

Jon MacDougall – a former player from Nova Scotia
By Kip Morrish

It is surprising the information I have learned over the past few years from talking to the many dart players across the country. Unfortunately we are all too occupied with our lives to know what these dart players do “in their real lives” and I have really enjoyed the experience of talking with players who, I probably would not have had much of a conversation with.

This time I had the opportunity of talking to yet another former “Nova Scotian”. I don't know whether it has to do with location, but it does appear to be quite easy to talk to these people. The person I snagged this time is Jon MacDougall who, although now living in Quebec is definitely from Nova Scotia.

Jon started playing darts in 1989 being introduced to the game by his father Don who is also known in the Canadian ranks. Finding this sport of interest he joined a league in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Three months later he qualified for the Nova Scotia youth team by winning the Nova Scotia Junior Youth Provincial Championship. He also qualified in 1991-93 and attended the Youth National Championships in 1991 and 1992. He didn't attend the championships in 1993 because of the birth of his first son – yes, he started the next generation of MacDougall dart players at a very early age! He also qualified for the Nova Scotia Adult Team on four occasions and this past year he was the first alternate in his adopted province of Quebec.

Jon made a statement that should be noted by our youth and yes, even our adult players. Because his first few years of playing were kind to him he achieved a lot, unfortunately he didn't know how to lose. It took him quite a few years to understand that defeat is just as much a part of this sport as being successful. Being able to do both in a graceful and respectful manner is something that every dart player, young and old should remember.

With all he has achieved to this point, he must have a very understanding wife and this he assured me is correct. His wife is very supportive of any time that he might wish to take to attend tournaments provided it doesn't conflict with family time and fits into the budget. With three young children, 13, 3 and 2, thought has to be put into which events to attend. In addition to three children, Jon and his wife Carla breed English bulldogs and have a registered kennel with the CKC. They currently have four bulldogs that are part of their family life. That is quite a family!

Jon is employed as a driver with Purolator Courier and his employer has been very flexible in giving him time off to travel and pursue his passion.

Quite a practice session is used whenever he has time, although this is sometimes limited because, as we have seen, he has a very busy home life. He tries to get on the board every day but this is not always possible, however, he does step up his practice routine before any tournaments.

As we have seen, Jon was very active in both the Nova Scotia youth and adult programs which have produced some very worthy champions over the years. Incidentally, the Nova Scotia youth program fell upon some hard times but came back with a vengeance in 2006, thanks to a newly appointed Youth Director June Bruce, and is also the home of the Senior Male Youth Champion, Brandon Brightman.

The 2006 Winmau World Masters will be the first opportunity that Jon has had to travel to England. We hope that he will find this a learning experience and I know he will come back with every intention of increasing his practice time in the hopes of qualifying for some further international play.

Once again I got the same response to my question “Is the NDFC doing as much as it can to improve darts in Canada?” Jon’s feelings are that the only way we can improve the level of darts in Canada is to have government sponsorship. This won’t happen until darts is officially recognized as a sport in Canada. That is the feelings of many but again, before darts will even receive any consideration as a sport in Canada it must be recognized as a sport in every province and territory.

