



# Bull & Ton NEWSLETTER

June 2006

[www.twincitydarts.com](http://www.twincitydarts.com)

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**New T.C.D.A. President and Vice-President  
Jeff Hafner and Al Finnegan**

See inside for much more.

Visit [www.twincitydarts.com](http://www.twincitydarts.com) for more information on darts.



– *one last time*

Tempus Fugit. Where does the time go? I must be getting old (90 next January). After twenty-some years as President and closer to 30 years as a member, one realizes nothing lasts forever, that change is inevitable. That being said, after the Board meeting on June 19 I will turn over the leadership to my good friend and our new President, Jeff Hafner.

Looking back, I remember being given the number 256 and playing on The Stutz Bearcats. I was playing darts at home as early as 1929 and never lost interest, as we have had a board up at home all these years. So, with this intense interest in the game, it was only natural to want to take an active role in the TCDA. Hence my run for president. To say I have enjoyed it is putting it mildly. Being the extrovert that I am, I found in the TCDA an activity that I knew and enjoyed to the fullest. At my age, this was an unexpected blessing as I made many friends and had many happy moments which I think kept me young. I would like to think that as president all these years, my efforts to help the organization grow have not been in vain.

One of my favorite memories was being part of darts at the Castle Pub every week, and it never got tiresome or boring. Barb and LeRoy were great hosts on Friday nights and at many tournaments. It was a big loss when the pub closed, however I still talk with them on occasion. Incidentally, I will always remember the night at a pub on Hennepin Avenue during a tournament when I won the final with a triple twenty, triple nineteen and a double bull for the out! Wow, what a win! Ha!

Being new to Minnesota in 1968 and far from my home in Philadelphia, it was gratifying to become a member of the TCDA and it has truly given me so much. I got the idea that I wanted to somehow say thank you to all who made my move here more enjoyable, hence the Stutz Trophy. Just my way of saying thanks and I hope that it will help prolong interest in darts for years to come. If you look carefully, you can always see someone who works hard for the organization, and I felt this effort should be rewarded.

I think our success as an organization comes from hard work by your elected officers and staff. Communication has always been the key to success as well as good teamwork by the board. We do well because we have this.

I think we also do well keeping the members informed, but we have to find some way to formulate a program that will open our doors to new members. What programs have other organizations used to accomplish this end? I hope the membership will give serious thought to this subject. I know our new president will be thinking of it.

In closing, thanks to all for having me all these years, and my best wishes to the new leadership. I know with your continued support they will do well and the TCDA will continue to grow.

God bless and best of luck to you all,  
Charles

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## Spring Mid-Leagues

### Classic B Spring Mid-season 2006 by Sam Gamgee

The B division held their mid-season tournament at the Hat Trick Lounge on the 7th of March. It was a cold rainy night and the threat of icy roads may have been the cause of a disappointing turn out.

Those who did venture out had a great time and the competition was excellent. We opted to play a singles round robin tournament with a "choice of diddle" format. Once again we went right down to the wire with the results pending on the last couple of matches and four people still in contention for the top three spots.

In the end it was Jeff Hafner capturing the top spot, followed closely by Brian Nass in second and Michelle Schlecht taking third. Brian also walked away with the high out of the night, a 90 out that was nicely done with two darts. I would like to thank all who attended and a special thanks to Mike and Chris Fish and the crew at the Hat Trick Lounge for once again doing a great job of hosting our event. The only thing that could have made it better would have been to see more people attend. ¥

### Classic C Spring Mid-season 2006

The Classic C Mid league took place at Minnehaha Lanes on Mar 7, 2006. A small but enthusiastic crowd assembled for the nights competition. The chosen format was a singles round robin. All three legs were to be played with a point awarded for each leg won. The results were as follows;

1<sup>st</sup>



Jim Hand

2<sup>nd</sup>



Dick Sorensen

3<sup>rd</sup>



Paul Lundberg

4th



Earle Blackley

One point separated first and third, the tie for second was decided the traditional round robin tie breaker, second place had defeated third place two legs to one.

Great Darts!

