

THE ORIGINAL

South Eastern Bowling Association

BOWLING NEWS

of the B.T.B.A.

FOR BOWLERS BY BOWLERS

SPECIAL REPORT EDITION

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U.S.A. DIARY

To quote from a letter recently received from the U.S.A., "12 British Ladies have made a great impression on the American Nation". Of course we never had any doubt that they would do otherwise and, indeed they did a wonderful job, both as ambassadors for Great Britain and as their countries top bowlers. The incredible amount of publicity that they received, in National newspapers, on radio, on television and in all the bowling periodicals assures us that British bowlers are "on the map" when it comes to World class competition. To quote all the praises and complimentary comments they received publicly is impossible but one quote from the Cleveland Press sums it up. "The British National Women's Bowling Team proved one thing last Saturday night at the Mayland Lanes. That is that all International confrontations should be staged on bowling lanes. It would be much cheaper, simpler and more efficient that way. In three games of match play bowling the girls may have done more for Anglo-American relations than anything since Lend-Lease".

The report on the next pages has been written for us by S.E.B.A. member and top lady bowler, Janet Morrison. Before she left we asked if she would keep notes in her diary of the events as they happened and, despite a very heavy schedule, she has done a fine job as you can now read overleaf.



Inspired by Rugby's famous Sevens & Soccer's 5-a-side
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ABC BOWLS, HANLEY - HARROW - BEXLEYHEATH SUN 5th July
GRAND FINALS

ABC BOWL Nth. HARROW SAT/SUN 18/19 JULY

ENTRY FEE; £3.15.0 per Team plus linage at 3/6 per game when teams Bowl see Entry Form for details
ENTRIES CLOSE MON. 29th JUNE

Entry Forms at leading Centres

JANET IN THE U.S.A.

Thursday, 7th. May - After months of planning, practise, uniform fittings, vaccinations, visas and finally packing, here we are at Heathrow Airport full of excitement, anticipation and even a little anxiety. Bowlers, families and friends sent us on our way with every good wish. Goodbyes were interspersed with phrases like "Don't forget to feed the dog", "Cut the lawn twice a week" and "Don't forget to write" and then we were on our way having our last glimpse for three weeks of the British Isles as we crossed the green of Northern Ireland.

To have lunch while cruising at 550m.p.h. at a height of 38,000' now seems to have been a fitting start to the whirlwind three weeks ahead. Maybe we should have been a little more appreciative of our last cup of good old English tea served to us by B.O.A.C. as we approached Northern Canada! Following our arrival in New York and a bus ride to connect with the American Airlines, we boarded the smaller Astro-jet which brought us safely to Cleveland, Ohio. The tremendous welcome received was out of this World and one of our team remarked, "Now I know what the Queen feels like!" The reception committee included the British Consul General, Executives from the Proprietors and Bowler's Associations and a number of lady bowlers wearing their association uniforms. We were greeted with echoing cheers and presented with a corsage of pink carnations and then caught sight of 'Our Bus'. This was to take us everywhere during our stay in Cleveland and from end to end there was an enormous banner declaring to everyone that "CLEVELAND WELCOMES THE GREAT BRITAIN BOWLING TEAM". It gave us a feeling that we were to experience many times, that of great happiness coupled with a lump in the throat. I don't know if we can take the credit but even the 'cop' who put a parking ticket on the windscreen agreed to take it back and take no action! During the hour long drive from the Airport to the hotel we and the Cleveland ladies chatted as only women can and by the time our hotel was reached and we had partaken of a light meal we were firm friends. Finally we crawled into bed, exhausted and rather overwhelmed, reflecting that due to the time difference, had we been in England, the dawn would be breaking!



Friday, 8th. May - Our schedule indicated that this was to be a 'free' day to relax and get used to the time difference. A lunchtime practise was arranged at a nearby centre that had 60 lanes on one level, an enormous pocket billiard room, children's nursery and a cocktail lounge among a variety of other amenities that are the accepted thing on this side of the Atlantic. The extreme cleanliness of the centre was apparent and it was a real pleasure to complete our games as fresh and cool as when we had started. Even more agreeable was the air conditioning which meant no hot swollen or sticky fingers and no problem with the fit of the ball. These conditions standard at every centre we were to visit and in addition there was a quite amazing lack of machine faults.

