

BEXLEYHEATH'S GOLDEN GIRLS

It was 1963 when TED TINLING inaugurated the annual Golden Ball tournament for all ladies leagues that were playing in the country at that time. The leagues were all re-titled DOUBLE TT's and the Golden Ball itself has been keenly fought over ever since. The ladies league from Bexleyheath has always been keen to win the event but, until this year, have never quite succeeded, although they have been very close in the past and once made the runners-up position. This year the event was held at Tolworth and it was expected that the strong local side would win. But in fact it was to be Bexleyheath's year at last and the Golden Ball now resides in the place of honour in the Bexleyheath Club! The winning team was PAT OVERY, JOAN TWEEDY and PEGGY HAMMOND to whom we would like to say Well done - everything comes to those who wait.

THE 1979 JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The N.A.Y.B.C. Championships were held at Coventry this year and, whilst the event had it's usual quota of atmosphere, the scoring was well down on previous years with the better average youngsters hardly able to compete at all as they could hardly keep their bowling balls on the very, very dry lanes. All in all the conditions would have been tough for top senior competitors but for some youngsters they were impossible. A few reasonable scores came off the earlier squads before the drying out process began and the best of these was young MICHAEL HIGH-son of Tolworth's BTBA Council Member John High-who fired a fine 602 to win the Graduate Boy's Division and looks a really fine bowling prospect. VIC LEWIS from Bexleyheath, with a 545, just missed the Bronze Medal in this Division by a solitary pin. From SEBA the only medals of the Championships were taken home by the Basildon youngsters, to whom sincere congratulations to SARA COX for taking the Bronze in the Junior Girls Division I and to ROBERT HOBART and MARK PRESLEY who struck Gold in the Junior Division II Doubles. The Chairman's Cup was awarded on a different basis this year. In the past it has gone to the the Best Dressed Centre. Many Centre's had tried to win it and were a credit to their organiser's and to their parents. Unfortunately the Management Committee felt that the past system for the award was unfair to the smaller centres,(the logic behind this is somewhat remote) and, instead awarded the trophy to the Centre that had done the most during the years to further the cause of Junior Bowling. SUNDERLAND were the recipients by a unanimous vote. Well done Sunderland but it is to be hoped that the high standard of the youngster's dress and presentation next year does not deteriorate.



THESE ARE DAVE'S BOWLING TROPHIES!
... BOOBY PRIZE, LOWEST AVERAGE
WORST GAME, MOST GUTTER BALLS.

LADBROKE HOLIDAYS HANDICAP TRIOS TOURNAMENT

The success of this first BTBA sponsored tournament last year has resulted in the sponsorship being renewed by the Ladbroke Organisation again for 1979 and, in fact, the event is much improved with cash prizes included and a free self catering six berth caravan at Great Yarmouth's Seashore Holiday Village for every one of the 80 qualifying teams! Teams may take up residence from Noon on Saturday, 15th. September and may stay on until the morning of Monday, 17th. September with linen provided. SEBA qualifying centres are BASILDON, BEXLEYHEATH, DAGENHAM, SOUTHEND and WHITSTABLE. Different centres have different qualifying dates so make your own enquiries from the centre of your choice. SUPPORT THE SPONSORS WHO SUPPORT YOUR SPORT!

SEBA'S NATIONAL STARS

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When the rules of the NAYBC changed with regard to the maximum ages of competitors in their annual championships, it meant that many youngsters were precluded from bowling in, what would have been, their last junior 'Nationals'. One such player was Bexleyheath's ALAN KIRK. Jokingly he was told, "Never mind. Go out and win the senior 'Nationals' instead". He did!! It is every bowler's dream to bowl a 700. To do so as a junior player is rare. To do so in the BTBA National Championships is even rarer. And to do so and become the first ever Junior to win a National title and also to be the first ever British bowler to record a 700 in the 'Nationals' is, to say the least, rather remarkable! With scratch games of 247, 267 and 204 for a 718 series, Alan took both singles titles and £400.00 to boot. In the words of Bernie Caterer who was in the vociferous audience, "That was one of the best 700 sets I have ever seen. - and he should know! Alan's performance rather put everything else in the shade but others to cash in the Regular Singles from the SEBA entry were GEORGE PATEL, JULIAN COPE, DAVE HOBART, FRANK BROWN and PETER BABOT in the Handicap section and GEORGE PATEL in the Scratch. GEORGE PATEL fired a fine 665 for 4th place in both Divisions and bowling to the same form throughout he took both the Regular All Events titles with a very fine 9 game scratch total of 1931 for an individual game average of over 214. Yet another SEBA youngster from whom we should be hearing great things in the years to come. Other SEBA placings in Regular All Events were ALAN KIRK in runners-up position, DAVE MABERLEY and ALAN CHAPMAN.

