

History of the Ingatestone & District Darts League



By Kevin Stammers
(Updated by Jordan McManus from
2018)

History of the Winter League

Winter League Introduction

The league was originally formed as "The Ingatestone and Fryerning Dart League" in 1948. The full original founding members of the league are unknown, although Anchor, Crown, Spread Eagle & Viper are almost certainly involved. The Spread Eagle in Ingatestone High Street were the first League Champions. The Public House was demolished in 1963 and is now a row of shops...

In the 2nd season (1949/1950) it is known that the 8-teams taking part were the Anchor 'A' & 'B' (Ingatestone), the Black Bull (Margaretting), The Club (Ingatestone), the Crown (Ingatestone), the Spread Eagle (Ingatestone), the Viper (Mill Green); the Woolpack (Fryerning)...

The Viper ('A') (Mill Green) dominated the league for the next 3 seasons and were given the original Winners Shield to keep, which can still be viewed in the Pub today.

In September 1950, the Chelmsford & District League's Honourable Secretary, Mr T. Bacon, to an Inter-League Challenge Match, challenged the then Ingatestone & District League Chairman, Mr A. Honeyball! Two matches home and away took part on 21st & 28th December 1950, with each team winning their home games 4-2. A decider took place on 23rd February 1951, which saw Chelmsford win 4-2.

In 1956, the Wheatsheaf (Nine Ashes) won the first of their three consecutive championships & again were given the second Winners shield to keep.

For the 1958/9 season the league introduced a Silver Cup (valued at 70 pounds) & the committee must of agreed at the time that if a team should win the league 3 times in succession, the Cup isn't kept, which was a good thing 'cos The Thatcher's Arms (Radley Green) won the trophy that season & also the following two seasons. It is worth noting that when this Silver cup for the League Championship Cup replaced the second Shield, the league became officially "The Ingatestone and District Dart League"...

In 1963, a second division was first tried out, however the teams didn't like it so it only ran for the one season, with the winners being the Spread Eagle (Margaretting), winning the title. The trophy donated by the winners Spread Eagle and became the Captains league trophy from 1964 to 1967; then the Secretaries KO Cup from 1968 onwards. The second division returned in 1993 to 1997 and returned in 1999, and has remained to date...

I've been reliably informed that in 1980 a rule was made that no team outside a 9 mile radius from the Centre of Ingatestone could join the league. I've found no evidence of this although I do remember this being mentioned at an Annual General Meeting prior to me joining the Governing Body in 1984, and it's talked about by the older members of the league, although some believe it's 8 miles.

Winter League Format

The Original format was four games of Pairs, 301 best of 3 legs, double start double finish...

In 1952, the format became five games of Pairs, 301 best of 3 legs, double start double finish...

In 1981 the decision was made by the committee & new governing body, to change the format to 15 legs... 5 Pairs 401 best of 1 leg and 10 Singles 301 best of 1 leg, straight start double finish...

In 1984, the Pairs was increased to 501 and the Singles to 401, this followed the change in the closing time of licensed premises from 10:30 pm to 11:00 pm a year earlier...

In 1993 came a change that reduced the number of players required per team to 8. The format consisted of four Pairs 601 best of 1 leg & seven Singles 501 best of 1 leg, straight start double finish, this had an immediate effect with 3 new teams joining & the 2nd division was re-established...

In 1997, two games of 4-aside was added to the format, 801 best of 1 leg, straight start double finish...

In 1999, a further reduction in the number of players required. Each team now only requires six players & the format is three Pairs 501 best of three legs, straight start double finish & six Singles 401 best of 3 legs, straight start double finish. Again this change prompted an increase in teams, with eight new teams joining, & after one season's absence, the second division was re-established...

In 2003, the first & second division's Six Singles were increased to 501 best of three legs; the newly formed Division 3 was 401 best of three legs...

In 2007, it was agreed to abolish the NO BUST rule, the final old ruling to change...

In 2008, the Division 3 Singles increased to 501 best of 3 legs...

In 2010 with the introduction of singles games being drawn, the format was reversed so the six Singles 501 best of 3 legs was played prior to the three Pairs 501 best of 3 legs...

