



## NEWSLETTER

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to yet another dart season and let's hope this one is bigger and better than anything we have seen before. We know that the 2003-04 season will close with the National Championships being held in Prince Edward Island for the first time and we are sure that the organizers will do a great job for the many people who have never visited "their island".

As you have probably heard, I am once again the NDFC Membership Director, so you will be hearing more from me later in this newsletter. My "retirement" was short lived but the good news is that I get to spend another couple of years with the many friends that I have made across the country. As a friend of mine from Alberta recently stated "her hold out lasted longer than mine"! Now let's carry on with some reports from other executive members.

### **PRESIDENT - Phil Robertson**

Now that summer is over for some of us the dart season begins and I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. The start of the season for some members started on September 20<sup>th</sup> with a trip to the World Cup in Epinal, France. For Kim Whaley, Amy Earle, Marcel Simard, Gerry Convery, Tim Bradley and Norm Tremblay the World Cup was the start of their season and it was a great start for all.

This year's cup was, to say the least an interesting one but I will not dwell on that as the focus was and should be on the player. Team Canada did extremely well and were it not for a few elusive doubles would have been in the quarterfinals in

most events. It was just a bit of bad luck. We did, however, have some very positive results from the ladies with Kim and Amy taking Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> -- a great showing. The highlight for me and I am sure for them was that in the round robin they defeated Trina Gulliver and Clare Bywaters. Down 3 to 1 they fought back and took the win 4 to 3.

All in all this years World Cup was a success for Team Canada with the Ladies coming in 5<sup>th</sup> and the men 17<sup>th</sup> with an overall team placing of 17<sup>th</sup> out of 37 countries. We should be very proud of our players and their accomplishments.

There was, unfortunately, great difficulty in communications with this event as very few people in the Epinal area and those involved in running the event spoke English. This caused many problems as the universal language in the dart world is English. Had it not been for Norm "the translator" Tremblay we would have been lost. The NDFC is indebted to Norm for his dedication to the team. I think Norm translated more than 20 menus to ensure we all got what we wanted not to mention getting us to our proper destination. The team very much appreciated your work and efforts Norm, and thank you from all of us.

With the World Cup now behind us it is time to focus on the upcoming year. We have lots to work on, in particular trying to attract new sponsors. During this past World Cup I spoke with many countries inquiring about many things, sharing ideas, solving problems but the one common problem ALL countries are experiencing is attracting sponsors. They have all but given up on sponsors and have reverted to fund raising within their country. This, however, is a problem for Canada as we have too many "rules and regulations"

to come up with a "universal" fund raising plan. This means each province must become creative.

The NDFC executive is continually looking at ways to save money and ultimately pass on the savings to the provinces. We maybe are having difficulty getting more sponsors but we are still looking. The memberships of the organizations are the backbone. If the memberships don't come in we will encounter some cutback so PLEASE do what you can to attract more members, everyone benefits.

I think I have covered all I can at this time. I hope to be able to give you some more positive news in the next installment of the NDFC Newsletter, so until then good darts, stay well and have a great holiday season.

### ***FIRST VICE - David Quelch***

With the new season upon us, I have a few relevant items to bring to your attention.

Firstly, this will be my final year on the NDFC Executive. I have enjoyed my years working with the National and Provincial Directors and working for the players. Although it has been difficult at times, I have always tried to put the sport ahead of any personal interest and gain and to be impartial in any decision making. I am finding that I no longer have the time to commit fully to the NDFC and therefore I will step aside at the end of June 2004. I thank all of those who have supported me through the years. Those who did not agree with me were very important since they showed me other sides of each argument. I am thankful that I had a chance to be involved with so many good people from all parts of Canada.

Secondly, the NDFC is still strong but it needs the support of all of its members. Everyone needs to promote the sport by bringing new members into the organization. Everyone from elite international players to the newest grassroots players must work together to expand membership and promote the desire for membership. The best way is through sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Thirdly, the number of ranked tournaments is increasing this year and hopefully this will be an upward trend. Check the website for a new tournament schedule shortly.

Lastly, I hope to see you all in Prince Edward Island in June. In the meantime, I wish you all great success in darts. Enjoy a great festive season, which will be upon us before we know it!

### ***SECOND VICE - Maggie LeBlanc***

No report submitted.

### ***GENERAL SECRETARY - Mary Dezan***

We are once again heading into a new season of darts. As I am writing this, we have players who are actually in France participating in the 14<sup>th</sup> World Cup and in another few weeks we will have players who will be attending the World Masters in Bridlington, England. For these players the last season has not yet ended and the new one is beginning. This is also the way it is for the members of the Executive. One season runs into another and the work is always ongoing. This is one of the reasons why we stress the importance of advising the NDFC office of any changes.

If there have been changes to your Provincial or Territorial Executive during the summer months, please make sure that you advise the office of the changes along with addresses and other pertinent information. It is also very important that address changes for the dart players who are among the top 16 men and women on the ranking list be reported immediately either to the NDFC office or to the Membership Director.

Plans are already well in motion for the 2004 National Championships which will be held in Summerside, Prince Edward Island. Bill Mosher and his group have been working very hard for over a year preparing for this big event. In February I will be forwarding all necessary information concerning travel and accommodations and I am asking you now to please adhere to all deadline dates as it is very important that we receive the information on a timely basis.

As this time, I would like to wish you all a great year of darts and I look forward, once again, to seeing all of you on the Island in June 2004. Oh yes, and it goes without saying that I would like to wish all of you and your families a happy and safe festive season!

### ***FINANCE - Don Crookshanks***

No report submitted.

### ***MEMBERSHIP - Kip Morrish***

It feels as though I never left - did I leave or was that just a dream?

