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## REVIEW

### 2020 BDO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wayne Warren captures his maiden World title, as Mikuru Suzuki retains hers and Keane Barry is crowned Youth champion

PAGE 10-13

## PREVIEW

### 2020 UNIBET PREMIER LEAGUE

We look ahead to the 16-week roadshow that kicks off during February in Aberdeen

PAGE 23-27

## INTERVIEWS

### JOHN O'SHEA & CAMERON MENZIES

We catch up with the 2019 World Masters Champion John O'Shea, and Cameron Menzies, as they look ahead to PDC Q School in search of a coveted Tour Card

PAGE 30-33

### PETER GETS IT WRIGHT!

"Snakebite" claims first PDC World Crown With Win Over MVG - Review Inside.

PAGE 6

## MVG JOINS WINMAU

Darts Planet TV was in attendance in Cardiff, as Michael van Gerwen moves manufacturer to Winmau on a five-year deal

PAGE 4-5

## OLLY CROFT OBE

1929-2019. We take a look at the life and times of the former BDO Chairman, who sadly passed away at the end of November.

PAGE 15





Photo Credit: Lawrence Lustig, PDC

# PDC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW

## WRIGHT CROWNED PDC WORLD CHAMPION

**P**eter Wright was crowned champion of the world for the first time on New Year's Day at Alexandra Palace after seeing off Michael van Gerwen 7-3 in a high-quality final.

At the age of 49, the flamboyant Wright has scaled the highest peak possible in his chosen profession – six years after embarking on a career-defining run to the final, aptly losing out to the Dutchman, van Gerwen.

The Scotsman held the advantage throughout the final, with double 10 being pinned to lift the prestigious Sid Waddell Trophy and the showpiece of the sport.

"I can't quite believe it," expressed Wright following his historic victory. "I thought about giving up before I reached the final six years ago, but this shows that you should never give up on your dreams.

"Michael is an excellent champion and deserves everything he has won, but it was my turn, and it feels brilliant.

"I've worked so hard on finding the right darts, the right throw and the right mentality, and it all came together at the right time."

He added: "I am really proud of myself and really grateful of everybody that has helped me become world champion."

Averages and scoring ability were equal in a scintillating showing from both major champions, though, Wright's 50% checkout completion rate proved an essential factor.

The 49-year-old crucially claimed the opening two

sets of the tie, and remained on the front foot for the entirety, despite the Dutchman whitewashing him in the third set and subsequently levelling proceedings at two-a-piece.

Squandered opportunities at the outer ring began to creep into the defending champion's game, as the former UK Open champion regained a slender advantage, with a set-sealing 96 finish.

A two-set lead in favour of Wright came into existence for the second time in the match; three successive 80-plus out shots were nailed by the Suffolk man in a set six whitewash.

Van Gerwen managed to pull one back in the seventh set, only for Wright to convincingly reel off the next three sets and become the fourth Scottish world champion, joining Les Wallace and two-time champions, Gary Anderson and Jocky Wilson.

**WORDS: BEN HUDD**

## THE REST OF THE TOURNAMENT...

**T**he 2020 William Hill PDC World Championship was captivating for many reasons, namely due to the groundbreaking efforts of Fallon Sherrock. The Milton Keynes thrower finally became the first female player to win a match at the PDC World Championship, but she achieved this

and then some at the tournament.

2015 BDO World Championship runner up Sherrock was clear second favourite against Ted Everts in her opening assignment, but she took great heart from the efforts of her Mikuru Suzuki, who took James Richardson to a sudden-death leg before agonisingly losing 3-2 just two days prior.

Fallon showed no fear or respect to Everts, who was the Development Tour number one, winning a raft of tournaments through 2019. Sherrock nailed a 106 check out in the opening set, finished 100 in the third set, and landed six 180's in all as she recovered from 2-1 down, landing a 13 darter to level the contest. A historic double 18 secured the biggest win of her career.

Sherrock proved this was no fluke by shocking the darting world again just four days later. Her brave run was expected to come to a halt at the hands of the eleventh seed, Mensur Suljovic, but another 90 plus average saw Sherrock win 3-1 in a seismic upset. Finishes of 131 and 70 helped win the opening set, and a 104 checkout aided her charge to the second set against the stunned Austrian. Although "The Gentle" fought back and pulled a set back, Fallon closed the show with a stunning 86 checkout on the bullseye for victory.

Newcastle's Chris Dobey would end her tournament in the last 32, but the encounter wasn't without it's scares. Sherrock twice led by a set, and there were 19 maximums in the contest, coupled with five ton-plus finishes, but Dobey grew into the game and was clinical in rounding off a 4-2 win.



## THE BEST OF REST

**H**ollywood" Chris Dobey's run would eventually be halted by Glen Durrant in the last 16. The Teessider had already had to come through a tough section of the draw, with a 3-0 win against Damon Heta backed up with a see-saw 4-2 win over Daryl Gurney. Durrant's long unbeaten run in World Championships was eventually ended by

Gerwyn Price, who comfortably defeated the three-time BDO World Champion 5-1 in the quarter-finals.

It wasn't to be for Price, with the Welshman losing an unfortunate tempered affair against eventual champion, Peter Wright, the Scot triumphing 6-3 in their semi-final meeting.

Michael van Gerwen never really got into his top gear in the tournament, but wins against Jelle Klaasen, Ricky Evans, Stephen Bunting, Darius Labanauskas and Nathan Aspinall paved the way for a fifth World Championship final appearance.

