



Bull & Ton NEWSLETTER

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**2008 Charles F. Stutz Presidential Award recipient, Karin Fischer
and 2008 Sportsperson of the Year, Margo Ulrich.**

See inside for more on the Annual TCDA Banquet and much more.
Visit www.twincitydarts.com for more information on darts.



Greetings from the Oval Office

Well summer has flown by and we are well into fall season. I hope you all had a good summer and that your darts are flying well. A lot has happened since my last article, both personally and in the world of the TCDA.

The Tournament of Champions was held at McMahon's Pub the end of August. This is an invitational tournament for the teams that finish first or second in any of our leagues during the previous year. It's a seeded tournament and a fun way to get back into dart mode. Also at McMahon's was the Fall Captains/General Membership meeting to kick off the fall season.

October 11th was the date of our annual banquet held at the Eagles in Minneapolis. They have done a good job of hosting the banquet for us and once again the food was excellent. It is always fun to mingle with the people that shoot in other divisions and that you don't often get to see. We had a good turn out and I believe everyone had a good time. There were many nice door prizes topped of course by the ever popular Nabisco boxes. My thanks to the guys from Nabisco who continue to donate those great prizes, it was nice to see them come and enjoy an evening with us. We also had some guests join us from Canada this year. Two of the guys from Canada who attend our DartMania tournament every year, Terry Rantala and Paul Wiseman, were in town to see a Vikings game and attended the banquet as guests of Karen Ekstrum and Paul Cook. They hit the double jackpot; not only did they get to enjoy a fun evening with the TCDA but the Vikings actually won that weekend.

On the personal side it has been a busy few months. I made two trips to Denver this year. The first, with several members of my family, to celebrate the 30th birthday of my oldest daughter Sarah. Yes I know you are all shocked that I could have a daughter that old; what can I say, I did some amazing things when I was ten. I returned to Denver on Labor Day for my 7th annual hiking trip with Sarah, something we started when she moved out there. But the biggest news for me came two days before Halloween when my second grandson was born. Hey when you start at ten you get grand kids while you are still young. I'm told that he is doing well although I wouldn't know, every time I try to see him he is eating or sleeping. His older brother and I try to play as loud as we can but he seems to be a very sound sleeper.

In closing, I would like to thank Al Finnigan for running the Captains meeting for me while I was in the mountains. Thanks also to Margo Ulrich and her crew who once again put on a wonderful banquet. My thanks also to my fellow officers and board members who volunteer countless hours of their time to the running of the TCDA, especially Paul Cushing who has the unenviable task of trying to get articles out of people like me for the Bull and Ton. I appreciate his gentile prodding, I'm sure there are times when he would like to whack me with a stick and say where is that article.

Until next time, good darts.



Brief History of Darts

At the fall General Membership/Captains meeting, Charles read a brief article on the history of darts. Here is what Charles read.

The modern pub game of darts was first called Dart and Target, according to the 1904 writ of games lawfully allowed in establishments.

An even earlier version of darts, though, was called Puff and Dart. Players used a blowgun

to shoot the darts. There were drawbacks to this early version, though: In 1844, a London player accidentally inhaled the dart instead of blowing it, causing a slow and painful death.

After hearing this, I asked Charles if I could publish it here, and he said that I could. After reading it while publishing this edition, I got curious and did some research. I found this article on the Internet. It directly relates to the article Charles read so I decided to publish it as well.

A Brief History of Darts - From Weapon to International Sport

By [Andrew Regan](#)

We know that dart-like items have been used for hunting and warfare by early man, and indeed even today some tribes in South America, Africa and Asia continue to use blow darts for hunting purposes. However, in terms of the modern game of darts, the early history seems to have evolved from a game called "Puff and Dart", where players took turns to fire a small sharpened dart at a paper or cork target.

Puff and Dart became a popular game in English inns, through history records an unfortunate incident of a man who sucked rather than blew - inhaling the dart into his body, and then dying a few days later. It's not known whether this affected the popularity of Puff and Dart, but we do know that the game is no longer around today.

The next chapter in the history of Darts begins in the late 1870s, when the game "Dart and Target" (also known as Dartelle) appeared. Here, crude darts fashioned from dowel, with a pin stuck to one end and paper flights to the other, were thrown by hand into a piece of softwood board. In 1904, Dart and Target became one of several "Lawful Games on Licensed Premises", and around 1925, brewers noticed the popularity of the game; and in response, they started to organize Dart and Target leagues.

