

*William* **HILL**

WORLD DARTS CHAMPIONSHIP

THE  
*Ultimate*  
Guide





# Welcome

**The PDC World Darts Championship** has been writing its own exciting story since 1994. The latest chapter, sponsored by **William Hill** will begin on December the 13th 2019 and be televised on SKY Sports Darts ([www.skysports.com](http://www.skysports.com)). Our E-Magazine will introduce every aspect. The game itself may have barely changed in all that time, its popularity, coverage and global reach have morphed almost beyond recognition. We will look into every aspect.

In this special edition, you will find stories, snippets, facts and features that cover many of darts' different attractions. Meet all **96 Players**, whether **Seeded**, **Global** or **Pro Tour** qualifiers, with our **Data-Card** pages. The **Super 8's** show who's hot on those vital stats that make the difference between a first-round exit and a tilt at the title.

Gathering information for an annual flutter? **You Betcha** looks at the betting market, where extra value might be found, as well as some of more unusual options available while you follow the tournament through to its, often thrilling, final.

Featured articles such as **The Ice Dragon Cometh** and **Barney Takes a Bow** explore some of the biggest stories, from this year's event, with **Gerwyn Price** and **Raymond Van Barneveld** representing the extremes of World Championship careers so far.

We look at highlights from previous events with Ally Pally Perfection looking back at the 9 dart legs hit on that famous stage. We will Meet the Fans and see why Ally Pally has a place in their heart.

**Ladies Night** will introduce you to the latest two women players taking the stage at this year's championship. **Suzuki** and **Sherrock** will follow in the footsteps of last years' trailblazers. As you read, look out for our **Unsung Heroes** and **Talking Points** segments. Surprising facts, and colourful tales, adding colour to the ever-developing PDC World Darts Championship Story.

We're looking forward to sharing the story with you and hope you find this issue an invaluable partner to this year's **PDC William Hill World Darts Championship**. For more information, and the very latest news, the PDC website is the most extensive source:

[www.pdc.tv/tournament/william-hill-world-championship](http://www.pdc.tv/tournament/william-hill-world-championship)





### Talking Points



#### The Venue

When looking for a new, and larger, venue after the huge success of the 2017 World Championship, the PDC could hardly have found a better option than 'the palace' - despite being used as a circus venue, exhibition hall and even a nightclub over its 140-year history, Alexandra Palace has a long association with darts. The hugely popular, News of the World event held its final in the London venue with the raucous, but entertaining atmosphere from the 1950s being preserved in YouTube clips. The Ally Hall has provided fair play, excitement and no table drama, right from its first year as host. Rank outsider Kirk Shepherd made the final last year only to be dethroned at the final by the Derby legend Peter Dinklage. Every year since, thousands of fans, often in highly original fancy dress, have flocked to witness the next chapter of this fabulous story.

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### MEET THE Fans!



The secret ingredient in the successful recipe that is the PDC World Darts Championship is not so secret. It's the full public view every day and every session. Over 85,000 fans troop through the doors of the Alexandra Palace every December. Men, women and children, young and old, all have their own reasons for wanting to experience the unique combination of darts, atmosphere and sporting drama.

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### you Betcha

Setting on darts is hardly a new thing. You only have to listen to old commentators to hear about a heckler in the crowd having a few quiet on the sidelines. But the rise of online live play betting and the multitude of bet types has increased the profile of darts gambling.

The popularity of darts, and online betting, has led to large variety of betting options for those who like to have a punt or even an ASCII. Whether you're a live darts fan who likes to add spice to an event/season they are attending, or an armchair supporter who wants to try and spot value, in specialty bet, there will be an option for you. You Betcha highlights some of the types of bets available as well as some examples of player odds before the events kick off.

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Overall Winner	Qtr 1 - Winner	Qtr 2 - Winner	Qtr 3 - Winner	Specials
Michael van Gerwen 54	Michael van Gerwen 275	Michael van Gerwen 371	Rob Cross 104	First to Winner 8/11
Gerwyn Price 51	James Wade 81	Michael Smith 313	Neil Aspin 31	9 Dart Leg 8/11
Rob Cross 152	Ben White 185	Gary Anderson 311	Dave Chisnall 57	Unseeded Winner 14/11
Peter Dinklage 141	Gerwyn Price 192	Gerwyn Price 311	Gerwyn Price 311	
Michael Smith 201	Neil Aspin 192	Neil Aspin 311	Gerwyn Price 311	
Gary Anderson 201	James Wade 141	James Wade 311	James Wade 311	
	Stephen Bunting 251	Stephen Bunting 311	Stephen Bunting 311	

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### 9 Darters PALACE PERFECTION



In any sport there are moments of perfection. Think Lordi & Dean or Naska & Connors; darts is no exception. Over the years improving standards, combined with near perfect playing conditions, have ensured that 9 darts legs are hit with increasing frequency. Hit: hitting one on the biggest possible stage, on live TV, under the greatest of pressure is still very rare indeed. Thank Cliff Thorburn at the Crucible.

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### 2019 Meet the Players



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### THE ICE MAN COMETH



If you're a darts fan or just a twitter devotee, you may believe that a thirty-four year old Welshman is the devil in a darts shirt. However, if you know anything of the history of sport you may see a character familiar to the development of most highly regarded professional games. That of the maverick competitor or perhaps pantomime villain?

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### WE ARE 'The Champions



World Champions are special. Regardless of sport, code or status, those who claim World title always stand out from the crowd. Steel tip darts has two sets of World Champions. From 1976-95 there were simply World Champions. Following the formation of the PDC (originally the WDC) in 1994 there were Lakeside (BDO) Champions and PDC World Professional Darts Champions.

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### Super 8s

Our Super 8s section really sorts out the big hitters from the merely excellent. The last 8 stages in any sporting event is always a big sorting point. The same is true of these indicators.

We have put together 8 stats that will help you spot whether a player looks like challenging for the title, is ending to watch, could be worth a bet or may be rising fast. Check out who tops the charts, who appears in most tables and are there any surprise names in the higher reaches of one stat. Could a player have a weakness or is one specific strength keeping them in with a shout?

The Super 8s can illustrate all this and more.

2019 Ranking Events	2019 Ranking Wins
1 Michael van Gerwen, Wales £440,000	1 Michael van Gerwen, Wales 83.25%
2 Gerwyn Price, Wales £412,240	2 Gerwyn Price, Wales 77.02%
3 Neil Aspin, England £405,560	3 James Wade, England 73.26%
4 James Wade, England £315,500	4 Kristian Ratsep, Poland 71.88%
5 Peter Dinklage, Scotland £234,250	5 Glen Durrant, England 71.74%
6 Dave Chisnall, England £231,250	6 Alan Watts, England 70.91%
7 Michael Smith, England £225,248	7 Luca Brecchi, England 70.48%
8 Michael van Gerwen, Wales £222,750	8 Peter Dinklage, Scotland 70.21%

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### Ladies Night



For the 2019 World Championship the PDC introduced a new more direct route for female players to play in the championship was introduced for the first time. Lisa Ashton and Victoria were the qualifiers, from very high quality field, and both played strongly in the main event. This year the route has been widened to include a UK and a Rest of the World style qualifying event.

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### "Mile High" LEAVES A VAPOUR TRAIL



In February, 2016, Mark 'Mile High' Hylton began what was to be a 'short' but highly significant test flight in the world of PDC darts. A world title off was followed by a turbulent spell 'floating at altitude' before a steep descent took him away from our view.

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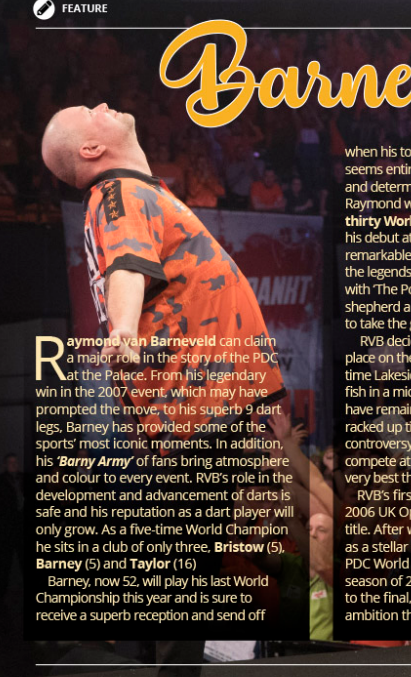
### THE Highlights Reel

Just in case you're accessing this eMag in a snatched break, from more pressing tasks or don't fancy flipping through every page while your on phone, we've produced a highlights reel. Here are six of the best stories from this special edition.

- Barney in Sudden Death Glory
- Hylton's Vapour Trail
- Miracle Moments
- Worshiper's Palace Perfection
- Ice Man's Child 9 Darter
- Missing Talent

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### Barney TAKES A BOW



When his treatment turned to an end, he seems entirely at peace with his decision and determined to enjoy his curtain call. Raymond had been taken part in almost thirty World Championships since making his debut at the Lakeside in 1991. His remarkable journey has seen him tackle the biggest of all darts challenges, the World Cup, with 'The Power' for over a decade and then triumph and a first generation of new players to take the game forward.

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# Talking Points



## The Venue

When looking for a new, and larger, venue after the huge success of the 2007 World Championships, the PDC could hardly have found a better option than *"the peoples palace"*. Despite being used as a circus venue, exhibition hall and even a refugee shelter, over its 140+ year history, Alexandra Palace has a long association with darts. The hugely popular News of the World event held its finals at the London venue with the raucous, but entertaining, atmosphere from the 1960's being preserved in YouTube clips. The Ally Pally has provided fairytales, excitement and no little drama, right from its first year as host. Rank outsider Kirk Shepherd made the final that first year only to be felled at the final hurdle by Darth Maple (John Part). Every year since, thousands of fans, often in highly original fancy dress, have flocked to witness the next chapter of this fabulous story.





## The Trophy

Sid Waddell was known as *“The Voice of Darts”* and credited by many with helping to popularize the game in the 1970’s and keep it alive during the leaner times. Sid combined a unique use of language with an enthusiasm, and love for the game, that can barely have been matched. Quotes such as *“When Alexander of Macedonia was 33, he cried salt tears because there were no more worlds to conquer... Bristow’s only 27”* have become legendary and Sid is remembered with affection by millions. Sid’s death in 2012 marked a generational and style change in darts. The decision to commission a new PDC World Championship Trophy, named after Sid, was warmly welcomed by those connected to both the game and broadcasting alike. Fittingly it was Phil *“The Power”* Taylor who emerged triumphant in 2013 and claimed the **Sid Waddell Trophy** upon its debut.

## The Prize

Winning the PDC World Darts Championship is now a life changing matter. The first holding of the event, in 1994, earned its first champion, Dennis *“The Menace”* Priestly, the princely sum of £16,000. Although this was not to be sniffed at it can hardly be compared to today’s prize. The total prize fund for that first championship was £64,000, this year’s event will offer £2,500,000. The winner’s cheque will be a cool half a million pounds (£500,000). In many ways this is just the beginning of the rewards for the 2020 champion. Sponsorship and exhibition fees are boosted massively, by having a World Championship on your CV, and qualification for every event, for the next two years, is assured. Most players will value the place in the history books and the holding of the Sid Waddell trophy as equally important, but their families may well benefit more from the financial rewards available. To say the PDC World Championship is worth a million pounds is no exaggeration. Leighton Rees’s £3000 reward, for the first ever darts World Championship, suddenly seems a long time ago.