In 2015, the league Pairs changed to 601 best of 3-legs...

In 2016, the Pairs games are now drawn and therefore the Player of the Year award returns...

The throwing distance was 8 foot until 1977, for the 1977/78 season the oche was set at 7 foot 6 inches, but since 1978/9 season it's been the standard B.D.O. throwing distance 7 foot 9 1/4 inches.

Winter League Milestones

1948 - League formed as "INGATESTONE & FRYERNING DART LEAGUE" by Mr A. Honeyball

1950 - First inter-league challenge match - vs Chelmsford & District at the Anchor 21st December

Singles Knockout introduced a year after it was proposed by Mr Pigeon (Landlord of Woolpack)

1954 - Honeyball Cup awarded to Singles Knockout Winner

1956 - Passfield Cup introduced as a Mr & Mrs Pairs competition

1958 - League became officially known as the "INGATESTONE & DISTRICT DART LEAGUE"

1959 - Dibble Shield introduced for the player with the seasons highest score

1963 - Fargo Cup introduced as Team Knockout competition

Division II first played for the Spread Eagle Cup

1964 - Captains League introduced: Spread Eagle Cup to be awarded to winner

Secretaries League introduced: Division II runners-up Cup to be awarded to winner

1967 - Prince of Wales Challenge Cup - Landlords Knockout Cup introduced

1968 - Royal Steamer Cup donated for the Captains Knockout Cup

Spread Eagle Cup become the Secretaries Knockout Cup

1977 - Hatcher Cup introduced for the teams that were knocked out of the Fargo Cup

1982 - Michael Simms (League Secretary) introduced a Special Award Shield

Trevor Greenwood (Chairman) introduced a Wooden Spoon for last place

1983 - Replacement Dibble Shield (II) introduced for most 180's scored

1988 - Kevin Stammers (League Secretary) introduced the Player of the Year award

Brook Shield - Highest Checkout award introduced and named after George Brook

1990 –

Wood Shield - Female player of the year award introduced with Shield donated by Ron Wood

Harry Knight Cup - replaced the original Pairs KO Cup (Passfield Cup)

Alfred Candler Memorial Cup introduced as an Open Single Knockout

Wheldon Shield - Jim Wheldon (Chairman) introduced to replace the Simms Shield

Kevin Stammers (League Secretary) introduced the Secretaries Special Award

1991 - New Wooden Spoon replaced the Greenwood Spoon

1992 - Whitbread Rose Bowl donated to the league to be played for by ladies in a singles knockout

1993 - Second division re-introduced, last played in 1963/4 season

1995 - Royal British Legion Cup introduced as a Triple's Knockout

1996 - Female Highest Checkout Award introduced

1997 - New Special Award - Personality of the Year replaced the Wheldon Shield

1998 - League's 50th Anniversary Season
Replacement Dibble Shield (III) introduced for most 180's scored

1999 - Anniversary Dinner & Dance on 6th March
Changed the Pair's competition to an Open Male Pairs Knockout
Stammers Shield - Introduction as a Female Pairs Knockout -
Introduction of a 100's League Table
Introduction of an Individual Singles Champion Award

2000 – President's award is introduced to recognize a team's support to the league
Ron Wood Memorial Cup - introduced as an Open Single Knockout for Ladies

2001 - First international vs DC Voltreffers (from Zelem, Belgium) in a joint venture with Brentwood League

2002 - Division 3 first played

2003 - Fargo & Hatcher Cup's format changes too: 1 x Six 1001; 2 x Triples 701; 3 x Pairs 601; Captain v Captain 501 and 6 x Singles 501, all 1 leg

2004 - Fargo, Hatcher & Bentley (new) Cup's become Divisional

2005 –

Most Improved Player replaces Personality of the Year Award
Stammers Shield changed to best performance by an all Female or Mixed Pairs in the Pairs

2007 - Champion of Champions introduced

Points system changed from 2 points a win to 1 point per game won, plus match win bonus point

No Bust Rule abolished

The Hatcher Cup & Division 2 Winners Cup were both lost by Horse & Groom (Warley) when pub was closed for refurbishment!