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### Mind's-Eye. Bulls-Eye

*Visually impaired darts players imagine the board, take aim and score!*

**By Richard Chin  
Pioneer Press**

The Twin Cities has some competitive dart throwers who are so good they can hit the bull's-eye blindfolded.



What else would you expect from members of the Twin Cities Blind Audio Dart League? It sounds like a joke, but the league, started in 1987 by visually impaired Twin Cities residents, plays standard dart games on regulation boards

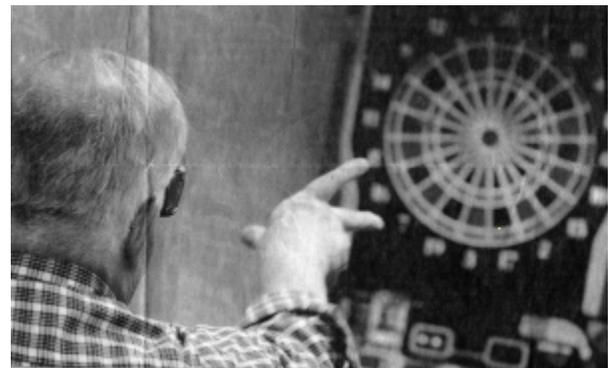
equipped with electronics to announce the score as each dart hits the target.

A raised board on the floor at the throwing line – 8 feet from the dartboard – has a notch lined up with the bull's-eye. That helps the dart throwers zero in on the target. There are also sighted spotters who tell the throwers exactly where the darts are hitting.

Initially, the league was limited to visually impaired competitors, but after a few years, sighted throwers started to join in by throwing blindfolded.

To ensure fairness, league rules now call for all players – even those with glass eyes – wear blindfolds while throwing.

The league has seven five member teams that play Tuesday nights at three bars in Minneapolis; Champions, Moose on Monroe and Elsie's.



“People think we're crazy for playing darts blindfolded,” said Lisa Sanders, a sighted player from Minneapolis.

“The board moves around a lot when you first start,” said league member Kim “Cricket” Perkins, 40, of New Brighton. “Concentration is a big key,” said league player Jeff Wehner of Minnetonka. “You'll pick out little things, if you leaning forward, leaning backward, if you hand is cocked.”

It's kind of like a Zen experience. You kind of get to know where the board is,” Sanders said. “I was surprised at how

good I was. It's not that hard once you get the hang of it." Thanks to the talking board blind players say it's one sport then can play without assistance. Although "it takes a while to find darts if they fall on the floor," said Barb Appleby, a blind player from Maplewood.

"I got into darts because it was something I could do without having a sighted person around," said longtime player Don Orr, A St Paul resident.

"I used to bowl, and I was pretty bad at bowling," Appleby said. But blind darts "is not that hard at all," she said. "Some of the sighted people, they tell me they play better with a blindfold.

Orr's wife, Bart, who is also blind, also switched to darts after trying bowling.

"Instead of buying a dining room table for our anniversary, I bought a dartboard," Don Orr, 50, said.

The league is one of a handful of blind dart groups in the country. At a recent tournament in St. Paul, three blind dart players come from Pittsburgh to compete.

But the group's future is uncertain. Many of the original vision-impaired players were diabetic, and deaths have diminished the ranks of players.

"We'd like to get younger people involved," said Appleby, 47.

A more critical problem: keeping the dartboards going. The \$2,500 talking dartboards are no longer being built. The four boards used by the league are breaking down, getting spare parts has been difficult, and league members haven't been able to find a manufacturer interested in making a new talking board.

"We've been looking for years and years." Perkins said. "The talking feature is essential," Orr said. "IF we make it through this year, we'll be lucky. ¥

## Wednesday Night Summer Darts:

We had enough interest from our Wednesday night Pub Fun Triples league that we decided to have summer darts. It will be every other week on Wednesday nights, starting at 7:00 PM (dates below) It will be at the American Legion in North St. Paul. It will be a tournament either singles or doubles, double elimination or round robin depending on the number of players. We started it on May 17th and had 13 people. It's open to anyone that would like to come. If you have any questions, please contact either myself or Tom Eineke (e mail addresses below).