# DRAW BRACKET



DEC 13 - JAN 1



## 1ST QUARTER

(1) MICHAEL VAN GERWEN	V	JELLE KLAASEN OR KEVIN BURNES
(32) RICKY EVANS	V	MARK MCGEENEY OR MATT CAMPBELL
(16) JONNY CLAYTON	V	RYAN JOYCE OR JAN DEKKER
(17) STEPHEN BUNTING	V	ARRON MONK OR JOSE JUSTICIA
(8) JAMES WADE	V	RITCHIE EDHOUSE OR BORIS KOLTSOV
(25) STEVE BEATON	V	KYLE ANDERSON OR XIAOCHEN ZONG
(9) IAN WHITE	V	DARIUS LABANAUSKAS OR MATTHEW EDGAR
(24) MAX HOPP	V	GABRIEL CLEMENS OR BENITO VAN DE PAS

(5) GARY ANDERSON	V	BRENDAN DOLAN OR NITIN KUMAR
(28) STEVE WEST	V	RYAN SEARLE OR ROBBIE KING
(12) NATHAN ASPINALL	V	ANDY BOULTON OR DANNY BAGGISH
(21) KRZYSZTOF RATAJSKI	V	JAMIE HUGHES OR ZORAN LERCHBACHER
(4) MICHAEL SMITH	V	LUKE WOODHOUSE OR PAUL LIM
(29) DIMITRI VAN DEN BERGH	V	JOSH PAYNE OR DIOGO PORTELA
(13) ADRIAN LEWIS	V	CRISTO REYES OR LAURENCE ILAGEN
(20) DARREN WEBSTER	V	RYAN MEIKLE OR YUKI YAMADA

## 2ND QUARTER

## 3RD QUARTER

(2) ROB CROSS	V	KIM HUYBRECHTS OR GEERT NENTJES
(31) DANNY NOPPRT	V	STEVE LENNON OR CALLAN RYDZ
(15) JOE CULLEN	V	JAMES WILSON OR NICO KURZ
(18) JERMAINE WATTIMENA	V	LUKE HUMPHRIES OR DEVON PETERSEN
(7) PETER WRIGHT	V	ROWBY-JOHN RODRIGUEZ OR NOEL MALICDEM
(26) KEEGAN BROWN	V	MICKEY MANSELL OR SEIGO ASADA
(10) DAVE CHISNALL	V	VINCENT VAN DER VOORT OR KEANE BARRY
(23) JEFFREY DE ZWAAN	V	RAYMOND VAN BARNEVELD OR DARIN YOUNG

## 4TH QUARTER

(6) DARYL GURNEY	V	JUSTIN PIPE OR BENJAMIN PRATNEMER
(27) GLEN DURRANT	V	JOSE DE SOUSA OR DAMON HETA
(11) MENSUR SULJOVIC	V	TED EVETTS OR FALLON SHERROCK
(22) CHRIS DOBEY	V	RON MEULENKAMP OR BEN ROBB
(3) GERWYN PRICE	V	WILLIAM O'CONNOR OR MARKO KANTELE
(30) JOHN HENDERSON	V	JAMES RICHARDSON OR MIKURU SUZUKI
(14) SIMON WHITLOCK	V	HARRY WARD OR MADARS RAZMA
(19) MERVYN KING	V	ROSS SMITH OR CIARAN TEEHAN

#WHDARTS



WWW.PDC.TV

To watch, visit/click [www.SKY.COM](http://www.SKY.COM)

For more information, visit/click [www.PDC.TV](http://www.PDC.TV)



2019

# Meet the Players





# SEEDS



**Michael van Gerwen [1]**

"MVG"

NETHERLANDS



World Ranking **1**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Champion x3</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>153</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>108.4</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>43.27</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>100.9</b>	★ WIN % <b>78.07</b>		

Another excellent year for the reigning PDC World Champion. In addition, to the World crown, **MVG** had added another Premier League, World Grand Prix and The Players Championship Finals, to his extensive trophy cabinet. He has however proven vulnerable both in the early rounds and in long, close and tiring games. Both Rob Cross & Gerwyn Price have out matched him, over longer distances, whilst Ross Smith demonstrated it is possible to catch **'The Green Machine'** cold. Despite these chinks in his armour, Michael remains the strong favourite for this years event.



**Rob Cross [2]**

"Voltage"

ENGLAND



World Ranking **2**

HIGHLIGHT <b>2018 World Champion</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>13</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>108.7</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>40.87</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>98</b>	★ WIN % <b>72.29</b>		



**Gerwyn Price [3]**

"IceMan"

WALES




World Ranking **3**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Grand Slam Winner x2</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>10</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>108.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>39.47</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>95.45</b>	★ WIN % <b>65.28</b>		



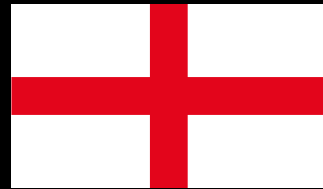
# SEEDS



## Michael Smith [4]

*"Bullyboy"*


ENGLAND



unicorn®

World Ranking **4**

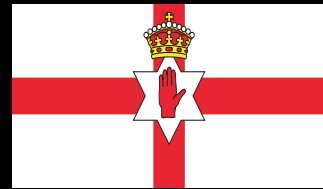
HIGHLIGHT <b>World Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>16</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>104</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>38.1</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>95.85</b>	★ WIN % <b>64.72</b>		



## Daryl Gurney [6]

*"Superchin"*

NORTHERN IRELAND



WINMAU®

World Ranking **6**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Grand Prix Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>10</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>103.5</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>39.41</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>94.97</b>	★ WIN % <b>64.31</b>		



## Gary Anderson [5]

*"Flying Scotsman"*

SCOTLAND



unicorn®

World Ranking **5**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Champion x2</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>72</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>105.7</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>40.21</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>98.01</b>	★ WIN % <b>72</b>		



## Peter Wright [7]

*"Snakebite"*

SCOTLAND



RED DRAGON®

World Ranking **7**

HIGHLIGHT <b>UK Open Champion</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>27</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>108.6</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>40.89</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>97.26</b>	★ WIN % <b>67.27</b>		



# you Betcha

Betting on darts is hardly a new thing. You only have to listen to old commentary to hear about a heckler in crowd having a "few quid" on the outcome. But the rise of online/in-play betting, and the multitude of bet types, has increased the profile of darts gambling.

The popularity of darts, and online betting, has led to large variety of betting options for those who like to have a punt or even an acca. Whether you're a live darts fan, who likes to add spice to an event/session they are attending, or an armchair supporter who wants to try and spot value, in specialty bet, there will be an option for you. **You Betcha!** highlights some of the types of bets available as well as some examples of player odds before the events kicks off.

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Overall Winner	
Michael van Gerwen	<b>5/4</b>
Gerwyn Price	<b>5/1</b>
Rob Cross	<b>12/2</b>
Peter Wright	<b>14/1</b>
Michael Smith	<b>20/1</b>
Gary Anderson	<b>20/1</b>

Qtr 1 - Winner	
Michael van Gerwen	<b>2/5</b>
James Wade	<b>9/1</b>
Ian White	<b>10/1</b>
Gabriel Clemens	<b>18/1</b>
Jonny Clayton	<b>25/1</b>
Stephen Bunting	<b>25/1</b>

Qtr 3 - Winner	
Rob Cross	<b>11/4</b>
Peter Wright	<b>3/1</b>
Dave Chisnall	<b>5/1</b>
Jermaine Wattimena	<b>12/1</b>
Joe Cullen	<b>16/1</b>
Jeffrey de Zwaan	<b>18/1</b>

Most 180's	
Michael van Gerwen	<b>11/8</b>
Gerwyn Price	<b>9/2</b>
Rob Cross	<b>6/1</b>
Peter Wright	<b>7/1</b>
Dave Chisnall	<b>9/1</b>
Gary Anderson	<b>9/1</b>

Qtr 2 - Winner	
Michael Smith	<b>3/1</b>
Gary Anderson	<b>3/1</b>
Nathan Aspinall	<b>11/2</b>
Adrian Lewis	<b>9/1</b>
Krzysztof Ratajski	<b>12/1</b>
Dimitri van den Bergh	<b>14/1</b>

Qtr 4 - Winner	
Gerwyn Price	<b>11/8</b>
Daryl Gurney	<b>7/1</b>
Glen Durrant	<b>8/1</b>
Mensur Suljovic	<b>9/1</b>
Chris Dobey	<b>14/1</b>
Simon Whitlock	<b>18/1</b>


Specials	
First Time Winner	<b>Evens</b>
9 Dart Leg	<b>8/11</b>
Unseeded Winner	<b>14/11</b>

MVG vs The Field	
MVG	<b>5/4</b>
The Field	<b>8/13</b>

\*Odds correct at time of going to press, subject to variation. Please gamble responsibly.




# SEEDS




## James Wade [8]

*"The Machine"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking **8**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Major Champion x7</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>41</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>102.8</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>41.21</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>94.9</b>	★ WIN % <b>69.56</b>		



## Dave Chisnall [10]

*"Chizzy"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking **10**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Lakeside World Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>22</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>104.8</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>38.38</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>96.71</b>	★ WIN % <b>66.65</b>		



## Ian White [9]

*"Diamod White"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking **9**


HIGHLIGHT <b>News of the World Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>17</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>107.7</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>38.25</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>96.39</b>	★ WIN % <b>65.3</b>		




## Mensur Suljovic [11]

*"The Gentle"*

AUSTRIA





World Ranking **11**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Matchplay Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>14</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>104.7</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>40.5</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>95.66</b>	★ WIN % <b>67.35</b>		



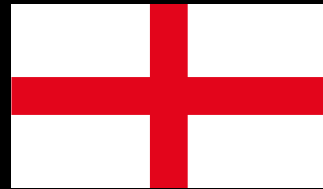
# SEEDS



## Nathan Aspinall [12]

*"The Asp"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking

# 12

HIGHLIGHT <b>UK Open Champ (Current)</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>27</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>101.4</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>39.31</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>94.18</b>	★ WIN % <b>61.58</b>		



## Simon Whitlock [14]

*"The Wizard from Aus"*

AUSTRALIA






World Ranking

# 14


HIGHLIGHT <b>European Champion</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>38</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>100.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>39.6</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>93.87</b>	★ WIN % <b>66.4</b>		




## Adrian Lewis [13]

*"Jackpot"*

ENGLAND






World Ranking

# 13


HIGHLIGHT <b>World Champion x2</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>26</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>102.1</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>38.97</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>95.22</b>	★ WIN % <b>66.67</b>		




## Jonny Clayton [16]

*"The Ferret"*

WALES





World Ranking

# 16

HIGHLIGHT <b>Players Championship Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>5</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>104.6</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>34.9</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>93.79</b>	★ WIN % <b>60.74</b>		





# MEET THE Fans!



The secret ingredient, in the successful recipe that is the PDC World Darts Championship, is not so secret. It's on full public view every day and every session. Over 85,000 fans troop through the doors of the Alexandra Palace every December. Hen nights, stag nights, workplace parties, and many other groups, join more traditional darts fans to experience the unique combination of party atmosphere and sporting drama.

Kyle Picknell recently described a night at the darts like this:

*"You remember the World Cup, don't you? That summer-long hysteria that swept the nation away in a hot, sticky sea of pints, sweat, tears and pints. Well, the darts is a bit like that. Except with more pints"*

If you have ever attended an Ally Pally session, or even caught one on TV, you will struggle to argue with that description. The mix of thousands of everyday people, sporting combat, Christmas spirit and alcohol adds an element to the event that seems very British. The fancy dress tradition, which grows every year, follows a trend from the Edgbaston test match and, has a superb





comic edge. An audience member attended dressed as Jesus, on his return journey from the bar, he was captured on the big screen, within seconds the entire crowd were serenading him with Happy Birthday!

As the event moves into its later stages there are less of the party groups and more of those who follow or play darts. This leads to a more partisan, intense atmosphere with crowd favorites cheered to the rafters and

some getting a less fond reception. Over the years Mervyn King and Gerwyn Price have been on the receiving end of the crowd's displeasure, and yet have come out the other side more fondly regarded. This year may see Gerwyn being a crowd favorite.

Since the event moved to its current home in 2008, the crowd experience and participation level has been enhanced and now resembles a darting day-trip. There is a dedicated fan area, just outside the main arena, with activities and opportunities to

enjoy the day. Legends of the game appear for Q&As / photo's, the trophy is on display and sponsors do their utmost to promote themselves and their wares.

Fans of a night at the darts have changed over the years. National treasures such as Stephen Fry, sporting royalty including Freddie Fintoff and Stephen Gerrard and even actual Royalty, in the person of Prince Harry, have been spotted enjoying their arrows.

Could it be that darts has a truly universal appeal, that is captured perfectly for two weeks every year by the PDC, Sky TV and Alexandra Palace?





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# SEEDS



**Joe Cullen** [15]  
"Rockstar"

unicorn

ENGLAND



World Ranking **15**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Matchplay Semi Finals</b>		TITLES <b>6</b>	
SCORING <b>100.8</b>	FINISHING % <b>37.39</b>		
3DA <b>93.4</b>	WIN % <b>64.89</b>		

The number fifteen seed seems to operate his career on very strong spells separated by periods of almost complete anonymity. 'Rockstar' had a stellar 2018 and looked as if he may kick on again with victory in the European Matchplay in 2019. However, the year was punctuated with quiet spells again. Joe has performed well in most majors without excelling in any. Meanwhile his Pro Tour form is solid but not spectacular. Joe has many of the ingredients to be a star of the modern game and is also easy to like and would be a very good fit for the Premier League. It will take a very big effort for him to get far enough in this event to threaten those already likely to be booked in this years Premier League.