It was another strong run in a PDC major for Nathan Aspinall, and the UK Open and US Master made it back to back last four appearances before falling to Michael van Gerwen. The Stockport thrower began with a 3-1 win over the impressive American, Danny Baggish, and then defeated the tough Pole, Krzysztof Ratajski 4-3 in round three. Aspinall then sent Gary Anderson packing 4-2 in the last 16, before Dimitri Van den Bergh was edged out 5-3.

Darius Labanauskas was a surprise but deserving quarter-finalist. The Lithuanian comfortably defeated Matt Edgar 3-0 in round one, and then shocked Ian White in the second round, averaging over 100 in a 3-1 win. "Lucky D" then defeated Max Hopp and Steve Beaton, both by 4-2 score lines to reach the last eight, where he had his chances, but ultimately fell to Michael van Gerwen in a 5-2 reverse.

Beaton would see the other side of Christmas at the event for the first time in a long time. "The Bronzed Adonis" stunned James Wade in round three, before his defeat to Labanauskas.

There was to be no fairy tale ending for the retiring Raymond van Barneveld, who crashed out in round one at the hands of the American Darin Young, who showed no sentiment in a 3-1 win against the below-par Dutchman.

Luke Humphries made it back to back quarter-final appearances, but an average in excess of well over 100 wasn't enough to stop champion Wright, who won a high-quality affair 5-3. The Newbury man had previously beaten Devon Petersen, Jermaine Wattimena, Nico Kurz and Kim Huybrechts to reach the quarters.

There were shocks aplenty, with 2018 winner Rob Cross ousted in his opening match in straight sets to the Belgian Huybrechts. Michael Smith also came a cropper in his first match, as the emerging talents of Luke Woodhouse scored a shock 3-1 win.

Jeffrey de Zwaan continues to impress, and he averaged over 106 in his last 32 win against Dave Chisnall. He came close to defeating Peter Wright but was edged 4-3 in a last 16 classic.

**WORDS: PAUL MASON**



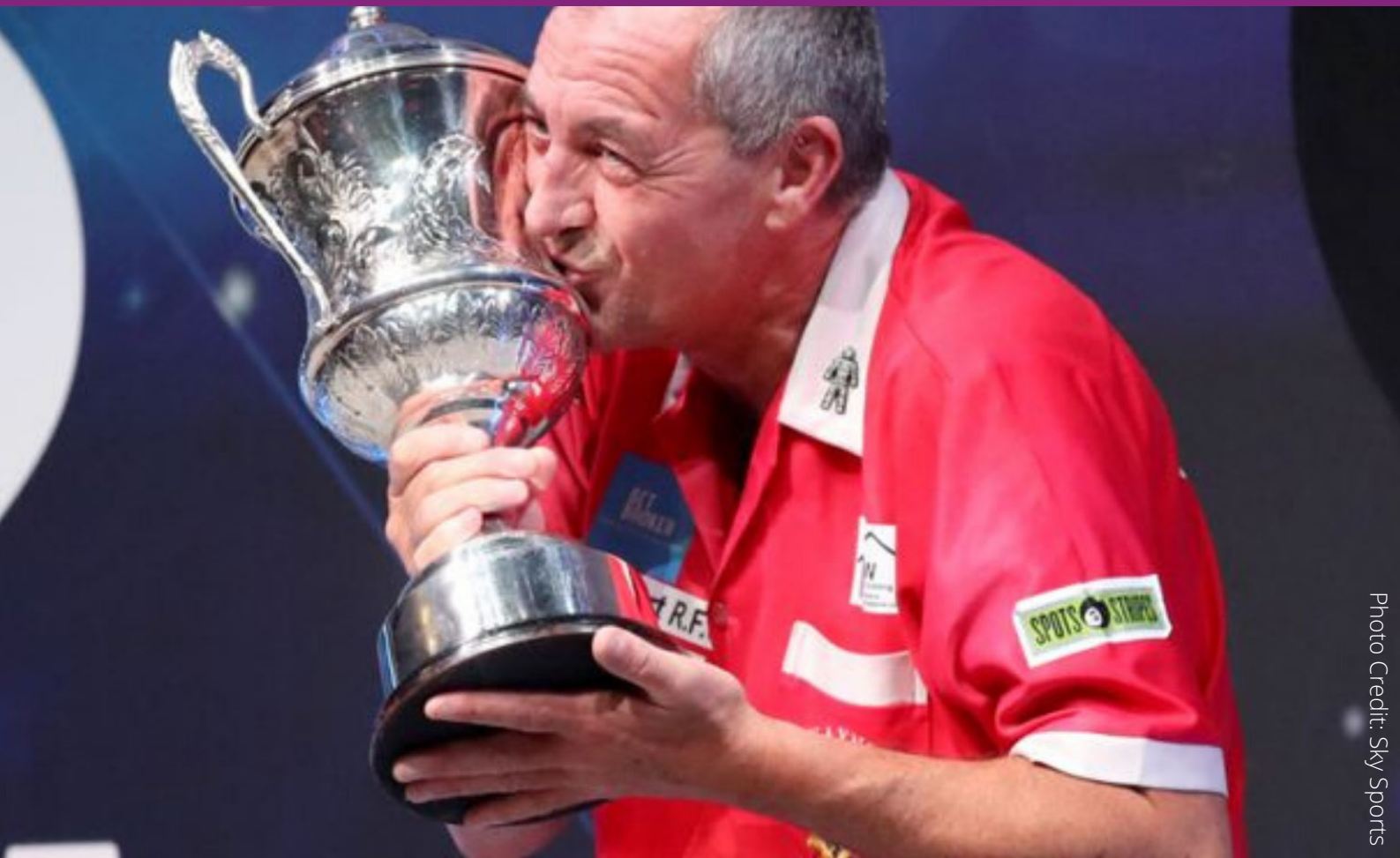


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