In an effort to atone a little for the frustrations that you had last year, I had all the membership packages in the mail before the end of August. This meant, of course, that I spent the majority of July pounding the computer and running to the print shop. Oh well, this was entirely worth the effort if it kept you all happy and as I haven't received any complaints about the packages, I guess I didn't do so badly.

Just a reminder - if your deadline date for submission of the membership package is **after April 1<sup>st</sup>**, please ensure that you report all renewals of membership to me for any of the top 16 men and women on the ranking list who are from your member body. A form for this purpose was enclosed with the package.

I would like to mention that this will definitely be my last term in office - it is time for some "young blood" and new ideas to be infused into the program. Please think about this seriously and if any of you are interested in the position of Membership Director in 2005, let me know and I will endeavor to give you a training session during the 2004-05 year.

As this will be my last communication with you for this year, I would like to take this opportunity of

wishing you and your families my best wishes for the holiday season.

### ***YOUTH DEVELOPMENT - Carol Collett***

All Youth Directors at their Annual A.G.M. in May 2003 approved the following change, made during the 2002-03 season:

It was accepted and passed by the Board of Directors at the AGM in June 2003 that we will, effective this season, allow Labrador to set up a Youth Program. This will be overseen and supported by the Newfoundland/Labrador Executive.

**May 2004 - Ontario will host the Youth Nationals at the Best Western, Brantford.**

More information on this will be forwarded to you at a later date. A workshop is already planned and this will be scheduled for around 1.00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2004.

Following up on an idea given to me by Joe Houston last year, I am going to request that all Member Bodies confirm, to me, by the end of December 2003 if they are planning to have a team attend the 2004 Nationals. You should also confirm the number of players who will be attending, i.e. a full team of 8 players or something else.

This will allow the host group to finalize negotiations with the provider of the dart stands and also arrange the floor plan for setting these up. They do have to make a few adjustments to what was originally planned as the hotel's planned extension was cancelled due to the major drop in business due to the SARS situation. They have blocked off another room as a back up but do have to work around one event that was also planned by the hotel. So you see that it will be a great help to all concerned if we know the number of youth

players that we are dealing with. Your help with this will be greatly appreciated.

For those that are planning ahead to do a budget for this season's event - the majority of you will be able to fly by Westjet to arrive in Hamilton (a 20-minute drive to Brantford). For the rest I would recommend that you arrange to fly into London, Ontario (just over 30 minutes to Brantford). Both of these options will be far better than having to go through Toronto. The local Brantford youth group will be arranging transportation for everyone and the details will be forwarded to you.

At the end of September the NDFC President, Phil Robertson attended the WDF Annual Meeting - I will keep you updated on the result of having them re-address our submission to recognize all WDF member countries registered youth programs membership age criteria.

Good luck to all of you in the upcoming season and have a great holiday season.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **W.D.F. ANNUAL MEETING**

While in France, Phil Robertson attended the annual W.D.F. Meeting. The one piece of information to pass on is that they deferred electing a WDF President until the meeting in England next year. This was hotly debated by Canada and Japan as at the meeting in England there are typically only 10 European countries present to elect the President. We felt that since it was the WDF not the European Darts Federation that it should be held when a greater number of member countries from all regions were present. However, this motion was defeated.

It is now going to be incumbent on Member countries to have members present for the election in Bridlington, England; otherwise we will have another BDO member elected to the board. There are a number of good candidates interested

one from South Africa, Australia and Switzerland. This meeting will be very important for the future of the WDF.

### **WELCOME TO NEW DIRECTORS**

The following Directors have come on board and we hope their stay will be enjoyable:

SK Pat Copeman  
AB Bill Hatter  
QC Terri LeBlanc (Yes, we have yet another LeBlanc to put up with!)

The following took office at the end of last season and have not been duly recognized:

YT Dawn Peach  
NT Nancy Hayward

We also have a couple of new Youth Directors to acknowledge:

NO Jeff Bruneau  
QC Yolande Lamarre

There are a couple of Youth Directors in place in NT (Donna Allen) and NU (Bryan Fotheringham). At the present time these two members' bodies have no youth members but we hope that this will change in the near future.

### **Thoughts to Ponder**

All Canadian dart players should be very proud of our ambassador for the sport, namely John Part. Recently, the following message was sent to us:

"I was at a darts tournament in Blackpool, England on October 12<sup>th</sup>, namely the Bob Anderson Classic. I chalked John Part's first round match against Brian Derbyshire, a fellow PDC Professional. John Part was absolutely outstanding in this game (very narrowly missing out on a 9-darter).

I would just like to say that after meeting John a few times now around England, what a gentleman he is in the game of darts and out, and very

unassuming. He is a credit to Canadian sport as a whole.

P.S. The web site of the Canadian Darts Federation is very good too."

Firstly, to all dart players, just remember our role model when you are a little frustrated after losing a game. Wouldn't it be nice if we could have thousands of John Part's in this country of ours?

Secondly, we need to give a word of thanks to our Webmaster, Pat Cashin for a job well done. It is certainly nice to receive compliments from around the world.

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#### A Fishing Joke to Close:

Every Saturday morning he goes fishing. He gets up early and eager, makes his lunch, hooks up his boat and off he goes all day long.

Well, one Saturday morning he gets up early, dresses quietly, gets his lunch made, puts on his long johns, grabs the dog and goes to the garage to hook up his boat to the truck. Coming out of his garage the rain is pouring down; it is like a torrential downpour. There is snow mixed in with the rain and the wind is blowing at 50 mph.

Minutes later, he returns to the garage. He comes back into the house and turns the TV to the weather channel. He finds it's going to be bad weather all day long, so he puts his boat back in the garage, quietly undresses and slips back into bed. There he cuddles up to his wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispers, "The weather out there is terrible." To which she sleepily replies .....

"Can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in this shit?"