**Stephen Bunting** [17]  
"The Bullet"

TARGET

ENGLAND



World Ranking **17**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Lakside World Champion</b>		TITLES <b>38</b>	
SCORING <b>101.3</b>	FINISHING % <b>37.47</b>		
3DA <b>93.22</b>	WIN % <b>64.89</b>		



**Jermaine Wattinema** [18]  
"The Machine Gun"

BULL'S B  
THE DART SIDE OF LIFE

NETHERLANDS




World Ranking **18**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Cup Semi Finalist</b>		TITLES <b>3</b>	
SCORING <b>102.1</b>	FINISHING % <b>35.84</b>		
3DA <b>92.68</b>	WIN % <b>62.6</b>		



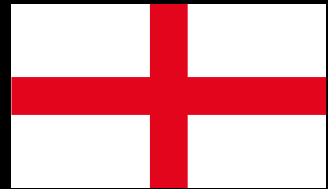
# SEEDS




## Merv King [19]

*"The King"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking **21**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Master</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>43</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>103.4</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>37.5</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>93.52</b>	★ WIN % <b>64.75</b>		



## Krzysztof Ratajski [21]

*"Polish Eagle"*


POLAND





World Ranking **20**


HIGHLIGHT <b>World Master</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>13</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>106.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>35.82</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>95.55</b>	★ WIN % <b>72.14</b>		




## Darren Webster [20]

*"Demolition Man"*


ENGLAND





World Ranking **19**


HIGHLIGHT <b>Pro Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>4</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>98.5</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>35.53</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>92.24</b>	★ WIN % <b>59.46</b>		




## Jeffrey de Zwaan [23]

*"The Black Cobra"*

NETHERLANDS





World Ranking **23**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Matchplay Semi Finals</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>13</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>105.7</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>36.36</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>94.38</b>	★ WIN % <b>64.88</b>		



# SEEDS



**Chris Dobey** [22]  
"Hollywood"

unicorn®

ENGLAND



World Ranking **22**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Major Semi Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>1</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>102.8</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>38.55</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>93.46</b>	★ WIN % <b>59.12</b>		

2019 has been a fantastic year for 'Hollywood'. After a superb run in last years World Championship he was given one of the Contender spots in the Prmeier League. Chris's form seemed to dip for a while after that experience but is coming through strong toward the end of the 2019 season. Three times,in the last few months, Chris has gone on superb runs through major events. He reached the semi-final of both the World Grand Prix and The Players Championship in between the two he managed to gain a quarter final place in the Grand Slam of Darts. It is often forgotten that Chris has been sponsored and supported, in his career, by Gary Anderson. Gary also took a while to convert huge potential into titles and majors. Still under thirty, but with ever growing experience, a sharp eye should be kept out for this rising star



**Max Hopp** [24]  
"Maximiser"

BULL'S B  
THE DART SIDE OF LIFE

GERMANY



World Ranking **24**

HIGHLIGHT <b>European Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>7</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>102.5</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>35.71</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>91.85</b>	★ WIN % <b>61.46</b>		



**Steve Beaton** [25]  
"The Bronzed Adonis"

WINMAU®

ENGLAND



World Ranking **25**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Lakeside World Champion</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>35</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>102.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>35.31</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>93.3</b>	★ WIN % <b>61.98</b>		





# WE ARE *'The Champions*

World Champions are special. Regardless of sport, code or status, those who claim a World title always stand out from the crowd. Steel tip darts has two sets of World Champions. From 1976-93 there were simply World Champions. Following the formation of the PDC (originally the WDC) from 1994 there were Lakeside (BDO) Champions and PDC World Professional Darts Champions.





NAME	WORLD TITLES
Raymond Van Barneveld	BDO x 4 PDC x 1
MVG	PDC x 3
Glen Durrant	BDO x 3
Gary Anderson	PDC x 2
Adrian Lewis	PDC x 2
Rob Cross	PDC x 1
Stephen Bunting	BDO x 1
Steve Beaton	BDO x 1
Jelle Klaasen	BDO (W) x 1
Mikuru Suzuki	Soft Tip x 2
Paul Lim	Soft Tip x 1
Lourance Ilagan	PDC Youth x 1
Aaron Monk	PDC Youth x 1
Max Hopp	PDC Youth x 1
Keegan Brown	PDC Youth x 1
Dimitri van den Burgh	PDC Youth x 1

**To date, twenty-nine players** have lifted either of the overall titles, but only eight have lifted the PDC crown. A glance down the list reveals that these are not normal players! No player has won a senior world title without claiming other titles and reaching the top of the ranking tables. Many have won multiple titles and some have utterly dominated the game for long periods of time.

The growth of the sport, and its inclusive nature, mean that there are also

World Champions from other darting arenas. The soft tip game, for example, has produced many fine players and its codes/organisations hold their own World Championships. The ladies' game has held World Championships for nearly forty years and has produced legendary players such as Trina Gulliver, Maureen Flowers and Linda Duffy (ne Batton). The current holder of the title, Japan's Mikuru Suzuki, will make her debut at Ally Pally this year.


The 2020 PDC World Championship will

feature at least fifteen players who can lay claim to World Championships. Many of them can or will be able to claim multiple titles in multiple formats. To date, only John Part can claim World Champion status in the BDO, PDC and Soft Tip formats.

Could Paul Lim add another leg of the treble? Or will Glen Durrant become the latest cross code champion? Whoever claims the 2020 crown will have triumphed in a field containing more darting world champions than ever before.




# SEEDS




## Keegan Brown [26]

*"The Needle"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking 26

HIGHLIGHT <b>Pro Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>6</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>101.3</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>36.54</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>92.45</b>	★ WIN % <b>60.76</b>		



## Glen Durrant [27]

*"Duzza"*

ENGLAND






World Ranking 27

HIGHLIGHT <b>Lakeside Champion x3</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>48</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>106</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>40.25</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>96.48</b>	★ WIN % <b>73.71</b>		


The reigning, and three time, Lakeside Champion is likely to be a major focus of this year's PDC event. Glen's decision to leave the BDO, and test himself against the very best, has proven very successful so far. He has won events on the Pro Tour and reached the later stages of European Tour competitions. At the major level he has reached the Semi-Finals of three of the biggest. The World Matchplay, The World Grand Prix and the Grand Slam of Darts represent three of the most varied and difficult events in the calendar, to reach the semi finals of all three would be a bumper year for any player. The fact that Durrant was unseeded and often debuting makes his 2019 even more remarkable. One additional factor is that he has now moved into the top 32. Could the Lakeside Champion be more of a target and less of a hunter from now on?




## Steve West [28]

*"Simply"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking 30

HIGHLIGHT <b>Major Qtr Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>7</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>102.5</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>36.85</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>91.75</b>	★ WIN % <b>58.13</b>		



# SEEDS



**Dimitri van den Burgh** [29]  
*"The Dream Maker"*  
**unicorn**

BELGIUM



World Ranking **28**

HIGHLIGHT **World Youth Champion**

TITLES **15**

SCORING **102.1**

FINISHING % **37.44**

3DA **93.87**

WIN % **64.74**



**Danny Noppert** [31]  
*"Noppie"*  
**WINMAU**

NETHERLANDS



World Ranking **31**

HIGHLIGHT **Lakeside Finalist**

TITLES **6**

SCORING **102.9**

FINISHING % **34.92**

3DA **93.35**

WIN % **66.59**



**John Henderson** [30]  
*"Hendo"*  
**RED DRAGON**

SCOTLAND



World Ranking **29**

HIGHLIGHT **Grand Prix Semi Finalist**

TITLES **8**

SCORING **101.7**

FINISHING % **38.01**

3DA **92.52**

WIN % **60.86**



**Ricky Evans** [32]  
*"Rapid"*  
**TARGET**

ENGLAND



World Ranking **32**

HIGHLIGHT **European Tour Finalist**

TITLES **4**

SCORING **99.2**

FINISHING % **38.11**

3DA **92.54**

WIN % **57.97**





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Practice darts smarter from now on!



Warning! The games on GoDartsPro can be highly addictive  
and can give you fame and success. Practice on own risk.



# Ladies Night



**Fallon Sherrock**

ENGLAND

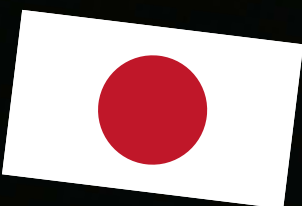


MAJORS	1
HIGHEST 3DA	99.1
180s	2.6%



**Mikuru Suzuki**  
"Miracle"

JAPAN



MAJORS	1
HIGHEST 3DA	90.12
180s	2.0%

For the 2019 World Championship the PDC innovated once more. A direct route for female players to play in the championships was introduced for the first time. Lisa Ashton and Anastasia were the qualifiers, from very high-quality field, and both played strongly in the main event. This year the route has been extended to include a UK and a Rest of the World style qualifying event.


Mikuru Suzuki, 37, will debut at Ally Pally after capturing the Lakeside title in 2019. She is familiar with the PDC set up, and atmosphere, after being selected by the BDO for this year's Grand Slam of Darts. The Japanese star made things deciding decidedly uncomfortable for Gerwyn Price in her opening match. Despite not qualifying for the knockout stage she will have gained valuable experience, and having little to lose, and could be very dangerous indeed.

Fallon Sherrock has been somewhat overshadowed in recent years. The former World Championship finalist, and twice major title winner, has outmatched by Lisa Ashton and now Suzuki. The twenty-five-year old hairdresser has, however, had a superb 2019, winning several titles all around Europe. She then playing superbly in the ladies qualifying event averaging close to 100. Her debut at Alexandra Palace will introduce her to a whole new audience and may prove another boost to her career.

The form and ability of the female representatives is getting stronger and stronger. It may not be long until darts becomes a fully integrated sport.



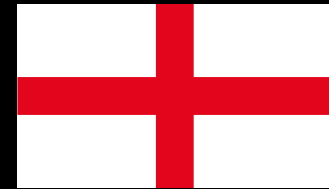
# PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS




## Jamie Hughes

*"Yozza"*

ENGLAND






World Ranking **56**


HIGHLIGHT <b>European Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>18</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>103.8</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>32.81</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>94.11</b>	★ WIN % <b>64.71</b>		


Yozza's win at the Czech Open marked a major turning point in his PDC career. 2018 had proven a steady year, as Hughes adjusted to his new surroundings. As a Finder Masters champion and former World Masters finalist his improvement in 2019 should come as a surprise to no-one. The West Midlands thrower seems to make progress in sudden spells and then settle into each new level. Hughes's experience could prove very useful, he has twice reached the Lakeside semi finals and was unlucky enough to be in the wrong side of the draw both times! Jamie has an unusual throwing style, he throws from the very front of the dart, and generates a great deal of power. Drawn against the Austrian qualifier Zoran Lerchbacher, in his first game, means he cannot coast early on but will be accustomed to the stage should he get through. A very dangerous loose cannon in this years draw.



## José de Sousa

PORTUGAL





World Ranking **66**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Pro Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>5</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>104.4</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>32.75</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>93.99</b>	★ WIN % <b>67.17</b>		



## Vincent van der Voort

*"Dutch Destroyer"*

NETHERLANDS






World Ranking **33**

HIGHLIGHT <b>UK Open Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>17</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>101.6</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>36.79</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>92.38</b>	★ WIN % <b>55</b>		



# PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS




## Brendan Dolan

*"The History Maker"*


N. IRELAND





World Ranking **36**

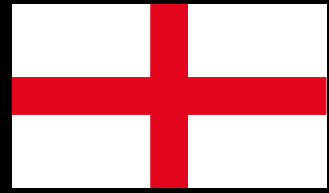
HIGHLIGHT <b>Grand Prix 9 Darter and Final</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>7</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>102.3</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>36.55</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>92.17</b>	★ WIN % <b>59.62</b>		




## Justin Pipe

*"The Force"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking **45**

HIGHLIGHT <b>European Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>6</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>101</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>34.38</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>91.68</b>	★ WIN % <b>61.89</b>		



## Gabriel Clemens

*"German Giant"*

GERMANY





World Ranking **48**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Masters Semi Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>1</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>104</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>39.55</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>93.47</b>	★ WIN % <b>63.77</b>		



## William O'Connor

*"The Magpie"*

IRELAND





World Ranking **41**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Pro Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>4</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>100.9</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>37.57</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>92.51</b>	★ WIN % <b>52.33</b>		



# PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



**Ron Meulenkamp**

"The Bomb"

BELGIUM



World Ranking **49**

HIGHLIGHT **Pro and Euro Tour Semi Finalist** TITLES **3**

SCORING **101.3**

FINISHING % **35.54**

3DA **91.54**

WIN % **54.19**



**Harry Ward**

"Big H"

ENGLAND



**unicorn**

World Ranking **77**

HIGHLIGHT **Pro Tour Winner** TITLES **1**

SCORING **97.6**

FINISHING % **32.26**

3DA **88.47**

WIN % **59.33**



**Ross Smith**

"Smudger"

ENGLAND



World Ranking **52**

HIGHLIGHT **Lakeside Qtr Finalist** TITLES **8**

SCORING **101.7**

FINISHING % **37.33**

3DA **92.77**

WIN % **52**

Not many 22 year old players win an automatic tour card on the first day of the PDC Q School. Burton on Trent's Harry Ward is an exception to many rules. **Big H** has had a superb year and could prove a handful for any unsuspecting opponent. Ward qualified for the UK Open and The Players Championships at the first time of asking, as a tour card holder, and capped it off by qualifying for his World Championship debut. On the pro tour he had a sensational event win in a Barnsley Players Championship. As a result he he is racing up the PDC rankings and has his sights set even higher. Harry is part of the successful MDA management group. Stablemates including Daryl Gurney may well assure that he is well prepared. All those who have encountered this well balanced and genuine young man will wish him every success.



