



**MEN'S WORLD
PROFESSIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP**

**NOTE: This issue of the Playing Rules and Format is applicable to the
2012 CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY.**

**The qualifying conditions for the 2012 Championship were reviewed
at the BDO Board Meeting held on the 13th August 2011.**

LAKESIDE WORLD PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ~ MEN'S PLAYING RULES & FORMAT

In the Playing Rules and Format for the LAKESIDE World Professional Championship the term 'Promoters/Organisers' shall mean the British Darts Organisation Limited, or a subsidiary of that Company.

1.00 TOURNAMENT INVITATIONS

- 1.01 Invitations to play in the Lakeside World Professional Championship will be issued by the Promoters/Organisers to those players that have qualified and are eligible to play in the Championship, subject to their commitment to the BDO system, and BDO Eligibility Rule, or being a 'registered playing' member of a WDF Member Darts Body.
- 1.02 Such invitations will be issued directly to the players, with copies being sent to the player's respective National Darts Body for reference.
- 1.03 The consideration and determination of eligible players will be made by the Promoters/Organisers in a Meeting convened after the Europe Cup, or World Cup, whichever is applicable, in each Playing Season. {IE: Late October/early November period.} In special circumstances preliminary invitations may be made prior to 1st September in any year. Consideration shall also be given to the conditions contained in the 'Tomlin Order' dated 30th June 1997 - see Schedule 1 attached and numbered VOL II: L10.
- 1.04 Ideally the first round proper shall include '32' players which shall comprise of '24' Direct qualifiers, plus up to '8' Qualifiers from the International play-offs.
These numbers are subject to the result of applying Clause No: 2.06
- 1.05 The '16' Seeded players in the first round proper shall be determined by reference to the BDO Men's Invitation Table which is issued on the 17th October in the current Playing Season.
- 1.06 The qualifiers in each category shall be determined in accordance with the qualifying conditions outlined below.

2.00 INVITATION FORMULA ~ 'DIRECT' QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

- 2.01 The qualifying conditions for the 2012 Championship were reviewed at a BDO Board Meeting held on the 13th August 2011
- 2.02 Players that reached the last '4' in the 2011 Championship shall be the first 'Direct' qualifiers to the 2012 Championship subject to their eligibility.
- 2.03 The next '20' Direct' qualifiers shall be determined from those players listed in the BDO Invitation Tables. {IE: 17th October 2011 issue for Men}.
- 2.04 In the instance that a 'listed' player has already qualified within the first '4' under Clause No: 2.02 then the next listed player shall be included until '20' additional players have been determined from the BDO Invitation Table.
- 2.05 If a number of players are listed at the same position then consideration will be given to 'other' systems to enable a decision to be made on which player, or players are to be included.
- 2.06 The winner of the 2011 Winmau World Masters Championship {Men} shall also be included as a 'direct' qualifier. In the instance that the winner of the 2011 Winmau World Masters Championship (Men) has already qualified under Clause No: 2.03 then the next listed until ' 20' additional players have been determined from the BDO invitation table

The 2009 and 2010 World Professional Champions subject to their eligibility and providing that they have not already qualified.
- 2.07 In the instance that the number of players determined under Clause Nos: 2.04 to 2.06 is greater than '24' then the number of Qualifiers to be determined from the International Play-offs under Clause No: 3.01 will be adjusted accordingly. {IE: From (7) to (6), to (5), or to (4)

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- 2.08 All Players must play the majority of their darts in the BDO/WDF system.
IE: Each British player must have made a written commitment to the BDO system and be currently playing in the British Inter-County Championship/County Super league, and each Overseas player must be in the 'Top Ten' of his own Member Darts Body's Ranking System.
- 2.09 Consideration shall also be given by the Promoters/Organisers to those players that have been nominated by their National Darts Body providing that they comply with BDO Eligibility requirements.
- 2.10 Again if it is necessary to make a choice between players, the BDO Invitation Tables, or the nominated orders of preference, or a Ranking System applicable to their Country, will be considered to enable a decision to be made on which player, or players are to be invited.
- 2.11 If no decision has been reached under Clause Nos: 2.09 to 2.10 then reference to the WDF Ranking System shall be made in order to make a choice.