In the afternoon we were guests of a friend of Teddy Tinling. Mrs. Esgar and her family entertained us to tea in her delightful home on the outskirts of Cleveland. Television cameras filmed us in the garden, chatting informally to the guests and Wyn Collison gave a very impressive interview. At dusk we were taken to a drive-in movie but, unfortunately, we still hadn't adjusted to the time change and we all fell asleep before the end of the film!

Saturday, 9th. May - Invitation to Brunch (American style buffet style lunch) at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cordes, who are very well known interior decorators and antique collectors, whose home is simply crammed with beautiful, priceless antiques. Our next step into the celebrity world was an afternoon visit to the Thistledown Race Course, with full V.I.P. treatment even to the extent of having the 7th race on the card named in our honour! As the minimum bet was 2 dollars (17/6d) we only had one flutter and duly lost! The usual publicity and photographs followed our visit to the winners enclosure to welcome in the winning horse and meet the owner who had the wonderful name of Big Bill Russell.

Following a quick snack at our hotel and our first experience of seeing ourselves on T.V., we spent the evening at the Mayland Lanes. The centre was decorated with the flags of both nations and photographs of the twelve of us were tastefully displayed. The evening opened with the

..... induction of two ladies of the Cleveland Women's Bowling Association into their Hall of Fame and followed by a personal introduction of each one of our party together with the Cleveland star bowlers who were to partner us in the exhibition match. Spectators packed the centre and the evening proved that even if you have a 200 plus average, as was the case with the majority of our partners, bowling can still be fun.

Sunday, 10th. May - Boarded 'Our Bus' still wearing it's banner, for a sightseeing tour of Cleveland with some of our new found friends. One gave us a fine running commentary as we passed through and visited so much but it would be impossible to include all the detail here. A bowling detail worthy of mention is that Cleveland alone has 100 bowling centres and the Cleveland Women's Bowling Association has 4,500 members!

Our sightseeing tour ran a little late due to the hundreds of feet of cine film consumed and we had to make a very quick change to be ready in time for the banquet being given in our honour that evening. The many interesting guests included the British Consul General and his wife, the President of the American Bowling Congress, Mr. Herman Rider and many famous bowling personalities. Each one of us was presented with a trophy to commemorate the match the night before together with a lovely corsage of carnations trimmed with red, white and blue ribbons. The food gave a real meaning to the word 'banquet' and the brief but sincere speeches that followed almost made us want to spend the whole three weeks in Cleveland.



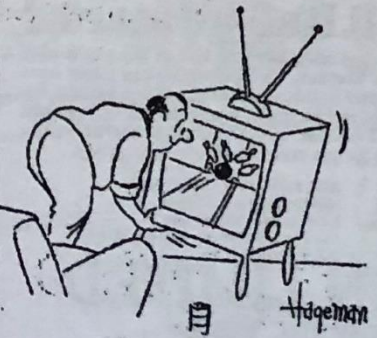
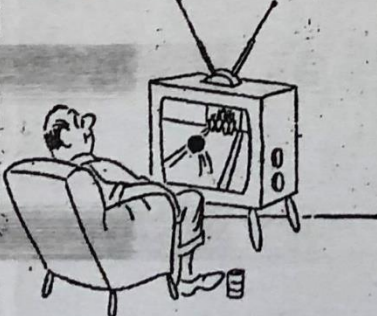
"How about that? My first time bowling and I beat George 205 to 134."

