakeside World Finalist



Dirk van Duijvenbode [12]
"Mr Aubergine"

BULL'S B
THE DART SIDE OF LIFE

NETHERLANDS

World Ranking **12**

Matchplay Finalist



James Wade [12]
"The Machine"

unicorn

ENGLAND

World Ranking **13**

Major Champion x7



Joe Cullen [14]
"Rockstar"

WINMAU

ENGLAND

World Ranking **14**

Masters Champion (PDC) 2022



Dimitri Van den Bergh [15]
"The Dreammaker"

TARGET

BELGIUM

World Ranking **15**

World Matchplay Champion 2020



Ross Smith [16]
"Smudger"

unicorn

ENGLAND

World Ranking **16**

European Champion 2023



THE SEEDS



Chris Dobey [17]

"Hollywood"

ENGLAND

World Ranking **17**

Masters Champion 2023



Gary Anderson [21]

"Flying Scotsman"

SCOTLAND

World Ranking **21**

World Champion x2



Stephen Bunting [18]

"The Bullet"

ENGLAND

World Ranking **18**

World Champion (BDO)



Gabriel Clemens [22]

"German Giant"

GERMANY

World Ranking **22**

World Championship Semi Finalist 2023



Ryan Searle [19]

"Heavy Metal"

ENGLAND

World Ranking **19**

Players Championship Finals Runner Up



Josh Rock [23]

"Rocky"

N. IRELAND

World Ranking **23**

World Youth Champion 2023



Andrew Gilding [20]

"Goldfinger"

ENGLAND

World Ranking **20**

UK Open Champion 2023



Krzysztof Ratajski [24]

"The Polish Eagle"

POLAND

World Ranking **24**

World Matchplay Semifinalist



THE SEEDS



Jose de Sousa [25]

"The Special One"

PORTUGAL

World Ranking **25**

Grand Slam Champion 2020



Raymond van Barneveld [29]

"Barney"

NETHERLANDS

World Ranking **29**

World Champion x5



Martin Schindler [26]

"The Wall"

GERMANY

World Ranking **26**

Major Qtr Finals x2



Callan Rydz [30]

"The Riot"

ENGLAND

World Ranking **30**

Pro Tour Winner



Daryl Gurney [27]

"Superchin"

IRELAND

World Ranking **27**

World Grand Prix Champion



Kim Huybrechts [31]

"The Hurricane"

BELGIUM

World Ranking **31**

Major Finalist



Brendan Dolan [28]

"The History Maker"

N IREALND

World Ranking **28**

1st Double Start 9-darter



Madars Razma [32]

"Razmattazz"

LATVIA

World Ranking **32**

Nordic & Baltic Tour Event Winner x10



MIC DROP!

Hello again readers. A few lines for the World Championship/Christmas edition. First of all, let me wish all players good luck, all officials and everyone working behind the scenes good luck and a stress-free tournament. The army of the unseen put in a huge effort and pull off a remarkable achievement every year.

Also, to everyone attending, enjoy yourselves and make great memories. A personal plea from me, please show respect to all players, officials, staff and other fans.

I personally think that the bookies have got it spot on and think that Luke Humphries will take some stopping, as long as his present form holds up. Obviously MVG is dangerous after having to lick his

wounds a few times lately. Rob Cross is overpriced with the bookie chaps in my humble opinion and I think that Luke Littler could go far, under the radar as they say.

The match I'm looking forward to in the early stages is the one between Ricardo Pietreczko and Mikaru Suzuki. It will be interesting to see how he handles being booed, firstly for being a German, then because he's playing a woman. I personally don't like to hear any booing, but they've booed Steve Beaton, James Richardson and Ted Evetts among others and you wouldn't normally expect that.

A few weeks ago I worked with Luke Humphries at an exhibition in Oxford and as usual he was very entertaining. Great darts and great fun. He had with him, the Grand Prix trophy for fans to have photos taken with it. Just a few weeks later he could have bought 2 more trophies with him, what a remarkable effort.

A couple of weeks later, I did a league presentation/exhibition night in Devizes

with Adrian Lewis. Great to see Adie looking great and throwing great darts too. Hopefully he'll get the bug back and be back on our screens, sooner rather than later. Adie in full flow is a joy to behold.

I had a couple of postponed events, hopefully, rearranged for 2024, but my final appearance was last weekend in Lower Bavaria with Rob Cross, who put on a fantastic show, finishing many legs on Bullseye. Some included two bullseyes.

My diary for 2024 is already filling up nicely with bookings in England, Scotland, Jersey and Germany already inked in, and in pencil at the moment Austria.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year and hopefully see you at an exhibition soon.





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WIND STOPS PLAY

**NOT EVERY
MEMORABLE MOMENT
IS ON THE BOARD**

In its 30 year history the PDC World Championship has witnessed many memorable moments, many great matches, many dramatic finishes but never a more bizarre incident than the one which occurred in the 2012 Tournament during the semi-final between Adrian Lewis and James Wade.

Football, Cricket, Tennis and many other sports events are often disrupted due to weather causing a halt in play or even an abandonment but few in attendance could ever have expected to experience a darts match held up by the elements. ►

Words & Images:
LAWRENCE LUSTIG



► Alexandra Palace had just witnessed a thriller between Andy Hamilton and Simon Whitlock, *"The Hammer"* triumphing 6-5 winning the deciding set 4-2 over *"The Wizard"* who pushed him all the way despite playing with a broken foot.

By around 10.30, the arena was packed to the rafters and very warm as MC John McDonald announced 'The reigning and Defending Champion' Adrian Lewis and his opponent James Wade onto the stage.

The crowd were in full voice as *"The Machine"* raced into a 2-0 lead but as the third set got underway both players complained to match referee Bruce Spendley that they could feel a crosswind blowing across the stage. The match stopped as Wade indicated his shirt was rippling in the breeze and Lewis gestured it was affecting the flight of his darts.

The players first pointed to the one side of the stage and then the other before looking upwards towards a vent as officials and arena staff searched for where the draft was coming from.

Tournament director Tommy Cox appeared on the Oche alongside Bruce Spendley and the two bemused contestants



as they discussed the strange conditions they were now faced with.

After lengthy talks, with no solution found, and with them all visibly frustrated, Adrian Lewis indicated towards the exit by the stairs, took his darts from the board and strode off stage, followed by Tommy Cox and James Wade, leaving Bruce Spendley to explain the situation to the crowd, adding that as soon as the problem was resolved the match would resume.

It was now way past 11p.m but the full house remained good humoured, still singing their songs waiting for the restart. After several inspections by the officials, the fans were rewarded for their patience and after a 20 plus minute delay, a few practice darts by the players to check the crosswind had abated, conditions were deemed good enough for the match to continue.

For the fans it was worth the wait as they were served up another World Championship classic, Lewis reduced the arrears by winning the 3rd set

but Wade was on fire and seemed to be on the brink of a place in the final as he extended his lead to 5-1.

But Lewis was not prepared to surrender his title without a fight and after winning the 7th set reeled off a stunning 10 legs culminating with a 161 checkout to seal a stunning comeback 6-5 victory at nearly 1 o'clock in the morning.

The late finish certainly did not affect Lewis, as what was later that day, he defended his World Title as he was crowned Champion for a second time with a straightforward 7-3 victory.

But what of the "crosswind", where did it come from and what caused it? No doors or vents were found to be open.

The answer was in the West Hall itself and the sell out crowd who generated an extreme amount of heat. It is well known that hot air rises but as there were no doors and windows for it to escape as it circulated around the room creating the draught which brought about the suspension of play.

Who would have believed a match at the World Championships could be disrupted by wind!



PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



Ricardo Pietreczko [33]

"Pikachu"

GERMANY

PDC Ranking **39**

European Tour Winner



Mike de Decker [37]

"Real Deal"

BELGIUM

PDC Ranking **37**

Development Tour Event Winner (4)



Gian van Veen [34]

"GVV"

NETHERLANDS

PDC Ranking **45**

Pro Tour Finalist



Ian White [38]

"Diamond White"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **55**

News of the World finalist



Ryan Joyce [35]

"Relentless"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **35**

Pro Tour event winner



Jim Williams [39]

"The Quiff"

WALES

PDC Ranking **47**

World Finalist (WDF)



Luke Woodhouse [36]

"Woody"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **33**

Major Qtr Final



Mario Vandenberg [40]

"Super Mario"

BELGIUM

PDC Ranking **67**

World Championship Semifinalist (WDF)



PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



Radek Szaganski [41]

"Harp Boy"

POLAND

PDC Ranking **69**

Pro Tour Winner



Simon Whitlock [45]

"The Wizard of Aus"

AUSTRALIA

PDC Ranking **43**

European Champion 2012



Richard Veenstra [42]

"Flyers"

NETHERLANDS

PDC Ranking **79**

World Championship Semifinalist (WDF)



Kevin Doets [46]

"Hawkeye"

NETHERLANDS

PDC Ranking **66**

Challenge Tour Event Winner



Steve Beaton [43]

"Bronzed Adonis"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **49**

World Champion 1996



Matt Campbell [47]

"Ginga Ninja"

CANADA

World Ranking **57**

Challenge Tour Event Winner



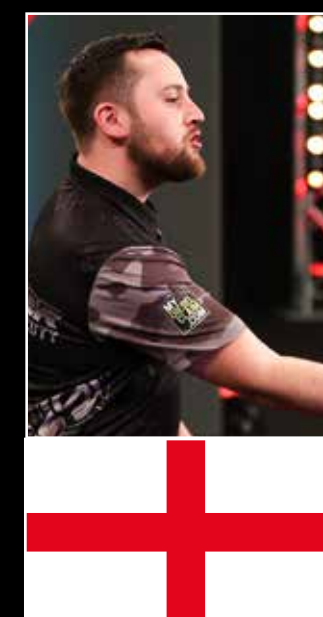
Keane Barry [44]

"Dynamite"

IRELAND

PDC Ranking **41**

World Youth Champion



Connor Scutt [48]

"The Sniper"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **71**

Pro Tour Finalist



PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



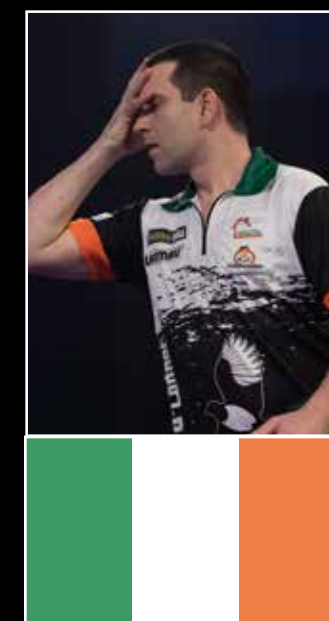
Martin Lukeman [49]

"Smash"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **36**

European Tour Finalist



Willie O'Connor [53]

"The Magpie"

IRELAND

PDC Ranking **38**

World Cup of Darts Finalist



Mickey Mansell [50]

"The Cyclone"