2008 - League's 60th Anniversary Season
Division 2 Cup replacement donated by Douglas White
Triples KO Scrapped (Royal British Legion Cup)

2009 –

Royal British Legion Cup replaced the lost Hatcher Cup as the Division 2 Knockout Cup
Blind Draw Pairs introduced
Harry Knight Cup becomes the Division 1 Pairs KO Cup
Stammers Shield becomes the Divisions 2 & 3 Pairs KO trophy

2010 - Singles Drawn in all league matches

2011 - Blind Draw Pairs Scrapped

2014 - League played as One Division for first time since 1999

Captain's & Secretary's played as a Round Robin League for this season only

2016 - Pairs Drawn in all league matches and become 601 best of 3-legs

2017 - League to be split into two divisions after every team has played each other once

2018 –

League Secretary (Kevin Stammers) 30th & League's 70th Anniversary Season. Kevin Stammers' anniversary tournament format was Blind Pairs, while the 70th Anniversary competition was a singles competition, which brought back some of the league's old rules; Double In, Double Out, No Bust. The latter competition was played in the Summer League of 2018.

Following the success of the Double In, Double Out, No Bust 70th Anniversary Competition, in Summer 2018, a similar tournament was added to the 2018-19 Winter Season.

2019 – Points system changed to 1 point per game won, plus two bonus points for winning the match

History of the Summer League

Summer League Introduction

In 1994 the newly formed "Writtle & District Dart League", was played for the first time. This was run on a Thursday Night during the Summer months between the 1993/4 & 1994/5 of the Ingatestone & District League winter seasons, and was organized by David Prentice & Malcolm Campbell (Cock & Bell). At the 1994 Ingatestone & District AGM I was asked to help run the Writtle & District League which I declined. However, it was obvious to me that there was a need for a summer league or summer competitions by the players currently within the Ingatestone league, and they weren't entirely happy with the Writtle set-up. Therefore in March 1995, I called a meeting to inform the committee that I intend introducing a Summer League once the winter season was finished, under the title of "The Ingatestone & District Summer Dart League" and subsequently 21 teams entered (3 divisions of 7 Teams was created). The Writtle & District league changed to a Wednesday Night during the summer, however it no longer exists.

Summer League Format

The format was six games of Singles, 401 best of three legs, three games of Pairs, 501 best of one leg straight start double finish. In addition, there was after each league match was complete, a Six Aside League competition consisting of 801 best of three legs straight start double finish.

In 1996, the Six Aside League Competition was changed to 1001 best of one leg straight start double finish. In 1997, the Six Aside League Competition became a Divisional Knockout Competition, and the Pairs in the league games became best of three legs.

In 2004, the 1st & 2nd division Six Singles are to be increased to 501 best of 3 legs, the other divisions remained 401 best of 3 legs until 2009.

In 2016, the league pairs are drawn and are 601 best of 3-legs.

Summer League Milestones

1995 - League formed as "INGATESTONE & DISTRICT SUMMER DART LEAGUE" with 3 Divisions

Divisional Six Aside League formed

Player of the Years Awards formed

180 Shield formed

Highest Checkout Shield formed

Secretary's Special Award for best game average formed

Male Singles Knockout Cup formed

Female Singles Knockout Cup formed

Mixed Pairs Knockout Cup formed

Mixed Triples Knockout Shield formed

1997 - Divisional Six Aside League was replaced by the Divisional Six Aside Knockout

1998 - Female Highest Checkout Award introduced

2000 - Introduction of a 100's League Table

Introduction of an Individual Singles Champion Award

2001 – President's Shield is introduced to recognize the team that supports the league
Division 4 introduced

2003 - Division 5 played for one season only

2005 - Divisional Singles replaced the previously split Male & Female Singles KO's
Champion of Champions introduced - Male & Female cups awarded to winners

2007 - Points system changed from 2 points a win to 1 point per game won, plus a match win bonus point

2008 - No Bust Rule abolished

2010 - Singles Drawn in League Matches

2016 - Pairs Drawn in League Matches and become 601 best of 3-legs

2018 – The IDDL 70th Anniversary Competition took place with the league's old rules used; Double In, Double Out, No Bust.