Monday, 11th. May - At 7a.m., slightly sad, we had our last bus ride to the Airport, said even sadder farewells to our friends, and were up and away again, this time en route to Milwaukee. Our small 'bus stop' jet made no fewer than four stops, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Muskegan, before we touched down at our destination. A skightly more subdued, but very warm, welcome awaited us from the members of the Milwaukee Women's Bowling Association who drove us to our hotel for lunch. After an afternoon's rest we visited the TV and Radio Studios and were interviewed live on a TV Sports Programme. The remainder of the evening was spent at the palatial home of the Davidsons, tennis friends of Teddy Tinning, where were entertained to dinner. Among the many guests I was especially pleased to renew acquaintance with Carol Miller, one of the top lady bowlers in the U.S.A., who I first met in Sweden when she represented her country in the 1967 World Championships. The following day we were quite surprised to see photographs of ourselves taken at the party on the 'Society' page of a Milwaukee paper, no less!

Tuesday, 12th. May - Set

off on a sightseeing tour in pouring rain, which cleared quite early. Again we saw so much in so little time that it was all difficult to take in. One place that did register, however, was the Milwaukee Auditorium & Arena which next year will house the F.I.Q. World Championships. This has a seating capacity for 13,000 spectators and below the main arena are a maze of dressing rooms etc. The building is also the home of the Milwaukee Hall of Fame for the State of Wisconsin. For the World Championships lanes will be specially laid by both AMF and Brunswick and the installation will take about 3 weeks. Following this preview of 1971 we went on to have lunch with our Milwaukee hosts and an introduction to yet more delicious American dishes. (We will have trouble in getting used to fish and chips again!). The afternoon brought another highlight of the tour - a visit to the headquarters of the American Bowling Congress. The whole basement was stacked with league kits awaiting posting to secretaries for the new season and another room housed pins and balls, some of which were literally antiques. Also facinating was the pin certification machine, the lane section showing required specifications

and very many other items such as the electronic filing machine



.....containing index cards showing every badge award made to ever bowler in the U.S.A. - and that is a lot of bowlers! We were given a batch of literature and I was personally delighted to be invited to borrow any films from the A.B.C. Library, an offer which I intend to take up later this year. I was also pleased to meet the people who organise the Junior Bowling Congress, who were kind enough to let me have a set of their Junior Award Badges and copies of the official A.J.B.C. 'Junior Bowler' magazine. Also they promised to keep in touch regarding any new programme or ideas they may have which may help boost our British junior bowling scene. Our evening was spent at the fabulous Strachota Milshore Bowl where we again gave an



"Aim really gives with the body English!"

exhibition match playing with our American counterparts. Here, as in Cleveland, our photographs were 'hung' for all to see. This was a Brunswick equipped centre with the fast A2 pinsetters and Automatic Scoring Machines. These remarkable pieces of engineering and electronics even record splits on the score sheets and official scorers are a thing of the past. Yet another capacity crowd watching and for us yet another thoroughly enjoyable bowling match.

Wednesday, 13th. May - More goodbyes as we board our plane for our main bowling objective - the W.I.B.C. Championships in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Here we were to be met by an extreme change of temperature and humidity, between 80 and 90

degrees, and soon realised the necessity of good air conditioning. The reception committee at the airport included Mrs. Alberta Crowe, president of the W.I.B.C. and an array of press and publicity men. Following interviews we were taken directly to the Yale Bowl, scene of the tournament, for yet more TV and press interviews. Britain is obviously still a leader in fashion since the length of our skirts appeared to be the main topic of conversation. It should be mentioned here that our bowling skirts which were to be worn for the Tournament complied with the Tournament Committee rules and were no more than 1" above the knee. Following a light meal we all relaxed and enjoyed a late night swim in the hotel pool.

Thursday, 14th. May - Our only official engagement during the day was a dinner with Mrs. Crowe and other Bowling Association Executives. This again was a very impressive affair at the exclusive Petroleum Club in down-town Tulsa. From here there was a magnificent view of the city and a rather vivid thunderstorm added a dramatic backcloth. The remainder of the day and the Friday was spent sightseeing, practise bowling, having informal visits to bowling families and watching the Tournament in progress at the Yale Bowl.

Saturday, 16th. May - The day had finally arrived - THE Tournament, the Women's International Bowling Congress Championships - the main objective of our trip. The 120 page booklet which was the Tournament Schedule showed that the event lasted from 9th. April to 26th. May with squads bowling from 9a.m. to Midnight EVERY DAY. Total entries were 4,894 teams, 10,753 doubles and 21,506 singles. With a 60 lane centre each team squad had 300 women on the lanes at one and the same time - a truly impressive sight. The schedule itself reads like a Who's Who of American Lady Bowlers as all the professionals are eligible to participate. (They will, however, be excluded from the F.I.Q. World Event next year).