3.00 INVITATION FORMULA - 'INTERNATIONAL PLAY-OFF' QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

- 3.01 Invitations will be extended by the Promoter/Organisers to approximately '250' players who, upon acceptance, will be required to participate in an International play-off to determine 8; 7; 6; 5; or 4 Qualifiers. The actual number to be determined is dependent upon the application of Clause Nos: 2.04, 2.05 and 2.06.
- 3.02 All players must be 18 years of age or over on 1st January 2012. Dispensations may only be allowed at the discretion of the Promoter/Organisers/Sponsors.
- 3.03 All the invited players shall have met at least ONE of the qualifying conditions listed below;
- (a) Former World Professional Champions that have not directly qualified subject to currently playing in the British Inter-County Championship/County Super Leagues, or being placed in the Top Ten of his own Country's Ranking Tables.
 - (b) All players who were in the final thirty two (32) of the last Championship that have not already qualified.
 - (c) Players from the listing of BDO recognised Champions that have not already qualified providing that each British player must be currently playing in the British Inter-County Championship/County Super League, and each Overseas player must in the Top Ten of his own Member Darts Body's Ranking System. IE: All Players must play the majority of their darts in the BDO/WDF system {See the Appendix: Listing of BDO recognised events}
 - (d) Full International Squad members from England, Scotland and Wales.
 - (e) The next '5' players in the June issue of the Men's BICC DAVE and BDO British Grand Prix tables that have not already directly qualified.
 - (f) Up to '4' representative players, or qualifiers, for the World Masters Championship, plus the listed Singles Champions, determined by a WDF Member Darts Body outside of the BDO.
 - (g) All the players that have qualified for the World Finals of the 2011 Winmau World Masters Championship through the 'National' play-offs held in England, Scotland, and Wales.
 - (h) '1' male player from each BDO Member County play-off which shall be open to all registered County Super League players, subject to meeting their commitment to the BDO system.
 - (i) Former Winmau World Masters Champions who are eligible and subject to currently playing in the British Inter-County Championship, or being placed in the Top Ten of his own Country's Ranking System.
 - (j) The 2008 and 2009 World Professional Champions subject to their eligibility and providing that they have not directly qualified.

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(k) A player that has been nominated for invitation by a BDO Sponsor or the IDPA must be able to comply with one of the above Clause Nos: 3.02 (a) to (j).

3.03 A Ranking System which is applicable to a Country, or the BDO Invitation Table shall be used to enable a decision to be made on which player, or players shall be invited into the International Play-offs when more than one player is eligible to attend.

3.04 The current Winmau World Master will be considered for inclusion in the invitations issued by the Promoters/Organisers and if already qualified then the next ranked player in the BDO invitation table not Already qualified will be invited subject to player having met the commitment to the BDO system.

4.00 MATCH PLAY FORMAT

4.01 The BDO Playing Rules shall apply to all matches played in the Lakeside World Professional Championship, including the International Play-offs, plus any additional Rules that have been printed in the Championship programme.

4.02 At Lakeside players must be in attendance at least 60 minutes before the commencement of a match play session in order to ensure the formal introduction on stage of all players involved in that session.

4.03 At Lakeside if a player fails to attend to meet the requirement in Clause No: 4.02 then an official warning will be issued by the Promoters/Organisers, and in the instance of a second offence the player will be automatically suspended from a BDO event.

4.04 The International Play-off format shall be the Best of '3' Sets, with each Set being the Best of '5' Legs 501 up, with a straight start, and a Double or Bull to finish.

The Tie-Breaker Rule will apply to the 3rd Set, if played, to determine the result of an individual match.

4.05 Each Set played in the Championship shall be the Best of '5' Legs, and each Leg shall be 501 up, with a with a straight start, and a Double, or Bull to finish.

4.06 The 4th and 5th Leg of each Set shall only be played if they do contribute to the result of that respective Set.

4.07 In the Final Set of each match, after '3' legs have been played and no result has been attained, then the match result must be attained by winning '2' clear legs.