# THE ICE MAN COMETH

If you're a darts fan or just a twitter devotee, you may believe that a thirty-four-year-old Welshman is the devil in a dart shirt. However, if you know anything of the history of sport you may see a character familiar to the development of most highly popular professional games. That of the marmite competitor or perhaps pantomime villain?

Six years ago, Gerwyn Price was a Rugby player coming toward the end of an up and down career that had many highlights but had not quite reached the elite levels he may have wished. However, he had discovered a talent for darts and determined that he would make it in a second professional game. By 2014 he had gained a professional tour card, at his first attempt, at PDC Qualifying School.

Price's first year on the tour resulted in moderate success, reaching semifinals of Pro Tour events and qualifying for several European Tours. Reaching that year's World Championships, at the first time

of asking, was another landmark. During this time many, including the author, noted the impressive way Gezzy had adapted to pro darts, and how he did not seem to be bound by previous conventions, we put this down to the professional attitude, and strong mentality, that he had developed playing a physically dangerous sport that involved serious risk if not properly respected.

Now known as "The Ice Man" Price was starting to provoke grumblings. "Too aggressive", "Over the Top", "Bolshie" and other slightly surprising remarks were





heard around venues. Many viewed this as a positive. Shaking up the status quo, not letting established stars intimidate you, trying to get the game onto your terms and other such counter remarks were offered by some.

2016 marked a real gear change for “The Ice Man” (even the choice of nickname was not without controversy!). Gerwyn claimed two Pro Tour titles and reached the later stages of European Tour events. He also made good progress at The World Matchplay, European Championship and Players Championship Finals. More bridges were to be crossed the next season.

Price reached the final of the 2017 UK Open, including a superb comeback and 160 outshot to defeat Ian White, and lead Wales to the Final of the World Cup of Darts. A combination of these successes and his strong image, as a battler with a totally different style of play, gained him a place in the 2018 Premier League.

This was a remarkable story, a player with no experience whatsoever goes from unknown to the Premier League in four years! It is also highly unlikely Price would have gotten as far or been selected, for the PDC’s premium showcase, had he have been a run-of-the-mill character. Other players have had superb spells of

form and achieved similar results to Price. None of them had the back story or the onstage attitude of the fighting Welshman. These last two qualities propelled him from outside the top ten into the Premier League. In short, the PDC had a strong hand in making, and encouraging, Price.

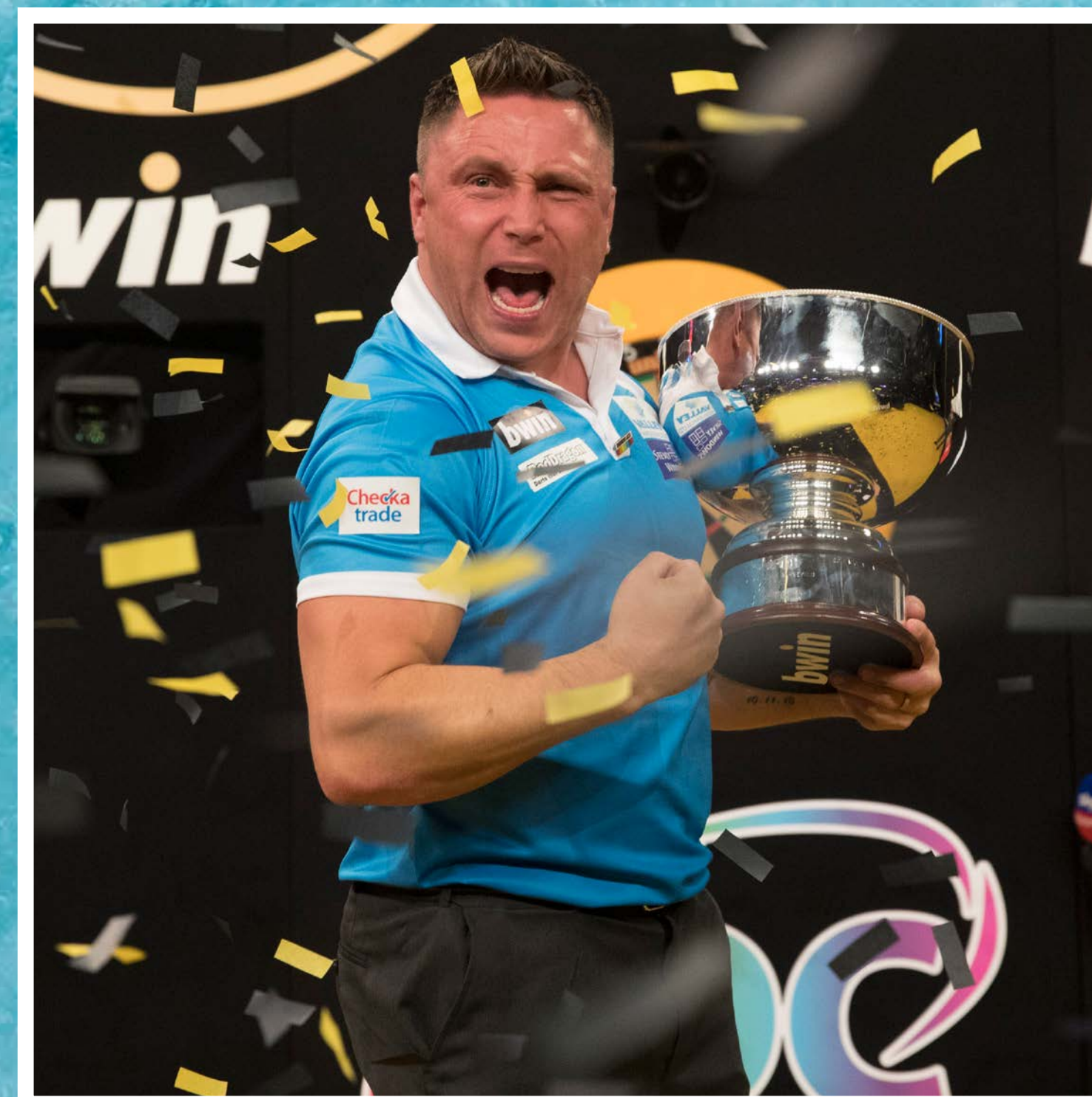
The Premier League is hugely demanding and requires yet another stage of adjustment. It may well have been a bridge too far. In reaction to this, Price made a few poor choices. Social media proved to be a pitfall, not exactly unusual, as comments made in frustration and disappointment caused a fan backlash and sanctions from the games disciplinary body. Safe to say the Premier League had not gone well for ‘Iceman’.

Showing huge mental strength, perhaps learned through rugby, Price finished the main tour season like a train. He claimed victory in the European Open as well as reaching the Qtr-Finals of both

the World Grand Prix & The European Championship. His form was superb and his competitive juices seemed seriously fired up. These factors, both positive and negative, all came to a head in the 2018 Grand Slam of Darts!

Price started the event playing well, but clearly keyed up, possibly in reaction to the Premier, or just another illustration of Price’s highly developed desire to win. Playing a sport in which physical harm is a daily risk gives a different perspective to ‘throwing sharp things at a round thing’.

By the Qtr-final stage matters were coming to the boil. In a tough encounter, with Simon Whitlock, Price was cautioned by the referee. It appeared to be for ‘over celebrating’ and or failure to keep within the designated playing bounds. A superb and dramatic match finished was settled by a deciding leg and, a hot under the collar, Iceman continued on. A relatively straight forward win over Mensur Suljovic





saw Price reach his first major final. Normally, this would be a completely positive story, but the encounter with Whitlock had seen the Wolverhampton crowd turn against Price, adding fuel to an already smoldering fire.

The long and short of the 2018 Grand Slam final is that Price won, from well behind, Gary was upset, the crowd booed and the PDC reacted by fining him most of his winnings as well as issuing various statements and warnings.

In years to come however, the trophy will simply read 2018 – Gerwyn Price. He appealed the judgements, the fines were substantially reduced, and simply continued on. That years' World Championship proved tough, with the crowd being especially ruthless. Yet, the PDC decided to include him in the 2019 Premier League, you do the math?

Price's response to this chain of events



has been exemplary and very impressive. He put up a far stronger showing in the Premier League whilst kicking his Pro Tour up another gear. He is now one of a select band to claim back to back events on what is an incredibly high-quality tour. His consistency improved, during the middle season, before he again seeming to hit the accelerator near year's end.

During September he put together a superb run to claim another European Tour title, before claiming a third Pro Tour title for 2019. Price then excelled at the European Championship. He reached another final and was looking even

better than twelve months previous.

The circle of sport was completed with Price returning to Wolverhampton as the reigning Grand Slam of Darts champion. Determined to show he was not a fluke, or had only won due to underhand tactics, he blasted through the event to reach the

semi-final stage, defeating Anderson along the way, and an encounter with MVG.

Despite all his improvement Price had yet to beat the game's standard bearer, and world number one, in seventeen attempts. If Price was to again progress, he would have to get over this (psychological?) block. Get over it was exactly what Price did. Not some nervy last gasp win, but a sixteen – twelve decisive victory.

All that was left was to win the title and win over the crowd. Gezzy, obliged with a demolition of Peter Wright in the final. The presentation could not have been different to 2018. The back to back champion was joined on stage by his family and cheered by thousands.

Price swiftly followed up with a final spot at The Players Championship finals soon after, this time losing out, to Micheal van Gerwen, in a nail-biter that deserved a final leg. His results in the last few months have elevated him to No.3 in the World and second favorite in for this year's William Hill, PDC World Darts Championships.

Bearing in mind that no Grand Slam Champion has failed to win a World Championship, perhaps all of us should keep an eye out.

**The Iceman Cometh!**



# PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



**Kyle Anderson**  
"The Original"

AUSTRALIA



unicorn®

World Ranking **38**

HIGHLIGHT **Major Semi Finalist**

TROPHY TITLES **13**

🎯 SCORING **102.5**

🏁 FINISHING % **37.32**

🔪 3DA **93.53**

★ WIN % **63.32**



**Ted Evetts**  
"Super Ted"

ENGLAND



unicorn®

World Ranking **78**

HIGHLIGHT **Challenge Tour Winner**

TROPHY TITLES **16**

🎯 SCORING **100.3**

🏁 FINISHING % **37.26**

🔪 3DA **92.66**

★ WIN % **64.82**



**Kim Huybrechts**  
"Hurricane"

BELGIUM



unicorn®

World Ranking **40**

HIGHLIGHT **Major Finalist & TV 9 Darter**

TROPHY TITLES **6**

🎯 SCORING **102**

🏁 FINISHING % **39.6**

🔪 3DA **94.27**

★ WIN % **63.36**



**Andy Boulton**  
"X Factor"

ENGLAND



World Ranking **82**

HIGHLIGHT **Lakeside Last 16**

TROPHY TITLES **4**

🎯 SCORING **100.2**

🏁 FINISHING % **32.74**

🔪 3DA **91.2**

★ WIN % **61.43**



# PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



**Raymond van Barneveld**  
"Barney"



NETHERLANDS



World Ranking **39**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Champion x5</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>82</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>99.9</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>40.97</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>96.06</b>	★ WIN % <b>69.14</b>		

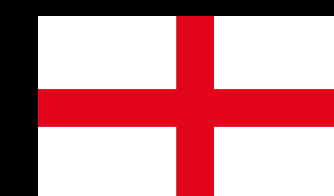
2019 has been a topsy turvey year for the Dutch maestro. After announcing he was to retire, at the end of the year, **Barney** seemed to hit a slump. His form reached such a low, after a terrible performance in Rotterdam, that he decided to quit early. He reversed that decision and has slowly but surely returned to a very high standard. Indeed he could be classed among the top ten on current form. RVB's career has been a story a tremendous highs and some periods of mediocrity. He often seemed to slump in confidence and even appear disinterested. Yet, at his best Barney has contributed more to the game than almost any other player and is always listed in those top 5 lists. The 2020 event will be Barney's last hurrah and who knows whether the occasion will be an inspiration to him, or just to emotional, we shall have to see.



