

Inside Flight Club - the new Manchester bar giving darts the hipster treatment

Flight Club opens on King Street next week

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By **Emily Heward**

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 **First look at Manchester's Flight Club** (Image: Manchester Evening News)

From axe-throwing to baseball, a night out in Manchester is no longer complete without a competitive edge.

Now London darts bar Flight Club is getting in on the action, reinventing the timeless pub game for a millennial market.

The 'social darts' experience opens next week inside the former Burger & Lobster site in Ship Canal House on King Street, following its success in Shoreditch, Bloomsbury and Chicago.

Harking back to the game's roots in the fairground, a huge carousel style bar dominates the main room, which is festooned with carnival lights and surrounded by intimate oches (playing areas).



📍 **Dart booths at Flight Club** (Image: Manchester Evening News)

Dark red and green leather button-back banquettes and stained glass windows also nod to the game's pub heritage, and framed vintage darts magazines, antique clocks and mirrors hang on the walls.

"Its roots come from the fairground and then of course it got integrated into the public house," said co-founder and CEO Steve Moore.



 **Founder and CEO Steve Moore** (Image: Manchester Evening News)

"We wanted to fuse the fairground and the pub but also smash it up a little bit."

There are 14 oches throughout the venue, accommodating between six and 20 people each. Each has its own seating area and table service, and there's also a private room that can be booked out for parties and events.



📍 **Flight Club has taken over the former Burger & Lobster site** (Image: Manchester Evening News)

Flight Club's version of the game features a patented darts tracking system, using cameras to track and instantly calculate scores, so there's no need for players to keep count.

"We've got a huge team of developers. It's so over-engineered, it's amazing," said Steve.



📍 **Behind the bar at Flight Club in Manchester** (Image: Manchester Evening News)

Players can order food to their oche from a menu including pizza paddles and sharing plates such as nachos, sliders and tacos, while the bar serves a range of cocktails, wine and draught and bottled beers and ciders, plus an enormous selection of spirits.



📍 **King Street's Flight Club** (Image: Manchester Evening News)

Oche hire costs £30 an hour but the venue is also open to non-players who want to eat or drink in the bar.

"Fundamentally we want it to be a bar that people want to hang out in," said Steve.

"There's so much energy in the room even when you only have a couple of people playing, the bar should be pretty alive."

Flight Club opens on Friday October 26 after a series of soft launch trial runs next week. Visit flightclubdarts.com for more information and bookings.

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