N. IRELAND

PDC Ranking **64**

Pro Tour Event Winner



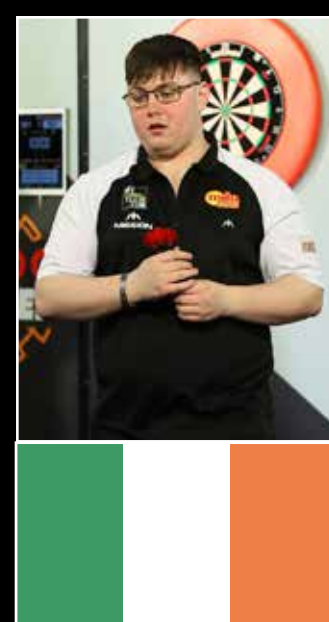
Scott Williams [54]

"Shaggy"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **52**

Pro Tour Winner



Dylan Slevin [51]

"Slevinator"

IRELAND

PDC Ranking **88**

Developement Tour Event Winner



Christian Kist [55]

"Lipstick"

NETHERLANDS

PDC Ranking **91**

World Champion 2012 (WDF)



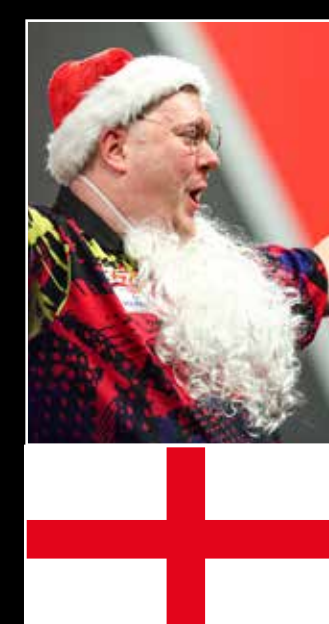
Steve Lennon [52]

"Scuba Steve"

IRELAND

PDC Ranking **58**

World Cup of Darts Finalist



Ricky Evans [56]

"Rapid"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **53**

Pro Tour Finalist



PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



Cameron Menzies [57]

"Cammy"

SCOTLAND

PDC Ranking **63**

Challenge Tour Event Winner

unicorn



Jules van Dongen [61]

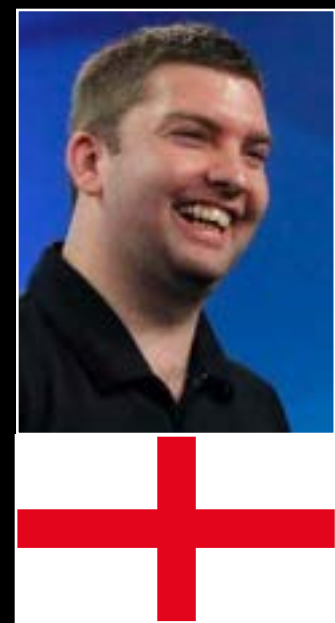
"Dutch Dragon"

USA

PDC Ranking **80**

Seacoast Open Winner (2021)

LOXLEY



Lee Evans [58]

"EVZ"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **92**

Challenge Tour Event Winner

TARGET



Jamie Hughes [62]

"Yozza"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **62**

European Tour (PDC) Event Winner

RED DRAGON



Richie Edhouse [59]

"Madhouse"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **56**

Challenge Tour Event Winner

MISSION



Niels Zonneveld [63]

"Triple Z"

NETHERLANDS

PDC Ranking **83**

Development Tour Event Winner (2)

Shot



Jermaine Wattimena [60]

"The Machine Gun"

NETHERLANDS

PDC Ranking **51**

German Gold Cup Champion 2018

BULL'S B
THE DART SIDE OF LIFE



Keegan Brown [64]

"The Needle"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **99**

Pro Tour Winner

BULL'S B
THE DART SIDE OF LIFE

A TOUCH OF CLASS

Words: HARRY MASTERSON
Images: WDF/CHRIS SARGEANT

TRICOLE BUILDS HISTORIC PALMARES

Thibault Tricole will go from a final at Lakeside to making his Alexandra Palace debut, as he looks set to make history for the sport in France.

The French Touch on his Lakeside debut played very well, coming in as the Number 2 seed after impressing on the WDF Circuit prior to the event. Now though will be a much different challenge, playing in the noise of the Ally Pally as well as getting to grips with the famous world stage.

"The PDC World Championships are another dimension" said Tricole to Darts World. *"Everything is multiplied by 10: the public, arena, media coverage and prize money. I'm going to discover the Professional World Championships and I can't wait!"*

Tricole defeated the likes of Tour Card holder Cameron Menzies on his run to the Final back in April last year after initially battling through a real test versus Shawn Burt in the 1st Round, claiming a 3-2 win in sets against the Canadian.

Thibault has raised his game since, helping to navigate his home country to a Quarter Final finish on debut at the 2023 PDC World Cup of Darts, with partner and





Tour Card holder Jacques Labre. The French duo topped their group to qualify for the knockout stages with wins over Northern Ireland and Ukraine.

The dream debut run came to an end at the hands of eventual Runner's Up Scotland, but it was a huge eye opener to the rest of the world that the sport was growing in France, with Thibault's achievements in the game being a factor in that.

"My year was up and down because I didn't always have time to train properly. I have a 15-month-old baby among other things to think about and because I had a series of defeats in Players Championships, I lost a little confidence in myself."

"But since September, things have been better, and I managed to reverse the trend. I have to rely on experiences at the World Cup and MODUS even though the World Championships are still a different context."

Tricole will take to the Alexandra Palace stage on Monday next week against good mate Mario Vandenbogaerde in the 1st Round, once playing pairs together in competitions. The reward for winning will be a 2nd Round clash with 2018 World Champion Rob Cross just before the three-day Christmas break.

"There is no easy draw at the PDC World Championships and playing Mario isn't the best draw because I know him well. In the past we have clashed several times and we even played doubles together a few years ago."

"I will have to ignore feelings and stay focused on my game. I train daily but with only a few days until the deadline, I have to work on my mental side more than my arm. My motivation is to try to play a former world champion in Rob Cross."

History will be made as Thibault competes, becoming the first French international to play at a PDC World Championship since the competition started back in 1994. The French Touch will be the first of many to grace the biggest stage in the sport and is proud of what he will achieve in North London.

"You need pioneers in sport to develop it in your country. Becoming the first Frenchman, I am making a mark on the minds/ history of darts in France and I'm very proud of it."

The Winmau player earned his spot via



the West Europe Qualifier held in Kalkar last month. Thibault defeated recent WDF World Championship Quarter Finalist Wesley Plaisier 7-4 in the Final, going one step further than he did 12 months ago.

"What's funny is that I lost in the final of this same tournament last year in Spain against Jose Justicia, but it was a tournament reserved only for players from Southwest Europe. There I managed to win a tournament where potentially the level is even higher, and it was unexpected. I obviously wanted to go to the end but if I failed, I figured it would have been good training/ preparation for Lakeside."

Thibault Tricole will attempt to extend that remarkable palmares of 'French Firsts' with a win in the opening match of Monday's evening session, with the Paddy Power 2024 PDC World Championship making its long-awaited return on the 15th of December Live on Sky Sports Darts.

A True Idol

Image and words: LAWRENCE LUSTIG

“ Around every sporting contest, as well as what is going on in front of you, there is more often many other photo opportunities for a photographer to capture around the event.

The excellent Times Chief Sports Photographer Marc Aspland and his colleague Bradley Ormesher, capture these moments so well in their regular photo led feature “Sport Unseen” where images which are not used in the daily edition to accompany a report are published to give a more in depth look at sport.

In 2019 I was privileged to be asked by the Times to be the first non-staff photographer to do an “Unseen Gallery” and it would also be the first-time darts had been featured in the series.

I chose the photos I thought would make an impact on the page and be interesting and informative to a readership that, in reality, would probably not be followers of the game.

Fan participation has always been an important part of a night at “The Darts” and their enjoyment is something I always tried to portray. One such opportunity arose at the 2019 World Championship Quarter-Finals and I felt it had to be part of my portfolio showcasing darts at it’s best.

As Gary Anderson took on Dave Chisnall for a place in the semi-final, along with his wife Rachel, in the players’ section, he had his number one fan, his young son Tai, decked out in a replica of his dad’s shirt and wearing foam fingers on his hands.

The bond between father and son was clear for all to see as Gary waved to him

from the stage at every break and Tai cheered every shot, standing on his chair to see over the barrier waving back with, what seemed to him to be, the two giant fingers.

Just seeing the sheer joy on Tai’s face as he watches his dad in action, makes this image, one of my own personal favourites of all my darts photographs.

For the technically minded I used a Canon Mk11 1dx at 3200 iso with a canon ef 300mm 2.8 lens at f3.5 at a speed of 250th of a second. ”

Lawrence Lustig is a former official photographer of the PDC and has had a ringside seat to most of the modern game’s iconic moments.



AFFILIATED TOUR & INTERNATIONAL QUALIFIERS



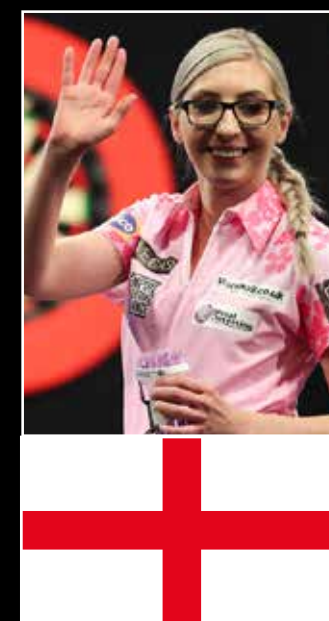
Luke Littler [65]

"The Nuke"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **164**

World Youth Champion & MSS Champion



Fallon Sherrock [69]

"Queen of the Palace"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **136**

Women's World Matchplay Champion 2022

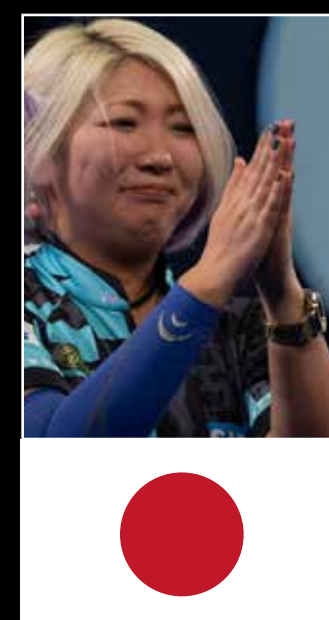


Wessel Nijman [66]

NETHERLANDS

PDC Ranking **N/A**

Development Tour Event Winner



Mikuru Suzuki [70]

"The Miracle"

JAPAN

PDC Ranking **N/A**

Women's World Champion x2



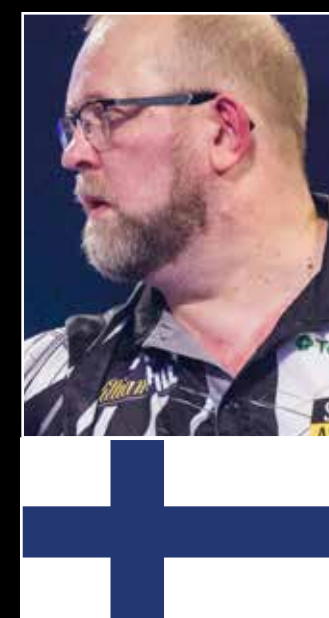
Berry Van Peer [67]

"Bionic"