**Ryan Joyce**  
"Relentless"



ENGLAND



World Ranking **42**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Championship Qtr Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>3</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>92.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>38.19</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>91.53</b>	★ WIN % <b>60.27</b>		



**Luke Humphries**  
"Cool Hand"



ENGLAND



World Ranking **47**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Championship Qtr Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>15</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>101.6</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>38.11</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>91.98</b>	★ WIN % <b>69.09</b>		



# PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



**Darius Labanauskas**  
"Lucky D"



LITHUANIA



World Ranking **85**

HIGHLIGHT **Lakeside Qtr Finalist**

TITLES **29**

SCORING **99.9**

FINISHING % **30.95**

3DA **90.58**

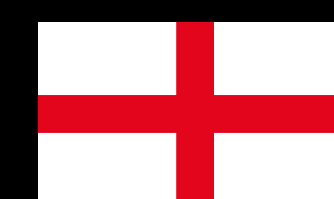
WIN % **63.88**



**Arron Monk**  
"Mad Monk"



ENGLAND



World Ranking **74**

HIGHLIGHT **World Youth Champion (2011)**

TITLES **10**

SCORING **98.2**

FINISHING % **39.69**

3DA **90.62**

WIN % **55.09**



**Ryan Searle**  
"Heavy Metal"



ENGLAND



World Ranking **54**

HIGHLIGHT **World Championship Last 16**

TITLES **2**

SCORING **100.8**

FINISHING % **39.44**

3DA **91.76**

WIN % **59.73**



**Mark McGeeney**  
"The Gladiator"



ENGLAND



World Ranking **86**

HIGHLIGHT **Lakeside World Finalist**

TITLES **19**

SCORING **100.6**

FINISHING % **33.9**

3DA **91.42**

WIN % **63.75**



**Attention North American PDC Fans**

**World Championship Starts Friday December 13th**



**SATURDAY** (Afternoon Session)

 **Mark McGeeney** vs **Matt Campbell**   
 **Raymond Van Barneveld** vs **Darin Young** 



**SUNDAY** (Afternoon Session)

 **Andy Boulton** vs **Danny Baggish** 

**Afternoon Sessions Start at 2pm EST**



**- LEARN HOW -**

**Watch Afternoon Sessions on Dec 14-15 for FREE!**



# Super 8s

Our **Super 8's** section really sorts out the big hitters from the merely excellent. The last 8 stage in any sporting event is always a big sorting point. The same is true of these indicators.

We have put together 8 stats that will help you spot whether a player: looks like challenging for the title, is exciting to watch, could be worth a bet or may be rising fast.

Check out who tops the charts, who appears in most tables and are there any surprise names in the higher reaches of one stat. Could a player have a weakness or is one specific strength keeping them in with a shout.

The **Super 8's** can illustrate all this and more.

## 1st 9

1	Michael van Gerwen, N'lands	110.8
2	Gary Anderson, Scotland	109.1
3	Ian White, England	107.3
4	Rob Cross, England	106.8
5	Mensur Suljović, Austria	106.4
6	Krzysztof Ratajski, Poland	105
7	Peter Wright, Scotland	104.7
8	Michael Smith, England	104.6

## 180%

1	Kyle Anderson, Australia	6.7
2	Steve West, England	6.6
3	Jeffrey D Zwaan, Netherlands	6.5
4	James Wilson, England	6.5
5	Dave Chisnall, England	6.4
6	Adrian Lewis, England	6.2
7	Steve Bunting, England	6.1
8	Gary Anderson, Scotland	6

## 2019 Ranking Events

1	Michael van Gerwen, N'lands	£449,000
2	Gerwyn Price, Wales	£412,250
3	Rob Cross, England	£409,250
4	Glen Durrant, England	£316,500
5	Peter Wright, Scotland	£234,250
6	Dave Chisnall, England	£231,250
7	Michael Smith, England	£229,288
8	Ian White, England	£227,750

## 2019 Ranking Win%

1	Michael van Gerwen, N'lands	83.33%
2	Gerwyn Price, Wales	77.07%
3	James Wade, England	73.39%
4	Krzysztof Ratajski, Poland	71.88%
5	Glen Durrant, England	71.74%
6	Ian White, England	70.91%
7	Rob Cross, England	70.48%
8	Peter Wright, Scotland	70.27%



**2019 Checkout %**

<b>1</b>	<b>Ron Meulenkamp</b> , Belgium	45.76%
<b>2</b>	<b>Ryan Searle</b> , England	44.07%
<b>3</b>	<b>Gerwyn Price</b> , Wales	43.26%
<b>4</b>	<b>James Wade</b> , England	42.95%
<b>5</b>	<b>Gabriel Clemens</b> , Germany	42.80%
<b>6</b>	<b>Simon Whitlock</b> , Australia	42.14%
<b>7</b>	<b>Michael van Gerwen</b> , N'lands	41.77%
<b>8</b>	<b>Rowby-John Rodriguez</b> , Austria	41.75%

**Overall Checkout %**

<b>1</b>	<b>Chris Dobey</b> , England	45.61%
<b>2</b>	<b>Jan Dekker</b> , Netherlands	45.56%
<b>3</b>	<b>Rob Cross</b> , England	45.39%
<b>4</b>	<b>Luke Humphries</b> , England	45.24%
<b>5</b>	<b>Per Laursen</b> , Denmark	45.07%
<b>6</b>	<b>Colin Osbourne</b> , England	44.44%
<b>7</b>	<b>Cristo Reyes</b> , Spain	43.93%
<b>8</b>	<b>James Wade</b> , England	42.91%

**2019 TV Win %**

<b>1</b>	<b>Michael van Gerwen</b> , N'lands	83.08%
<b>2</b>	<b>Dave Chisnall</b> , England	69.23%
<b>3</b>	<b>Gerwyn Price</b> , Wales	68.89%
<b>4</b>	<b>Gabriel Clemens</b> , Germany	66.67%
<b>5</b>	<b>Rob Cross</b> , England	65.57%
<b>6</b>	<b>Nathan Aspinall</b> , England	65.22%
<b>7</b>	<b>Glen Durrant</b> , England	61.90%
<b>8</b>	<b>Mervyn King</b> , England	61.54%

**World Championship Win % (Last 5 Years)**

<b>1</b>	<b>Gary Anderson</b> , Scotland	88.89%
<b>2</b>	<b>Michael van Gerwen</b> , N'lands	88.00%
<b>3</b>	<b>Phil Taylor</b> , England	78.95%
<b>4</b>	<b>Raymond van Barneveld</b> , N'lands	75.00%
<b>5</b>	<b>Michael Smith</b> , England	72.22%
<b>6</b>	<b>Adrian Lewis</b> , England	68.75%
<b>7</b>	<b>Peter Wright</b> , Scotland	68.75%
<b>8</b>	<b>Vincent van der Voort</b> , N'lands	xx.xx%





# PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



**Ritchie Edhouse**  
"Madhouse"



ENGLAND



World Ranking **87**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Challege Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>3</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>98</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>32.8</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>89.94</b>	★ WIN % <b>51.01</b>		



**Josh Payne**  
"Maximum"



ENGLAND



World Ranking **46**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Pro Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>8</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>99.1</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>34.39</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>91.53</b>	★ WIN % <b>61.77</b>		

The twenty-five year old Payne could be described as the template for the new generation of dart player. Gone are the days of beer bellies and poor conditioning. Josh's first PDC appearance was as a sixteen-year-old in 2010. He played in the very first World youth Championship and then joined the development tour in 2012. 'The Maximum' had some superb highlights already. His first PDC title was a challenge tour victory his run to the Qtr finals of this years UK Open was perhaps the highlight of his senior career, but his two players championship wins must be counted as huge achievements for a developing player. The word development is the key. Josh is guided by, former World Champion, Dr Linda Duffy and they seem to have put each block in place before moving on to the next. Josh looks set for a long and successful career in professional darts, it will be interesting to see how far he can go this year.



**Cristo Reyes**  
"The Spartan"



SPAIN




World Ranking **43**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Championship Last 16</b>		🏆 TITLES	
🎯 SCORING <b>100.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>38.01</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>91.81</b>	★ WIN % <b>58.49</b>		




# PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS




## James Richardson

*"Ruthless"*


ENGLAND





World Ranking **62**

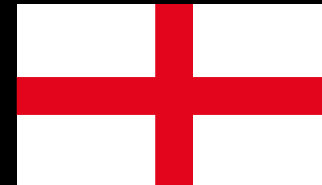
HIGHLIGHT <b>Pro Tour Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>2</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>97.9</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>34.42</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>90.22</b>	★ WIN % <b>49.37</b>		




## James Wilson

*"Jammie Dodger"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking **35**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Trophy Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>11</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>100</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>39.68</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>92.4</b>	★ WIN % <b>58.14</b>		



## Jelle Klaasen

*"The Cobra"*


NETHERLANDS





World Ranking **44**


HIGHLIGHT <b>Lakeside Champion</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>6</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>101</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>36.38</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>92.18</b>	★ WIN % <b>60.27</b>		




## Luke Woodhouse

*"Woody"*

ENGLAND





World Ranking **71**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Challenge Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>2</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>98.9</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>32.64</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>90.41</b>	★ WIN % <b>52.34</b>		



# PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS



## Steve Lennon

*"The Shamrock"*

IRELAND





World Ranking **37**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Cup Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>3</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>103.7</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>33.92</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>93.11</b>	★ WIN % <b>61.46</b>		



## Ryan Meikle

*"The Barber"*


ENGLAND



GENERIC

World Ranking **76**


HIGHLIGHT <b>Development Tour Last 16</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>6</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>98.7</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>36.02</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>88.6</b>	★ WIN % <b>59.25</b>		




## Rowby-John Rodriguez

*"Little John"*

AUSTRIA





World Ranking **92**

HIGHLIGHT <b>World Cup Qtr Finalist</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>7</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>98.3</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>33.64</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>90.2</b>	★ WIN % <b>62.33</b>		



## Mickey Mansell

*"Cyclone"*

N. IRELAND





World Ranking **61**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Pro Tour Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>5</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>98.1</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>34.68</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>89.94</b>	★ WIN % <b>53.19</b>		





# 9 Darters

## PALACE PERFECTION

In any sport there are moments of perfection, think Torvil & Dean or Nadia Comaneci, darts is no exception. Over the years improving standards, combined with near perfect playing conditions, have ensured that 9 darts legs are hit with increasing regularity. Yet, hitting one on the biggest possible stage, on live TV, under the greatest of pressure is still very rare indeed. Think Cliff Thorburn at The Crucible.



## Breaking the Duck

No player had managed the perfect leg in the PDC World Championship since its beginnings in 1994. By 2010 it seemed that the incentive of a place in the history books was weighing heavily on players' shoulders. Barney had other ideas. The setting was a Qtr final vs his countryman Jelle Klaasen. RVB went the traditional route (180,180, T20, T19, D12) and appeared as relaxed as he might in a local exhibition.

## Lightning Strikes Twice

To prove it was no fluke Barney repeated the trick in 2011. In fact, the only difference from the 2010 version, were his darts, he had switched to a golden set up, and his reactions. In scenes reminiscent of his 2007 World Championship win, Barney was as delighted, and emotional, as many could remember seeing him.