NB: The Final Set of a match shall be interpreted as the following;

- 5th Set in the First Round matches.
- 7th Set in the Second Round matches.
- 9th Set in the Quarter-final matches.
- 11th Set in the Semi-final matches.
- 13th Set in the Final match.

4.08 If no result has been attained by '5' legs each, then the Tie Breaker Rule will apply to the 11th Leg.

4.09 The Tie Breaker Rule shall apply to the FINAL Set in each match played in the Championship. {See Rule No: 5.00 for details.}

4.10 The Matchplay schedule for the World Championship shall be as follows;

First Round	= Best of 5 Sets
Second Round	= Best of 7 Sets
Quarter-finals	= Best of 9 Sets
Semi-finals	= Best of 11 Sets
Final	= Best of 13 Sets

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- 4.11 The Draw and the Schedule of Matchplay for each round shall be as indicated in the players briefing, and as laid down in the Championship programme.
- 4.12 The Bracket system will apply to the Matchplay Draw which shall be conducted at the discretion of the Promoters/Organisers in conjunction with the Sponsors.
- 4.13 The '16' Seeded Players shall be placed in the Draw according to the BDO Seeding Formula.
{IE: 16; 1; 9; 8; 12; 5; 13; 4; 15; 2; 10; 7; 11; 6; 14; 3.}
- 4.14 The Promoters/Organisers reserve the right to alter the Playing Format, and the Matchplay Schedule to accommodate any circumstances that may occur during the Championship.

5.00 TIE BREAKER

- 5.01 The terms of the Tie Breaker Rule shall apply to the 11th Leg of the Final Set of a match.
NB: The Final Set of a match shall be interpreted as the following;
- 5th Set in the First Round matches.
 - 7th Set in the Second Round matches.
 - 9th Set in the Quarter-final matches.
 - 11th Set in the Semi-final matches.
 - 13th Set in the Final match.
- 5.02 Each player shall throw for the Bull to determine which player shall throw first in the 11th Leg of the Final Set, but the player that threw first in the match shall throw first for the Bull.
- 5.03 The decision will be based on the player's dart that enters the board, remains in the board, and is judged by the referee to be nearest the Bull.
- 5.04 Darts that hit and remain in the Bull, or the '25' bed, shall be retrieved by the player before the opponent throws a dart.
- 5.05 If a dart rebounds from the board, or falls out of the board during a throw, then the player shall throw a further dart, or darts until one remains in the board.
- 5.06 If a dart enters, and remains in the board, in such a manner that the opponent's view of the Bull, or the 25 bed, is obscured, then the opponent may request the referee to adjust the angle of inclination of the dart so as to afford a clearer view.
- Any adjustment of the angle of inclination must not alter the point of entry of the dart, but must align the dart so that it is perpendicular to the face of the board.
- 5.07 If the darts thrown for the Bull prove to be a tie, then both players shall retrieve their darts and shall throw again, but in the reverse order, until a decision has been made by the referee.
- 5.08 The player that wins the 11th leg of the final set is the winner of the match.