2019 –

Following the success of the IDDL 70th Anniversary Competition, the Divisional Singles is replaced with an all-in Double In, Double Out, No Bust competition.

The Bentley Cup became a Summer Team KO Cup

Points system changed to 1 point per game won, plus two bonus points for winning the match. It comes into force from Winter 2019-20, followed by Summer 2020.

Governing Bodies

1948 - Mr A. Honeyball (Founder and Chairman)

1950 - Mr A. Honeyball (Chairman); Mr A. Hart (Honourable Secretary); Mr R. Sheavill (Honourable Treasurer)

1953 - Mr A. Honeyball (Chairman); Mr R. Fiske (Honourable Secretary); Mr V. Flint (Honourable Treasurer)

1955 - Mr R. Noakes (Chairman); Mr R. Fiske (Honourable Secretary); Mr V. Flint (Honourable Treasurer)

1961 - Mr V. Flint (Chairman); Mr T. Dibble (Honourable Secretary);

1962 - Mr V. Flint (Chairman); Mr A. Hunt (Honourable Secretary);

1963 - Mr W Brockbank (Chairman);

1964 - Mr W. Brockbank (Chairman); John Lockwood (Vice Chairman); Ray Bull (Secretary); Mrs Brockbank (Treasurer)

1964 - Mr W. Brockbank (Chairman); Mr P. Lincoln (Vice Chairman); Ray Bull (Secretary); Mrs Brockbank (Treasurer)

1970 - Mr E. Baker (Chairman); Mr R. E. Clough (Secretary)

1976 - John Lockwood (Chairman)

1979 - James Reynolds (Chairman); Gerry Coote (Secretary & Treasurer)

1980 - Bill Chapman (Chairman); Mr E. Chapman (Secretary & Treasurer)

1981 - Trevor Greenwood (Chairman); Michael Simms (Secretary & Treasurer)

1984 - Trevor Greenwood (Chairman); Michael Simms (Secretary & Treasurer); Kevin Stammers (Assistant Secretary)

1986 - Alfred Candler (Chairman); Michael Simms (Secretary & Treasurer); Kevin Stammers (Assistant Secretary)

1988 - Alfred Candler (Chairman); Ron Wood (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Secretary & Treasurer); Douglas White (Assistant Secretary)

1990 - James Wheldon (Chairman); Ron Wood (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Secretary & Treasurer); Douglas White (Assistant Secretary)

1995 - James Wheldon (Chairman); Ron Wood (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Secretary & Treasurer); Douglas White (Assistant Secretary); Dave Hall-Wilson (Summer Assistant Secretary)

1998 - James Wheldon (Chairman); Ron Wood (Vice Chairman); Douglas White (Secretary); Kevin Stammers (Assistant Secretary & Treasurer); Dave Hall-Wilson (Summer Assistant Secretary)

1999 - James Wheldon (Chairman); Brian Burgess (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Secretary & Treasurer); Douglas White (Assistant Secretary)

2000 - Douglas White (Chairman); Glyn Bridges (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Secretary & Treasurer)

2009 - Glyn Bridges (Chairman); Douglas White (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Secretary & Treasurer); Gary Holland (Assistant Secretary)

2011 - Matt Doe (Chairman); Senan Corry (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Secretary & Treasurer); Gary Holland (Assistant Secretary)

2013 - Senan Corry (Chairman); Adam Doe (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Secretary & Treasurer)

2016 - Senan Corry (Chairman); Adam Doe (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Winter Secretary & Treasurer); Jordan McManus (Summer Secretary & Winter Assistant Secretary)

2017 - Matt Doe (Chairman); Senan Corry (Vice Chairman); Kevin Stammers (Winter Secretary & Treasurer); Jordan McManus (Summer Secretary & Winter Assistant Secretary)

2018 - Matt Doe (Chairman); Senan Corry (Vice Chairman); Jordan McManus (Secretary); Kevin Stammers (Treasurer & Assistant Secretary)