NETHERLANDS

PDC Ranking **107**

Dutch Open Champion 2023



Marko Kantele [71]

FINLAND

PDC Ranking **145**

PDCNB Event Winner



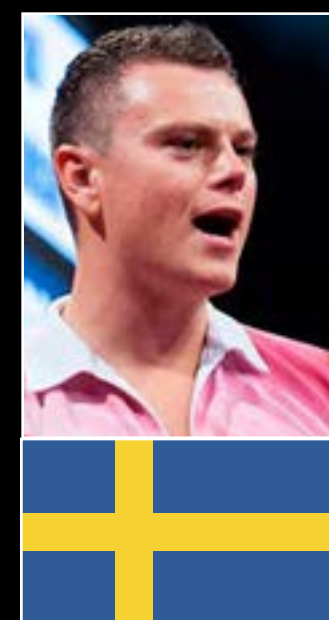
Owen Bates [68]

"The Master"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **121**

Challenge Tour Event Winner



Jeffrey de Graaf [72]

SWEDEN

PDC Ranking **164**

Multiple WDF Open winner



AFFILIATED TOUR & INTERNATIONAL QUALIFIERS



Haruki Muramatsu [73]

"HAL"

JAPAN

PDC Ranking **149**

PDC Asian Champion



Poalo Nebrida [77]

PHILIPPINES

PDC Ranking **N/A**

PDC World Championship Qualifier 2022



Sandro Eric Sosing [74]

PHILIPPINES

PDC Ranking **N/A**

World Championship Qualification



Reynaldo Rivera [78]

"Rey"

PHILIPPINES

PDC Ranking **N/A**

PDC Asian Tour Event Winner



Lourance Ilghan [75]

"The Gunner"

PHILIPPINES

PDC Ranking **N/A**

Asia Pacific Cup Winner (Team)



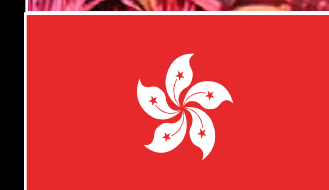
Man Lok Leung [79]

"Hugo"

HONG KONG

PDC Ranking **N/A**

PDC Asian Tour Event Winner



Tomoya Goto [76]

"GT"

JAPAN

PDC Ranking **N/A**

PDC Asian Tour Event Winner



Darren Penhall [80]

"Smooth Operator"

AUSTRALIA

PDC Ranking **N/A**

DPA Pro Tour Winner



AFFILIATED TOUR & INTERNATIONAL QUALIFIERS



Ben Robb [81]

"Big Rig"

NEW ZEALAND

PDC Ranking **N/A**

DPA Tour Event Winner



Stowe Buntz [85]

"Buntzy"

USA

PDC Ranking **95**

Grand Slam Qtr Finalist



Haupai Puha [82]

"Hopes"

NEW ZEALAND

PDC Ranking **N/A**

DPA Winmau Oceanic Masters Champion



Thibault Tricole [86]

"The French Touch"

FRANCE

PDC Ranking **146**

Lakeside World Finalist



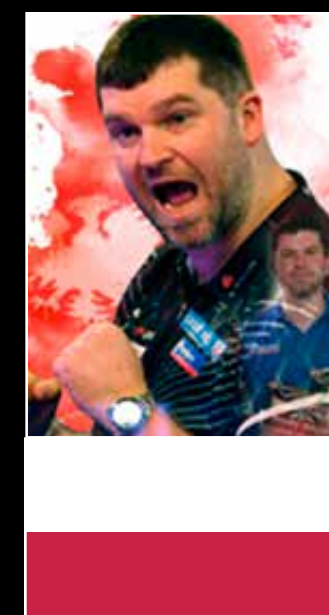
Alex Spellman [83]

"The Jackal"

USA

PDC Ranking **N/A**

CDC Tour Ranking Champion 2023



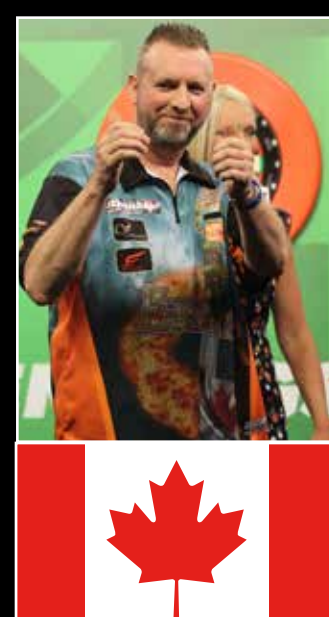
Krzysztof Kciuk [87]

"The Thumb"

POLAND

PDC Ranking **N/A**

Dual Code World Championship Qualifier



David Cameron [84]

"Excaliber"

CANADA

PDC Ranking **N/A**

WSDT Masters Champion 2022



Dragutin Horvat [88]

"Hercules"

GERMANY

PDC Ranking **164**

Euro Superleague Winner



AFFILIATED TOUR & INTERNATIONAL QUALIFIERS



Simon Adams [89]

"The Saint"

SOUTH AFRICA

PDC Ranking **N/A**

Worlds Qualification



Florian Hempel [93]

WINMAU

GERMANY

PDC Ranking **59**

European Superleague Finalist



Xiaochen Zong [90]

"The Pandaman"

CHINA

PDC Ranking **N/A**

PDC Asian Tour Event Winner



Rusty Jake Rodriguez [94]



"RJ"

AUSTRIA

PDC Ranking **89**

PDC Youth/Development Tour Champion



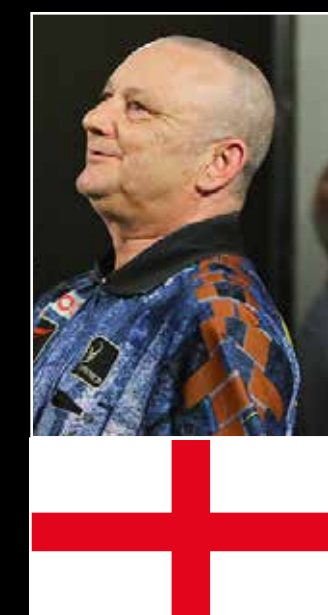
Norman Madhoo [91]

"Stormin Norm"

GUYANA

PDC Ranking **N/A**

PDC L.A & Caribbean Tour Winner



Darren Webster [95]

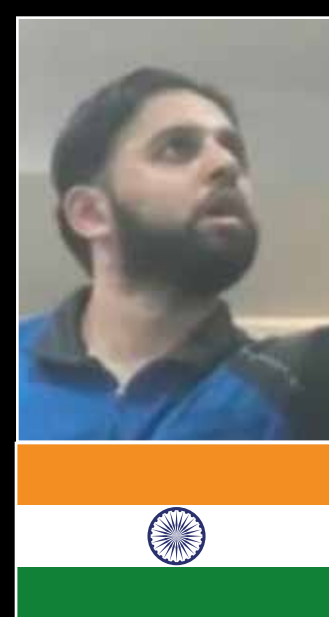


"Dynamite"

ENGLAND

PDC Ranking **120**

PDC Pro Tour Winner



Bhav Patel [92]

INDIA

PDC Ranking **N/A**

Worlds Qualification



Boris Krcmar [96]



"Dum Dum"

CROATIA

PDC Ranking **61**

Apatin Open x3



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Media Matters



Thomas Bartley



Media Matters recently considered how darts's presence in this year's Tesco Christmas advert is a sign of the sport's growing strength. But there are of course many who would argue we are already in a post-television age, the old gogglebox failing to command the authority it once did.

This no doubt factored into the WDF's recent gamble to broadcast its World Championship live on YouTube. For several years, the BDO and then the WDF have flitted between different broadcasters in the hope to find something which stuck. When the Lakeside event returned on Eurosport last year, it seemed a promising sign that the respected channel was in it for the long haul.

Not quite. The broadcaster's planned merge with BT, now TNT, affected its ability to make longer-term broadcasting plans (see my interview with Nick Rolls in the last DWE for further explanation) thus kiboshing hopes it would re-air the event.



It may well return by the time of the next championship, though it was certainly a blow given the high-quality broadcast it produced last time around.

I would be very intrigued to see the breakdowns of how people watched this latest WDF World Championship and whether or not Ayozat took the lion's share of viewing once it went live at the Lakeside on Friday. It may well govern what the WDF chooses to do next year and whether or not such a similar move, as already conducted for a lot of its lower-ranked events, becomes popular.

The PDC will of course have no such worries when its World Championship returns on Sky later this week, such is its synomity with the broadcaster.



The World Championship is such a huge festive sell for the broadcaster it even passes what I like to call the Christmas Radio Times check. If you were to pick up a copy of the iconic yuletide edition of the magazine, you will find World Championship darts a 'pick' on several days over the period. And let's be honest, given the quality of much of Christmas television nowadays, plenty of us find ourselves switching to the darts whether us or our families want to or not.

The final word of this 'Media Matters' must go to Glen Durrant, who will be joining the Sky team for this World Championship for the first time. Glen has proved himself an impressive and able pundit both for Modus events and the recent Grand Slam. I am sure he will be an excellent addition to an already strong team.

A very happy Christmas (and Dartsmas) to all readers. See you on the other side!

BROWN'S BRONZE

THE INSIDE STORY OF THE INAUGURAL PDC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



Words: STEVE BROWN

Daily Mail, Monday, January 3, 1994

Priestley king of the rebels

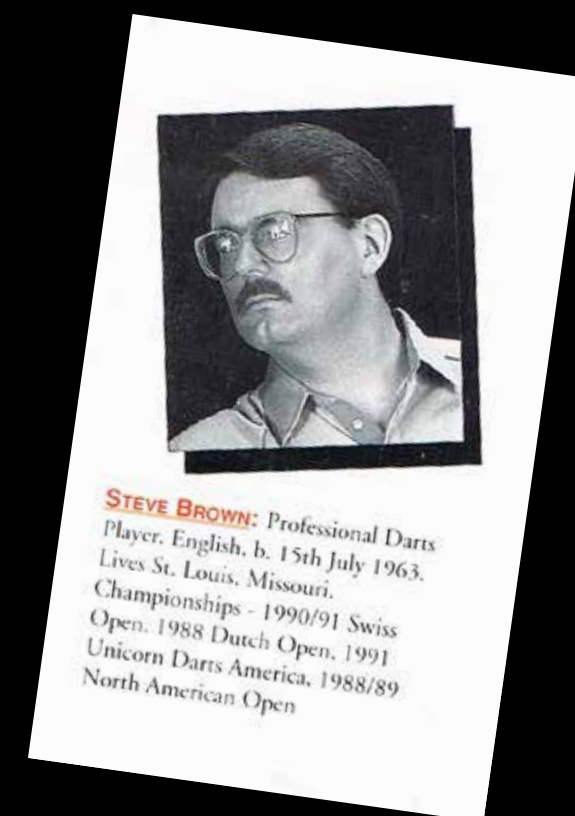
DENNIS PRIESTLEY, the 43-year-old top seed from Yorkshire, played with supreme consistency to beat Phil Taylor 6-1 in the final of the unofficial Skol World Darts Championship at Purfleet, Surrey, last night.

Priestley, who also won the official Embassy world title in 1991, took the first five sets in the rebel tournament before Taylor won the next in a short-lived fightback.