Thanks

DATES: May 31st - June 14th - June 28th - July 12th - July 26th - Aug 9th - Aug. 23rd

Hope to see you there.

Karin Fischer Tom Eineke

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## "In Memorial"

The TCDA has lost a close friend, Roger Burros has past away, Roger played on the Free Range Potatoes, and had been a member since 1982, The TCDA wants to take this opportunity to pass along it's condolences to the family and friends of Roger. ¥

## 2006 Dartmania

This years Dartmania started like no other, at the North Saint Paul Legion. This was the first year at the new location and it was just what we needed. Plenty of room for everyone and a good host for our event.

Charles Stutz started the tournament off with a welcome speech and then played in the Friday night luck of the draw. The events ran on time and we even were done playing darts by midnight on Saturday. There were many out of town people including the Canadian gang, our friends from the Dakotas, and many others for the surrounding states.

As with any event, there is so much work put into it, to make it a success. I would like to thank a few people on the tournament staff that have made this event such a success year after year. Next time you see one of these members thank them for all of the work they put in this event, Greg Oldenkamp, Sharon Lohmar, Johnny Hubbard, Margo Ulrich, Bruce Fink, Karin Fischer, and Jeff Hafner. Without there help this event would not be possible.

We feel that this was our best tournament yet, and that next year it will only get better. We are looking forward to seeing all of you out at next years Dartmania for a more dart fun.

By Bob Marley

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## 2006 \$5000 Dartmania Results

April 28-30  
North St. Paul American Legion

### Friday Luck of the draw

1<sup>st</sup>



Charlie Heineman - Joe Haller

2<sup>nd</sup>



Boyd Wade - Dave Blake

3<sup>rd</sup>

Justin Kahnert - Mike Butler

4<sup>th</sup>

Jake Scharber - Don Payne

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Terry Rantala - Mike Carlson

Paul Wiseman - Paul Cook

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

Tiffany Finnegan - Mark "Mac"

McDonough

Michelle Schlecht & Duane Hepola

## Saturday Mixed

1<sup>st</sup>



Dean & Dawn Blake

2<sup>nd</sup>



LaRue Steffes - Charles Steffes

3<sup>rd</sup>

Terry Rantala - Tiffany Finnegan

4<sup>th</sup> Dave Burton - Kara Johansen

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Jason Hepola - Alice Hepola

Margo Ulrich - Boyd Wade

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

Jan Hauser - Rich Ludes

Anita Groen - Randy Groen

## Saturday Open Singles

1<sup>st</sup>



Dean Blake

2<sup>nd</sup>



Randy Rantala

3<sup>rd</sup>

Paul Wiseman

4<sup>th</sup>

Wade Baldwin

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Rich Ludes

Duane Hepola

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

Ryan Loch

Dana Turgeon

## Saturday Womens Singles

1<sup>st</sup>



Michelle Schlecht

2<sup>nd</sup>



Margo Ulrich

3<sup>rd</sup>

LaRue Steffes

4<sup>th</sup>

Anita Groen

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Barb Knight  
Karen Ekstrum

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

Jan Hauser  
Diane Toyas

## Saturday Open Doubles

1<sup>st</sup>



Ryan Loch - Scott Ferrian

2<sup>nd</sup>



Dave Blake - Dean Blake

3<sup>rd</sup>

Dana Turgeon - Tim Jacovitch

4<sup>th</sup>

Paul Wiseman - Eugene Ross

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Dennis Elhard - Rich Ludes  
Boyd Wade - Randy Rantala

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

Justin Kahnert - Justin Hernandez  
Geno Boivin - Ken Ripp

## Saturday Womens Doubles

1<sup>st</sup>



Anita Groen - Julie Stevens

2<sup>nd</sup>



Dawn Blake - Michelle Schlecht

3<sup>rd</sup>

Jan Hauser - LaRue Steffes

4<sup>th</sup>

Margo Ulrich - Marie Elhard

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Barb Knight - Tiffany Finnegan  
Diane Toyes - Alice Hepola

