

## **BOB ANDERSON**

To be accomplished at one sport is the wish of most people who have any claim to a competitive spirit. To claim and then prove outstanding ability at three is the mark of an extraordinary man. Bob Anderson is one of those unique band of men.

Born in 1947 in Winchester, Bob signaled at the tender age of seven that his hand/eye co-ordination was pretty sharp. His father, an accomplished darts player, watched in astonishment as his son deftly slotted his first 180 with three large brass and feather darts. However, by his early teens, darts of a larger variety, javelins, took Bob to the Great Britain Schools Championships, where he took the National Title. The next year saw Bob invited to train for the Mexico Olympics. Alas, misfortune struck, a broken arm ending for good any future athletic ambitions.

Undaunted, his sporting ability refocused to his feet, where Bob developed into a useful striker at football. Having left school, his employer, The Civil Service, relocated him to Lincoln, where he played for Lincoln United who were then in the Yorkshire League. Transferred back south to Guildford, he then played for Woking and later Farnborough Town.

In 1970 that bad luck struck once more, this time a broken leg, and dreams of soccer stardom ended. Socially, Bob had kept up his dart playing, and in 1973 had become a serious competitor at Super League level. By 1976 he was playing county games for Wiltshire, and beginning to eye intently the emerging professional circuit and the big TV tournaments as the game, nationally and internationally, became more organised.

1981 marked the start of Bob's rise to international fame, when he won the CIU National Singles Championship, followed two years later by the British Gold Cup title. In Denmark in 1986 he won his first World Ranked event, the Danish Open Singles, which confirmed his presence amongst the ranks of the game's elite. The next three years saw an astonishing run of pure skill and supreme ability. He won the World Masters title three years running, the only man to achieve this, the Swedish Open title and the Canadian and British Open titles, plus a hat trick of Pacific Masters titles in Australia, again a unique achievement.

In January 1988 Bob defeated John Lowe to become Embassy World Professional Champion, and consequently World Number One. He was simply the best, not only at the sport, but in the art of communication, for Bob also had by this time developed his natural friendly nature into an engaging charm, much regarded and sought after by sponsors and the corporate market.

Although surgery was required for a back injury in 1990 Bob, now fully recovered, has remained amongst the game's elite, and with the sport back on television not only in the UK but in Europe and America, Bob's return to form was timely. Further victories were to follow, and in 1993 Bob lifted the North American Open title, which confirmed his place in the record books of all-time greats.

An entertaining after dinner speaker, Bob is also an accomplished golfer, with a single figure handicap.

### **Captain of England**

World Professional Champion 1988  
World Master 1986, 87, 88  
World Pairs Champion 1986, 95  
World Matchplay Champion 1988  
World Champions Champion 1990  
British Open Champion 1988  
British Gold Cup Champion 1983, 86  
1994, 95

Canadian Open Champion 1990, 92  
North American Open Champion 1993  
Swedish Open Champion 1986  
Danish Open Champion 1986  
WDC Samson Classic Champion 1993  
Pacific Master 1987, 88, 89  
International Champion, Eastbourne

British Matchplay Champion 1987, 88  
Champion 1995

Antwerp Open International