



DRA Chairman's Report 2018

The DRA continues to develop as a modern and professionally run governing body for Professional Darts.

The DRA is an independent not for profit organisation that puts all its income over and above its running costs back into the governance of the sport. This includes attendance at events, running the disciplinary processes by writing and reviewing the rules, providing a Disciplinary Committee to manage and conduct hearings, licensing Players and running the Registered Agents Process. The DRA also runs a drug testing program working with UK Anti-Doping. The DRA have a retained doctor to give advice on drug testing and prohibited substances.

The DRA work closely with the PDC and the PDPA and we are constantly looking at ways to improve our role and to advise our partners on governance issue.

In addition to this the DRA monitor betting on darts with betting operators and betting regulators worldwide and runs investigations into betting irregularities and breaches of the rules. The DRA provide sponsorship with UK Borders for players from outside the EU to obtain visas to enter the UK to play on the PDC Tour.

The DRA continues to expand. In 2018 the Australian, New Zealand European and Junior Darts Corporation have all signed up to DRA Governance and are now covered by the DRA Disciplinary process. This will bring new challenges of conducting hearings for referrals from around the world. The use of technology is essential in this and the DRA have introduced the options for persons charged with breaches of the rules to take part in hearings by video or conference call. This is an efficient and cost effective way of conducting hearings, whilst giving those accused of breaches of the rules the opportunity to take part in hearings wherever they are in the world.

Through the DRA Agent Registration Process, the DRA has registered 32 Agents from around the world. The numbers are growing year-on-year. Through the due diligence process that it conducts it provides protection for the sport, Players and the Registered Agents. The DRA has built up a relationship with the Registered Agents that has helped in its role in governing the sport. The list of Registered Agents is posted on the websites of the DRA, PDC and PDPA and Players can only use agents registered with the DRA. Both Players and Registered Agents are able to make complaints to the DRA for breaches of the DRA Rules and the Agents Regulations. The Registered Agents are required to renew their registration annually by 31st January each year.

Since 2016 the DRA has been recognised by UK Borders as a sponsor for Players from outside the EU to obtain Tier 2 Sportsman's visas to enter the UK. This enables players from outside the UK to regularly travel to the UK to play in PDC Events. Currently Players from Canada, South Africa and Australia have been supported through this process.

The DRA continues to be vigilant in protecting the sport from the scourge of match manipulation. The DRA has built on its relationships with other sports, the betting industry, the Gambling Commission and betting monitoring Companies. This means that if there were to be suspicious betting on a match, the DRA would be informed immediately. As part of this, the Chairman of the DRA sits on the Sports Betting Group and the Sports Betting Integrity Forum.

In 2018 there was the first conviction for match fixing in darts when Gilbert Ulang from the Philippines was found guilty of fixing his match played at the World Championships in December 2016 and sentenced to a 7-year ban and was ordered to pay £2,000 costs. In this case the hearing was in London and persons were able to take part by conference call from Japan.

The DRA are now named in Schedule 6 of the Gambling Act 2005. This means that the DRA is recognised as a Sports Governing Body with whom the Gambling Commission can lawfully share information. The DRA has updated its agreements with Betting Operators and various other organisations post the inception of GDPR.

This work is essential to protect the sport and the DRA remain committed to ensure that the sport remains clean and that the viewing public, sponsors and broadcasters can have confidence in the integrity of every match that is played.

The DRA work closely with the PDPA and have supported the PDPA induction Program for all players who qualify for a PDC Tour Card. Each year the DRA present at the Induction session at the first event after Q School. A new e-learning package has been finalised that PDC Tour card holders will have to complete before they can play in PDC Events. This provides information on the rule relating to betting and anti-corruption so that it is made clear to Players what they can and cannot do in this area.

In 2018 the DRA Disciplinary Committee received 51 referrals to be considered for disciplinary action to be taken. I am pleased to say that none of these cases have related to corruption.

I believe that it is important that the DRA are visible and accessible to Players and Agents and to this end in 2018 the DRA Board Members increased the time spent at events and regularly met with Officials, Players and their Registered Agents.

After extensive consultation with the PDC and the PDPA the DRA Rules have been revised to reflect the modern sport. The new Rules came into force on 14th January 2019 and are available on the DRA website.

New in-play sanctions have been introduced so that match referees can impose penalties for specific transgressions by Players in matches. This is to prevent Players gaining an advantage in matches that cannot be reversed after the match has concluded.

The DRA have made Beta Blockers a prohibited substance. The DRA have worked with the PDPA to ensure that Players are aware of this change that comes into force on 6th January 2019.

Darts is a multi-million pound sport and requires such proper governance to maintain credibility with sponsors and the TV companies who fund the sport as well as to comply with good governance principles put forward by the UK Government.

All of the developments and work of the DRA were delivered within budget for 2019, but the cost of the governance of the sport increases year-on-year. The expansion of the DRA will lead to an

increase in caseload and the DRA needs to be flexible to manage governance issues in the sport from around the world.

The DRA continues to be funded by the PDC, PDPA and by a licence fee paid by the Players. Registered Agents also pay an annual licence fee. The DRA is a not for profit organisation and any surplus from funding is reinvested in the governance of the sport.

I want to thank the DRA Board members for their hard work and support for the work of the DRA in 2018. Without their dedicated involvement the considerable increase in workload and responsibilities could not be managed. As a team we are looking forward to the challenges that the 2019 season will bring.

Nigel Mawer QPM
Chair of the Darts Regulation Authority
18th January 2019