REGULAR TEAM EVENTS

The Handicap title was taken by APACHES with SCHLITZ ALL STARS second. In the Scratch event it was the SCHLITZ teams all the way with team II winning the title on 2951 and team I being the runners-up with 2943. A very impressive performance from 10 bowlers of one team.

REGULAR DOUBLES EVENTS

John High and partner B. Rice won the Handicap Division and the same two Tolworth bowlers also took the Scratch division with an excellent 1275. The only other SEBA entrants to appear in the prize listings were GEORGE PATEL with a make-up partner and NICK FENN with MARTIN BROWN from Bexleyheath.

LADIES TEAM EVENTS

The THUNDERBIRDS from Belle Vue took both Scratch and Handicap titles here and the HUSHAWAYS bowled 2613 scratch to finish as runners-up. This team included SEBA members JANET MORRISON and LESLEY POTTER.

LADIES DOUBLES EVENTS

CAROL CUTHBERT and JANE VIROT bowled very well indeed to total 1219 scratch and duly won both sections of this event. No SEBA players were listed.

LADIES SINGLES EVENTS

BERYL BRYAND won the Handicap section and our old friend MEG SHAW took the scratch title with a fine 637. LESLEY POTTER also cashed here on 596.

LADIES ALL EVENTS

PAULA PETTITT was the standout here with a fine 1815 over her 9 games and took both sections. SEBA were not represented.

As can be seen from the above the scoring at the 18th. Annual BTBA Championships was excellent and, with the event again held at the Airport Bowl, entries were very good. One thing that is sadly being missed, however, is that somewhat indefinable thing - atmosphere. It all started some years ago at Leeds when, to everyone's surprise not a poster, not a banner, not a flag or a piece of bunting could be seen anywhere to signify that this was the BTBA Nationals. The state of affairs continued at Poole and for the past two years has been the position at the Airport. Why we ask? The answer is that the price charged per game for the tournament is

so low that the Proprietors state that they cannot afford to do any of these things anymore without losing money. Certainly they must do very well with regard to their catering and bar operations during the event but with the game price something in the region of half of the National average perhaps they have a point. Maurice Glazer does a fine job for we, the bowlers, in negotiating a rock bottom game price for the annual tournament but some may wonder whether he does too good a job! Perhaps a higher rate would not affect the entry if the 'National' again had a little pomp and a little ceremony and a little decoration to indicate to the bowlers that this was the big one. There have been times over the past few years where one could have been open bowling for all that there was to indicate otherwise. What are YOUR views?

GREAT BRITAIN TEAMS FOR MANILA

Any representative team from any sport that is to represent Great Britain in a World Championship must be the subject of discussion and some disagreement and controversy. The teams that have been selected to wear Great Britain shirts in the FIQ World Championships to be held in the Philippine Islands this coming November are having more than is usual! Ideally a team should be the very best that can be put out regardless of any other consideration. In reality it is generally realised that this Utopian position is often not possible. However, it is considered a great pity that the teams listed below are not the best that this country could have produced and, in particular, that Great Britain's two current Gold Medallists, BRIAN MICHAEL and BERNIE CATERER, could not have been included.

MEN

GERRY BUGDEN
GEOFF BUCK
JON REEVES
TOMMY MARSHALL
JEZ DARVILL
DOUG MCNULTY
SAM PUGH
.....

LADIES

MEG SHAW
ENA PRATTLEY
DORIS BROAD
JANE VIROT
GILLIAN HOLT
GILLIAN BEVAN
AUDREY POND(Reserve)
.....

Naturally it is hoped that both teams come back from across the other side of the Globe with a considerable number of medals and that these words will have to be eaten but, without the likes of BERNIE CATERER, BRIAN MICHAEL, COLIN PRESLAND, PHIL RUSSELL and PETE GRAY for the men and without PAULINE SMITH(nee BOWRY), LESLEY POTTER and PAT DEW for the ladies, it all appears rather doubtful.

DAGENHAM REFURBISHMENT

EMI Leisure's quite massive reinvestment in the Princess Bowl is still going ahead, and at the time of writing it looks to be a few weeks yet before the re-opening. The new A2 pinspotters are installed and most of the decorations are complete. The new lanes are going in and the leagues are all raring to get back into the fray. Troubles abroad with the originally conceived synthetic lanes have meant a return to the traditional ones but the centre will be none the worse for this. It would seem likely that the EMI centre at North Harrow will be the next for the same treatment.

ON THE COUNTY TRAIL AGAIN

The BTBA Inter-County Championships are with us again and we wish the best of bowling to the holders ESSEX and to KENT. News in the next issue.



"NOW TRY"