## Saturday Luck of the draw

1<sup>st</sup>



Terry Rantala - Mark "Mac" McDonough

2<sup>nd</sup>



Boyd Wade - Jim Hand

3<sup>rd</sup>

Jim Hunt - Doug Kuyer

4<sup>th</sup>

Bruce Fink - Eugene Ross

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Justin Kahnert - Tom Eineke  
Paul Wiseman - Mike Butler

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

Charlie Brown - Mitch Paul  
Vince Arrigoni - Tim Wennermark

## Sunday Mixed Doubles

1<sup>st</sup>

Mike Anderson - Margo Ulrich

2<sup>nd</sup>

Ryan Loch - Karin Dahlberg

3<sup>rd</sup>

Terry Rantala - Tiffany Finnegan

4<sup>th</sup>

Bruce Fink - Lori Pardee-Cushing

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Rich Ludes - Jan Hauser

Boyd Wade - Karen Ekstrum

## Sunday Open Singles

1<sup>st</sup>



Dean Blake

2<sup>nd</sup>



Dave Blake

3<sup>rd</sup>

Jim Luebke

4<sup>th</sup>

Scott Ferrian

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Ryan Loch

Randy Rantala

## Sunday Womens Singles

1<sup>st</sup>



Michelle Schlecht

2<sup>nd</sup>



Dawn Blake

3<sup>rd</sup>  
Margo Ulrich  
4<sup>th</sup>  
LaRue Steffes

### Sunday Open Doubles

1<sup>st</sup>



Ryan Loch - Scott Ferrian

2<sup>nd</sup>



Randy Rantala - Jake Scharber

3<sup>rd</sup>  
Dana Turgeon - Dave Trost

4<sup>th</sup>  
Mike Anderson - Greg Oldenkamp

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
Justin Jovle - Aaron Mathison  
Jim Luebke - Craig Longwell

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
Geno Boivin - Tom Wheaton  
Dean Blake - Dave Blake

### Sunday Womens Doubles

1<sup>st</sup>



Dawn Blake - Michelle Schlecht

2<sup>nd</sup>



Margo Ulrich - Barb Knight

3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tiffany Finnegan - Kara Johansen

4<sup>th</sup>  
Jan Hauser - Karen Ekstrum

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## Photo Contest

The following are individuals who have taken first place at the Castle Pub Friday Night Tournaments in the past. The dates of the pictures range from 1981 to 1994. The first person to identify all the pictures (first names will suffice) will receive six sets of flights of my chose through the mail. An extra six sets of flights will be provided to the first person who can provide the first and last names of eight out of the ten photos.

Obviously the old timers that frequented the Castle Pub in its prime time of life have an advantage in this quiz. Solutions can be telephoned to Earle Blackley at 651-436-7377 or sent via e-mail to [ebblackley@isd.net](mailto:ebblackley@isd.net). The earliest correct solution will win. I apologize to the individuals in the photos and hope that they do not take offense at my inclusion of their pictures..

Please identify the photos from left to right on top and bottom.



The dates on the pictures from left to right on the top are as follows:  
Oct 28, 1988, Nov 13, 1992, Nov 9, 1990, Sep 11, 1992, Apr 13, 1990

The dates on the pictures from left to right on the bottom are as follows:  
Apr 24, 1987, Jun 17, 1994, Dec 4, 1981, Mar 10, 1989, Apr 29, 1988

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## Bull Rides vs. Bull's-Eyes

The next big sport?, We pit an All- American Entry (rodeo) against a UK import (darts).  
Let the games begin.

