





# British Darts Organisation

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Dear all Counties,

01 May 2020

It gives us the greatest of pleasure to bring to you the new plan for the BDO BICC devised and finalised (with your consent) by the BDO board members past and present.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April you the BICC Counties had a Delegates meeting held online by Zoom and in that meeting put your faith and trust into me along with 4 new Directors to caretake your business and be the guardians of your organisation.

Never has our code faced such turbulent times and with the COVID-19 Pandemic only adding to a long line of difficulties our job becomes even harder.

Calling an early end to last season's matches (although not supported or understood by some) proved to be the correct thing to do and was a decision made due to first-hand experience of seeing what devastating effect COVID-19 was having on the lives of people in the worst hit Countries and we must plan for the future with the most important aspect of all being people's health.

It was clear from that Zoom meeting that drastic action was needed to both protect and take forward the BDO BICC and after no less than 7 Directors meetings later we believe we have, and are able to demonstrate to you all a clear way forward.

The BDO is an organisation that was set up to take Darts from local league to the next level, it created BICC with a structure and a set of rules that allowed the formation of County and Super league teams, when you join the BDO you join an organisation that has an immensely proud history.

The BICC allows you to display your talents and skill in a proven structured way from Super League through County and finally Country, this system can even provide a steppingstone into the Professional game, but for the majority of you it means so much more than that.

BICC or simply "County" (as we have all affectionately come to know it) plays a huge part in your lives, where else do we travel the "Length and Breadth" of the Country for a game that might last only 15 minutes? We do this through the love of the game and its our job to ensure it continues.



Penygraig Boys & Girls Club, Brook Street, Williamstown, Tonypany, R.C.T, CF40 1RB


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In the past you have all been told what is going to happen and you have simply had to believe and trust in us as a board without any real evidence, this time it is different.

We have asked Steve Gittus to create a projection, to create something on paper that you all understand that tells you where we are now, where we will be at the start of the coming season and where we will be financially at the end of 2022, this Excel file is attached and Steve is on hand at any time to go through the figures with any County Official.

BDO-L is a non-profit making Company, but right now until we understand where the Tournaments we are still planning on providing fit in, we will have to make a certain amount of profit for cash flow purposes however, we are planning on putting whatever profit we make back into the BDO company in some way.

The Events we will still be providing and running under the BICC umbrella are The Gold Cup, Champions Cup, (when finances allow and in the original format British Open & British Classic) as these Events hold a wealth of history and are synonymous with the BDO Brand, apart from being well loved and fun events for everyone.

Our aim is to revamp the BDO name and give a new way of working the BICC whilst retaining the History, feel and charm of "County" and whilst rules need updating we have absolutely no intentions of trying to alter formats or structure in the system we all understand.

Each of the Directors gained your confidence and vote for a different reason and we all bring a different flavour to the table, my strengths are having contacts within various industries and after having lengthy conversations with people I trust, we as the BDO Board have decided to plan our next County season around a January 2021 start date (the exact date will be announced no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>) however, we will be fully prepared to start earlier if the World allows that.

We are suggesting a lead time of just 6 weeks to prepare for the following season, in simple terms, although we are planning to start our first BICC match January 2021, if for example it is announced by the Government and we are given the "green light" to hold public gatherings on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, we will announce the first BICC game to start mid-way through November 2020 giving Counties with that first away game 6 weeks to book transport, hotels etc.



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This is our proposal for your consideration and although the “back bone” of the plan must remain in place in order to succeed, we are open to suggestion and change within areas of the plan that will allow it, these proposals would be discussed at the BDO AGM in August.

As part of the new way forward the BDO Board have made the decision not to pay any Prize monies to the Counties for the 2019/2020 season. Therefore, there will be no entrance fees (£800) payable 2020/2021 season.

There are several reasons for this decision, they are as follows:

- 1, The administration situation with BDO-E (for legal reasons we cannot explain at this time, but we fully intend to in the future).
- 2, As there were no clear winners from the 2019/2020 season and no one knows who would have won what amount, to pay out in a structured way on positions after 7 games would be unfair.
- 3, With no entry fees for the 2020/2021 season this would in effect give every county £800 prize money and adding 2 seasons together for the price of 1 giving each County 8 home matches from which to prosper.
- 4, It is a simple, Clean and easy way of moving forward, Counties that have not been able to make or earn any funds during the summer season need not worry about finding next seasons fees easing the financial burden.

Please be mindful that the BICC Insurance Premium and membership fee will still be payable by every County.

The BDO Board have also made the decision that they will no longer enforce the Counties having to pay the 50p contribution to EDO that has historically come from the sales of the County Programme, this money can be retained by the individual County making a seasons saving to each County of between £200 and a possible £450 depending on attendance at home fixtures.



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Moving forward the BDO have increased the membership payment for each registered super league player from £1.00 per person to £5.00 per person for a full year's membership.

The main reason for this is the simple fact that you cannot buy anything worthwhile in this day and age for £1.00 and if you are all asking for a professionally run and worked Company, we will not be able to do this without increasing the membership fee.

There will no doubt be other minor changes and alterations that are bound to present themselves during this transition, the main point we wish as a board to get across to you is, we must get ourselves into a better financial situation in order to progress the Company, and at the first instance where we find ourselves making profit (we estimate this to be the end of 2022) we will be injecting that money back into the County set-up by way of lowering fees, hopefully even more than Steve Gittus has estimated in his projection, or to give back through higher prize monies at our re-worked competitions.

A brighter future in BDO Darts and retaining its trademark and longstanding history is what we all want and what we are all striving for, this was also the overwhelming position of the majority of the delegates on the Delegates meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Time is of the essence and for that reason the BDO Board are asking for your written support to be received no later than Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

If you have any questions at all, please contact any of the BDO Directors who will be happy to assist you.

Yours in the Sport of Darts.

Des Jacklin

On behalf of The BDO Board of Directors



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