Earlier American-based Englishman Steve Brown, 30, pulled off his fourth surprise win in five matches when he took third place by beating Peter Evison 5-1.

In the official championship, being staged at Frimley Green, Surrey, England captain Martin Adams unexpectedly beat fifth seed Per Skau of Denmark in three straight sets.

"...it still hurts like hell at what might have been, and losing a semi is so much worse than losing a final."



THIRTY years ago Steve Brown was at the head of a strong American contingent about to take part in the inaugural WDC (PDC) World Darts Championship. He had recently moved to America and despite being ranked near the top of the WDF Steve chose to accept his invitation to the new event and any consequences. The rest, as they say, is history.

DW asked Steve for his thoughts and memories, in this anniversary year, his answers make it clear that is like yesterday in his mind.

What were your first impressions of that inaugural WDC/PDC World Championships and did you realise (or believe) you were witnessing something so important for global darts?

I had played in the Lada UK Masters a few weeks earlier. Of course, that wasn't anything like on the same scale, but obviously, with basically all of the world's top players in tow, it always looked like playing a major role in world darts. I mean, the fact that we had Eric, John, Jocky, Phil, Dennis etc, it was always going to stand us in good stead. Larry Butler told me he was practising in a pub near the Circus Tavern, and was explaining to some locals about playing in the World Championship. This one guy said, "Yeah, the UNOFFICIAL World Championship!" Larry's response was, "Yep. The one with all the OFFICIAL World Champions!"



Were you aware of the controversy of 'The Split' and what was your view back then?
I think everybody was aware of it – even those of us who were 4,000 miles away! Again, the fact that all the top players were involved in the split certainly made you sit up and take notice. From a personal point of view, it was very much a transitional period for me. I had moved to the US 18 months earlier, and as a result, my WDF rankings had taken a nosedive. I was working on my immigration at the time – my only option was to play the three WDF tournaments in the US. That wouldn't do ANYTHING for me.

So, when I received the invitation to the Lada (based on points I'd earned in the WDC tournaments in the US), I wasn't comfortable turning my back on the BDO/WDF, but seeing as I was starting a new life in a new country... it was too good an offer to refuse, so I jumped at it.

You came through your group very strongly, overcoming the 7th seeded Kevin Spiolek and home nation hero Keith Deller. What are your memories of that stage?

I was disappointed at my performance in Norwich at the Lada, and was ultra-determined to make an impression in Purfleet. When I looked at my draw, I was okay with it. I knew how aggressive Kevin was as a player, so I approached it in the same way. I was really up for it from the start, and to beat him in straight sets in 26 minutes shows you how up for it I was! After the game, I heard Kevin say, "I didn't expect him to be THAT aggressive!"

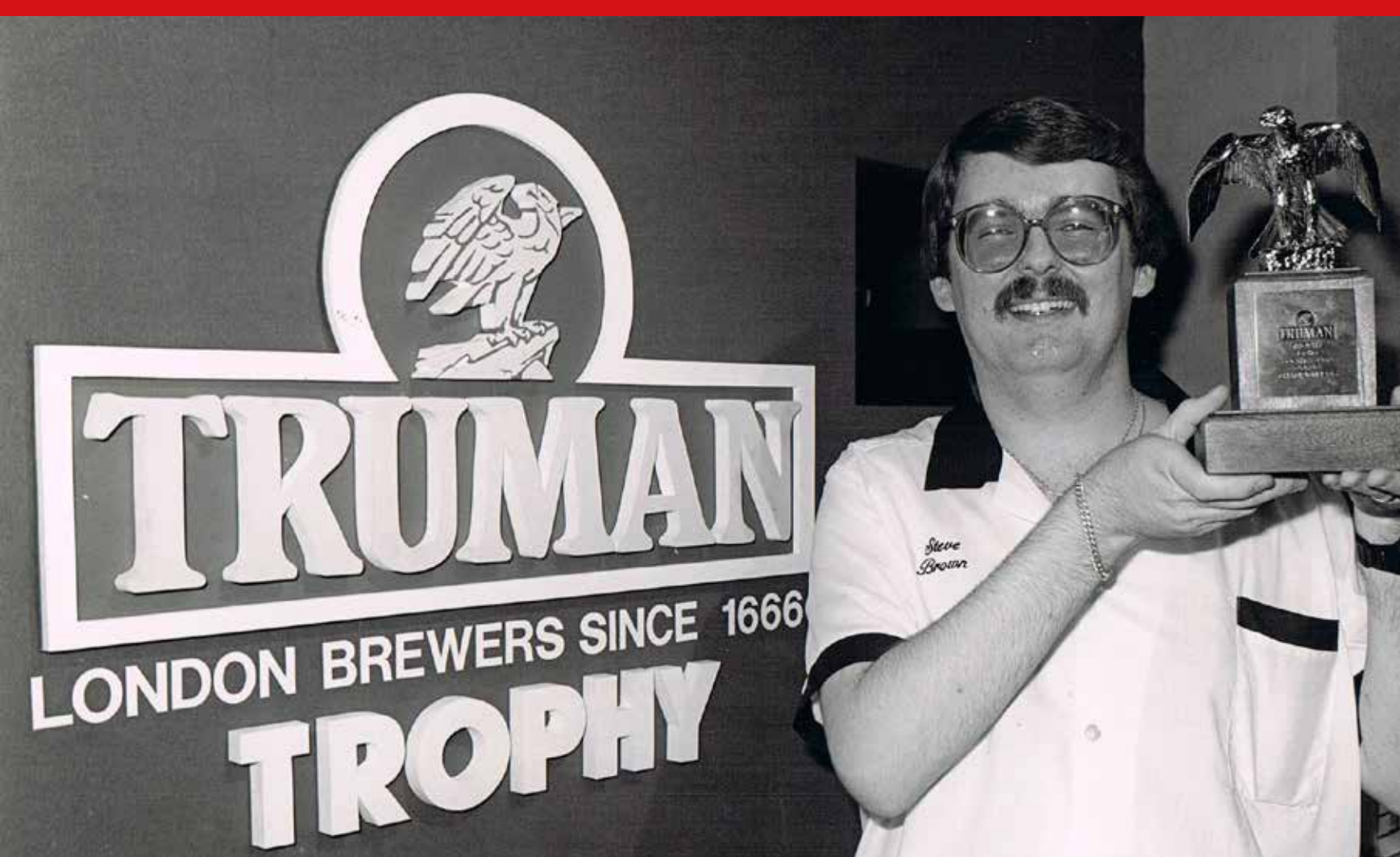
Having taken down the group seed, I was nice and relaxed against my old London team-mate Keith, and just really enjoyed it.

A fabulous quarter final win over Alan Warriner who was seeded number 2 must have generated some reaction?

I always rated Alan, but for whatever reason, he never rated me. Going into the match, I was under no illusion; given the circumstances, this was going to be the toughest match I'd ever had. I was playing okay, but Wozzer was in control, and I still

remember now exactly what the situation was, and what was going through my mind...

He was 3-2 up in sets, and 2-1 up in the sixth, so I was under the cosh. I hit a big shot to leave myself 95. He was on 106, so I knew there was a good chance I'd thrown my last dart in the World Championship. As it was, Alan hit a poor 42 to leave 64.



Suddenly, I had a huge rush of confidence, and I went up there thinking, "You've done it before, mate, so there's no reason not to do it again! I hit the 25 first dart, a nice fat 20 second dart, and as I threw the third, I was thinking, "and the last one goes – right there." And it did...

Thing is, not only did it give me confidence, it destroyed him. He thought

he'd won. There was no way I was going to take out the 95. Was there? Well, I did. Not only did I go on to win the set, but the match as well. Biggest bonus was that after I hit that 95 - he never won another leg! Just shows what the right shot at the right time can do to ANY opponent. Best thing, it was li'l ole me against the Number 2 seed!

What were your thoughts and expectations before taking on a certain Phillip Douglas Taylor?

Come on, I'd beaten the Number 7 seed, followed it up with a win over a former World Champ, and then I fought back from a very bad position to take down the Second seed. I felt great. Having said that, I never take anything for granted; I knew that I still had to perform somewhere close to my best if I was to stand a chance. More precisely, I knew that whatever chances Phil gave me, I would have to take.

Therein lay the problem...

The averages in that Semifinal are quite close but the score board looks rather one way, how did it play out?

So, I had the start. I missed two darts to win the first leg of the first set. Phil held his

throw. I missed two darts to win the third leg of the first set. So, by rights, we SHOULD have been into a fifth and deciding leg – and I would have had the darts. Hmmmmmm...

Fifth and deciding leg of the second set, I missed two darts to win the set.

Fifth and deciding leg of the third set, I missed two darts to win the set.

Okay, the real bummer here is that on each of those legs above, I had the first shot at the double. It wasn't like he missed, and let me in. I outplayed him on several crucial legs – and every time, I stood there and waved him through to win. I was 3-0 down against Phil Taylor in the semi-final of the World Championship. Not good, not good at all. Yet I SHOULD have been 3-0 ahead - and probably cruising.

For the first time in my life, I let my head drop. Previously, I'd never let the situation get to me, no matter how dire. This time, I did. I still had some more darts to win legs, but by now, it was too late. Yeah, Phil won in straight sets, but it could (perhaps "should") have been me doing the same to him. Whatever, I would certainly have still been firing on all cylinders in those next two sets. Could Phil have bounced back from 3-0 down? Of course he could,

although this was pre-Taylor domination. Would I have let Phil back? I like to think "no". Unfortunately, missing seventeen poxy darts at a double won't win you many matches, and think of how much higher my average would have been...

Again, I'm a realist, and it's all conjecture, I know, but it should have been me against Dennis in the final. Would I have won? I have no idea, and at that time, Dennis was the best player in the world, but at least I would have been in there fighting for it. I still look back at the match, and wonder just how much beating Phil would have changed my career - and my life. I admit, it still hurts like hell at what might have been, and losing a semi is so much worse than losing a final.

How do you get yourself together for that superb third place game victory after the disappointment of the semi final? It's hard. I still don't know why we bother with third-place playoffs. The guy who finishes fourth is the only player who has to lose twice in a knockout. Why? It's totally pointless in my view.