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6.00 PRIZE STRUCTURE

- 6.01 In the International Play-offs the Group Winners, {8, 7, 6, 5, or 4} shall be awarded with an invitation to participate in the First Round proper and are guaranteed a minimum of first round losers prize money providing that they participate.
- 6.02 In the Championship proper each player is eligible to receive a minimum of first round loser prize money subject to having participated in that first round.
- 6.03 Every other player is eligible to receive prize money in respect of the position attained in the Championship.
- 6.04 If applicable, prize money will also be awarded for the highest Check-out recorded in competitive Matchplay. {IE: The Highest possible Check-out is '170' - [Treble 20 + Treble 20 + Bull]}
- In the instance of more than one player achieving the same highest Check-out, then the prize money will be divided equally between them.
- 6.05 A Special Prize for the first '9' dart leg in matchplay on stage at Lakeside may be made available subject to Sponsorship negotiations.
- 6.06 A BDO Prize for the same achievement is £1000 plus a further £1000 if the achievement is transmitted by television.
- 6.07 The official stage presentations shall be to the Champion, and the Runner-up. The highest Check-out prize will be presented officially in the Sponsor's reception held after the event.
- 6.08 If a player is not present at the official presentation ceremony to receive prize money, or prizes, without the prior permission of the Promoters/Organisers then that player shall forfeit the right to receive such prize money, or prizes that may be due.
- 6.09 If a player does not fulfil all playing commitments within the Championship, without reasonable cause, then that player shall forfeit the right to receive any prize money, prizes, or trophies that may be due to that player in respect of the Championship.
- 6.10 If any expenditure is incurred as a result of such a default then the player, or person deemed to be responsible shall be held liable for the additional costs involved.
- 6.11 All players participating in the Championship must ensure that they do not play in any darts match, competition, or exhibition, without the prior permission of the Sponsor, at any venue within 100 miles radius of the playing venue during the period of the Championship.
- 6.12 In the instance that Clause No: 6.11 has been contravened, then the Sponsor shall reserve the right to withhold prize monies from the offending player.
- 6.13 An Overseas player will be subject to UK. Withholding Tax on any prize money won, less an allowance for the cost of hotel and subsistence that is actually incurred by the player.
- The allowance being for one day prior to the event, plus the number of days that the player is participating in the event.

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7.00 PLAYING ATTIRE

- 7.01 All the terms of BDO Playing Rule No: 25.00 shall apply in all matches played in the Lakeside World Professional Championship, and are detailed for reference in the BDO Players Dress Code.
- 7.02 In the Lakeside World Professional Championship the Playing Attire of any participating player shall be subject to BDO approval.
- 7.03 Any unacceptable Playing Attire must be changed before that player can participate in any introductions, Matchplay on stage, interviews, and introductions.
- 7.04 Any player refusing to meet with BDO approval shall be liable to forfeit that respective match, and shall be reported to the appropriate darts body for Disciplinary Proceedings to be considered.

8.00 ADVERTISING

- 8.01 All the terms of BDO Playing Rule No: 27.00 shall apply in all the matches played in the Lakeside World Professional Championship, and are detailed for reference in the BDO Players Dress Code.

9.00 SMOKING

- 9.01 No smoking shall be allowed by any player, or match official, whilst engaged in a match played on stage which is being covered by television.
- 9.02 No smoking shall be allowed by any player, or match official, whilst, engaged in the televised introductions to Matchplay, during any televised interviews on or off the stage, and during presentation ceremonies made on the stage.
- 9.03 Any player found to be in breach of Clause Nos: 9.01, or 9.02 shall forfeit that respective match, and shall be reported to the appropriate darts body for Disciplinary Proceedings to be considered.
- 9.04 Any match official found to be breach of Clause Nos: 9.01, or 9.02 shall be reported to the appropriate darts body for Disciplinary Proceedings to be considered.
- 9.05 The British Darts Organisation Ltd., or any of its subsidiaries, shall reserve the right to prohibit smoking in any other matches under its jurisdiction, if it is considered in the best interests of the promotion of the Sport of Darts to do so.

10.00 DRINKING

- 10.01 No alcoholic drinks shall be allowed to be consumed, or introduced into the area covered by television, by any player, or match official whilst engaged in a match which is being covered by television.
- 10.02 No alcoholic drinks shall be allowed to be consumed, or introduced into the area covered by television, by any player, or match official, during televised introductions to Matchplay, during any televised interviews either on or off the stage, and during presentation ceremonies made on the stage.
- 10.03 Any player found to be in breach of Clause No: 10.01, or 10.02 shall forfeit that respective match, and shall be reported to the appropriate darts body for Disciplinary Proceedings to be considered.
- 10.04 Any match official found to be in breach of Clause No: 10.01, or 10.02 shall be reported to the appropriate darts body for Disciplinary Proceedings to be considered.
- 10.05 The British Darts Organisation Ltd., or any of its subsidiaries, shall reserve the right to prohibit the consumption of alcoholic drinks in any other matches under its jurisdiction, if it is considered in the best interests of the promotion of the Sport of Darts to do so.

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11.00 ANTI-DOPING POLICY

11.01 The terms and conditions laid down in the BDO Code of Practice No 6: Anti-Doping Policy shall apply to all players and officials participating in the World Professional Championship.

