

NEWS FROM THE CENTRES.

CLIFTONVILLE

by John Boulton

House Championships.

Bowler of the Year at Buggy's Bowl Cliftonville produced some new names to go on the trophies this year. In the lowest Men's Division, junior bowler, **Robert Collins** rolled 1009 over his six games to leave all the others trailing in his wake, and with four games over 180 he clinched the title of Champion Mens Division 3.

The lower Ladies Division was a much closer affair, but still a junior bowler, **Katie Stuart** managed to pull it off, her six game total being 948 which was 34 pins ahead of her closest rival as she became Ladies Division 2 Champion.

The middle Mens Section was a blast from the past with **Barrie Wilson** of indeterminate age confounding all the youngsters with his total of 1031 over six games being 68 pins ahead of the chasing pack to take the title of Champion Mens Division 2.

The top Ladies Section was a battle royal with at least four ladies in with a chance as they went into the last game. However, there is only one champion and this year it is **Amanda Ottaway** with a 1066 total over six games, third place being only 30 pins away and second place just 16 pins short. She certainly ran it to the wire before clinching the title of Champion Ladies Division 1.

The top Mens Division is usually a hotly contested affair but this year it was all about one man, the always impressive **Mike Luckhurst**. He got his nose in front in game one and never looked back. His 1245 total, which gave him an average of 207, was at least 100 pins in front of his nearest rival and five of his games were over 200. He truly deserved the title of Champion Men's Division 1.

Congratulations to all our new Champions; see you next year.

Memorial Trios.

The Memorial Trios is in memory of past bowlers and its purpose is to raise money for deserving charities.

This year, the event raised £600, of which £200 went to each of the following, The Thanet Hospice, The Margate Ambulance Corps and The Thanet Ambulance Paramedics.

The competition itself was won by the Artful Dodgers team of Pete Baldwin, Peter & Daniel Harman and the team raising the highest money was the Three Caballeros, Joyce Chapman, Gary Steventon & John Boulton. The Triplex winner was Pete Baldwin, the 9 tap winner was Joyce Chapman and the three game series winner was Daniel Harman.

It was a pleasure to welcome two teams from Chatham who came down to take part and who helped to swell the funds. Thank you to all those who took part and those who sponsored; it all makes the effort so worthwhile.

"Coast to Coast" Tournament

Following the refurbishment at Cliftonville, the "Coast to Coast" Tournament was held in the Spring of 1997 and the results were:-

Handicap Section.

1. **Mike Luckhurst & Chris Smith** 1316
2. **Gary Hollands & Carol Callow** 1306
3. **Martyn Lambert & Barry Wiggs** 1291
4. **Janice Shepherd & Jerry Moll** 1288
5. **John Nott & Gary Moore** 1281
6. **Mike Walrond & Mike Dobson** 1274

Scratch Section.

1. **Mike Luckhurst & Chris Smith** 1292
2. **Martyn Lambert & Barry Wiggs** 1206
3. **Mike Walrond & Barry Wiggs** 1206
4. **Leslie Miranda & Brian Wilkins** 1204
5. **Steve McLean & Malcolm Glover** 1191
6. **Mike Walrond & Mike Dobson** 1190

MARGATE

by Rosemary Bentley

Congratulations to **Billy Howland & Allen Browning** [Gerbills] who just pipped **Tony Baker & Mel Allerton** [Top Guns] to win the Hollywood Bowl Monday Doubles League this season.

The Team High Series & Game went to the Top Guns with a 1340 Series [Tony 689/Mel 651], plus a 537 game [Mel 279/Tony 258], which we believe is an All Time Doubles High Game bowled in Kent.

(Editors Note: This Record is confirmed)

Mel also took the Men's High Series with a brilliant 759 [234-256-269] and has certainly had a good season improving his average from 185 to 193. The Men's High Game went to **Andy Allerton**, who was robbed of a 300 game to end with a very creditable 289, but later in another league achieved a perfect game as reported in the last edition of 'Bowling News'. Andy has bowled two 700+ Series this season [716/725] and tops the averages, with his brother Mel, on 193.

Other personal best scores recorded in the league are:-

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Allen Browning | 703 | [267-215-221] |
| Tony Baker | 689 | [239-234-216] |
| Billy Howland | 671 | [215-212-244] |
| | <u>Series</u> | <u>Game</u> |
| Avis Goodwin | 544 | 215 |
| Anne Williams | 539 | 224 |
| Andy Crayfourd | | 224 |
| Bill Peachey | | 209 |
| Shaun Moody | | 201 |

31st JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - Nottingham - May 1997

By Martin Beale

Whitstable YBC - enjoying their most successful season in their nine year history - took 22 youngsters to the Junior National Championships in Nottingham over the Spring Bank Holiday, and no less than *ten* returned wearing that most sought-after prize in junior bowling - a 'Nationals' medal!

Jennifer Beale's performance was an impressive one. She came home with *two* gold medals - the Intermediate Girls' All-Events and the Girls' Team - Whitstable's first ever golds - *and* top placing in the Girls' Under-16 Ranking Table, a position that *guarantees* her a place in the England team to play the junior home internationals - the 'Triple Crown' - in August.

Her colleagues in the girls' team were Helen and Anne Perkins, Lisa Wraight and Joanne Hill - a strong team indeed! They had drawn the super opposition of Becky Churcher's Tolworth Owls - most probably odds-on favourites for the crown - who showed their mettle in game one, delivering an impressive 940 against Whitstable's 875, which itself featured a fine 210 from team captain Helen Perkins.

