

KENT AREA B.T.B.A.

BOWLING NEWS

EDITORIAL

NOVEMBER 1965

With this third issue of "Bowling News," and in view of the proximity of Xmax, we feel it is time to mention one of the prime purposes of the B.T.B.A. Whether one reads the B.T.B.A. Constitution itself, the Kent Area Constitution or your own League Rules you will find that each contains the words "to encourage sportmanship and fair play".

At times we have all seen the bowler who sulks and snarls, goes about with a long face, who kicks the poor old ball return, who blames everything and everybody for the form he is showing and generally is an embarrassment to his team mates and opponents. The price of bowling is such that we should expect to enjoy ourselves for our ten bob or so and not be subjected to tantrums, even though these can, at times, have their funny side. If we did not enjoy our bowling we would not do it. Similarly the bad tempered gentleman (or dare we say it - lady) must also enjoy the sport, even though at times they have a peculiar way of showing it. So you miss that tenth frame spare and lose the game, so the perfect pocket ball leaves a split, so the bowler on the other side gets an 'umbrella' strike to make the vital double. All this is tenpin bowling. The uncertainty of our sport is one of the prime-factors in its ever increasing popularity.

As is stated in the article following we have been bowling for only a few years and are never too old to learn. Remember this when things go wrong as the trouble is almost invariably of your own making. In other words remember that hackneyed phrase "Be a Sport" and try to follow it. We must all benefit in the end.

BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE

by a "MANAGER"

The sport of Tenpin Bowling has been in this Country for a little over five years. When one studies the overall American League averages in relation to the composite average in our own British leagues it is found that they are, indeed more than comparable. It therefore follows that many of our bowlers have the necessary ability but, of course, not the necessary experience to yet emulate the performances of the top American performers. By experience is meant the playing of any form of lane conditions. This aspect, I would say, is the most discussed subject in any centre in the country and when one talks with bowlers it is found that they are very fair minded concerning their own limitations but rarely appreciate that the manager's knowledge of lane dressing is also relative to his own experience. A comparison can, surely be drawn here - for just as a bowler improves over the years with help and instruction from those who know more about the sport than he does so a good manager will achieve the same with his lanes by studying American articles and books on lane conditions and experimenting with dressing.

It is a fact that a bowler can become used to his or her own lane conditions, but when they meet totally different conditions they are unable to play them, not because the lanes are unfair but due to their own lack of experience. This is proved many times by the results from our travelling leagues and challenge matches. I believe that a bowler has the right to complain to the manager when he meets "unfair" lanes. By unfair I mean lanes that are extremely slow, lanes that are extremely fast or, of course, dirty lanes. The word 'extremely' being the operative word in each case.

After reading this I expect that many of you will say "Well its fine talking about the handling of lane conditions but where do we start?" I am sure that on many occasions you have stood and watched a top American bowler on lanes in this country and have noticed that he uses the first arrow from the right and really winds his ball into the pocket. From the wide angle created by using this marker he obtains a big five pin pocket and, in consequence, has a far better chance of a strike. Whether playing a fast or slow lane he still uses the first arrow, because, his vast experience has told him how to adjust his hand position on the ball in order to obtain the effect he requires. We, on the other hand, owing to the short time we have been playing the game, must vary our approach position to cope with differing lane conditions.

BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE (Cont.)

For a dry lane it is necessary to move your usual position to left and using your normal marker bowl out of the turn of the ball. This will cut down the turn of the ball. On the other hand you should move to the right if the lane is wet and bowl into the turn of the ball for you to obtain the maximum effect from your ball. These 'Rules' are, of course, general ones as each bowler is an individual and requires instruction suitable to his or her own style of bowling. I also believe that bowlers who find themselves in difficulties, which can be varied and numerous, should not attempt to put things right themselves or seek the advice and assistance of a team mate as in your formative years the wrong advice, however well meaning, can set you back for a very long time. Instead you should approach your manager who, we must assume, is in a position to give you positive advice.

Let us now move away from the usual comment to be found at all centres i.e. that of blaming bad bowling on bad lanes, play the lanes as you find them providing of course they are within the tolerances mentioned earlier and look to yourselves. I have watched bowling from behind the lanes for a few years and have seen the amount of physical effort expended by certain individuals. If only as much mental effort could be put into their play I am sure that a much more satisfying result would be achieved.

To conclude let us not lose sight of one very important point which is not of a technical nature. Tenpin Bowling is a sport. Let us be good sportsmen and go onto the lanes both to bowl and enjoy ourselves.

W.E. HEAR THAT

----- one young lady in the Ladies Afternoon League at Cliftonville got so excited at the way her match was going that she pushed her thumb into the finger hole of her ball. It took the combined efforts of half the league plus oil, water and a considerable amount of manipulation to get it off again!

----- one person who is very pleased at the B.T.B.A. discount service is Larry ADAMS of Bexleyheath. Larry recently made the comment; "I have saved my B.T.B.A. membership subscription for the next 29 years!" Apparently he used the Trading Facilities Handbook when ordering carpeting and saved a total of £29. on the purchase. This is yet another B.T.B.A. service to all our members.

----- two Bexleyheath juniors finished in third place in the Junior Division of the recent Wembley Doubles Tournament. Well done ALAN JELF and PETER FLEMING. Other notable KENT AREA entries to the event were RAY & MALCOLM PRICE, BILL BRIDGE, BRIAN MORRISON; JIM INGRAM, BRIAN SNOOK, HARRY DOWE, ERNIE MILLAR, VIC PEACOCK, NORMAN SIMPSON, RAY WEBB, ALF ROGERS, NORMA BRIDGE, DORIN BAKER, PAT WALKER and JANET MORRISON. It was good to see so many entrants from the GARDEN OF ENGLAND COUNTY and we are pleased to say that the majority did well although not quite well enough to win any money. Wait until next year!

----- the Area Secretary has received congratulations from the General Secretary of the B.T.B.A. following receipt of the first edition of our - "Bowling News". He was told that the B.T.B.A. have several new ideas for the very near future which only await confirmation from the committees concerned. More about these as soon as the news breaks.

----- no fewer than two alltime Kent Area records were smashed in one week. The ORPHEIANS from Whitstable take the 4 man team record with a fine series of 2292 and the COMMITTEE from Bexleyheath have at last beaten the 2744 set up by the Bexleyheath AMBASSADORS in last seasons Kent County League with a fine 2760. for the five men. FOR THE LATEST AREA AND B.T.B.A. NATIONAL HIGH SCORES SEE YOUR LOCAL NOTICE BOARD.

----- on the 12th. March 1958 in the St. Louis All Star League the Pulaski Five rolled a series of 3494 for an individual team average of 233 pins per player-- and were beaten by 364 pins !!! The Budweiser Beer team led by Don Carter totalled 3858 pins a record five man team score that still holds as a world record. Low series of the night was a 736 by number three man Pat Paterson!! At one stage in the series the Budweisers had rolled 24 strikes in a row and in all had no fewer than 138 strikes in the three game series.

BLUE RIBBON TOURNAMENT 1965.

The final entry date for this Tournament is the 26th (Friday) November 1965.