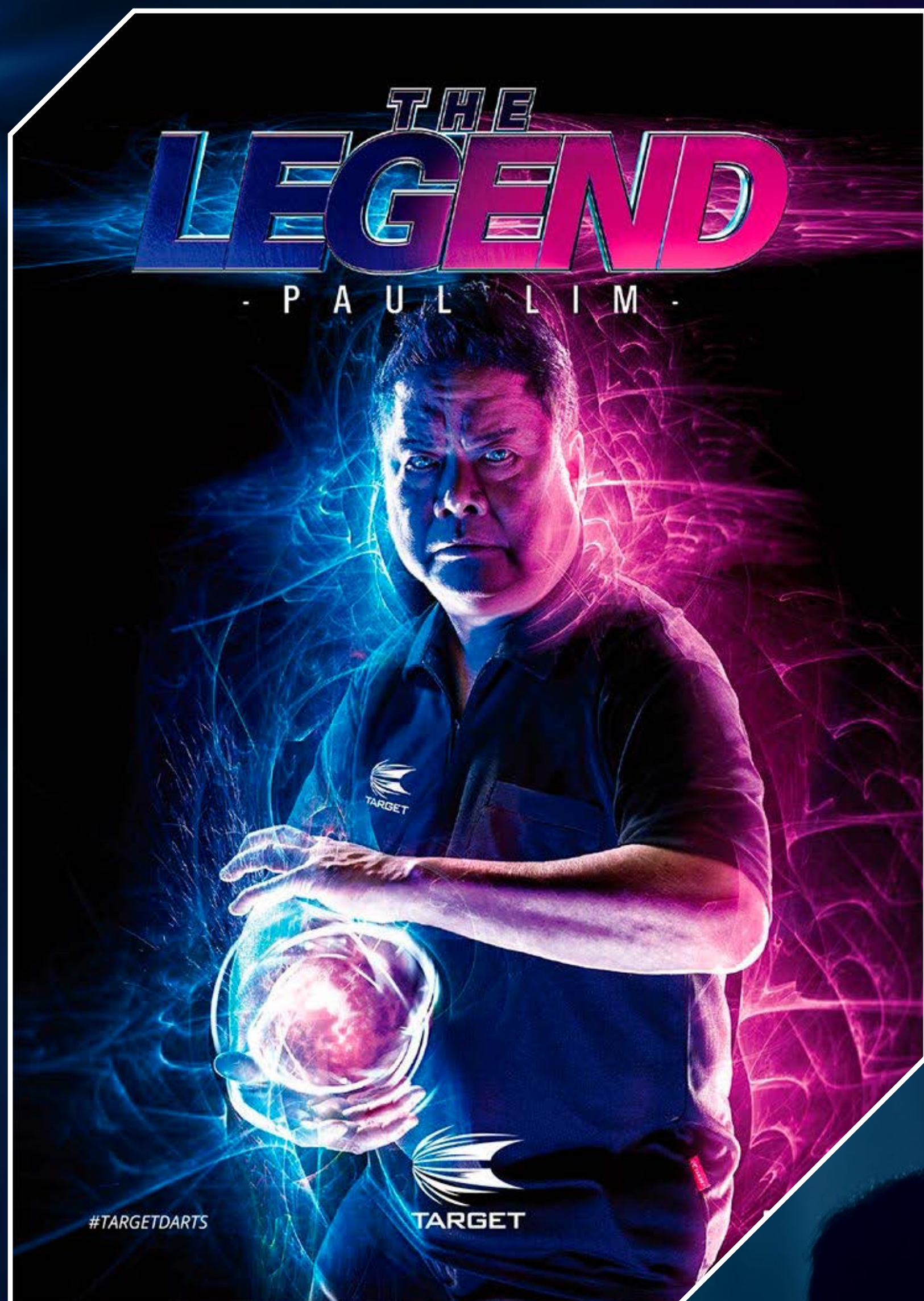


## The Final Countdown

Perhaps the most remarkable of the perfect legs seen at The Alexandra Palace was struck in 2011. To mark the third consecutive year, that at least one perfect leg was thrown, Adrian Lewis became the first to hit one in the final. Incredibly 'Jackpot' hit it in only the third leg! Another of the popular 180 x 2 and 141(T20, T19, D12) route. The nonchalance with which Lewis accepted the crowd's applause showed a player, at the very peak of his powers, for whom it was simply a matter of time.







## The Founder of the Feast

No discussion of World Championship 9 darters would be complete without 'The Legend' that is Paul Lim. Paul bridges the two golden eras of professional darts and is still going. In 1990 he hit a superb 9 dart leg vs Ireland's Jack McKenna. Although it was hit at Lakeside there was only one world championship at that time and the feat had never been completed before. Only two years ago Lim threatened to repeat the feat almost thirty years later. After 8 perfect darts, and at the age of 63, Lim narrowly missed the double twelve. Perhaps he will get another chance at that unique fairytale during this year's event?

## All the Right Darts, Not necessarily in the Right Order?

In the same 2013 tournament Micheal van Gerwen added his name to the roll of honour. In his semi-final, against James Wade, MVG became the first to hit 9 perfect darts but not going the conventional order. He still hit 7 Treble 20s, treble 19 and double 12, but hit the T19 on his second turn in order to leave 144.

## Winstanley goes wild


After a barren year, in 2012, darting perfection returned with a bang in 2013. 'Over the Top', as Dean Winstanley is known, certainly lived up to his nickname. Dean found a superb sequence of darts hitting six treble 20s without going near a wire. After completing the 141, in the usual way, he was overcome with a spirit of Pat Cash. Winstanley, like the Australian tennis champion, sprinted out of shot and, reacted with an unrestrained joy that endeared him to all watching.

## Perfection, repetition and despair

In 2014 both Kyle Anderson and Terry Jenkins hit 9 darters. Both players lost the match. 2015 featured a repeat performance from Adrian Lewis. Jackpot joined Barney in the club of multiple 9 dart hitters at the World Championships. The most recent 9 example of palace perfection was Gary Anderson, the Scotsman hit his perfect leg, in 2016, vs Jelle Klaasen. Klaasen became the first to have two thrown against him!



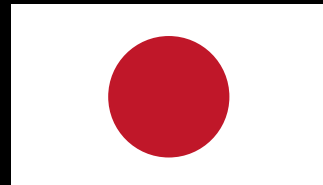
# GLOBAL EVENT QUALIFIERS




## Seigo Asada

*"The Ninja"*

JAPAN





World Ranking **A2**

HIGHLIGHT <b>PDJ Japanese Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>9</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>97.4</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>35.1</b>		
🔱 3DA <b>85.77</b>	★ WIN % <b>61.11</b>		



## Keane Barry


*"Dynamite"*

IRELAND







HIGHLIGHT <b>Irish Matchplay Champion</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>6</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>98.9</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>46.8</b>		
🔱 3DA <b>89.73</b>	★ WIN % <b>68.89</b>		




## Danny Baggish

USA






HIGHLIGHT <b>North American Champion</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>4</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>103.8</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>47.2</b>		
🔱 3DA <b>94.13</b>	★ WIN % <b>77</b>		




## Kevin Burness

*"Ironman"*

IRELAND






World Ranking **84**

HIGHLIGHT <b>PDC Tour Card Holders Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>2</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>91.6</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>35.59</b>		
🔱 3DA <b>84.02</b>	★ WIN % <b>50.91</b>		




# GLOBAL EVENT QUALIFIERS




## Matt Campbell

CANADA



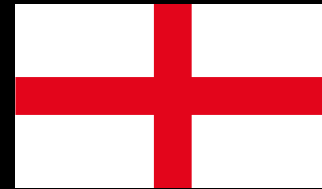
HIGHLIGHT <b>Highest Ranked Canadian</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>1</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>95.5</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>50.3</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>86.27</b>	★ WIN % <b>63</b>		



## Matthew Edgar

*"Primetime"*

ENGLAND



World Ranking **67**

HIGHLIGHT <b>PDC Tour Card Holders Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>5</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>96.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>35.96</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>89.78</b>	★ WIN % <b>52.65</b>		



## Jan Dekker

*"Double Dekker"*


NETHERLANDS





World Ranking **57**


HIGHLIGHT <b>West Europe Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>18</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>95.5</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>44.44</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>90.18</b>	★ WIN % <b>60.15</b>		



## Damon Heta

*"The Heat"*

AUSTRALIA



HIGHLIGHT <b>1st Australia Tour</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>6</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>97.9</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>45.9</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>88.26</b>	★ WIN % <b>71</b>		



# GLOBAL EVENT QUALIFIERS



**Lourence Ilagan**  
"The Gunner"

PHILLIPINES



World Ranking **A1**

HIGHLIGHT <b>1st Asian Tour</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>14</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>95.4</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>37.5</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>85.16</b>	★ WIN % <b>67.86</b>		

The Gunner has been seen more and more often in the steel tip world in recent years. He has had a superb soft tip career but was known to wider audiences only through brief appearances such as his World Masters Semi-Final in 2009. Lourence has claimed a hatful of titles on the PDC Asia Tour and is looking to make an impact here this year. He has been a world Champion in the soft tip arena and has one of the most perfect actions, in the throw, that you will see. His first round opponent is Christo Reyes, this may work well for Gunner. Previously he has had big name opponents early on and not been able to get into the match. A game against Adrian Lewis awaits the winner but it will be Jackpot who feels the pressure more than either qualifier. At 41 years old and with a wealth of varied experience Ilagan could prove a serious threat and develop a similar reputation, in Europe, to that he enjoys in Asia.



**Jose Justicia**  
"The Joker"

SPAIN



World Ranking **146**

HIGHLIGHT <b>South-West Europe Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>1</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>97.4</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>51.2</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>88.78</b>	★ WIN % <b>50</b>		



**Marko Kantele**  
"None"

FINLAND



**GENERIC**

World Ranking **119**

HIGHLIGHT <b>2nd Scandinavia Tour</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>9</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>96.3</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>31.18</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>87.1</b>	★ WIN % <b>52.89</b>		





# “Mile High”

## LEAVES A VAPOUR TRAIL

In February, 2010, Mark “Mile High” Hylton began what was to be a shortish, but highly significant, test flight in the world of PDC darts. A superb take off was followed by a turbulent spell ‘cruising at altitude’ before a steep decent took him away from our view.

**M**ark Hylton had been around amateur darts for quite some time, including a notable appearance at the the, 2007 UK Open, before he was approached to turn professional.

His first few months on tour proved a steep learning curve. It seemed that ‘Mile High’, as he was known due to a previous career on the airlines, would take a while to adjust to the professional game.

However, Mark was playing superbly behind the scenes while cleaning up in non-professional events all over the country. His

management/coaching team funded trips to Australia, and Canada, that summer to see if their hunch was right. Take off was managed by Hylton as he soared to the final of that years PDC Australian Open. The prize money, £3000, ensured he would qualify for the World Championships.

Success followed success, with Mark then qualifying for the Grand Slam of Darts and gaining more consistent results on the Pro Tour. Despite not progressing from the group stage, the Grand Slam provided stage darts and ensured he, and his team, were confident of success at Ally Pally.

Team Hylton prepared meticulously. Mark played in all conditions and, as often as possible, on borrowed stages with friends acting as officials. When it was known who, the legendary Steve Beaton, would be his



first-round opponent, similar style and pace players were found and they played the event format time and time again. They also calculated the next two likely opponents.

The venue was scouted, the weather anticipated, which was extreme, and complications allowed for. Despite all the usual beginner's nerves, and the skills of his opponent, Mark ran out the winner in the deciding set.

During the days between matches similar preparations were made for tackling Colin Lloyd. Again, despite all the advantages, and a few tactics, were with Jaws'. Hylton, was less nervous before and had been instructed "you are the best kept secret in world darts", "now go and show these people why" and he did. Colin threw everything at him and never made a dent. By the end of the game Lloyd was shaking his head in disbelief, as Hylton averaged over 115 for spells and became the event's leading 180 hitter.

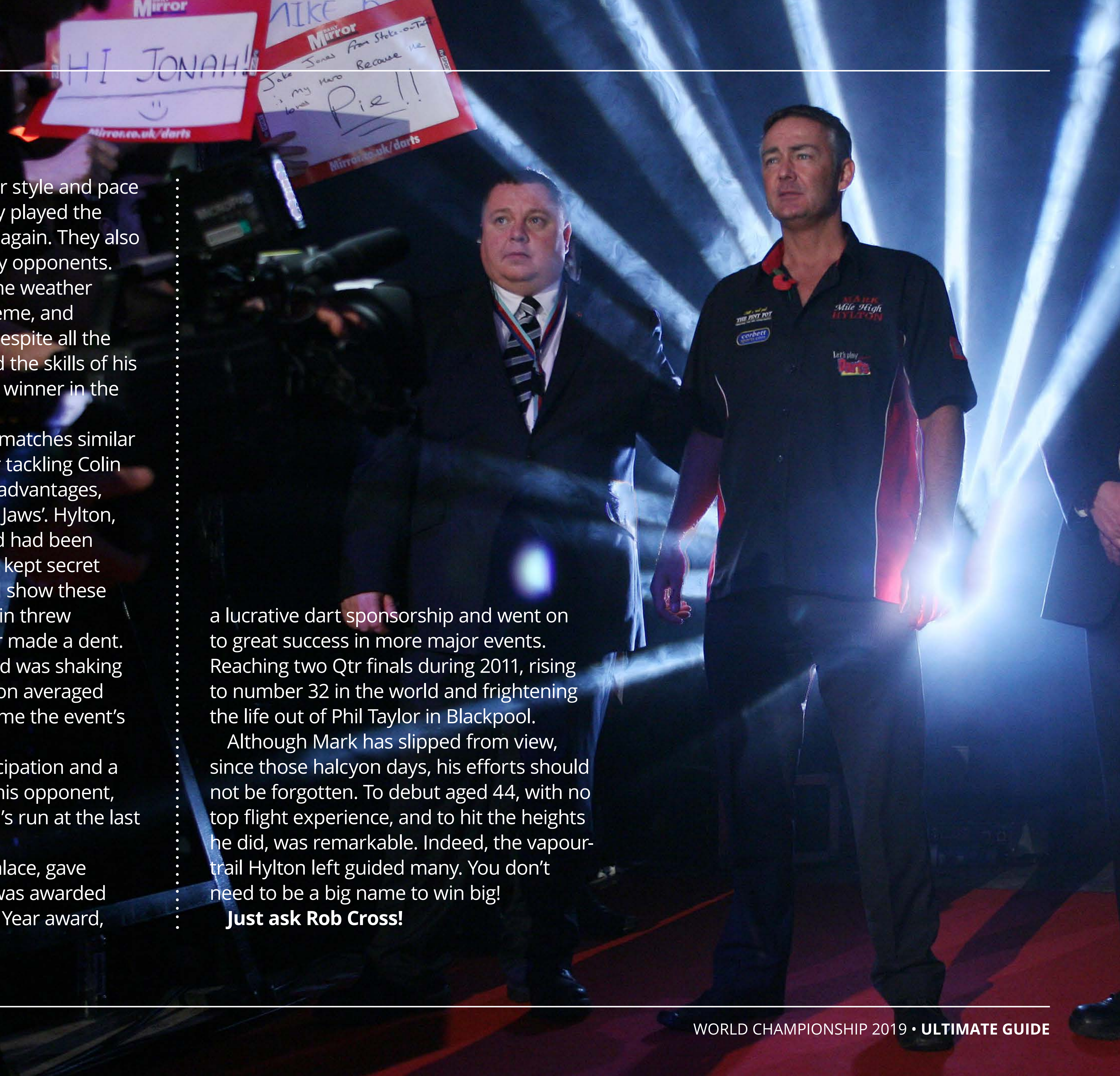
Sadly, events beyond anticipation and a superb performance from, his opponent, Mark Webster halted Hylton's run at the last 16 stage.