It's 7.30p.m. and our 'A' Team march out onto the lanes with 59 other teams. Following a wonderful official welcome from Mrs. Crowe and the playing of both British and American National Anthems, the game is on. Our 'B' Team followed on the 10.30p.m. squad and after a midnight supper and a nights rest we were all back on the lanes for the 9a.m. Sunday morning squads of Singles and Doubles. Top scorers for the Team Event were.....



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.....Audrey Tew 624, Janet Morrison 577 and Kim Wheeler 564. In the Doubles Joan Primmer bowled 647, Ena Grant 576, Audrey Tew 575 and Eunice Grant 567. For Singles Ann Garrett was high with 616 followed by Joan Primmer 584, Meg Coombes 570, Janet Morrison 569 and Audrey Tew 568. Those girls not detailed followed very closely with good steady scores. After our initiation into this type of high powered competition we spent a quiet evening with a Tulsa family visiting a baseball game where we were, again, given a public welcome.

Monday, 18th. May - This was the day of the exclusive 'Queens Tournament', restricted to lady bowlers of a 170 average and above. Apart from the cash prizes and the diamond watch to the winner, it is the dream of every lady bowler to win this tournament. Being a double elimination event it is something of an endurance test as well as one of bowling ability. The qualifying rounds took the form of 8 games played over 8 pairs of lanes and took up most of three days in order to allow the 403 contestants to bowl off. Of these nearly 80% were professionals with many years of experience. Top scorers from our girls over the qualifying rounds were Ena Grant (Average 188) and myself (187). Good enough to qualify? No - the top sixty qualifiers had to average over 192! We may not have been placed in this event but we all learnt a great deal from the great ladies, the true sporting professionals, some of whom have been bowling for upwards of 20 years.

"I told the girls you had a new station wagon, and they elected you chauffeur for our trip to the WIBC Championship Tournament - Tulsa."



Wednesday & Thursday, 20th/21st May - These two days were a mixture of relaxation, shopping, visiting, practising and watching further elimination rounds of the Queens Tournament. Thursday evening was a time for farewells at an informal party given at the home of one of the Tulsa lady bowlers. Mrs. Crowe and many other celebrities of the game came along and so it was a small group who came to the airport to wish us well on the next step of our journey.

Friday, 22nd. May - Flying West across the country to Los Angeles we were to see from the plane the most unbelievable scenery which, according to the pilot and the air map, included such majestic sounding places as the Wichita Mountains, Petrified Forest, Painted Desert, Sunset Crater, Colorado River and the Majave Desert, most of which were barren looking stretches with the most odd contours of rocks, mountains and canyons. Then a most surprising sight, the San Bernadino Mountains covered with SNOW. Ten minutes later we were landing in California. Our reception at Long Beach was a reasonably quiet one, just one photographer whose assignment was to photograph us next to a red double decker London Bus! On arrival at our assigned hotel there was a NEON sign proclaiming to all "WELCOME TO GREAT BRITAINS FINEST LADY BOWLERS". In each room we had been provided with champagne and flowers to welcome us and the news that Brunswick wished to present every member of the team with a new bowling ball. Even after two weeks of V.I.P. treatment we were still rather overwhelmed by it all but, nevertheless, after paying our thanks and unpacking again went off to practise at the Java Lanes and have a briefing on the plan of events for the next few days. Yet another neon sign told all that we were very welcome!

