



Bull & Ton NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

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**Sportsperson of the Year,
Jim Hunt**

See inside for more on the Annual TCDA Banquet and much more.
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Greetings from the Oval Office. As we speed past the halfway point of the fall season, you can begin to feel a bit of winter in the air. The end of another year is rapidly approaching. Where does the time go?

The fall captains/general membership meeting was held at Moose on Monroe on September 4th. There were a few teams that dropped from the league over the summer but we were also able to add a few new teams. It's always nice to see new faces in the TCDA and I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new members. We'll miss those who aren't back with us this fall, particularly those who have been in the league for many years, and wish them well.

Our annual banquet was held at the Minneapolis Eagles Club October 13th. I'd like to thank our banquet chairperson, Margo Ulrich, and her committee for the wonderful job they did getting everything set up; our tournament director, Tim Wennermark, for running the luck of the draw tournament afterwards; Joel Johnson, not only for the beautiful trophies,



but also all his help getting them set out for display;



and of course Sharon Lohmar for the great job she does presenting the trophies and compiling the stat sheets. Special thanks also to all those who donated door prizes. We had an abundance of very nice door prizes to compliment the ever popular Nabisco boxes that Charles was once again able to acquire. It was nice to see some of the guys from Nabisco at the banquet, their sample packs are always the most popular door prize.

While I'm talking about the banquet I'd also like to congratulate our 2007 Sportsperson of the Year, Jim Hunt;



and our 2007 Charles F Stutz award winner, Johnny Hubbard, aka Donny Hammond.



Both gentlemen are very deserving of the recognition for all they have done for darts in general and the TCDA.

Finally I'd like to welcome our newest dart venue, McMahon's. The fall Tuesday night classic league held their combined mid season tournament at McMahon's October 30th. There was a nice size crowd there that evening getting our first peek at the new pub and I believe they were all impressed. I had the pleasure of shooting there again just last night and I'd say the place definitely has a warm friendly neighborhood feel to it. They are located at the corner of 30th and E Lake Street so stop in and say hello if you get the chance.

Well once again I've gotten to rambling here. Before I sign off I'd like to wish you all good luck over the rest of the fall season and a Happy and Safe Holiday season. Until next time, good darts. ©

My Story!

As we prepare for another fall season of darts here in the TCDA, I have to think

about how darts has given me the strength to face adversity.

Last January of 2007, my daughter came home from school with a scratchy throat. A visit to the clinic reveals that she has come down with strep throat. Not unusual for a kid in the 3rd grade and the time of year I guess. About a week later I too had a bit of a scratchy throat, and so back to the family clinic, and as suspected I now had strep throat as well. While at the doctor's office, I informed my doctor that I had a small lump in the right side of my neck and asked him to look at it. He wrote me a prescription for the strep, and told me to check back with him if the lump hadn't gone away within three weeks. I was back exactly three weeks to the day as the lump did not go away. He looked at it, became somewhat concerned and gave me the phone number for an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist.

An appointment was made to see the ENT specialist a week later. This doctor ran a tube down my nose to look at the back of my throat, within a couple of minutes he retrieved the device from my nose and told me that I had a cancerous growth and that surgery would have to be scheduled in order to remove it. The doctor said a bunch of other stuff that I really didn't hear, after the word cancer you don't really hear much at all.

In order to schedule the surgery I had to have a pre-op exam which was to be done by my family physician. By now the initial shock of the diagnosis had worn off somewhat, although my doctor wasn't so sure about my mental health or ability to deal with the events that would be forthcoming. He asked me about how I felt about the surgery, and what I thought about everything else that would be coming, like radiation therapy and chemotherapy? So I asked him a question. Scott (my doctor's name is Scott), do you play darts? He responded by saying that he had, but just a few times while at the bar with friends and family. I

said, well, I play darts competitively, and when I play I always play to the best of my ability. No matter if my opponent is not as skilled as me, as it would not be fair to them not to give them my best effort. This time however, I went on to say, I've drawn a tough opponent, and I intend to face this opponent with my best shot at each turn. I've won many games because I always believed that I would win, even when I was behind or was facing an equal or stronger opponent. I told Scott that this is the attitude I am going to use to fight this fight. After hearing this, Scott was relieved that I had such a positive focus and felt confident that I would be fine. It is September now, I have had the surgery to remove my epiglottis and the lymph nodes in the right side of my neck, and I've undergone chemotherapy and radiation therapy, and I have lost a significant amount of weight. Time will tell if all of the procedures have eliminated the cancer from my body. Sure, I had some rough days, some days when I just wanted the throw in the towel. I couldn't do it, because I am a fighter, and I am accustomed to winning and losing this game was never an option.