The two big wins at the palace, gave lift off to Mark's career. He was awarded the PDC's New Player of the Year award,

a lucrative dart sponsorship and went on to great success in more major events. Reaching two Qtr finals during 2011, rising to number 32 in the world and frightening the life out of Phil Taylor in Blackpool.


Although Mark has slipped from view, since those halcyon days, his efforts should not be forgotten. To debut aged 44, with no top flight experience, and to hit the heights he did, was remarkable. Indeed, the vapour-trail Hylton left guided many. You don't need to be a big name to win big!

**Just ask Rob Cross!**






# GLOBAL EVENT QUALIFIERS




## Robbie King

*"Rocket"*

AUSTRALIA






HIGHLIGHT <b>Oceanic Master</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>2</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>89.4</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>44.8</b>		
🔱 3DA <b>80.95</b>	★ WIN % <b>62</b>		




## Nitin Kumar

*"The Royal Bengal"*

INDIA





HIGHLIGHT <b>India Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES	
🎯 SCORING	🚩 FINISHING %		
🔱 3DA	★ WIN %		



## Boris Koltsov

*"The Viking"*

RUSSIA





# 104

World Ranking

HIGHLIGHT <b>EADC Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>4</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>96.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>30.2</b>		
🔱 3DA <b>89.85</b>	★ WIN % <b>63.6</b>		



## Nico Kurz

GERMANY



# 222

World Ranking

HIGHLIGHT <b>German Super League Winner</b>		🏆 TITLES	
🎯 SCORING <b>100.9</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>49.6</b>		
🔱 3DA <b>90.85</b>	★ WIN % <b>59</b>		



# GLOBAL EVENT QUALIFIERS



**Zoran Lerchbacher**  
"The Hypercane"

AUSTRIA



World Ranking **69**

HIGHLIGHT <b>South-East Europe Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>0</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>101.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>45.2</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>91.08</b>	★ WIN % <b>80</b>		



**Noel Malicdem**

PHILLIPINES



HIGHLIGHT <b>2nd Asian Tour</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>2</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>104.9</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>44.5</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>92.98</b>	★ WIN % <b>67.52</b>		



**Paul Lim**  
"The Legend"

SINGAPORE



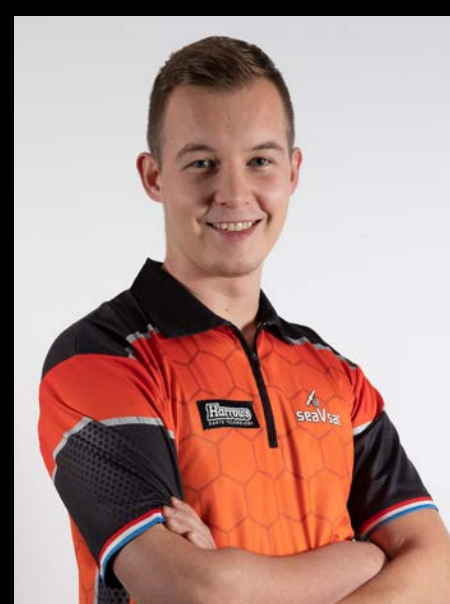
World Ranking **A3**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Asian Tour Order of Merit 3rd</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>19</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>99.6</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>35.8</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>89.6</b>	★ WIN % <b>70</b>		

Paul is possibly the last active link between the two great era of televised darts. His 9 darter in 1990 was the first hit in a world championship. Lim regularly featured in the later stages of major events throughout the 90s and discovered a rare gift, for being able to switch formats, and thrive in soft tip darts. He claimed two different versions of the World Soft Tip Championship almost fifteen years apart. The second of these secured him an invitation to play at the Alexandra Palace. In 2018, Lim provided one of the best moments, coming with a whisker of repeating his legendary 9 darter 28 years after his Lakeside moment! He also lead the Singapore team to the Qtr Finals of the World Cup. In addition he has also claimed titles on the newly formed PDC Asia Tour. The evergreen Legend will return to the Ally Pally stage again and will have huge crowd support. No one would be surprised if Paul delighted us, once more, with superb darts, a good run or even, dare to think it, another 9 dart effort?



# GLOBAL EVENT QUALIFIERS



**Geert Nentjes**

*"The Sweet"*

NETHERLANDS



World Ranking **108**

HIGHLIGHT <b>3rd Development Tour</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>2</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>98.2</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>53.1</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>89.92</b>	★ WIN % <b>46</b>		



**Diogo Portela**

*"Braziliant"*

BRAZIL



World Ranking **137**



HIGHLIGHT <b>South/Central America Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>1</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>93.1</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>34.78</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>87.71</b>	★ WIN % <b>53.27</b>		



**Devon Petersen**

*"African Warrior"*

SOUTH AFRICA



unicorn®

World Ranking **60**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Africa Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>2</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>101.8</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>34.98</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>88.99</b>	★ WIN % <b>50.18</b>		



**Benjamin Pratnemer**

SLOVENIA



HIGHLIGHT <b>East Europe Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>2</b>	
🎯 SCORING	🚩 FINISHING %		
🔪 3DA	★ WIN %		



# THE Highlights Reel

Just in case you're accessing this eMag in a snatched break, from more pressing tasks, or don't fancy flipping through every page while your on phone, we have produced a highlights reel. Here are Six of the Best stories from this special edition.





# GLOBAL EVENT QUALIFIERS



**Madars Razma**  
"Razmatazz"

LATVIA



unicorn®

World Ranking **90**

HIGHLIGHT <b>1st PDCNB Tour</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>13</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>101</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>51.1</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>92.61</b>	★ WIN % <b>57.07</b>		



**Callan Rydz**

ENGLAND



unicorn®

World Ranking **125**

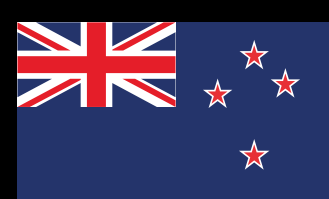
HIGHLIGHT <b>1st Challenger Tour</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>5</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>98.1</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>49.8</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>89.63</b>	★ WIN % <b>62.33</b>		

Callan was in danger of being branded the unluckiest player in the PDC. Twice he had been denied a Tour Card, at their Q School, due to the quirks of the points system. Rydz, however, has superbly turned this around during 2019. Taking the opportunity to play both The Challenge Tour and the Developments tour. He claimed titles, and later stage appearances, on virtually a weekly basis as well as qualifying for this years UK Open. The end result was that he topped the Order of Merit in the former and finished eight on the later. He also proved he could mix it with the big boys, claiming Qtr final places on the Pro Tour. In exchange, he has earned a valuable contract with a major darts company, a tour card and a place at the Ally Pally. Whether or not he can translate this into progress at these championships he is certain to take the next step very soon. Not bad for such an unlucky guy!



**Ben Robb**  
"Big Rig"


NEW ZEALAND



HIGHLIGHT <b>DPNZ Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>1</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>92.1</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>35.9</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>82.48</b>	★ WIN % <b>53.7</b>		

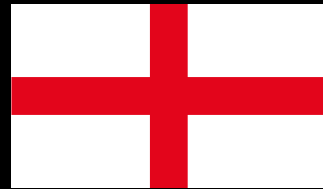


# GLOBAL EVENT QUALIFIERS




## Fallon Sherrock

ENGLAND




World Ranking **W4**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Ladies World Trophy Champion</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>51</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>94.3</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>51.9</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>85.61</b>	★ WIN % <b>75</b>		




## Ciaran Teehan

IRELAND



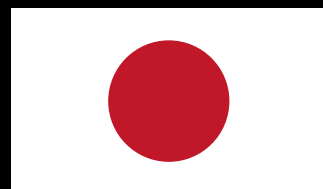
HIGHLIGHT		🏆 TITLES <b>1</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>95</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>46.6</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>85.66</b>	★ WIN % <b>62.01</b>		




## Mikuru Suzuki

*"Miracle"*

JAPAN





World Ranking **W5**

HIGHLIGHT <b>Ladies World Champion</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>14</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>80.3</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>43.9</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>74.78</b>	★ WIN % <b>77</b>		



## Benito van de Pas

*"Big Ben"*

NETHERLANDS





World Ranking **59**

HIGHLIGHT <b>PDC Tour Card Holders Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>9</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>96.8</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>38.19</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>90.06</b>	★ WIN % <b>60.83</b>		



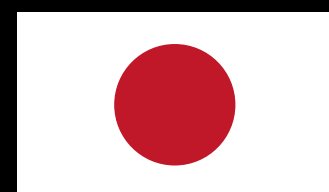
# GLOBAL EVENT QUALIFIERS



**Yuki Yamada**  
"Yammer"



JAPAN



HIGHLIGHT <b>4th Asian Tour</b>		🏆 TITLES	
🎯 SCORING <b>92.5</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>42.3</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>82.43</b>	★ WIN % <b>53.33</b>		



**Xiaochen Zong**  
"Pandaman"

CHINA



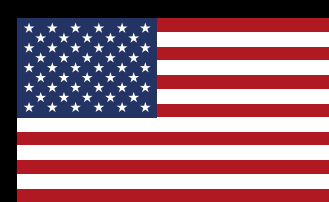
HIGHLIGHT <b>PDC China Qualifier</b>		🏆 TITLES	
🎯 SCORING	🚩 FINISHING %		
🔪 3DA	★ WIN %		



**Darin Young**  
"Big Daddy"



USA



HIGHLIGHT <b>1st American Tour</b>		🏆 TITLES <b>21</b>	
🎯 SCORING <b>94.9</b>	🚩 FINISHING % <b>34.38</b>		
🔪 3DA <b>85.84</b>	★ WIN % <b>64.71</b>		



# Barney TAKES A BOW

**R**aymond van Barneveld can claim a major role in the story of the PDC at the Palace. From his legendary win in the 2007 event, which may have prompted the move, to his superb 9 dart legs, Barney has provided some of the sports' most iconic moments. In addition, his '**Barny Army**' of fans bring atmosphere and colour to every event. RVB's role in the development and advancement of darts is safe and his reputation as a dart player will only grow. As a five-time World Champion he sits in a club of only three, **Bristow** (5), **Barney** (5) and **Taylor** (16)

Barney, now 52, will play his last World Championship this year and is sure to receive a superb reception and send off

when his tournament comes to an end. He seems entirely at peace with his decision and determined to enjoy his curtain call. Raymond will have taken part in **almost thirty World Championships** since making his debut at the Lakeside in 1991. His remarkable journey has seen him tackle the legends of darts' first golden era, battle with 'The Power' for over a decade and then shepherd a third generation of new players to take the game forward.

RVB decided to cross codes and take his place on the PDC tour in 2006. As a four-time Lakeside champion he was the biggest fish in a middle-sized pond and could easily have remained within the BDO system and racked up titles and fees. Yet, he courted controversy, and risked failure, in order to compete at the highest level and against the very best the game had to offer.

RVB's first PDC ranking major was the 2006 UK Open unbelievably he won the title. After what could only be described as a stellar debut he prepared for his first PDC World Championship over the festive season of 2006/7. By bludgeoning his way to the final, van Barneveld would realize the ambition that had driven him to the PDC.

He was to play **Phil "The Power" Taylor** over the best of 13 sets. The rest as they say is history. The nip and tuck match, the swings in one direction and then the other, the sudden death bull up and then the winning dart. The sinking to the knees, and the commenators' superlatives, all form part of the 2007 legend.