Saturday, 23rd. May - A sightseeing tour of Long Beach and a short shopping spree. The number of oil wells, even alongside the main highways, was quite unbelievable. We popped in to visit the "Queen Mary", which was a little

sad as she was rather in a state of undress, having only a dreary coat of grey paint prior to renovation plans. An afternoon of practise with an excellent dinner was followed by another memorable evening. We were driven about 50 miles to the Canoga Park Bowl where we were delighted to meet Don Carter with whom we had quite a long chat, also to Jack Biondolillo who is famed for bowling the first 300 game on live television. Leaving the bowl we went on more sight-seeing, this time to Hollywood, Sunset Boulevard and Grauman's Chinese Theatre where footprints of the film stars are embedded in cement in the sidewalk. Leaving the glittering lights we returned to our hotel rather late.

Sunday, 24th. May - After rising late and having breakfast at the bowl we took our only opportunity to sunbathe in California - for a whole 30 minutes before preparing for early dinner with the sponsors...



.....of our California Tour, many professional bowlers and celebrities. Our exhibition match played with the professionals in the evening drew an audience of several hundred.

Monday, 25th. May - 7a.m. saw us scuttling off for a hair-do in preparation for a mid-day press conference luncheon. Guests included the Deputy Consul General, the Captain of the Queen Mary and representatives from many fields of the sport together with TV and press reporters. After a late afternoon bowling session with some of our lunch guests we were measured for our new bowling balls and then had a much needed early night.

Tuesday, 26th. May - Spent the complete day visiting famous Disneyland where we used up some 20 cine films between us. Then back for our appearance in the Queen Mary Tournament in the evening. Five games this one with Dolly Miles top of our party and lying in 4th. position when we left. We have to wait until August when the tournament finishes, however, before knowing the final result. The late evening was spent in the 'GO-GO' Room of the hotel as a farewell party prior to our early morning start back home.

Wednesday, 27th. May - By Jumbo Jet we re-crossed that Lunar type landscape of the Arizona Desert and Grand Canyon back into New York for our overnight stay prior to returning to London on Thursday evening. We were tired but very excited on the journey back across the Atlantic and no one managed to sleep on the plane. Dawn broke and then there it was - dear old England. There is really no place like HOME!

R E F L E C T I O N S

IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN IN AMERICA!

* * * * *

The coloured porter who greeted us at St. Louis Airport with, "Hi girls - whats your average?"

The television type cop complete with guns in holsters, putting a parking ticket on our bus.

The bus driver from Kennedy Airport to La Guardia who gave us a colourful commentary on the route and pointed out land marks with BOTH hands while travelling at 65m.p.h!

A gentleman named Pat O'Reilly who, for reasons known only to himself, dashed up and presented one of our girls with an oil painting of a glass of beer as we boarded our plane in Chicago.

The fish and chip shops who advertise their good as being served in authentic copies of the London Times!

Restaurant customers finding it entertaining to see us eating with both fork AND knife.

A party of Nuns avidly watching a professional game of baseball.

Pat Boone getting less attention in the hotel than the visiting British Lady Bowlers.

No sunshine in California for four days.

The lady bowler who presented us with a teapot so we could make ourselves a cuppa in our hotel room.

Ann Garrett posing for photographs in Disneyland with Mickey Mouse.

The car driver who stopped to ask us if we were stranded when we walked some 200 yards from the hotel to the laundry.

The Mexican World Football Team and the British Bowling Team exchanging badges whilst riding on the monorail over the rooftops of Disneyland.

The huge parcel delivered to the hotel by a well wisher containing snacks and biscuits, "In case we got hungrey when the coffe shop closed".

A lady with an English accent and wearing moccasins, brandishing a tomahawk and doing a simulated 'War Dance' outside an authentic 'Trading Post'.

The TV news reader who gave out on his programme a message from the British bowlers to the people of Tulsa, thanking them for their goodwill and hospitality.

POSTSCRIPT

Many things impressed us in the U.S.A. and we have all brought back some wonderful memories of the country and the people that we met. To name them all would take forever; each one of them helped to make our stay a happy one which, in turn, helped us to make the tour the success that we all feel it was. I am, and I know that the other girls are, personally grateful to all those people in Britain and in the U.S.A. who made it possible for us to have the honour of being members of the FIRST EVER BRITISH WOMENS TENPIN TEAM IN AMERICA. We have learned a great deal and if we can apply some of this knowledge to further the interest of our sport in this country, it will have been all worth while.