



# Time Trap Arcade

Chris Hoyle tells us about the classic arcade that he's recently opened at the Cherry Blossom Inn in Blackpool



**Why create the Time Trap Arcade?**

It seemed like a natural next step, having collected and restored over 50 classics over 20 years, I wanted to recreate something special as a tribute to all those Eighties arcades, which used to exist on Blackpool Promenade – hence the promenade location. My friends and I used to basically live on Blackpool promenade, great times! I remember knocking on the door of Purple Penny Arcade at 8:55am every Saturday morning waiting for the doors to open – it was a great feeling being in the arcade without having to queue up for machines!

**How did you choose the cabinets for your arcade?**

I went for best sellers – like *Space Invaders*, *Pac-man*, *Galaxian* and *Donkey Kong*, but there are some

special additions like *Dragon's Lair* and a *Universal Space Panic* – fantastic artwork on that one and the first ever platform game... I think!

**What is special about your games?**

Because of the time and money invested, the machines look and play just how you remember them. I have sourced pristine original (NOS) parts from all over the planet to make this happen. The *Midway Space Invaders*, for example, has a never used original monitor inside with about 20 hours play from new in 1978! It looks fantastic!



» What to play first? *Space Panic* looks tempting.



You can get more information at [www.timetrarparcade.com](http://www.timetrarparcade.com) or contact Chris directly at [owner@timetrarparcade.com](mailto:owner@timetrarparcade.com)

*Storage Hunters' Jesse McClure shows off his Track & Field skills.*



» The location is extremely lavish, while the machines look to be in incredible condition.



» Many of the parts are brand new ensuring members get the best possible play experience.

**What's the rarest game you have?**

In the Time Trap arcade, it's probably the *Universal Space Panic*, although I also have a *Universal Mr. Do!*, which although very popular, it seems to be quite rare here in the UK. In my wider collection it's probably my *Sega Carnival* (not *Sega/Gremlin*) – the artwork on that thing looks luminous and is truly amazing.

**What's the latest machine and will machines be rotated?**

The last machine I added was the *Dragon's Lair* one, and yes some machines will be rotated. The ones everyone expects to see like *Defender*, *Space Invaders* and *Pac-Man* will stay permanently.

**Why are you using a membership scheme and limiting to 50 people?**

It preserves the machines for serious retro game enthusiasts, and the arcade won't become overloaded – I want it to feel like a VIP experience. You can still book in through the 'Functions and Events' bookings route, we cater for product launches, private parties and corporate or VIP events: its all part of what we offer as the other function area overlooking the Blackpool Promenade is ten metres away from the arcade.

**What does a membership cost and what does it give you access to?**

It's £250 for the Members Club which is once per month (all machines on Free Play) with additional arcade special events and Eighties nights (which will have live

music) and occasional complimentary drinks. So it works out to be great value. What is really special is the location; you can use all the great facilities available at the Cherry Blossom Inn (an iconic Victorian Hotel) including the function suite – sit in a luxurious Chesterfield, sipping a beer, wine, coffee, just a few feet away from your favourite classic games, listening to Eighties music with a premiere view of the promenade! Quality nostalgia!

**How did you meet up with Storage Hunters' Jesse McClure?**

We did a joint arcade talk last year when he was over in the UK; he is a certified retro arcade nut! I introduced him to the Time Trap Arcade, which he loved, hence the video tour which you can see at [www.timetrarparcade.com](http://www.timetrarparcade.com).

**Why do you think arcade games remain so popular?**

Classics are timeless, whether it's Elvis, Wurlitzer, Cars (Eighties of course!) or great works of art – which I truly believe arcade machines are and always will be! ✨

