

## **Congratulations to our Pennsylvania Hall of Fame inductee. Bob Wiles – our very own “Englishman.”**



The “National Dart Association” has just announced this year’s inductee into their “Hall of Fame” and it includes the likes of the well-known industry veteran Bob Wiles of Arachnid Manufacturing. Bob is the consensus “all world” factory representative and one of the hardest working guys in the industry! His official title is East Coast & US/International Sales Representative, Arachnid Manufacturing. The induction took place at the N.D.A.’s 26<sup>th</sup> annual Team Dart event in Las Vegas Nevada this past May of 2011.

If you’re a coin machine operator you undoubtedly know the name, as chances are that Bob has worked with you and your company. We congratulate him on this impressive and well-deserved induction. His hard work and dedication to his product is well known in Pennsylvania and around the United States and he is also acknowledged as one of the world’s great dart ambassadors for our industry. Many distributors and operators alike rely on Bob’s expertise in electronic dart machine league and tournament operation as he travels from Europe to Asia to South America and many points in between.

Behind this factory representative we all have grown to love, is a fiery competitor evidenced by his recent 2010 Asia Pro Single title shooting as a last minute entry in that event. Aside from winning various regional “Arachnid Bullshooter” titles over the years, Bob claims 5 Maine state championships and 5 Pennsylvania state championships. At one point in his playing career he was rated as one of the top 10 soft tip dart shooters in the world! He was an annual participant in the Pennsylvania State Tournament held in western Pennsylvania for the past seventeen years and always added a flair to those events by competing. Bob now administrates that same event every Valentines day weekend in Pittsburgh along with the tournament staff of Arachnid.

Bob was born in Guildford, Surrey, England April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1949. He started playing darts at a very young age in his home country when he wasn’t following his first love, soccer. Bob’s parents {now deceased} owned a pub in England and that’s where Bob was first exposed to darts and league play. A little known fact about Bob is that he managed a pop-rock band in his younger days called “Circus” after returning to England from the U.S.. Bob graduated from Waterville High School in England in 1967, went to Thomas College in Waterville then transferred to the University of Maine where he graduated with a B.S. in English in 1978. Bob was employed as a Fireman for 5 years in England as well.

Bob has 2 sisters, 1 brother, 8 nieces and nephews who still reside in merry ol’ England. Bob is happily married to his wife Irina and they just celebrated their 10

wedding anniversary May 5th. Bob has 2 daughters, Jeni and Luci, and a son Bob, from a previous marriage. He's also a proud grandfather four times over and another grandchild due this upcoming winter.

Bob first arrived on the coin op scene on this side of the pond by first competing in a dart league operated by Ferris Music in Madison Maine and then becoming their dart league coordinator for a few years. He was offered the same position with Lansdale Amusements in Hatfield Pa., a current Pamma member and big supporter of our annual PAMMA tournament in Carlisle Pa. Bob then moved on to a position as Tournament /Promotions Director with Merit Industries. He spent 10-years with Merit, 1-year with Touchtunes Manufacturing and the past 11-years with Arachnid Manufacturing in his current position directed by another N.D.A. "Hall" member, Sam Zamuto.

Along with operators and distributors, fellow dart shooters and friends, Pamma extends sincere congratulations to Bob Wiles on his prestigious induction into the National Dart Association, "Hall of Fame"!

Well-done Mate!