Although Raymond has not yet added another World Championship Trophy, he has enjoyed a storied career across both codes. Three World Cup Singles titles, two Winmau World Masters, The Premier League and the Grand Slam of Darts, as well as hitting the first **PDC World Championship 9 Dart Leg**, were amongst many, placed in the trophy cabinet, during a marvelous career.

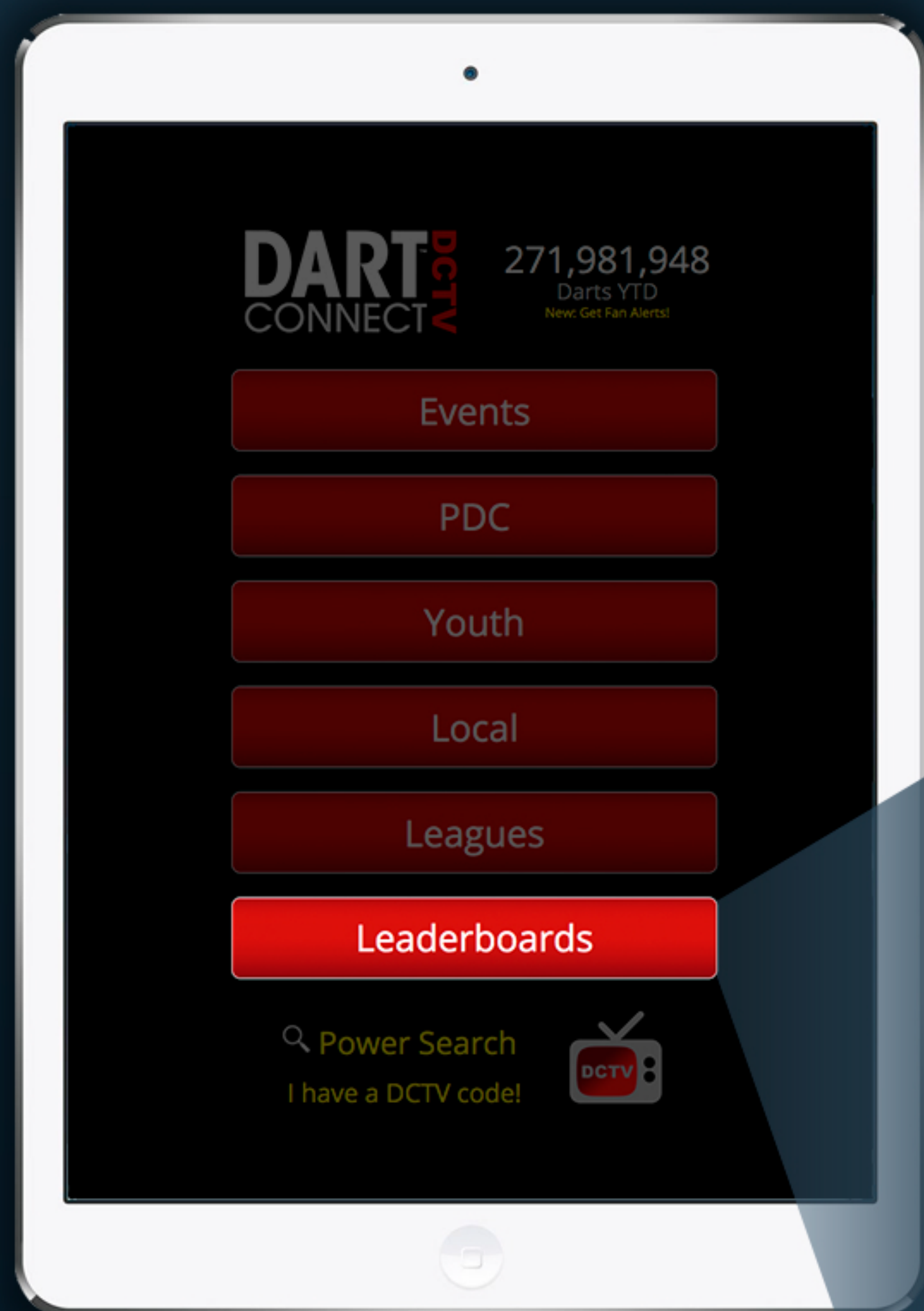
Between this year's first match, vs **Darin Young**, and an unlikely final appearance on January 1st 2020 the fans at Ally Pally and darts' fans the world over will bid a fond farewell to a modern legend. On current form Barney may give us a grand finale, Barney's 3-month form is 10th in the world with a running average of 96.63 for 17 events played.

**Raymond van Barneveld, Take a Bow!**

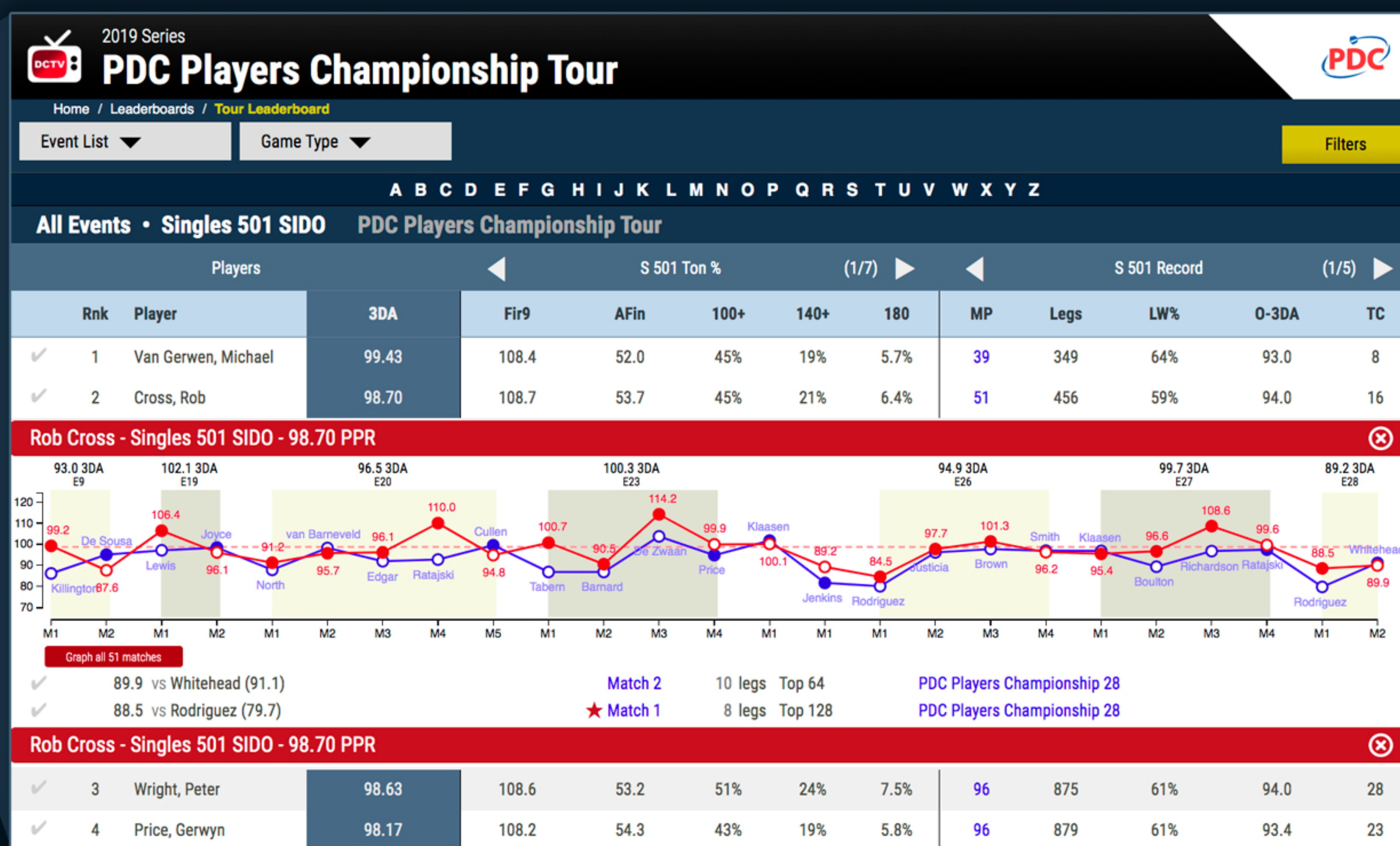




# WHICH PDC PLAYERS WILL BRING THEIR BEST GAME TO THE BIG STAGE?



Check out all of the PDC Tour Leaderboards to see how your favorite players performed in 2019!



**PDC Leaderboards**

- CLICK HERE -

**PDC ProTour, Challenge Tour, Development Tour & More**

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



**Many thanks** to all those who contributed their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to the production of this guide. The data is aggregated into representative numbers to give an accurate reflection of the player in context to this event. Any errors, or omissions are without malice or intent and are simply due to the variability of the information available.



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

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

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

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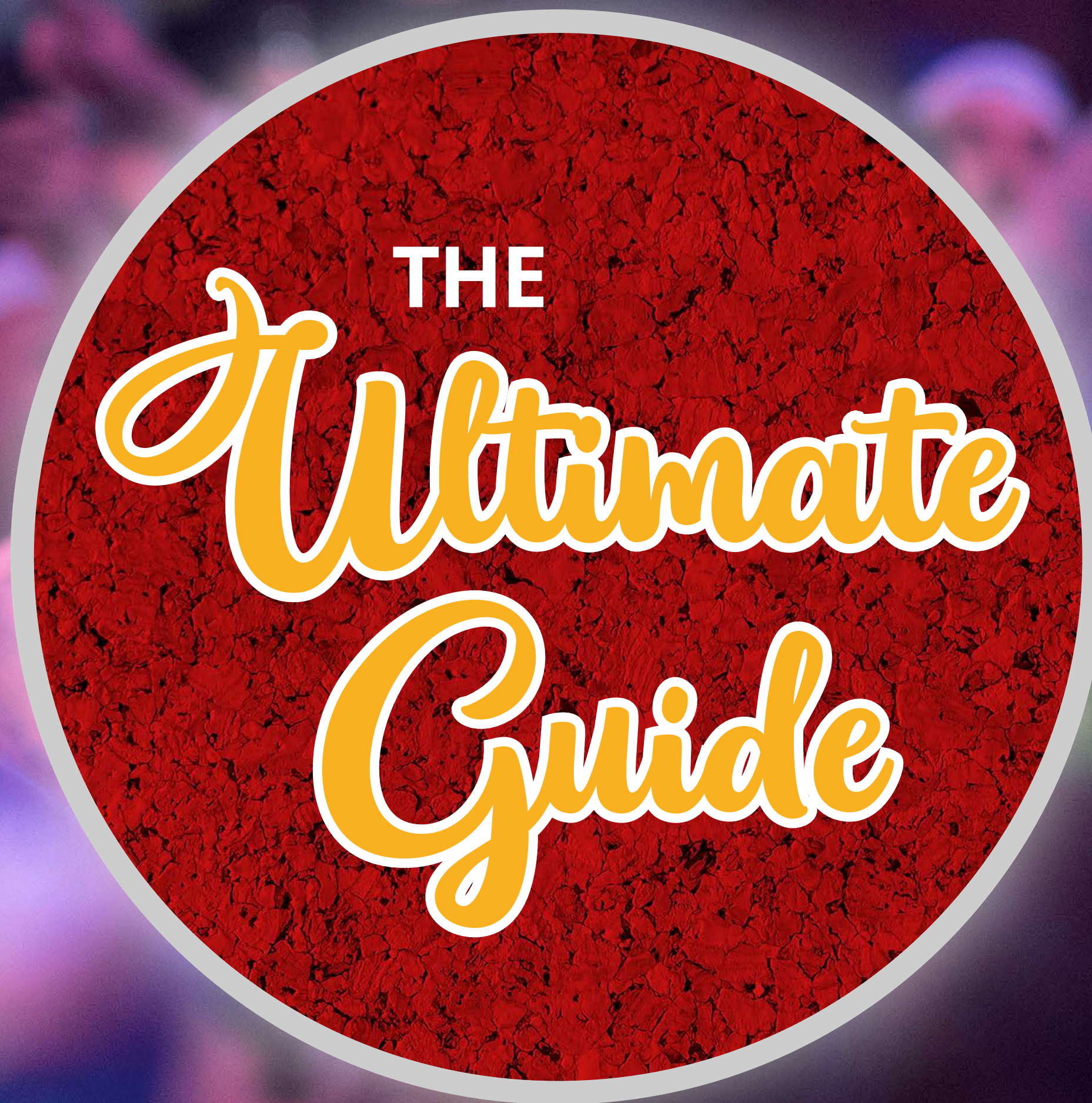
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