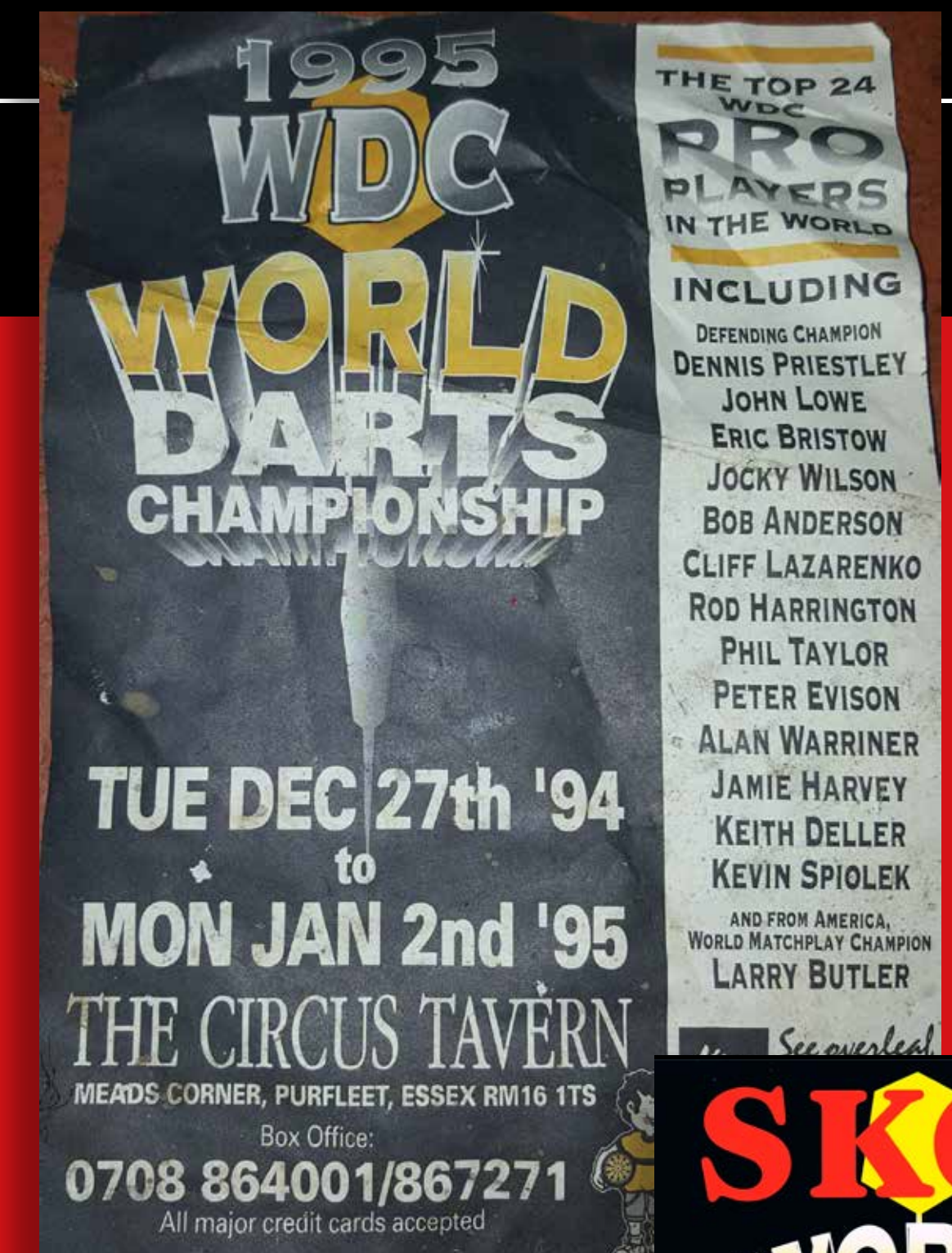
As far as the third place playoff against Peter Evison, yes, it was an anti-climax. For both of us. Thing to remember is that I have

always maintained a great deal of pride. I wasn't going to leave the Circus Tavern as the idiot who folded when the going got tough; win or lose, I was going to go out on a high. It actually helped that it was Peter I was up against. As supremely talented as he was, I had an incredible record against him. Out of some 20 times we played, he only beat me twice. Not sure why, I just loved playing against him.

Did you stay to watch the final, what did you think?

I regarded Dennis as the best player in the world, so it was no surprise to me. Remember, at that time, all of us players knew each other well. We'd grown up together... it's not like we'd go months without seeing each other, and don't forget that Dennis and I paired up at the 1988 Swiss Open. I remember when he made his County debut against London!

Even now, people are shocked by my view of Dennis. Naturally, I agree that Phil is the greatest player of all time, but who is the second best? Some say Eric, some say MVG, and there are several other worthy candidates. So, who do I rate as the second greatest? Dennis Priestley!



PALACE DE DUTCH II

ORANGE MEN AND THEIR DIASPORA ARRIVE IN NUMBERS

Words: WIM BLOKPOEL
Images: PDC

It is the most wonderful time of the year again, as it is time for the 2024 PDC World Darts Championship. We have a big number of Dutchmen in it: twelve Dutch players and two originally Dutch players with a different nationality now!



Jules van Dongen will play for the USA but was born and raised in The Netherlands, and he will make his debut against Darren Penhall. Jeffrey de Graaf returns to Ally Pally but for the first time not representing The Netherlands as he is living in Sweden now.

The 12 Dutch players are expected to do quite well or are even title contenders. The biggest Dutch title contender is, once again, Michael van Gerwen. The second seed has won the Worlds three times now, although the

last time was insane five years ago already! Therefore, MVG is determined to finally add a fourth World Title and looks to be in some form, having reached the Players Championships Final, only to lose in an epic final to Luke Humphries. Mighty Mike will start against Keane Barry or Reynaldo Rivera and seemed to be very satisfied with that draw.

An outsider for the title, is the number seven seed Danny Noppert. The man from Friesland hasn't got a great record at the Worlds, but knows what it is to make a World Championship final, as he did it back in the BDO. 'The Freeze' also just became a father for the second time, and last time that happened he won the UK Open straight after that so maybe history could repeat itself?



The other two Dutch seeds aren't in great form. Dirk van Duijvenbode is injured and faces a tough opener against Keegan Brown or Croatia's Boris Krcmar. Five time World Champion Raymond van Barneveld always did well at the Worlds, but the last few years it has not been very successful event for him, and his form isn't quite there. An opener against Radek Szaganski or Marko Kantele may give some opportunities though.

We also have eight unseeded Dutchmen in action. The one with the biggest potential is probably debutant Gian van Veen. The European Championship semifinalist starts against the inexperienced Man Lok Leung, with the winner to face last year's semifinalist Gabriel Clemens, who will get a lot of pressure from the German fans to repeat his effort.

Another debutant, in Kevin Doets, will open the World Championship on Friday evening, against Grand Slam quarterfinalist Stowe Buntz in an intriguing opener. It doesn't get easier either as the winner plays defending champion Michael Smith.

Niels Zonneveld will be looking for a first World Championship win against two time quarterfinalist Darren Webster, with the winner facing Ross Smith.

Christian Kist returns to Ally Pally after a six year absence. He does get a tough task though, not only suffering from injury but also there's the World Youth Champion Luke Littler standing in his way!

Richard Veenstra is another Dutch debutant with a lot of experience. The 2 time Lakeside semifinalist faces Ben Robb in round 1 with the winner to play Kim Huybrechts.

Another Dutchman with a tough first round draw is the very experienced Jermaine Wattimena. He'll celebrate his 10th World Championship appearance, but faces Fallon Sherrock and probably the entire crowd as well.

Dutch Open Champion Berry van Peer finally makes his World Championship debut and also has a tough opener against Luke Woodhouse, with the winner to play Josh Rock.

Last but not least, Wessel Nijman also makes his debut. The young Dutchman had an incredible year, coming back to the world of darts and winning 2 NDB events as well as finishing second in the Development Tour, which gives him his tourcard for the next 2 years. Nijman plays the legendary Steve Beaton in round 1 with the winner to face Daryl Gurney.

So, five Dutch debutants and seven experienced Dutchmen at this year's worlds. Some tough draws but twelve quality players from The Netherlands, who can all impress and surprise at this year's World Championship. Don't forget our distant sons either!



THE WIZARD



Colin Osborne is a multiple Pro Tour title winner, Championship of Darts winner (2009), and a UK Open finalist. [@colozzy180](#)

NOT so very long ago I distinctly remember allowing two small children to attend the PDC World Championships as a treat. This month I cannot have been in Benidorm celebrating the eldest's 21st birthday, surely?

The return of Ally Pally, within what seems like the blink of an eye since Michael Smith's win, should serve as a reminder of how fast time goes if you stop and appreciate things every now and then.

Potential good early games at this year's event feature Benn Robb, who has been in good shape at the MODUS Super Series, and Richard Veenstra who has had a decent year in a quiet way. But also keep any eye out for Luke Woodhouse. He has made the TV breakthrough this year and has always had the ability, his opener against another 2023 form man, Berry van Peer, for the right to play Josh Rock, is another that could be worth a watch.

Stephen Bunting has had decent tournaments at the palace previously, a couple of years back he had chances against Gerwyn Price in a semi final? The Bullet has been playing very well again and seems to have regained his focus as well. He could go far again.

This year many can't see beyond Luke Humphries for the title. He has just hit one of those purple patches that come to players with talent and desire to work hard enough to overcome obstacles as Cool Hand has done. However, I have an instinct that MVG is heading back to something like his best and will prevail as champion this time.

Lakeside was certainly interesting and congratulations to Beau and Andy on their respective wins. My tipster efforts proved pretty poor again but it's mainly down to the WDF being a very open arena with almost anyone capable of upsetting another. At least that's my excuse.

One worrying thing though is that I cannot remember an event that was moved on from so quickly. Due partly to the volume of darts being played at this time of year, and partly due to a lack of wider coverage, everyone seemed to be talking about something else by Tuesday!

I shall be prepping for a busy start to 2024, plenty of open action over the festive period will be followed by a welcome visit to MODUS Super Series and then PDC Q-School!

Wishing everyone a superb Christmas and may you get your desires for 2024

The Darts World 50

A Golden Piece of Darts Memorabilia



"...a truly outstanding piece of tungsten finery."

WHEN you're a darts magazine what do you do to mark your 50th birthday? Well, amongst other things, surely a unique set of darts is the most appropriate souvenir? But DW wasn't happy to whip up any old barrel and slap our name on it.

Instead, Darts World wanted a truly outstanding piece of tungsten finery. In combination with a unique team of experts and colleagues we have produced a singular piece of darting memorabilia, technology, and history all in one:

The Darts World 50 is available to order ([Here](#)) with release and delivery expected in early December

50 Years in the Making:

First, we asked our analyst and coach to design a dart that learned the lessons of the last 50 years as well as looking towards the next half-century.

"The tungsten revolution of the 1970s helped to kickstart modern darts. Over the decades' tungsten content increased until the vast majority of players' darts are 80% or more. A little more research however shows that since around 1988 it's been 90% or more, that have really stood out from the crowd. So we selected a 90% tungsten billet to create the DW50." ▶

► Proven Precision Performance:

"A narrowing nose of some type has been in the ascendancy in recent times. Currently, Clayton, Price, and sometimes Wright all use an elliptical nose or a short taper. Hence we have a seamless 6mm taper from barrel to collar/point".

"Consistency of grip. To appeal to as wide a cross-section of players as possible we have chosen a grip style that is consistent throughout the barrel and has been used by multiple world champions across the ages."

"Length and width dimensions are the subject of heated debate. However, very few players cannot use a 48.5mm dart that is 6mm wide. Many of the game's icons including Eric, Phil and MVG have used a similar length, whereas a significantly longer dart cannot be used by those who struggle to get their 'wrist around it'."

- **Product: Darts (Steel-Tip) 21g**
- **Material: 90% Tungsten**
- **Dimensions: 48.5mm x 6mm**
- **Finish: Golden Nitride Coating**
- **Edition/Variation: DW50 (Anniversary Edition) 50 Sets only**
- **Accessories: 3 x Winmau Vectra Stems (Red & Blk) x 2 Sets DW flights)**

A Golden moment

"Another major benchmark was the addition of coating to darts. 1990s players were delighted with the feel and look of the original titanium nitride coatings and they have been a constant source of development ever since. Obviously being your 50th anniversary the original Golden coating seemed unarguable. Many also prefer it to any other."

