ws' tears it up win darts title

yd blows away opposition to win Gibraltar event

Colin Lloyd has started off the year in electric broad ©

By **David Arnold**
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Darts

COLIN LLOYD has claimed his first tournament victory of the year by claiming the opening Players Championship of 2010 in Gibraltar.

Lloyd, 36, known as 'Jaws' because his love of the Hollywood blockbuster film defeated Wayne Jones on Saturday 6-2 to win the StanJames.com Eddie Cox Memorial Trophy.

He told the Chronicle: "I'm feeling in a really good space at the moment, I'm very confident about my game and I'm 100 per cent focused on darts.

"I'm delighted to have won the tournament it's a really nice feeling to have."

Delighted

The world number eight claimed the £6,000 title dropping only one leg in his opening two wins, against Dave Ahmet and Julian Sanchez before edging out Tony Eccles 6-5.

Peter Wright was whitewashed in the last 16, while Colin Osborne took out three 100-plus finishes in their quarter final, which Lloyd won 6-3.

He then defeated Mervyn King 6-2 in the semi-finals, having led 5-0, and repeated the scoreline against Jones in the final.

A week earlier the Chelmsford based player lost in the quarter-finals of the totesport.com Players Championship in the Circus Tavern, Purfleet to the all conquering Phil Taylor 9-7.

He said: "Getting to the quarters there and then winning the next tournament means it's been a really good start to the year.

"My average was really high and we were both paying good darts so I did well there,"

His early success this year also has the added bonus of all-but qualifying him for next year's player championship events and the European Championships.

"That's the really good thing," he said. "All I need now is to get another couple of decent results and then I can play in those tournaments which is a really nice, settling feeling to know that I have got one foot in the door."

Next up for Lloyd is a series of exhibition matches in Ireland before the next player's championship event in Swindon before the end of the month.

"It's really great because I can just get back from Ireland and then go and play in Swindon, I hope I can have another good tournament."

ows Dutch courage to claim ladies crown

Deta Hedutch Open aving won eted ladies kend.

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played on the Saturday.

England International and World Cup Ladies Pairs champion Lisa Ashton was Hedman's opponent in the semi-final.

The match was a nervy affair over the best of seven legs but ultimately it was Hedman who held her nerve to progress through 4-2.

The final saw Hedman's World Championship victor and the current Ladies World Professional Champion Trina Gulliver laying in wait.

Scintillating

Hedman produced a break of throw early on to take a 4-1 lead in the best of nine.

However Gulliver produced some scintillating darts including a 13 dart leg to break the throw back and take the match into a deciding leg.

It was Hedman who won the bulls eye and the right to throw first and 17 darts later she was the Dutch Open Champion.

ARROWING IN: Deta Hedman has won the Dutch Open ©

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Hockey

Chelmsford set to the task of building controlled play in the second period with Sarah Glanvill, Libby Knifton and Beth Wild

Park this Saturday (push-back 12 noon).

CHELMSFORD MEN I 3
INDIAN GYMKHANA 2

(England Hockey League

mainly by Willy Hales.

His ball carrying skills caused the Indian Gymkhana defence all sorts of problems which

And it was his strike at the top of the 'D', which was deflected

Motor racing

DRIVEN: Brad Bailey

Teen Brad revs up for Ginetta race

By **David Ward**
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BUDDING young Maldon racing driver Brad Bailey is all revved up and ready to face a new challenge by competing in the 2010 Ginetta G40 Junior championship.

Brad, 15, the current British and Open Junior Rallycross champion, has been selected as one of 26 young drivers from around the country to take part in the sports car championship for drivers aged between 14 and 17-years-old and will see him race at premier race circuits around the UK.

It is quite apt that 'Essex boy' Brad will be driving a Ginetta, as the company was originally founded in Witham by the Walklett brothers back in the 1958.

The championship supports the prestigious British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) 10-round competition and in addition to this the whole race day is covered live on ITV4.

"I'm really looking forward to the new season in a new car and I'm determined to do well although I know it's going to be hard," said Brad. "I know I've a lot to learn but I can't wait to get started "

Qualify

To qualify as one of the 26 selected to line up on the grid for the first race on April 4 at Thruxton, Brad had to attend a test session at the Pembrey circuit in Wales, before being given the green light by the championship organisers.

During the year Brad will have the opportunity to race on such famous race circuits as Brands Hatch, Siverstone, Snetterton and Donington Park and for each round Brad gets two 15 minute races on Sunday race day, plus practice and qualifying sessions the previous day.

The 26 identical race cars are currently being built at the Ginetta factory in Leeds and will be powered by a sealed Ford 1800cc Zetec engine and the race car complies with all motorsport regulations laid down by the FIA.

The Ginetta G40 junior championship is a showcase for developing motor racing talent and it could be the next step for Brad as he makes his way up the motorsport ladder.