

北来又任杰

Take a batch of enormous scores, season heavily with local colour, add a dash of exotic adventure and simmer in the hottest bowling atmosphere in the World. Those were the ingredients for the 1st JAPAN GOLD CUP, very probably the highest scoring and most fascinating tenpin show ever thought up. Eight of America's top professional bowlers responded eagerly to the stimuli of oriental tenpins and shot record or near record scores. BILLY HARDWICK uncorked no fewer than three 300 games including back to back perfects (24 strikes in a row), an unprecedented eight game total of 2165 (average 270) and an incredible four game series of 1137 (average 284!). JIM STEFANICH shot two perfect games and compiled a near 230 average for the 72 games played. There was an avalanche of other high scores including a 299 by JOHNNY GUENTHER, but it was the unspectacular DON JOHNSON who finally walked off with the pearl encrusted trophy and the biggest cheque - 2,000 dollars.

The tournament was sponsored by Japan Bowling Chain Ltd, a bowling chain spread across Japan. Tomiji Horiike, the Tokyo businessman who built the chain, spent more than 50,000 dollars in hopes of giving his customers the best bowling show on Earth. He certainly got what he paid for. Japanese bowling enthusiasts got a preview of the fantastic things to come when JIM STEFANICH, the Professional Bowlers Association's 1968 money winning king, belted a 299 in the very first game of a pre-tournament exhibition. After that the scores just kept coming fast and furious. There was a boost for local morale when JUNICHE YAJIMA, a local professional, whipped DAVE DAVIS 254 to 216 to win a Japan-U.S.A. mini-tournament which preceded the main event, for which an unusual format had been designed. Each night there was a separate and complete event in itself, climaxed by a position round to determine the winner. Bowlers, however, would accumulate a separate collection of points based on their finishing position in each nightly tournament. The winner got 50 points, the second 35 and so on down to 8th place with 5. Total points decided the positions for the grand finals.

Stefanich got the festivities off to a fine start by booming a 300 game and winning the first official tournament of the series at Kawasaki Starlanes. He then went on to win the next three straight at three more centres. It was DON JOHNSON who finally broke his run with a 4th night victory but boosted by another 300 game Stefanich went on to win five of the nightly contests with Johnson taking the remaining three. It looked like a shutout for the remaining contestants, until the second to last night. That was when BILLY HARDWICK exploded. In one wondrous night at Shimotakaido Lanes Hardwick knocked down more pins than anybody had ever done before any place on this earth! He rolled games of 243, 258, 268, 259, 300, 300, 268 and 269, firing 44 out of a possible 48 strikes in the last four games. He won all but one of these games (Johnny Guenther needed a 279 to win the second one) and easily took the evening's trophy. Despite this late innings spurt, however, Hardwick still lagged in fifth place as the grand finals got underway. It seemed at first as if the momentum he had built up the night before might carry him all the way. He beat DAVE SOUTAR 257 to 247, then crumbled CARMEN SALVINO 290 to 259 and next overwhelmed JOHNNY GUENTHER 300 to 246. Hardwick's incredible touch at last left him however when he was eliminated 248 to 238 by second place DON JOHNSON. That set up the title match between Johnson and Stefanich. Stefanich picked those fateful 12 minutes on television to roll his worst game of the tournament, a 181. Johnson shot a plump 248 game but seemed almost embarrassed about receiving the massive gold cup. "I never thought I'd make it" he confessed. "Hardwick looked like he couldn't do anything but throw strikes but when you get right down to it, Jim Stefanich was the one who really deserved to win. He won more games and knocked down more pins than anybody. But that doesn't mean that I am about to give back this trophy!"

After one more evening of intense merrymaking - Geishas, saki, the lot - the octet reassembled at Haneda Airport for the long journey back to the U.S.A. The big Japan Airlines DC-8 thundered over Tokyo Bay with its cargo of whacked bowlers and a kimono-clad stewardess offered more refreshing saki - but by this time most of the pros were fast asleep - perhaps dreaming of a repeat performance next year.

ENTER YOUR AREA CHAMPS '69!

NOMADS TAKE BLUE RIBAND

The 5th. Annual 'Blue Riband' for scratch 5-person teams attracted no fewer than 44 teams to make the trip to the Excel Bowl, Cliftonville. Some excellent bowling resulted and record scores were needed to take the 1969 title.

The standard was set in the very first squad when COATES CIDER from Southend rolled a fine 2706, closely followed by THE COMMITTEE from Bexleyheath and the UNKNOWNNS of Cliftonville with 2649 and 2648 respectively. The Southend team rolled games of 884-874-948 led by STU MAXWELL with 572 and BILL SHEAD with 563. The men from Bexleyheath hit 923-931 but blew their third game for 795 and the top scorers were MICK COPE with a 223 game for 593, ALAN CHAPMAN with a 223 game for 551 and JOHN HELPS with a 212 for a 543. Just one pin behind came the Cliftonville crew with games of 922-844-882 led by JOHN SAWYER on 564 and new 600 Club Champion and SEBA Executive Director JOHN BUSHELL on 545. In the ladies division THE AVONS from Bexleyheath rolled very steadily on games of 846-844-823 for a series of 2513 and despite challenges from the MINI MAIDS, MAIDS OF KENT, SOUTHEND LADIES, LADYBIRDS etc came out as the lady champions for 1969. Top scorer was VERA PEACOCK with a fine 556.