We were ready to see how it looked and how it threw!

"Once a prototype (no coating) had been made we set about testing and refining the dart with a major-winning professional and as many other players as possible. After a few tweaks, our pro was happy and the other test throwers highly impressed, now it was time for the final flourish."

Mr. Olivander's view

Next, we visited Winmau and presented Darts' very own 'Master Wandmaker', Lee Huxtable, with our ideas, specs, and prototype. Lee and our pro went to work on producing the perfect production version of our creation.

Along with grip refinement, it was Lee who suggested a grooved collared point as this would include the most recent technological advancements in the overall design. Although we have decided to leave this to personal choice.

At this point all was complete, we awaited the final DW50 barrel set.

The setup had been being worked on by all our testers and players but again it was the Winmau team that added the final flourishes to complete our special 50th Souvenir Pack.

The supplied preference set-up was the special edition Vectra stems with Std Flights (Special Edition Gold and Red).

For the braver amongst you, the Jonny Clayton-inspired Red Dragon Kite Flights and Prism Set Up is superb but requires confidence and belief.

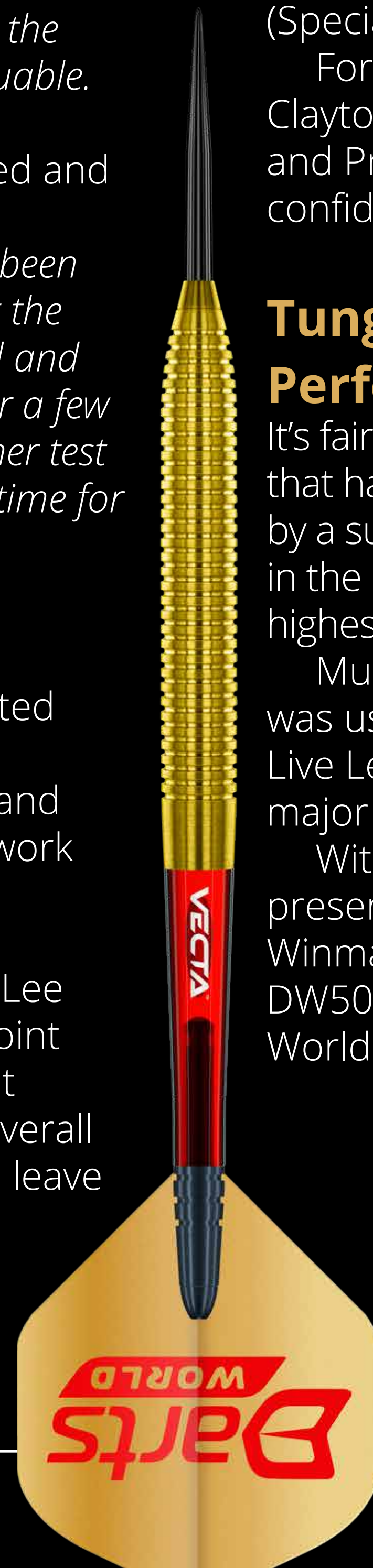
Tungsten Anniversary Perfection

It's fair to say that the DW50 has impressed all that have come into contact with it: Designed by a successful coach, engineered by the best in the business, and manufactured to the highest professional standard.

Much to our delight the DW50 prototype was used in a live 9-dart leg in the MODUS Live League and pronounced perfect by our major winning professional.

With the special tweaks and unique presentation put together by our friends at Winmau and Red Dragon, we believe the DW50 could still be celebrated when Darts World marks its century in 2072!

The DW50 is available to pre-order (Here) for £50. Only 50 of these special sets will be sold and they are disappearing fast!



wispa™

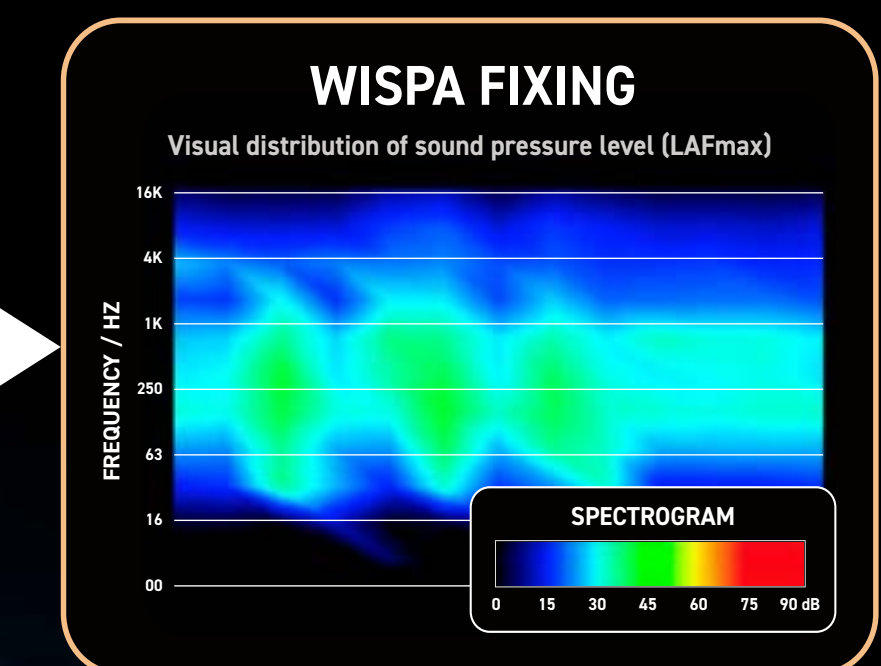
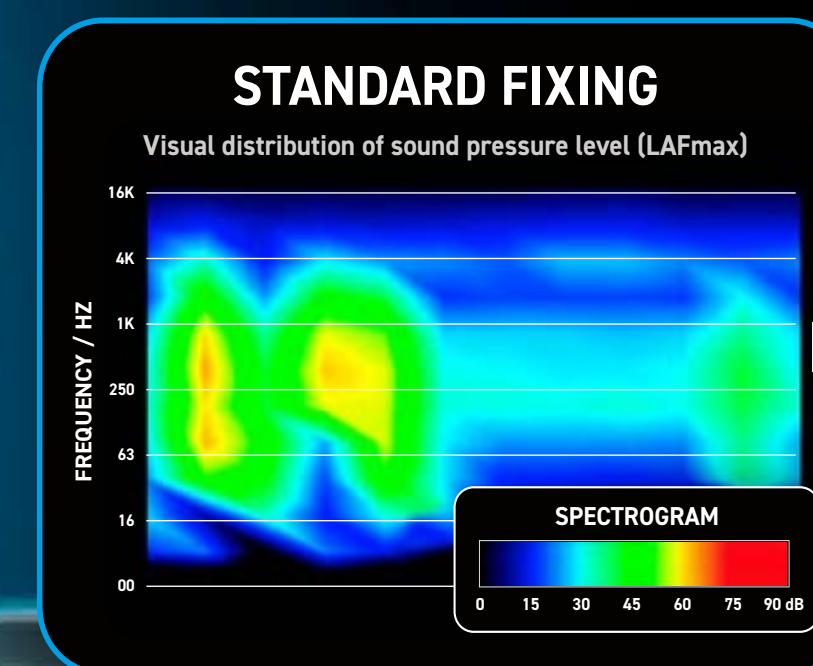
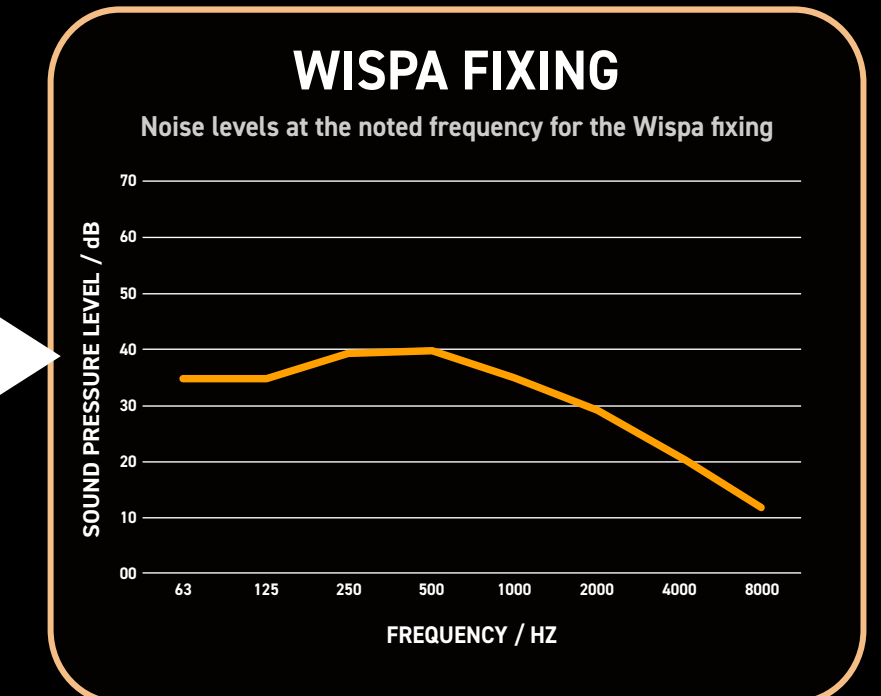
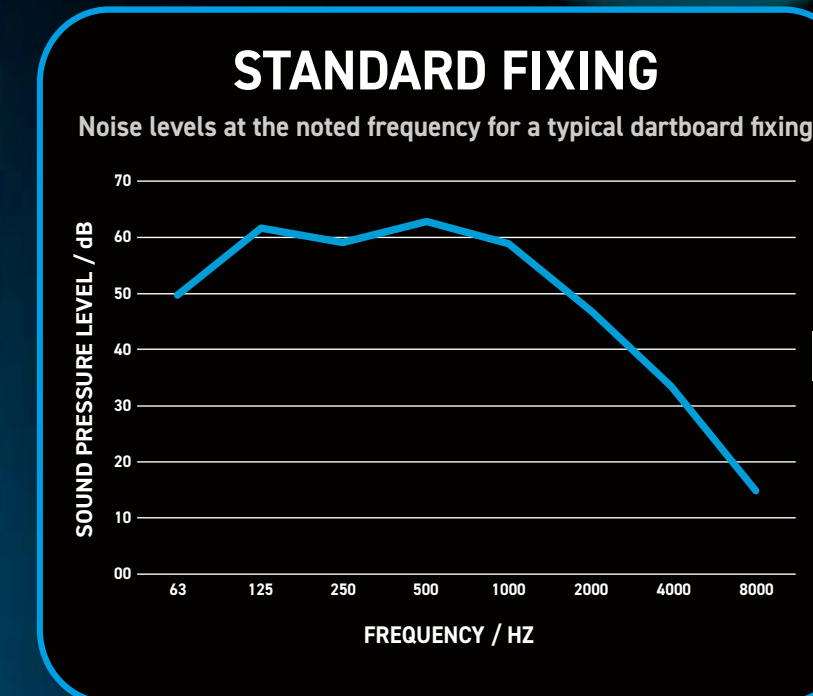
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MEASUREMENTS TAKEN FROM ADJACENT ROOM



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UP TO 24dB NOISE REDUCTION FROM YOUR DART IMPACT*
*Based on 100 darts thrown on an internal timber frame separating wall

Dartboard not included

INDEPENDENTLY TESTED BY
Institute of Acoustics

SOUND REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY



MAKING IT FUN

KEEPING YOUR FESTIVE PRACTICE POSITIVE AND ENJOYABLE

Words: ANDERS ÖSTMAN
Images: GO DARTS PRO

TO improve our darts most of us need to spend many hours practising on the newly unwrapped dartboard. Just playing 501's, leg after leg, or only around the board or even worse, just throwing at treble 20, especially solo, can be really boring.

