

BOB'S YOUR UNCLE *by David Ainslie*

It is great to see so much going on in Pinball. Stern is putting out some great titles. First with Lyman Sheats, Steve Ritchie and now George Gomez back on board I have great expectations for Stern. Jersey Jack keeps sending teasing emails and I am really looking forward to Wizard of Oz. Jersey Jack Pinball is clearly focussed on the collector; a different philosophy to Stern, in Chicago.

I have looked at quite a few Pinball bits but somehow always managed to miss the chimes of PGJ publisher Jim's deadline ... until now. So this article is a bit like an old curiosity shop with a real mixture of items.

Chris Bucci -- A while ago there was a real buzz on the UK Pinball Group as Chris had put together his videos onto DVDs and had offered them for sale. For a while now, Chris has been producing detailed videos about games in his collection and presenting them on YouTube. Quite a number in the UK as well as the US ordered them and in the last week or so everyone seems to have received them including me. To meet the very tight deadline set by our mutual friend Jim, I have had to totally immerse myself in Bucci and his collection and I've succeeded without drowning!

Who is Chris Bucci? Curiously the DVDs made me want to know a little more about the person like what drives him, where was this place called Putt Putt and most importantly, when is his next party at his place!?!

What comes through is his passion; from his early days of double flipping right through to his latest offerings. Looking him up like a true stalker and hacking into his cellphone I see he lives almost exactly

halfway between Stern Pinball and Jersey Jack Pinball and you know what that means!

Chris spent much of his youth at the local Putt Putt mini golf where he learned to play the silverball. Luckily, he also had access to a camcorder and captured it for posterity and our enjoyment. The DVDs give a real insight into Chris's passion for pinball which apparently fuelled his drive to assemble a fantastic collection.

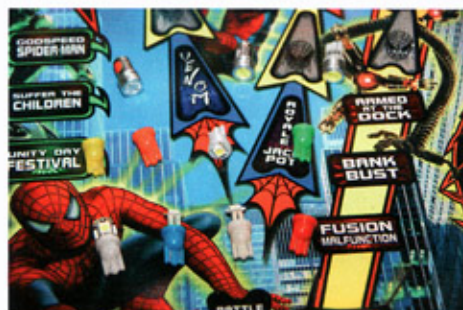
When people spend as much time and money as Chris has on their collection it's not easy to expose them to the potential dangers of play by others. But Chris seems not bothered by this and enjoys opening his house and games to others. You can see the real fun had in videos of his Pinball Parties. (He is a man after my own heart preferring the standard Addams to the Gold edition, I think it looks better.)

Chris decided to create the set, not as a business, but to get the info out to those in the hobby who wanted it. His efforts resulted in a professional looking set of colour printed DVDs in a quality box. Thinking he would only sell a few, he was surprised by the overwhelming demand and quickly sold out. Each is numbered and I have number 193.

One criticism may be that some of the comments get repetitive from segment to segment but it has to be remembered that these started out as separate productions. Also, I watched them more or less non-stop from beginning to end.

If you've missed out on this very enjoyable limited run boxed set, there is still hope! You can join the re-run list by emailing Chris at spida1@verizon.net. Check out Chris's site <http://www.bucciscarcade.com>.

¹In homage to the News of the World, part of the News Corporation, where it is alleged they have been involved in hacking into cell phones and printing things that weren't true, I have no idea what it means that Chris lives between the two companies ... probably nothing ... or does it????



Selection of Superflux and Cointaker LEDs

LEDs -- A few years ago LEDs were a novelty pinball add-on; now they have moved into a volume product with some really good products out there. I was sent a set for my Spiderman by Andreas Gräber who runs www.superfluxshop.de as he wanted me to see how the good new non-flicker LEDs were.

Now here is the confession, I actually installed the LEDs at the end of last year when there was snow on the ground and people sang a Christmas carol or two. It was a cold and bleak house but once the LEDs were installed my Spiderman was truly vibrant. The, ahem, long term test has been really positive with absolutely no problems at all. If you are in Europe I can thoroughly recommend Andreas. His English is perfect so if you can't understand German just drop him a mail.

As you can see from the before and after pictures of my Spiderman the colors are simply vibrant and it looks fantastic. I'm sure if these LEDs were around in the old days the games would have used them and I think the games would have looked a lot different and much brighter.

For those based in the USA, which I guess will be the majority of PGJ readers, I can recommend Cointaker LEDs. They have a very wide range of LEDs including blindingly bright superbrite and a retro look, like a filament lamp, LED but does it collect black dust like the old ones? The color coded bases also make life easy, I wonder how they do color changing plastic ;) www.cointaker.com/



Chris and his world of pinball