"Must be the 10th frame!"

The 5.15p.m. squad produced three more 2600 plus sets from the Chatham ROUGHNECKS, the BIG W from Southend and the CHESSMEN from Bexleyheath but the 2706 from the first squad still held good. For the Roughnecks JIM SOUTHWORTH led the field with 564, closely followed by BILL COUCHMAN on 559. For Big W PETE BENNETT was the leading scorer on 555 but the big game came from G. CURTIS with 228. For the Chessmen DAVE TURNER hit the first 600 series of the day with 616 and was backed up by BOB TOMKINS with 530. The final squad was the real

humdinger, however, with both the NOMADS from Dagenham and the ALL STARS from Cliftonville going well into the 2800's for the first time in this annual event. MIKE LUCKHURST led the way for the All Stars with a 219 game and 590 series closely followed by STU SWALLOW and BOB POTTS with sets of 580 and 571. Team games were 949-955-958 for 2862. This set would have won most team tournaments but the Nomads had other ideas and opened up with a 1000 game. They slumped a little in the second with 888 however which meant that the All Stars were 16 pins ahead going into the final game. The Dagenham boys 995 closer, however, gave them a fine series of 2883, a victory by just 21 pins. LES GEORGE was top man on 624 with PAT DUGGAN 599 and BILL BRIDGE 581. The final top placings were as follows:-

1. NOMADS	DAGENHAM	2883
2. ALL STARS	CLIFTONVILLE	2862
3. COATES CIDER	SOUTHEND	2706
4. ROUGHNECKS	CHATHAM	2675
5. THE COMMITTEE	BEXLEYHEATH	2649
6. THE UNKNOWNNS	CLIFTONVILLE	2648
7. BIG W	SOUTHEND	2633
8. CHESSMEN	BEXLEYHEATH	2621
9. JAGUARS	CLIFTONVILLE	2588
10. MAGPIES	CHATHAM	2565
11. ASSOCIATION	BEXLEYHEATH	2537
12. THE SCORPIONS	BEXLEYHEATH	2536
13. SILVER ROLLERS	DAGENHAM	2533
14. SK LADS	BEXLEYHEATH	2517
15. THE NATIVES	WHITSTABLE	2492
16. SKI-BOLTS	CHATHAM	2486
THE HELMSMEN	WHITSTABLE	2486
18. THE OTHER	WHITSTABLE	2454
19. THE JOKERS	SOUTHEND	2414
20. GO-JOS	CLIFTONVILLE	2412

LADIES

1. THE AVONS	BEX 2513
2. LADYBIRDS	WHI 2415
3. SOUTHEND LADIES	SOU 2305
4. THE ALLSOBTS	CHA 2256
5. THE FIVERS	CLI 2240
6. THE HOPEFULS	CLI 2226
7. SEASIDE FIVE	CLI 2204
8. MINI MAIDS	DAG 2197
9. MAIDS OF KENT	CLI 2176
10. THE WRENS	SOU 2165



3rd

CLASSIC SCRATCH SINGLES TOURNAMENT

This one was a real 'Classic' - with 70 entries and a 203 average being needed to win!

The first morning squad produced some very good bowling and on top after his five games was MICK BURRIDGE from Southend with 954. From the same bowl RON SAPSFORD was close behind with 914.

Other 900 plus sets were put in throughout the day but it was not until the late evening squads that things really started to hum. MICK LUCKHURST from the home bowl and BOB POTTS of Cliftonville battled out the lead and going into the final game of the five game set were standing at 738 and 799 respectively with Whitstable's TONY VALENTE on 794. After a 9 spare and a double Bob Potts unfortunately opened three frames and could only make a 166. Mike Luckhurst, however, produced his best form and went out with 4 strikes in a row for a fine 225 game. Neither score was good enough to win the day, however, as Tony Valente maintained his 200 line and hit a closing game of 221 to record a very fine 1015 series. A 203 average over five games is great bowling by any standards but when it is remembered that the games were bowled across 10 lanes the final score is something for which anyone would be proud.