This opponent has been in a tough battle. My doctors and I believe that we have sent it to the loser's bracket, hopefully never to be tested again.

One person does not make up a team, and I would like to acknowledge the members of my team during this critical contest. First of all, my wife Lori, who has proven to have more strength and will power than anyone I know. Thank you! I love you! Second, my sister Holly Stensrud, whom has been a rock, standing right next to Lori supporting her and I. My best friend, dart team captain and fishing companion, Marty Fitzgerald, whose visit to the hospital the day of my surgery meant so much and said so much he cannot imagine, thank you. To all of the doctors, nurses and medical professionals who have shown so much compassion during my visits. Everyone

who has offered their prayers, cards and well wishes, they have not fallen on deaf ears, thank you! Finally, to my daughter Nikki, for coming home with strep throat and prompting me to seek medical attention when I did. I truly believe that that really did save my life.

Through all of this, what I can say is that winning is an attitude, believe it and you to will be one.

Mark McDonough
Top Flight - Classic AA



I Have Been Called

by Mark LeMere

I have been called (guilted in) to again share my thoughts, dreams, memories, and over all B.S. with my fellow darters.

We as an organization have a very deep well of experiences from the varied walks of life our members travel. All are invited to share your words with us in the Bull and Ton.

Now, you can take this as a challenge or a dare... whatever it takes to get people to contribute.

My contribution for this issue of the B&T is more like a tribute to The Spot Bar, and its owner Mike (slammer) O'Toole. I have known Mike for over 25 years from his days as a young bartender at Mac Cafferty's on Grand Avenue. Mike started there as a car valet, hence the nickname "slammer". Our younger members know it as the Wild Onion.

When Mac Cafferty's closed in 1983 The "Irish Rogues" took up residence at the Spot, and some form of the team has been there ever since. I'm not sure when the Red Eye Express took up residence, but we have shared the Spot as long as I can remember.

From the Desk of the Vice President / Editor

It's a small neighborhood bar with interesting patrons. You can always count on the TV in the back to be tuned to a local sports team, and the front TV tuned to Wheel of Fortune, and then whatever Jim wants to watch, so it might take a little extra time to get your drink (HAHA). You might think to share a shot of Ouzo with Jim if the mood strikes you. The Spot Bar also has an excellent Juke box, and you can find almost anything you want to hear.

Mike has fought inflation for his customers to have the least expensive drinks in the league. I would be at great fault not to mention you can get a great pour of Guinness on tap.

I don't see Mike in the bar as much as I would like to, but he's around every so often. He used to have a lot of bright red hair so it was always easy to pick him out. He's become follicly challenged as of late and it's not as bright, but you can still pick him out if you ever hear his voice. It's a little on the gravelly side. Some people may think that Jim is the owner because he has been there for as long as I can remember, and on Tuesday nights Jim is always there.

Mike O'Toole has been a friend to the TCDA for a long time and I'm sure he will for a long time to come.

It has been my pleasure to recognize Mike O'Toole and the Spot Bar, and I would like to see my fellow darters follow my lead and introduce us to the people that let us get together, have a few brews and a lot of laughs (especially in Classic C).

I will issue this statement: "These are my recollections of times past and if there are any discrepancies please be aware that they took place in a BAR. Therefore some things may be a little hazy ©

Well once again we come together for our annual Twin City Darts Association Banquet, although there seem to be less and less of us attending for those who do make it out it is a pleasure to see you.

This year was no exception, awards were plenty and speaking of awards, Joel Johnson has out done himself again. Joel is an outstanding gentleman, who always put's his clients first. I remember the first time I met with Joel, this was back in the early 90's. I knew back then that I had found the right man for the job, and Joel has not let us down.

This year's Banquet once again proved that there are many people who work so hard for the T.C.D.A. For instance our "Sportsperson of the Year" went to Jim Hunt. I could not believe that Jim was never presented this award prior to this year. Everyone who knows Jim, knows that he is a volunteer who will do anything when it needs to be done, with no questions asked. So congratulations Jim this award would not be complete without your name on it.

As for the Charles Stutz award I will let Charles fill you in on that.

Before I end this I know that a lot of you know what is happening in my life, but for those of you who do not I will fill you in very quickly and not to drag this out. I have been diagnose with cancer, it started out in my tonsil and has spread to my lymph nodes, but enough of that, I plan on a full recovery, so don't worry about me. I know there are a lot of you who look forward to playing against me in singles to get that point. I will be back for the spring season.