	<u>RODEO</u>	<u>DARTS</u>
<u>Origins</u>	Historians point to An 1864 gathering In Deer Trail, Colorado Where cowboys competed at horse breaking and other <u>ranching chores.</u>	With roots in archery, the game (also called "arrows") Emerged in British pubs post World War 1. First major <u>competition: 1928.</u>
<u>Ratings Winner ?</u>	Peak television audience To date for a professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Event: 10 million ESPN viewers for December '05 Wrangler <u>National Finals Rodeo (NFR )</u>	ESPN set to air new World Series of Darts this summer. Peak audience to date: 2.2 million viewers for match featuring 12 - time Champion <u>Phil Taylor on Britian's Sky Sports.</u>
<u>Big Bucks</u>	Wrangler NFR purse \$5.3 <u>million dollars</u>	<u>World Series prize: up to \$ 1 million.</u>
<u>Bump &amp; Bruise Potential</u>	High, Justin Sportsmedicine Team treats 6,000 rodeo injuries (concussions, rib Damage) a year. Bull <u>riding events account for half</u>	Limited. Shoulder and wrist injuries do occur, Also, a mental condition called " dartitis " in which player is suddenly unable <u>to throw.</u>
<u>Could Attract</u>	Those who turn to NASCAR, whether for the fast action <u>or to see a car crash.</u>	TV poker fans, says booster-and Who Wants To Be A Millionaire Creator- Micheal Davies. <u>Creator- Micheal Davies.</u>
<u>Bonus Pt.</u>	One sport to give clowns <u>a big role</u>	<u>Goes well with an adult beverage</u>

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## **T.C.D.A. Darters head North**

Once again the T.C.D.A. was represented at the annual Darts for Charity Dart Tournament in Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada.

This year's tournament was held May 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> at the local Moose Lodge. On Friday morning we all gathered at Al's place and headed north, first stop was Black Bear Casino for some breakfast. After eating we tried our luck at the slot machines, then it was time to hit the road for Canada.

Darters in attendance were Kelly Bliss, Don Payne, Arlene "UFFDA" Johnson, Bruce Fink, Charlie Brown and Alan Finnegan. This was Charlie's first trip for the dart tournament, and according to him it won't be his last.

We are always welcomed with open arms in Thunder Bay. We have been attending this tournament since the mid 80's and we have lots of friends up there. If you have attended the past Dartmania tournament's, you know how competitive the Canadian darters are. This year's Dart's for Charity Tournament brought in the # 4 Darter in Canada, his name is Rory Orbis, and what a pleasure it was to watch him throw darts.

No local darters finished in the money round, but finishing in the money would have been a plus. My feelings are spending a weekend with close friends, having fun throwing darts, and enjoying the beautiful drive along the North Shore is what this tournament is all about.

We were informed that next year's tournament will be held on Mother's day weekend, so if anyone would like to join us, you are more than welcomed. If you would like more information on this tournament you can contact Alan E. Finnegan or any of the darters listed in this article.

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## **Outgoing TCDA Vice President Peter Jirik Says Thank You & Farewell!!!**

The time has come for the end of my long tenure as TCDA Vice President. Since most of you probably have no idea that the TCDA has a Vice President, or what the Vice President does if there is one, it is really not that big of a deal. Anyway, I have been the TCDA Vice President for a while and it is over on June 30, 2006.

I simply want to say thank you to the entire membership of the TCDA for letting me be of service. It has been quite enjoyable for me. The TCDA has been very good to me. I play on a team with guys who have been my best friends for 25 years and I get to throw darts with and against a lot of very fun people. It would be hard for things to be better than that!

I believe that I have represented the TCDA membership well and am proud of my years as an officer of the TCDA. The TCDA is a strong and vital organization and I am pleased that I was able to be a part of it. I leave office with the TCDA on a strong footing and am very confident that the new administration, President Jeff Hafner and Vice President Al Finnegan, will take the TCDA to a new level of excellence.

I also want to thank my good friend and mentor, the outgoing TCDA President, Charles F. Stutz, Jr. It has been an honor to serve with Charles. It has been a pleasure working with him over the years but that is really secondary to the friendship that formed. We have been a team for many years and it is only fitting that we depart the stage together.

I have served with a lot of good people, many of whom remain on the TCDA Board, and I thank all of you! There is nothing I could have done without the help and support of a lot of people all

committed to making the TCDA a great organization.

So once again, thanks to all! It has been a great ride and although in many ways I am sorry to have it come to an end; it is also the right time to move on. Thank you and farewell!

Goodbye and Good Darts!!!!!!!

Peter Jirik

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