1.	TONY VALENTE	WHITSTABLE	212-180-202-200-221 = 1015
2.	BOB POTTS	CLIFTONVILLE	188-198-214-199-166 = 965
3.	MIKE LUCKHURST	WHITSTABLE	200-156-191-191-225 = 963
4.	MICK BURRIDGE	SOUTHEND	189-209-168-191-197 = 954
5.	NIGEL HOLGATE	CHATHAM	202-169-190-191-200 = 952
6.	CHRIS SMITH	WHITSTABLE	173-176-169-204-214 = 936
7.	ROGER EVANS	CHATHAM	209-168-156-226-167 = 926
8.	RON SAPSFORD	SOUTHEND	209-191-170-181-163 = 914
9.	TERRY GAIGER	WHITSTABLE	169-146-180-202-211 = 908
10.	GRAHAM LENNOX	WHITSTABLE	197-183-160-178-190 = 908
11.	DAVID JUDGE	BEXLEYHEATH	151-154-151-199-248 = 903
12.	ALF ROGERS	BEXLEYHEATH	168-159-199-191-179 = 896
	BRUCE JENNINGS	WHITSTABLE	179-176-183-181-177 = 896
14.	EDDIE CHAPMAN	BEXLEYHEATH	173-177-155-203-185 = 893
15.	JIM SOUTHWORTH	CHATHAM	188-175-208-159-160 = 890
16.	DAVID FRANKS	WHITSTABLE	177-176-224-125-185 = 887
	KEN WOOD	CLIFTONVILLE	206-164-170-195-152 = 887
18.	ARTHUR HADLOW	WHITSTABLE	150-178-210-173-174 = 885
19.	ALAN WILKINSON	BEXLEYHEATH	224-161-201-127-169 = 882
20.	ROY MOSS	SOUTHEND	190-157-179-202-151 = 879

600 CLUB TOURNAMENT '68

The 2nd. Annual '600 Club' Tournament for members only was held this year at Top Rank, Chatham and the entry of nearly 60 produced some very fine bowling with a 600 series appropriately winning the title for the second year running.

1.	JOHN BUSHELL	CLIFTONVILLE	611
2.	JES MORLEY	SOUTHEND	595
3.	TERRY CORNEY	SOUTHEND	584
4.	BOB TOMKINS	BEXLEYHEATH	568
5.	TEDDY TINLING	BEXLEYHEATH	560
6.	PETER WOODS	SOUTHEND	558
7.	NIGEL HOLGATE	CHATHAM	552
8.	ROGER EVANS	CHATHAM	549
9.	HARRY ADELSTONE	SOUTHEND	548
10.	KEN BARNARD	CHATHAM	543
11.	EDDIE CHAPMAN	BEXLEYHEATH	542
12.	ROLAND FOXLEY	WHITSTABLE	541

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YET MORE TOURNAMENTS

BEXLEYHEATH 6th. BIRTHDAY

***** SUNDAY, 20th. APRIL is the date for this one. The event will be for 4 person teams, who will play one team series followed by a further series as doubles, i.e. 6 games per person. The Doubles squads will follow on from the 4-person squads and the registered team of four must divide into two doubles. In addition there will be an optional All Events prize fund from the highest 6 game totals. Your team may enter Scratch or Handicap OR BOTH and the prize funds, based on 42 team maximum will be over £100 for the 4-person team and nearly £70 for the doubles. The Club Bar at Bexleyheath will be open all day and the Entry Forms are now out. CLOSING DATE 10th. APRIL - Don't delay!

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

***** Cliftonville Club Members will be able to participate in this one. A singles event over 5 games with Moral Support Sanction. Sunday, 23rd. March is the date.

POWDER PUFF

***** A new tournament restricted to our lady members who have an average of 149 or under. Centre rounds are being planned now and Entry Forms will be out very shortly. The Grand Finals will be at Bexleyheath on 20th. April to co-incide with the 6th. Birthday Tournament. This one is a singles handicap event.

THE SATURDAY PAIRS

***** Scratch Doubles Multiple Re-entry every Saturday at Bexleyheath. Squads at 11.30a.m. and 3.30p.m. with a new tournament every month. The March event is already well under way and the score to beat is 1222 by Bill Bridge and Eric Baker! If you are in the vicinity of Bexleyheath any Saturday just drop in and bowl.

8th. BTBA NATIONALS

***** The very best of bowling to our SEBA members who are making the trip to Sheffield this week-end. A full report of this great annual event will be in next month's Bowling News.

1969 HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS - BEXLEYHEATH

***** This annual Summer event will be held this year for singles, doubles and existing Bexleyheath League 5 person teams. Entry Forms are awaiting printing and the singles events, under a new format look very exciting with a final Petersen Match Play Round Robin for both men and women. Further details later.

CLASSIC SINGLES

***** The results of this one are published in this issue but, in addition, the following true conversation that took place must be recorded: Disgruntled and dissatisfied bowler after his squad seen manhandling his ball into his bowling bag: "Which direction is the sea?" Bowler on next lane: "Over there chum - but after watching you bowl - you'd probably miss anyway!"

KING KEGLERS

***** Nothing to do with tournaments this time but you have likely noticed the absence of this item over the past two months. Fact is the necessary forms were a bit too much for many of the league secretaries and it has been decided to publish just one listing - at the end of the season. The highest average league bowler at the season's end will receive a specially embroidered shirt patch to commemorate the achievement. One for top lady and one for top man. These results will be taken from the end of season League Standing Sheets.