Until then, enjoy life as it comes, don't take things to heart, life is simply to short.
Good darts to all of you

Alan E. Finnegan
Vice President.
Editor.

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Stutz Presidential Award

Here it is, December of 2007 and once again I'm sitting at my typewriter as of old. My last article was in June 2006.

What a pleasure it was for me to award the Stutz Presidential Award to my good friend Donny Hammond. When he didn't step up to claim the trophy, his alter ego Johnny Hubbard was there to take his place!



Johnny has done a lot for the TCDA and we all thank him for continuing to contribute so much as a Board member. He is involved in virtually everything the TCDA does. He has been a board member for many years, you see him working at every tournament, he is a TCDA merchandise salesman extraordinaire, and has devoted countless hours over the years to the details necessary to the operation of the TCDA. Suffice it to say that Johnny Hubbard is a true sportsman who embodies the qualities recognized by the Charles F. Stutz Presidential Award.

We wish you the best, Johnny, and many more active years on the board.

Once again, as in the past, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is very gratifying to be an honorary member of this great organization and I thank you one and all.

Charles F. Stutz

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BANQUET PHOTOS









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RECENT TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The TCDA held a general membership meeting on Sept. 4th this year. It was a quick meeting where the captains picked up their schedules and talked to people they have not seen all summer. There was a small tournament following the meeting. Ten people signed up for the

double elimination event. Thanks to the Moose on Monroe who kicked in an extra \$20 into the kitty. Rick Espinoza and Paul Cook took 1st place. Jeff Hafner and Gary Ulmer took 2nd with Luke Shields and Bruce Fink finishing third. For a lot of people, it was the first darts they have thrown since last season.

On Oct. 13th the TCDA held their annual Banquet. Thanks to The Eagles Club for hosting a wonderful dinner. There were many awards and door prizes to give away. So many in fact, that the tournament afterwards got started a little late. We started at 9:00 and got done at 11:00. There were 34 people that initially signed up, but 4 dropped out due to the late start. This was an absolutely free tournament with a generous \$400 total payout. If you won one match, you doubled up on the cost of your \$5 dinner. Jeff Hafner and Mike Anderson



won the tournament. Crystal Ray and newcomer Marco Jenson took the 2nd place money.



Congratulations!

The Classic division held its Mid-Season Tournament on Oct. 30th at the soon to be opened McMahan's. Many people showed up there to check out the new dart bar. The TCDA gave away free beer mugs to everyone that entered the tournament. Many thanks to McMahan's who footed the bill for free appetizers and refreshments. It was the first time I've seen the early round losers stay around all night and enjoy the evening. Twenty two people paid the \$5 entry fee into the tournament, and the TDCA put up another \$150 in prize money. Dan Heffernan and Brian Wegleitner took home the big prize. Jim Anderson and Mark McDonough retired after being the winners of the winner's bracket and took second. Third place went to Mark LeMere and Bob Mielke. Good job guys.

Fun Pub Triples played their Mid-Season Tournament on Halloween. There were a couple of costumes worn, and Uffda placed 2nd behind Steve Little for the freshest surgical scar displayed. There was a plentitude of cookies and candy

brought in to share. Everyone had a good time. Thanks to the American Legion who hosted the event. They always take good care of the darters. The TCDA once again gave away free beer mugs and kicked in \$150. Bruce Fink and Vicki LeMere won the tournament and took home \$50 each. Jeff Hafner and Bruce Teich played very well and placed second. Chris Grieman and Jon Eggers took third and Dawn Beguhl and Ric Mitchell finished in fourth. Everyone that played earned a point for their team in the standings. The top 4 places earned an extra bonus point. ©

MID-LEAGUE STRIKES GOLD AT THE HAT TRICK LOUNGE !

You know it's a great night of darts when every single player puts at least one High Score of Ton or better on the board. That's exactly what happened at the Gold Division Mid-League Tourney on Thursday night, November 1st. A number of players had a string of high scores and competition was hot.

We decided to mix it up a little at this tourney and play Singles instead of Doubles. And, believe me, everyone brought their "A" game to the oche line. The top 4 positions were captured by the following darters:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 st | Marco Jenson |
| 2 nd | Jon Fish |
| 3 rd | Tyler Christensen |
| 4 th | Fred Port |

Fred Port mastered the High Out race with an impressive T4.

Our host, the Hat Trick Lounge in St Paul, did their utmost to make our evening great. They even matched our entry fees to sweeten the payout pot. Our thanks to the TCDA as well for adding money to our rewards. We certainly appreciated it.

Bottom line: Everyone had a fabulous time .. the Hat Trick was a terrific host .. and congratulations & “great darts” go out to everyone who participated! ©