12.00 BETTING CODE

12.01 The terms and conditions laid down in the BDO Code of Practice No 9: Betting and Related Activity shall apply to all players and officials participating in the World Professional Championship.

13.00 OFFICIALS

13.01 The number of Officials required to organise the Lakeside World Professional Championship shall be determined and appointed by the Promoters/Organisers giving due regard to those persons previously appointed and to the budget for the Championship.

14.00 PLAYERS & OFFICIALS CONDUCT

14.01 Any player's, or match official's conduct which is considered to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute shall be liable to Disciplinary Proceedings being taken against that player, or that official.

14.02 Such Disciplinary Action shall be instigated by the Promoters/Organisers, and shall be conducted in accordance with BDO Code of Practice No: 3 as laid down in Volume One of the BDO Authorised Handbook.

14.03 Masters of Ceremonies and Referees shall not allow any player to use the microphone at any time during the Lakeside World Professional Championship without being officially invited to do so.

14.04 During Matchplay any player, or official, using offensive language, or seen to be 'mouthing' any offensive language, shall be deemed to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute, and shall be subject to Disciplinary Proceedings being taken against that player, or that official.

15.00 INCIDENTS

15.01 When an 'incident' occurs which is not specifically covered within the Lakeside World Professional Championship Playing Rules and Format, or the BDO Playing Rules, then the Promoters/Organisers decision shall be final and binding.

15.02 Any decision made under Clause No. 15.01 shall be referred to an ensuing BDO Board Meeting, when that decision shall be considered for inclusion within a revised version of these Rules.

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APPENDIX: Listing of BDO recognised events.

Exceptions: British Open Pairs and BDO Gold Cup Pairs

Note: The listing of recognised events may be augmented during the Season as new events become established in the darts calendar and are formally recognised by the BDO.

Alan King Memorial	New Zealand	Lakeside World Pro	BDO
Antwerp Open	Belgium	Las Vegas Open	USA
Australian Grand Masters	Australia	Latvian National Singles	Latvia
Austrian Open 1 Klagenfurt	Austria	Latvian Open	Latvia
Austrian Open 2 Vienna	Austria	Legenda Cup	Lithuania
BDO Gold Cup Singles	BDO	Lithuanian Open	Lithuania
BDO International Open	BDO	Malaysian Open	Malaysia
Belgium National Singles	Belgium	Malta Open	Malta
Belgium Open	Belgium	Mariflex Open	Netherlands
Bob Jones Memorial	Canada	N. Ireland Masters	N. Ireland
British Classic	BDO	N. Ireland National Singles	N. Ireland
British Masters	BDO	New Zealand Masters	New Zealand
British Open	BDO	New Zealand Open	New Zealand
British Teenage Open {Over 18}	BDO	North Island Masters	New Zealand
Canadian National Singles	Canada	Northern Ireland Open	N. Ireland
Canadian Open	Canada	Norway National Singles	Norway
Canterbury Open	New Zealand	Open Holland	Netherlands
Central Coast Classic	Australia	Pacific Masters	Australia
CentreParcs Masters	Belgium	Philippines Cup	Philippines
Champions League	Netherlands	Philippines Masters	Philippines
Charlotte Open	USA	Philippines National Singles	Philippines
Colorado Open	USA	Philippines Open	Philippines
Cyprus Open	Cyprus	Quebec Open	Canada
Czech Open	Czech Rep	Rep. Ireland Open	Rep. Ireland
Denmark National Singles	Denmark	Rep. of Ireland Masters	Rep. of Ireland
Denmark Open	Denmark	Rep. of Ireland National Singles	Rep. of Ireland
Dortmund Open	Germany	Russian Open	Russia
Dublins Open	Canada	Scottish Classic	Scotland
Dutch Open	Netherlands	Scottish Masters	Scotland
England Classic	England	Scottish National Singles	Scotland
England Masters	England	Scottish Open	Scotland
England National Singles	England	Singapore Open	Singapore
England Open	England	Sunshine State Classic	Australia
Estonia Open	Estonia	Sweden National Singles	Sweden
Finland National Singles	Finland	Sweden Open	Sweden
Finland Open	Finland	Swiss Masters	Switzerland
Flanders Open	Belgium	Swiss National Singles	Switzerland
French Masters	France	Swiss Open	Switzerland
French National Singles	France	Ted Clements/Levin Open	New Zealand
French Open	France	Torremolinos Open	BDO
Geelong Masters	Australia	Turkish Masters	Turkey
German Gold Cup	Germany	Turkish Open	Turkey
German National Singles	Germany	USA Dart Classic	USA
German Open	Germany	Victoria Easter Open	Australia
Gibraltar National Singles	Gibraltar	Virginia Beach Classic	USA
Gibraltar Open	Gibraltar	WDF Americas Cup	WDF
Greek Open	Greece	WDF Asia/Pacific Cup	WDF
Halifax Open	Canada	WDF Europe Cup	WDF
Hellinikon Open	Greece	WDF World Cup	WDF
Hong Kong Open	Hong Kong	Welsh Classic	Wales

