

Highly-touted players

By Alex Tough

Darren Davies and Colin Blakely are not two names too well known around these parts. However, they are players I have come across on a few occasions in the past years in darts.

They play out of Burlington in the highly touted Trillium league, a league of players of the highest standard. Davies fared well a weekend ago in the Darts Ontario shootout without fully qualifying.

On this occasion he makes the news as Blakely's partner in the province-wide Double Diamond Open Doubles tourney.

Last Thursday, in Burlington, the lads qualified for the finals in the Harbour Castle hotel for the ultimate, a trip to England.

George representatives' Bob Sullivan and self, together with the mixed combination of Brad Youmans and Caroline Vallance, although playing well, did not make it to the next stage. The tourney, sponsored by Double Diamond, took place in all establishments supplying the brew over the past four weeks.

The Industrial league singles champion of the season was declared last Wednesday when Stan Shynold came through a thin competition with a final victory over Jeff Richardson. Neil Olmstead and Terry Hancock filled the consolation podium. Probably due to the weather as much as anything, the draw only produced 40 or so players. An eight group round-robin took place, both upstairs and downstairs in the Legion, a last minute concession sought by the league and generously allowed by the Legion.

Ray Ackroyd, Neil Olmstead, Jeff Richardson, Dave Tait, Dave Scutt, Al Murphy, Stan Rhynold and Terry Hancock were the section winners.

Stan Rhynold and Eric Fuller both shot 180, and in the same match, 150 opens were recorded by Paul Kavanagh and Erwin See, from the double in/double out format. Old campaigner, Ray See fired the high finish of 154.

Other high opens came from Mike Hope, 148 and Dan Abercrombie, 120 twice. Tim Fields finished off 138, Mike Cherry put 115 and Stan Rhynold closed 141. High scores were made by Henry Graham - 132, Rob Campbell - 112 and Al Murphy - 140. Neil Olmstead defeated Terry Hancock for the consolation placing.

In the Halton league, Legion #4 pulled a 13-1 win from Time Out

Darts

#1 whilst nearest challengers, McGibbon, were going down by 5-9 to George #2. The only teams, mathematically, able to catch the leaders, Legion #4, are McGibbon and George #2. The chances of Legion #4 dropping points to the effect of blowing the league title are slim to none at this late stage. Fourth place, O'Tooles, lost 4-10 to George #1 who are experiencing some good results at the moment. George #1 move into fifth spot ahead of Legion #1, who, in turn, defeated George #4 by 9-5. Legion #2 rounded off a winning night for all Legions by taking George #3 9-5. Copper Kettle #2 defeated #1 by the popular, for the night, 9-5 score.

No doubt about it, the big match of the schedule was in the second and third teams in the standings contest with the leaders watching closely for the result: Home, away, home away, home, home, away, away went the singles - tied, the teams already tied at 1-1. Tied going into the doubles, a close match seemed to be the way of things. However, the doubles all went to the visitors and the 9-5 win to George #2 over McGibbon. Legion #4 breathed a sigh of relief as McGibbon entered the night only five points adrift - now they are 14 away.

Whilst all this was going on, Legion #4 were themselves back on track with their huge win, only dropping a teams set to Timeout #1.

180s from Bob Jarrett, Dave Scutt and Roger Vanderham led the way with Chris Scutt and Todd Axford closing out 120. Paul Woolley shot 155 and 140. Chris Scutt scored three 140s and Dave Scutt, and Jeff Richardson both netting two. Single 140s were scored by Brad Youmans, Erwin See, Herman Rhynold, Eddie Ebbinge, Kim Smid, Alex Paterson, Roger Armstrong, Mike Hope, Bob Sullivan, Ian McDonald, Pete Pickering and John Colter.

In the Halton league playoffs on Sunday last, Ian McDonald, Chris Scutt, Jeff Richardson and Mike Pepper each scored 180 and McGibbon's Bob Jarrett and Terry Winters won all their sets against all opposition in their section. The playoffs were held at the Legion and a good day was had by all.

More news of the event and of the youth provincials at Stratford next week. In the meantime, keep throwing as well as you can.

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