

ENDANGERED SPECIES!

This month darter's of the ACDC, I want to talk about an endangered species. No, not the Florida Panther or the California Condor, but another type of creature that is getting just as hard to find. I'm talking about chalkers, or to be more specific, a good chalker. Seems to me this elusive beast is becoming more and more rare, and in some instances, totally nonexistent.

The ACDC has a lot of new darters these days, which is great. However, many of these darters, new and experienced alike, haven't really been enlightened on the proper way to chalk.

Hey, I realize chalking is not all that much fun. I'm not particularly fond of it myself, but, on league night and in tournaments, a good chalker is quite helpful for keeping things civil and moving smoothly. A single game lasts only a mere few minutes. A match takes normally ten to fifteen minutes. That's really not all that much time. Even if one is not proficient at adding and subtracting, that is no problem. Simply tell the darters that. When I was starting out, I simply told the throwers to tell me what they hit and what was left. Cricket, just tell me how many points and I would write it down. Technically, that's all a chalker has to do, write down what was thrown.

A person throwing in league or tournaments does not want to be told whether their dart is double or triple. If they want to know, they will ask. There is nothing so distracting as throwing a dart, knowing what you hit, setting up for the next throw, and having the chalker turn to face you and say "yup, that's a triple 1", or lean out over the board to see where the dart hit, or even nod their head. It's not the chalker's concern where the dart hit, unless they are asked. Please don't move. Please don't drink or smoke while you're chalking. Both are very distracting.

In a tournament field of 32, for example, there are 32 matches thrown. If each darter chalks only one time, that will ensure a smooth tournament. Darter's remember who chalks and who doesn't, if you chalk for them, they will chalk for you. Most places where darts are thrown have a universal list of do's and don'ts for chalkers. It's called the Ten Commandments for Chalkers. Just about anyone would gladly recite them for you. All you have to do is ask.

I'm sure all of us would like to see the race of good chalkers become the norm and not the endangered species it seems to have become.

Mike Tovissi, ACDC Board Member

Reprinted from March 19, 1991