The game received a huge publicity boost when the King and Queen of England visited a social club in Slough and casually took part in an ad-hoc darts game, and in doing so "made the women of Britain darts-conscious" according to The Sunday Chronicle. The number of darts playing pubs went on to triple in the next two years.

Darts' appeal to the general public piqued in the 80s and early 90s when the UK TV show 'Bullseye' aired. 'Bullseye' was a game show based around darts where contestants were paired with professional darts players, and also had to answer general knowledge questions themselves. The prizes ranged from kitchen appliances to holidays, cars, caravans and speedboats.

Since then, darts has spread across the UK and the rest of the world. It is even said that there are more pubs with dart boards in the centre of New York than there are in the centre of London. The popularity of darts has led to big international competitions and big prize money. The 2008 World Darts Championship will be held in Alexandra Palace in London, and fans wanting to see the top names in darts will find hotels in Kings Cross and Finsbury Park are conveniently located close to the event.

Though there have been some questions raised in Britain as to whether the presence of offensive weapons in a place full of drunk people is really a sensible idea, darts remains a popular game in pubs all around the world, and international competition continues to attract thousands of fans. ©

A Busy Tournament Season By Greg Oldenkamp

Odd as it may seem, most of us do not associate the TCDA with tournaments, but read on and you may be surprised by how many we actually end up sponsoring.

Tournament of Champions

Very likely the most prestigious tournament in our league's history, and I don't say that because I happened to be one half of the team that won, well, actually I do. In August the Board resurrected with the help of Mike Anderson and Karin Fischer the Tournament of Champions, a luck of draw event open to any team that finished first or second in any league in the previous two seasons. Having the event in August was received with a lot of enthusiasm, as over 30 people showed up at McMahon's Irish Pub to get in a good warm up night before starting the dart season. A lot of great darts were thrown, and in a final match that went all 6 legs, the team of Bob Mielke and Greg Oldenkamp defeated Jim Anderson and Brian Kraft. 3rd place went to Rick Espinoza and Dick Sorensen and 4th place went to Rich Anderson and Peter Rozga.

Because of such a strong turn out, the Board is preparing to make this an annual event. This year the Board kicked in \$200 to supplement the event, next year it should be at least that much. We will do our best to contact teams over the summer to let them know that they qualify. Thanks for making this event such a success!

Banquet Tournament

This may be one of our more enjoyable tournaments. For those of you not aware, included in your \$5 banquet fee, is a free registration to the banquet tournament. It's luck of the draw format that is always interesting as we encourage darters and guests alike to participate, so you never really know how it may end up. This year we were lucky enough to have two distinguished guests present at our banquet. If you did not meet them, two of our friends from up north (Thunder Bay Canada) Terry Rantala and Paul Wiseman were in the Twin Cities for the weekend and they were invited to and graciously accepted an invitation to our banquet, with both shooting in the tournament afterwards. The banquet tournament is single elimination event, so there isn't much room

for error, and this year we had 32 people (16 teams) participate, so there was a lot of excitement. When the dust settled, Bob Mielke continued his tournament dominance with his second tournament win, this time pairing with Mike Anderson.



They defeated the 2nd place team of Dean Hostager and Paul Wiseman, whose trip down from Canada was now totally complete.

Because of the single elimination format, the final two teams tied for 3rd and 4th were Geoff Woolston and Dave Pickett and Bill Klukas and Deb Thompson.



The Banquet isn't just for those teams getting trophies; it's for all members. This is our social event of the year, and for \$5 you get a steak dinner, great company and a free tournament to boot, you can't beat that.

Mid League Tournaments

Last season the Board tried something new to encourage mid-league participation, and we think it has worked. Last season we started combining all mid-leagues, by night, into one event. So each night, Tuesday Classic, Wednesday Pub-fun and Thursday Gold each have their own combined mid-leagues, to which the TCDA adds funding to the entry fees.

Tuesday Mid-League (fall): Was held this year at McMahon's Irish Pub, who were gracious enough to provide the back room, and a free half time for all those shooting. We had a very strong turnout, 30 members,

although I know we can get more. The Tuesday mid-league is a seeded tournament. This season we had 15 AA shooters, 12 A and 3 from B/C. So it worked out that we had 15 teams, with each team having one AA shooter. We seeded the tournament as we hope to encourage players from all divisions to attend. As you can tell, we need and would love to see more from B & C divisions attend. After a fun night of very competitive darts, the Championship match came down to Jim Richards and Perry Daniels vs Paul Lundberg and Dan Heffernan. Unfortunately for Jim, the 2nd time was not the charm. As was the case in Tournament of Champions he fell just a bit short, as Paul and Dan took 1st place (Dan had the evenings high out at 104) with Jim and Perry taking 2nd. Maybe Jim's problem was that for both events he had a Straight Arrow as a partner? (inside jab for my fellow A division members). The evening was rounded out with Dave Blake and Dave Burton taking 3rd place and Bruce Fink and Dick Sorensen (another darn Straight Arrow) taking 4th place.