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APPENDIX: Continued

Houston Open	USA	Welsh Masters	Wales
Hungarian Open	Hungary	Welsh National Singles	Wales
Isle of Man Open	Isle of Man	Welsh Open	Wales
Italian Open	Italy	West Coast Classic	Australia
Japan Open	Japan	Winmau World Masters	BDO
Klondike Open	Canada	Zuiderduin Masters	Netherlands
Korean Open	Korea		

CHAMPIONS ROLL OF HONOUR

1978	Leighton Rees	
1979	John Lowe	
1980	Eric Bristow	
1981	Eric Bristow	
1982	Jocky Wilson	
1983	Keith Deller	
1984	Eric Bristow	
1985	Eric Bristow	
1986	Eric Bristow	
1987	John Lowe	
1988	Bob Anderson	
1989	Jocky Wilson	
1990	Phil Taylor	
1991	Dennis Priestley	
1992	Phil Taylor	
1993	John Lowe	
1994	John Part	
1995	Ritchie Burnett	
1996	Steve Beaton	
1997	Les Wallace	
1998	Raymond Barneveld	
1999	Raymond Barneveld	
2000	Ted Hankey	
2001	John Walton	
2002	Tony David	
2003	Raymond Barneveld	
2004	Andy Fordham	
2005	Raymond Barneveld	
2006	Jelle Klaasen	
2007	Martin Adams	
2008	Mark Webster	
2009	Ted Hankey	
2010	Martin Adams	
2011	Martin Adams	
2012		
2013		

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SCHEDULE 1

Extract from the 'Tomlin Order' dated 30th June 1997

The W.D.C. and the B.D.O. agree the following:

1. This Schedule applies to the Embassy World Professional Championship, organised by the B.D.O. and sponsored by Imperial Tobacco plc ("the Embassy"), and to the Sky World Championship, organised by the W.D.C. and broadcast by Sky Television ("the Sky"). It applies to no other event.
2. No person may participate in both the Sky and the Embassy in the same season.
3. Any person who, in the 12 months preceding either the Sky or the Embassy, signs a document indicating an intention to participate in one of those competitions, shall not be permitted to enter or participate in the other competition, and may be required to participate in the competition to which the document refers.
4. Nobody shall be required, as a precondition to entry into any competition other than the Sky or the Embassy, or as a precondition to membership of the W.P.D.P.A. or the B.D.O. to sign a document of the sort referred to in paragraph 3 of this Schedule.
5. The top 16 players, and any Home Country players ranked between 17 and 32 in each year's Embassy (from January 1998), and the top 16 players in each year's Sky (from January 1998), shall not be permitted to enter the other competition in the immediately following year.
6. No further restriction shall be imposed upon any player than those set out above, except under the ordinary disciplinary codes of practice and rules of play for each tournament.
7. In view of pre-existing contractual commitments, this Schedule shall not apply to the following players until after the conclusion of the Sky in 2001 and the W.D.C. may maintain its existing contractual restrictions upon them: Bob Anderson, Eric Bristow, Keith Deller, John Lowe, Dennis Priestley and Phil Taylor.