Therefore, it is extremely important to make your training fun and engaging so you instead are looking forward to your next training session. Here are some ideas on how to make your darts training more fun and engaging.

Play games you enjoy playing

There are so many good training games to choose from so don't just stick to only a few. Check out the section of dartsworld50.com or of course the game area of godartspro.com.

Vary your training with games focusing on different aspects of the game of darts. Play short games. Play long games. If you've tried a routine that you didn't like, put it away for a while and find some other game.

There are always variations that can be more fun and more suitable for you at your current level. Check out the playlists that other members on GoDartsPro have made public and find new favourite games to add to your toolbox.



Track your darts and game sessions

When it comes to darts practise, nothing is as fun as when you're improving. If you don't track your darts and game sessions, how are you going to know if you're improving? You need to be able to see your development so by far, the most efficient way for early-stage players is to keep a record of your training. Make it a habit to regularly go to the Training Log and follow up your training and check the in-game-statistics when you've played a game.

Compare your scores with other players
When we managed to get a great score for a game session, it can be really fun to compare the score with other players, to see how good it was. It can also be a great trigger for setting your next goal to work for. For example, if you compare your score with other members scores in a leaderboard/challenge on GoDartsPro, and find out that there is someone with a slightly better score, use that score as your next goal to beat. This will give you the feeling of – "just one more time" – and your training and development continues...

Set short term goals – and treat yourself when you achieve them

No matter what sport you play, coaches will always tell you to set goals to work towards.

For darts, setting goals is extremely important. Goals can both be scores and averages for a game session or a period of time, but can also be the number of darts you throw or how many hours you practise during a week/month. Set reasonable but challenging goals and when you achieve your goal, it is also important to celebrate or treat yourself to mark/highlight in your memory that you managed to reach your goal. It can be goals for a certain score in a game, to reach a certain MICO-factor, hit

your first 180 or a number of tons in a row. Goals are personal and should reflect your current level and what you want to achieve.

When you've reached an important goal, get that nice darts shirt you always wanted or buy a new set of darts. Wearing that nice darts shirt when you play the next time will give you an extra boost of confidence since you know you got it from reaching your goal.

Pride in your darts space

If you set up a nice area in your home where you really feel inspired to practice it will probably lead to more quality training hours. If you instead, always need to move some furnitures, set up your dartboard on a tripod, or walk/drive 45 minutes to practice, you'll probably lose interest soon or at least practise fewer hours.

Make your darts corner a nice place to be at and you'll spend more quality time there. When you get your first trophies, make sure to put them up in your darts corner to remind you that you're a winner!

Enjoy your darts and make it count!



Play the game Select game

11-19 Big Bundle - Leaderboard

Rank	Member	Totalscore	Top 10 game sessions latest 30 days									
1	Dartan	415	2023-11-19 44	2023-11-19 43	2023-11-19 40	2023-11-18 40	2023-11-18 41	2023-11-18 39	2023-11-18 43	2023-11-18 40	2023-11-18 46	2023-11-18 39
2	Bulkie	393	2023-12-05 42	2023-12-03 41	2023-11-29 39	2023-11-25 39	2023-11-24 36	2023-11-23 37	2023-11-22 37	2023-11-20 43	2023-11-18 41	2023-11-16 38
3	Beron69	388	2023-12-08 33	2023-12-08 37	2023-12-07 43	2023-12-06 36	2023-12-06 37	2023-12-05 37	2023-12-05 39	2023-12-04 33	2023-11-29 47	2023-11-29 46
4	JRMaverick	365	2023-11-29 40	2023-11-29 35	2023-11-29 39	2023-11-28 36	2023-11-28 32	2023-11-23 43	2023-11-23 31	2023-11-23 38	2023-11-23 37	2023-11-23 34
5	Mikkel	353	2023-12-02 47	2023-12-02 47	2023-12-02 41	2023-12-02 49	2023-11-24 44	2023-11-24 42	2023-11-24 44	2023-11-24 39		
6	NW180	351	2023-12-04 45	2023-12-04 33	2023-12-04 43	2023-12-04 38	2023-12-04 26	2023-12-04 32	2023-12-04 31	2023-12-04 31	2023-12-04 40	2023-12-04 32
7	RichardHallink	336	2023-12-03 41	2023-12-03 28	2023-12-03 46	2023-12-03 32	2023-11-25 35	2023-11-25 25	2023-11-25 27	2023-11-14 38	2023-11-14 27	2023-11-14 37
8	Rafiathos	329	2023-12-01 32	2023-11-30 38	2023-11-29 34	2023-11-27 23	2023-11-24 30	2023-11-23 36	2023-11-21 26	2023-11-20 38	2023-11-19 33	2023-11-14 39
9	Citier	225	2023-12-04	2023-12-04	2023-12-03	2023-12-01	2023-11-28	2023-11-26	2023-11-25	2023-11-15	2023-11-15	2023-11-15



OUTWIN SHOWS NORTHERN CLASS

Words: THOMAS BARTLEY

LARGE FIELD ASSEMBLED FOR UNIVERSITY YORKSHIRE CLASSIC

Northumbria's Dan Outwin stormed to victory at the recent Northern Singles event in Leeds, as he defeated Trent's Toby Saunders 7-0 in the final.

Outwin averaged 76.80 and knocked in two maximums on route to his final rout, with an outstanding first 9 average of 94.71.

Held on 2nd December at Leeds' Newmoorside Club, a field of 96 vied it out for one of the most prestigious titles in university darts.

Outwin, long on the radar of many in the scene, came into the day's play as favourite. But with other strong contenders including Trent's Phil Want, Leicester's Janek Hill and Summer Showdown finalist James Buckby, it was no certainty.

The group stages began shortly after 10am, with 7 players emerging with a perfect record: Jack Clucas (Hallam), Dan Outwin (Northumbria), Phil Want (Trent), Janek Hill (Leicester), Ollie Burgess (Hallam), Morgan Shillito (Hallam) and Nathan Hennessy (Leeds).

A short preliminary round for those not automatically qualified saw Sheffield's Jack Quinn and last year's finalist Jonny Litler make the last 32.

The first full knockout round then sprang a few surprises, including James Buckby's exit at the hands of Bangor's Ben James, whilst Ryan Pass and Cameron Christie of Loughborough came through comfortably.

As the competition moved on to the last 16, Phil Want as well as Hallam's Shillito both departed, before Janek Hill fell at the quarter-final stage (4-1 to Dan Outwin).

Ben James' impressive run also came to an end at the hands of fellow Bangor player Daniel Marsden.

Unfortunately for Marsden and fellow semi-finalist Ryan Pass, the last 4 would prove pretty lopsided, as both Outwin and Saunders cruised to a final match-up, dropping just a leg each.

The final itself got off on a strong footing, with a 100 out from Outwin helping to steady any nerves, before double 10 sealed leg 2.

Trent's Saunders was left to rue chances in leg 3, as he headed east from the double 20 segment into double 1 before being duly punished by Outwin, who extended his lead to 3 legs.

Any hopes Saunders may have harboured of taking leg 4 were

quickly extinguished by Outwin's opening maximum, before an exceptional set-up shot of 102 left a double 16 taken to make it 4-0.

The next leg, the final before a short interval, also followed for Outwin, before double 10 made it a 6-0 lead.

A second 180 in leg 7 could not have been more timely, before a score of 132 left Outwin primed for the match.

Perhaps unexpectedly given the prospects, a few shaky attempts at double did follow, before double 2 got Outwin over the line and united with the Northern Singles crown.

Earlier on in the day, Manchester Metropolitan's Isobel Lee also defeated Leeds's Eleanor Pettem 3-0 to win the Yorkshire Classic women's title.

Lee, who also qualified for the knockout stages of the main event, impressed as she got the better of the Leeds opponent to take home the prize.

UDUK President Kyle Mandell said, "This year's Yorkshire Classic was a massive triumph, featuring some absolutely fantastic darts on show all day."

"Well done to our winner, Dan Outwin, as well as our runner-up Toby Saunders, and indeed all those who made the trip to Leeds to participate."

"Thanks also to Raj and the New Moorside Club for their excellent hospitality, helping our day to run as smoothly as possible and delivering an event which all participants and spectators enjoyed."

The coming week will see the first term of league action come to a close, before return fixtures kick off in the New Year.

Singles action will also begin shortly after January commences, in the build-up to the marquee Big Weekender from 22nd-24th March.



PEAKS AND TROUGHS FOR NETHERLANDS STARS

MVG'S TREVAILS MIRRORED BY A NATION



Words: WIM BLOKPOEL

Images: PDC

Since the latest Going Dutch there have been three big PDC events: the European Championship, Grand Slam of Darts and Players Championship Finals!

The European Championship turned out to be a very successful event for the Dutch players. Michael van Gerwen played superb in wins over Madars Razma and Ricardo Pietreczko to reach the quarterfinals where he met debutant Gian van Veen, who saw off Damon Heta and Daryl Gurney in games where he looked like the most comfortable and experienced player on the stage! In that quarterfinal Van Veen continued his brilliant run by beating MVG.



Danny Noppert made it two Dutch semifinalists as he beat Andrew Gilding, Rob Cross and, in an epic comeback, Gerwyn Price! In the semi's Noppert lost to Peter Wright while Van Veen went out to James Wade but what a superb event for the Dutch talents!

The Grand Slam however was pure disappointment. Dirk van Duijvenbode got injured, and his amazing 2023 seems to end in a nightmare. Van Veen couldn't continue to impress on tv and lost all of his group games, while Martijn Kleermaker announced to take a break as a professional player to spend more time with his family, and his last tv appearance ended in disappointment as well.

Van Gerwen and Noppert did get out of their groups but then disappointed against Heta and Bunting in the L16.

The Players Championship Finals witnessed many disappointments but also some highlights. Niels Zonneveld impressed with wins over Daryl Gurney and Jonny Clayton to make the L16 where he lost to Gabriel Clemens, as Jermaine Wattimena beat Van Duijvenbode and Veenstra, with a spectacular 164-finish in the decider. Wattimena went out in the L16 to Ryan Joyce but Van Gerwen did get to the quarterfinals.

On his route to that he produced a record average for the tournament in a 6-1 win over Ross Smith! In the last 8 Mighty Mike overcame Stephen Bunting 10-9 in an epic battle, and then in the semifinals he beat Gabriel Clemens. In the final however, Van Gerwen gave a lead away and lost to Luke Humphries.