Pub Fun (fall): Due to scheduling conflicts the pub fun mid-league had to be moved from Wednesday night to a Monday, which no doubt contributed to a lower than normal turnout. Still, Jim Hunt was able to run an event with 5 teams playing. When the dust settled, the team of Dave Blake and Tim Wennermark held onto 1st besting the team of Greg Oldenkamp and Mike Hillesheim. Steve Little and John McGehee finished with 3rd place.

Gold: As of this writing, Gold division has not yet been able to hold their mid-league.

So as you can see, the TCDA quietly manages to maintain a tournament schedule. As we gear up for the Spring season, be aware that more awaits. In addition to mid-leagues we will once again be crowning the new State champions at the February 28th, 2009 State Tournament. Then in April, 24th-26th, we will be holding the 9th annual Dartmania, once again at the Ramada Grand Rios.

Please check your standing sheets and the TCDA's website for additional information. Until then, good darting! ©

2008 Annual Banquet

The 2008 TCDA Annual Banquet was held on October 11, 2008 at the Eagles Aerie #34 in Minneapolis. Once again they provided a great meal and venue for the event. For a small \$5 fee, you had your choice of a 8-oz Sirlion Steak Dinner or Baked Chicken Breast Dinner. A vegetarian dinner was also available.

Many trophies were handed out to teams who finished first or second in their divisions over the past year.



Also presented at the banquet are the Charles F. Stutz Presidential Award and Sportsers on of the Year Award. This year's recipient of the Stutz award is Karin Fischer.



Charles presented it to Karin.

Margo Ulrich was presented the Sportsperson trophy by our President, Jeff Hafner.



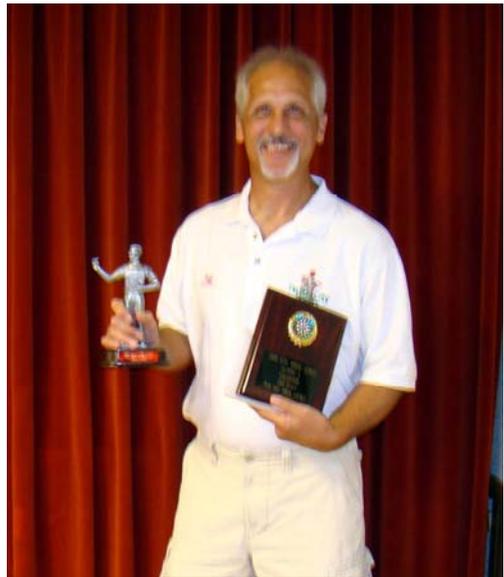
The fee included an entry in the luck of the draw tournament. Participation in the tournament was great. We had 32 entrants which made 16 teams. The results are listed earlier in this edition. ©

Banquet Photographs









Hello Darters,

Well it's that time again to put the lawnmower's away along with the sprinklers and hoses, and get the shovels and snow blowers ready. Yes winter is right around the corner.

It has been another great year, and I want to say it is such a pleasure to see all my friends, and meet new friends. That is what the TCDA stands for, going out with friends, throwing darts and just having a good time. Weather you win or lose, the main thing is having a good time and perfecting good sportsmanship. There is no reason not to show consideration to your fellow darters, and if you can't do that, well I believe that should not be in the TCDA.

I know I look forward to seeing everyone. Whether I win or lose is not important, although I do try to win all the time, but that does not happen. When you win, you can celebrate your hard victory to a point. There is no reason to over do it. When you lose there is no reason to carry on to the point where hard feelings take over, things are said, and it escalates from there.

Treating fellow darters with the respect they deserve should be the main focus of every darter. I know we're all adults here and we're playing in bars throughout the cities, however, yelling or swearing at people does not belong in the TCDA.

Before I finish this letter to all of you, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. Personally these two holidays have a new meaning to me. I have plenty to be thankful for, my life has changed dramatically over the past year, and to be here and be a part of the TCDA, it just does not get any better. I want to thank everyone of you. I consider everyone of you a special friend of mine and look forward to seeing you throughout the coming years.

Alan Finnegan
Vice President
Twin City Darts Association.

