

# BOWLING

# NEWS

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## AN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE B.T.B.A?

THE TENPIN BOWLING PROPRIETORS ASSOCIATION (Hereinafter called the T.B.P.A.) is the Association to which A.B.C., Ambassador, Excel, Top Rank, etc., all belong. THE BRITISH TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION (Hereinafter called the B.T.B.A.) is the Association to which you all belong as bowlers.

The two bodies are necessary to the sport and generally do not conflict with one another. To the proprietor bowling is a commercial concern and he does his best to make a reasonable profit. You, the bowler, are his customer and provided his lanes are filled it matters not to him whether you open or league bowl or both.

Generally, however, the open bowler can be likened to the patron of a cinema; he bowls when and if he feels like it and his appearance on the lanes can be predicted to a great extent by the weather. The league bowler, however, guarantees to bowl at a specified time each week and come rain or shine the proprietor receives a regular sum of money from the league nearly all the year round.

It is the league bowler who plays tenpin on a serious and competitive basis and although still enjoying the sport he requires more than the open bowler. Rules and regulations are a necessity for any sport and these are provided by his association, the B.T.B.A. In addition this body provides Average Calculators, Standing Sheets, Record Cards, Schedules, Handicap Manuals and the like in order that the league secretary can properly undertake his job.

The B.T.B.A. also measures the lanes annually to ensure that they are fair and conform to the specifications laid down many years ago by the American Bowling Congress in conjunction with the manufacturers, AMF and Brunswick. It is essential that lanes be certified before the B.T.B.A. are able to renew the annual certificate issued to every centre and before a sanctioned league or tournament bowls on them.

AT A MEETING OF THE T.B.P.A. ON 14th. JUNE 1966 IT WAS RESOLVED NOT TO APPLY FOR LANE CERTIFICATION BY THE B.T.B.A. FOR ANY CENTRE WHICH IS NOT ALREADY COMMITTED FOR THE SEASON. The lanes at Whitstable have been measured and everything here is in order for the coming Winter Season. Bexleyheath, Chatham and Cliftonville are affected, however, and as things are at the present time no sanctioned league or tournament will be able to roll at these centres after 31st. August this year.

Why have the proprietors done this? On the surface it appears that the main bone of contention is that they do not consider that B.T.B.A. Area Secretaries' are sufficiently qualified to measure and certify their lanes. What special qualification is necessary to read a 12 inch ruler, a 100 feet tape measure or a spirit level is not clear but these everyday tools are used by the ordinary working man in a variety of ways and quite successfully. Whilst a surveyor lays down measurements for the builder to follow it is the bricklayer who actually uses the tools to build our houses and of course our bowling centres. Must a surveyor and architect also now undertake the actual building? This is what the proprietors seem to be saying.

It is understandable that a proprietor who has spent thousands of pounds on constructing and furnishing a bowl should want protection for his outlay and that it should not be left to an individual Area Secretary of B.T.B.A. to solely decide whether or not he will allow league bowling on the lanes. No one individual should be allowed to be this powerful and for this reason an agreement was drawn up by the T.B.P.A. in 1961 and agreed to by the B.T.B.A. Firstly an Area Secretary could only put forward recommendations regarding the lanes to B.T.B.A. Head Office who, if they considered that the lanes were not up to standard, i.e. high boards, large indentations, crossways tilt etc., would advise the proprietor, who in the interest both of his customer and for the good of the sport, would make the necessary rectification.

Continued overleaf:-

## AN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE B.T.B.A? - Continued.

If a proprietor didn't agree with the inspection report he was fully entitled, under the agreement, to set up a joint committee of the proprietors and the B.T.B.A. to thrash out the differences and if this committee didn't agree to refer the matter to an independent surveyor who would be a member of the Chartered Institute of Surveyors. During the five year existence of this agreement there has not been one single instance when the Joint Committee was necessary let alone the independent surveyor.

Logically one must now ask why the T.B.P.A. consider that it is essential for their lanes to be measured by a chartered surveyor. The lanes haven't changed and become more complex, there have been no disputes and generally everything appears to have been going along fine. HAVE, IN FACT, THE T.B.P.A. FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THEIR OWN AGREEMENT OR IS THE WHOLE AFFAIR JUST A FRONT TO TRY AND DESTROY THE B.T.B.A? It is known that some proprietors are using the B.T.B.A. as a scapegoat for their own inability to successfully promote the sport within their centres and it could be that the whole affair is designed to cloak the many mistakes that they have made since tenpin bowling was introduced to this country five years ago.

The T.B.P.A. state in their recent press release on the subject that their decision is not in any way aimed at the B.T.B.A. and that their Policy Committee use their best endeavours to persuade the B.T.B.A. to accept that lanes will now be certified by a surveyor and not by themselves. The B.T.B.A. may well agree to this suggestion and the press release obviously leaves room for negotiation on the subject. WHY THEN DO THE POLICY COMMITTEE OF T.B.P.A. NOT HAVE ANY MENTION OF AN APPROACH TO THE B.T.B.A. IN THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE ON THE SUBJECT? We have heard of a closed shop but this looks more like an iron curtain!

In Kent we have three of our four centres with virtually 100% sanctioned leagues and the fourth was showing clear signs of coming round. It is hoped that agreement will be reached between the T.B.P.A. and the B.T.B.A. before your Winter Season commences on 1st. September 1966, but if not you will be unable to bowl in a sanctioned league or tournament at Bexleyheath, Chatham or Cliftonville. In addition the league will not be able to have the services the B.T.B.A. provide and it is considered that ALL LEAGUE SECRETARYS' should write NOW to their individual proprietor asking whether the proprietor is now to provide their league kit for the new season and also whose rules the league is to play under. All replies will be of considerable interest to the officers of the Kent Area B.T.B.A., who meanwhile must sit on the fence, even if the fence appears already occupied by a number of others!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## THE 886 SERIES STILL STANDS

As reported in the October 1965 issue of this newsheet the World record three game series has stood since it was bowled in 1939. On games of 297-289-300 for a series of 886 this is not really surprising! On March 25th. this year however the series could well have gone to Teata Semiz, a rugged 31 year old professional from New Jersey. Bowling in the Bergen Classic league Semiz blasted a historic three game series on games of 299-268-300 for an 867, the second highest ever recorded in sanctioned play. A stubborn 4 pin robbed him of a perfect first game but undeterred Semiz opened his second game with 4 strikes in a row. In the fifth frame he buried the ball /olidly in the pocket and had to look again when the 8 pin didn't even budge. I followed with five more strikes and left a 6 pin on his second ball of the tenth frame, converting it for a 268. There was nothing to fault in the final game and twelve perfect balls gave him his third 300 game. But for those odd pins the 886 could well have been beaten, however. For any of you who have aspirations towards beating Allie Brandt's record 886 it should be pointed out that if you start any one of the three games with two spares it will be impossible to beat him! Work it out.

## GREAT WIN FOR THE AUDIOVIDS

Les Jarman reports that the Audiovid Record Five from Chatham recently visited Nottingham to play the well known Magicote Five, who on their lanes have accounted for many top sides including the Ovaltines and the AMF Classics. The Audiovids in fact beat the home side for the first time ever. Well done the men of Kent.

On the subject of challenge matches these do not normally get much publicity. If your team does anything which you consider worthy of mention please let us know and we will be pleased to give you a mention.