Some success also happened in the WDF though. Moreno Blom won in Serbia, while Michael Busscher picked up a maiden WDF title by winning the Malta Open! The Dutch ladies had even more success: Aileen de Graaf picked up the golden-ranked Irish Open, while Noa-Lynn van Leuven even did the double in Malta and won both the Malta Masters and Malta Open!

Highlight of the past two months however was the return of the Dutch NDB rankings. It started at the Open Rivierenland, where as usual Aileen de Graaf won the ladies title. At the Open Stedendriehoek however,

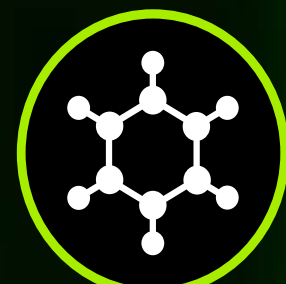


she lost the final to an inspired Noa-Lynn van Leuven as the race for the 2023/2024 ranking is very much on!

In the men's events we had two upcoming tourcard holders winning the titles in Berry van Peer and Wessel Nijman. Especially Nijman impressed with ton plus averages and he'll be someone to watch for the World Championship. We have a lot of Dutch assets to that PDC World Championship, and for the WDF Lakeside World Championship. For that last one: check my Dutch preview in this magazine and DWE 13!

FUSION

INTEGRATED FLIGHT & SHAFT



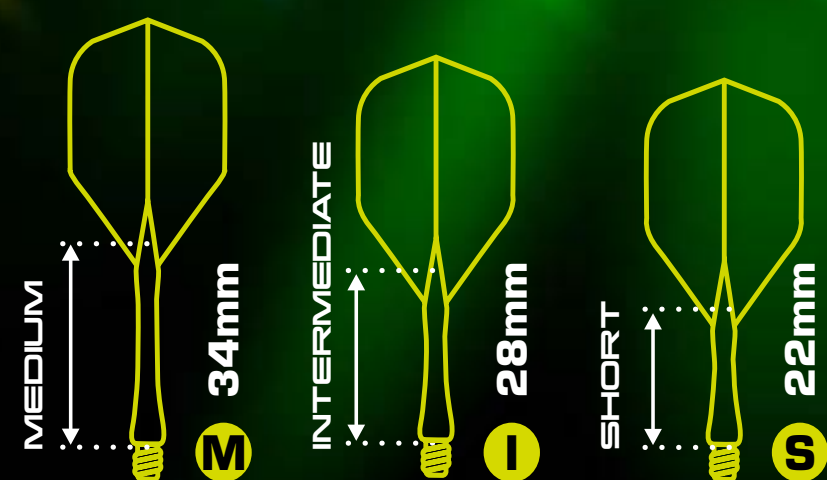
ADVANCED MATERIALS



FLIGHT STABILITY AND CONTROL



ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE



WINMAU
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FLIGHT • STABILITY • CONTROL

85%
PRO SERIES
COLLECTION



WINMAU
THE FORCE BEHIND DARTS™

85% TUNGSTEN DARTS

GILBERT'S GAZETTE



MY competitive year has become a little sparse toward the end this time (grrrr). The lack of a World Open and World Masters weekend is a great disappointment but it does not mean that I have been resting on my laurels.

My final 'tour' effort of 2023 was a return to Ireland for the Killarney festival in November. This one of my favourite events on the calendar, it combines a great time with lots of events and a very high standard. It's one of those events that anyone can really enjoy. Although I would have liked better overall results, defeat to Rhian O'Sullivan and Denise Cassidy, in the main events, who are both playing well is no disgrace.

Returning to the Warwickshire UKDA

side, after missing a match whilst in Malta last month, was a nice place to start the festive period. I even managed a 'Lady of the Match' effort and a 24.27 average. Our Women's B side managed a 5-1 win to contribute to the cause.

As well as some open competitions I was delighted to attend the 2023 Lakeside event as the guest of Kirsty Hutchinson during her campaign. I had the pleasure to support her through the highs and the lows over the week and was very proud of her efforts. Defeat is always tough to take but it's often also the source of motivation.

I had been to Lakeside as a spectator before, and it's on my list of things to achieve as a player, but this time I was able to watch any match from any session and got a much better overall feel for the

event. Performances were very mixed with some fabulous performances and some that really didn't live up to their potential. It must be that old stage and the weight of history that does it?

We could see another moment to remember at the Alexandra Palace. Both Fallon and Mikuru have been handed winnable, although awkward, ties. Could another run be on the cards?

I hope you are all looking forward to the Christmas break and the rest, relaxation and family time that can come with it. Personally I shall be grateful for a little time with less travelling and some quality time with my nearest and dearest.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year, I hope to see you in 2024!

MOULD TOPS THE ADC RANKINGS

**MANY MORE BENEFIT
FROM THE VAULT**

Words: HARRY MASTERSON
Images: ADC & MODUS



Adam Mould claimed top spot in the ADC 2023 Rankings after a fantastic year, racking up a whopping 1410 points and being the only player to claim over 1,000 points in the Amateur Darts Circuit. Tony Wood enjoyed a strong 2022 campaign and has continued from where he left off this year, topping the Northeast region ahead of Robert Grundy by 299pts.

The ADC has seen the introduction of the Vault Series which has turned out to be a huge success, with the likes of Michael Burgoine, Stuart Kellett, Scott Winder, and Tony Wood all securing spots in the MODUS Super Series via their Vault regional Finals competitions.

As well as the Vault, more opportunities for a place at the Live Lounge were presented via 16 Winmau Open Series competitions, with 4 events played on each selected weekend.

Lewis Gurney and James Richardson were amongst the opening winners in Manchester, before victories for Red Dragon star David Evans and Darts World Amateur Award winner Chris Wickenden in Bridlington followed for the 2nd weekend.

Pugs who is currently competing in the MODUS Super Series, claimed a 2nd victory in the Open Series on the third weekend in Middlesborough. ADC Number 1 Adam Mould also picked up his 2nd win of the Winmau Open Series whilst Rhys Griffin defeated Jordan Matthews 6-4 to qualify, before going on to impress on his debut live on YouTube.

The Final weekend in Bristol saw 2 more Welshman pick up victories, including Connor Hopkins who recently signed a new evolution deal with manufacturers Winmau. Hopkins whitewashed Kieran Harris 6-0 in the Final whilst Michael Huntley went one step further than his Championship Tour Final defeat in 2022, by beating Neil Meneer 6-4 in the Final of Event 15.

As well as the Winmau Open Series, the Amateur Darts Circuit introduced the LP Metal Detecting Women's Championship Tour, which enjoyed a positive opening showing.

Lisa Ashton and Deta Hedman shared the spoils in the first 4 Events in Bridlington before a clean sweep from the Lancashire Rose in Middlesborough, as the former 4 Time World Champion put herself into a promising position in the Rankings Table.

The Final weekend in Bristol saw 4 brand new winners, with Samantha Kirton, Lorraine Hyde, Angela Kirkwood, and Chris Savvery all picking up tournament victories.



Kim Holden went on to top the rankings table despite not winning an event, as the likes of former WDF Girls Champion Eleanor Cairns and Jody Hancock also secured Live Lounge debuts after finishing in the top 8 qualifying places.

Deta Hedman was victorious on Finals Day last month, whitewashing 8th Seed Samantha Kirton 4-0 in the Final to become the Maiden Women's Championship Tour Finals Champion. The tournament was run successfully and will be seen as an inspiration to all aspiring female dart players, with the Women's Amateur Darts Circuit concept (WADC) set to be introduced in 2024.

The ADC will continue to grow, enjoying an even more successful outing this year with more competitions and bigger prizes available to all competing players. The new year will bring a fresh start to the rankings, and an opportunity to continue giving players without PDC tour cards an opportunity to compete.

2023 ADC Rankings

1	Adam Mould	1,410 pts
2	Tony Wood	933 pts
3	Carl Wilkinson	844 pts
4	Peter Jacques	713 pts
5	Chris Wickenden	692 pts
6	Adam Warner	690 pts
7	Simon Preston	658 pts
8	David Evans	644 pts
9	Robert Grundy	634 pts
10	Lewis Gurney	586 pts



photo credit: Chris Sargeant

MVG DESIGN

MICHAEL VAN GERWEN



Michael Van Gerwen

WINMAU
THE FORCE BEHIND DARTS™

ROCKSTAR

JOE CULLEN



Joe Cullen

WINMAU
THE FORCE BEHIND DARTS™

OUR DARTS HERO

INAUGURAL WINNER SHOWS THE TRUE SPIRIT OF DARTS



CHRIS MILLEN

Darts World and Winmau Darts Hero 2023: Chris Millen

A chance remark from Chris's wife led to his darts-themed living room and his charitable endeavours being dubbed the Millens Darts Club. Regular donations of equipment - starting after helping a fellow online player during the pandemic - and the backing of fundraising efforts made by others single Chris out. He is a well-liked and highly respected member of the wider darts community, including at places such as the St Helens Darts Academy where his donations proved most useful.

All his efforts are personal and targeted toward those in need, such as underprivileged children or cancer sufferers. Last year they managed over £4,000 worth of donations overall and are

aiming for 6 or more in 2023. Chris also inspires many with the way he deals with a rare illness without complaint or negativity.

Runners-Up:

Stu Huggins is the founder of the Stowmarket darts school. The Suffolk enthusiast has become more and more involved in the sport over the last couple of years. His innovative playing aids, and assistance for others who are trying to make a difference, in his support for the Flexiboard project were amongst the more high-profile ventures he has supported.

Stu has been supporting a variety of players from across the spectrum who are trying to fulfill their potential whilst developing SYDDS. The school

has had a superb first year. We are sure it will go from strength to strength.

Gavin Smith was nominated, in the reverse of many nominations we received, by his son Cayden who is carving out a nascent career for himself in the game: *"my dad has done everything for me, despite winning those events he even pushed his own darts to one side. He takes me everywhere and has given up what he loved for me to follow my dream..."*

All nominees, and their nominators, will all receive a special gift from DW and Winmau as an acknowledgement of their efforts.

We will be in contact with Winmau and Chris to make arrangements for his special day. Look out for coverage early in 2024 and details of next year's competition!



STU HUGGINS

THE Checkout

T **TEAM DW** hope you have enjoyed the annual festive edition focused on the PDC's Ally Pally jamboree. All of us wish our readers a fabulous Christmas time and a healthy and happy New Year.

2023 has been an eventful year both in the tungsten world and in the reality beyond. Darts World has celebrated our 50th year in fine style with special magazines, limited edition darts, special gold flights and articles of all shapes and sizes celebrating the last half century of darning development.

SPECIAL THANKS are long over due to all our writers, reporters, image makers, designers and even cartoonists! They go above and beyond the call of duty and have stepped up whilst our editor has been undergoing urgent, and then intensive, medical treatment.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ESPECIALLY THANK our advertisers and sponsors for their continued backing, without which we certainly would struggle in our current form: our hosts Red Dragon, advertisers: Winmau, WP Darts, Go Darts Pro and AIM180.

STAY IN TOUCH via our special anniversary website at dartsworld50.com where you can also sign up for our weekly newsletter: Darts World Digest.

DON'T FORGET to keep an eye out for the FREE January Souvenir issue.



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