Game Two gave Tolworth some problems, and their 764 was overhauled by the Kent girls who accumulated 798. In the deciding game, Whitstable managed to build up a lead, then gritted their teeth and held on as Tolworth relentlessly came back at them. The final coreline was Whitstable 856; Tolworth 820. They had won the gold - by just 5 pins! And so it was that, after 10 days of competition through all the weekends and Bank Holidays in May, the girls' team gold *and* silver medals came from the very last game of the very last squad on the very last day on the very last pair of lanes - 47 and 48. Quite literally, it was a case of the last being first!

That final game had also clinched Jennifer's individual gold and her England place and, just for good measure, since this was the very first girls-only team event in the Championship's history, the team score was a new Championship Record!

It was seven seasons ago that Whitstable first sent a squad to the Silver Jubilee Nationals at Tottenham. Of the 39 youngsters listed in the souvenir programme then, four returned to the

Championships this year, and all four - **Tim Beale, Nathan Clark, Chris Hall and Andrew Senior** - are now the proud holders of 'Nationals' medals.

Admittedly, Chris Hall had won his medal - a doubles silver - back in 1993, but the other three, joined by Andrew Wraight and Kevin Franks, bowled magnificently in the penultimate squad, to take bronze in the Boys' Team event - just 11 pins short of gold!

Nathan Clark rolled an excellent 192, 200, 222 (614) to boost his chances of international honours alongside Jennifer Beale. Unfortunately, he finished eighth in the Boys Under-18 Ranking Table where the top six are the automatic selections for the 'Triple Crown'. Nevertheless, his 190 average over 42 games is, in itself, a superb achievement (especially for a 16-year-old) and still gives him an outstanding chance of making the full Junior Team England trials at the end of the season.

Anchor Tim Beale, at age 18, was bowling in his very last Junior Nationals. As if in realisation of this, his final game - a super 235 - gave him a 610 series and helped the boys to a 936 game score to complete their medal-winning 2690 total.

The youngest team member, 11-year-old Kevin Franks, completed a fine hat-trick - three 'Nationals' medals in three successive years! He won the Bantam Singles silver medal in both 1995 and 1996 and his team bronze this year continued his wonderful run. (Here's hoping it's a run that hasn't finished yet!)

So - three podium places, eleven medals, a record, ten youngsters sharing the spoils and, by coincidence, the medals presented by BTBA representative, KTBA's President, John Cudmore - and yet the previous day, during the singles and doubles, they were beginning to wonder whether they would pick up anything at all! It was a case of so many near misses - just a few pins short here and just a few more short there... "If only your doubles score had been in the singles, you would have had gold", etc., etc.

The only certainty at the end of *that* day was that Kent's *only* singles or doubles medal winners were **Bexleyheath's Steven Letchford and Nick Weston**,

whose 498 and 591 respectively earlier in the month earned them the Intermediate Doubles silver medal - again, like the Whitstable boys' team, just 11 pins short of gold!

Was that going to be it for Kent, then? Whitstable had had a hat-full of personal bests that day - two best games and no less than *six* best series! Poor Ben Frost rolled a p/b series in the Junior Singles of 499 (oh, for just one pin!) which missed the medals by four pins (OK - oh, for just *five* pins, then!) and then bowled so *nearly* well enough with Kevin Franks in the doubles - this time, 14 pins off bronze. The All-Events? He missed bronze by 30 pins there! Little did they all realise then how Whitstable's fortunes were to change the following day...

All credit, then, to the medal winners, but perhaps more than a little credit should also go to the instructors. Certainly, thanks are due to Steve Gore, Ron Lovett and Eric Harvey for being there, and offering their invaluable assistance (and moral support) whenever it was needed.

Eric Harvey also deserves congratulations. As a senior coach, he can now boast an almost perfect record in girls' bowling. He has the top girls' team, the twice Ladies UK Champion (daughter Nikki), the No.1 Under-18 girl (Lisa John) and now, the No.1 Under-16 girl in his coaching stable! One wonders how Paul Churcher, Tolworth Coach, must feel about a little innocent remark he made to Eric during the first game of the girls team match. It went, "You've got a good team there, Eric. In a couple of years, they could well win the gold medal..."

"Make it a couple of *hours*, Paul!", thought Eric!

Finally, tournament manager, Brian Wright, had been most amused by the first sanction certificate he had been sent by the BTBA for the tournament. It quite clearly stated that the 31st Junior National Championships would take place at *Whitstable Bowl*! If that *had* been the case, Whitstable's ten lanes would have been in full use every weekend and Bank Holiday from the beginning of May right up to October 4th!! The summer weekend leagues might have had a little something to say about that!

TRIPLE SCOTCH, SIR? - Whitstable - June 7th 1997

By Martin Beale

It doesn't seem so very long ago that I was finishing a piece for *Bowling News* about the *Pick 'n' Mix*, a 'Baker' system tournament that Eric Harvey and I had put on at Whitstable. After the tournament was over and we had repaired to a local hostelry to unwind, Eric's hyperactive bowling brain eased into automatic overdrive (it's natural state, I believe) and he deluged me with a whole host of new ideas.

We'd tried 'Baker' - where partners took it in turn to bowl alternate frames - and it had worked well. At the Whitstable YBC, we'd also come up with the format which I'd christened *Whitstable Doubles*, where bowler A bowls two frames, bowler B one. A two more, B two. A one more and bowler B finishes off the last two. This was good fun, but it was definitely a bit of a hybrid, and very tricky to execute successfully.

'Scotch Doubles', in which partners bowl alternate balls, is familiar to many bowlers, often as a practice exercise designed to foster team co-operation, but it can so often leave one bowler with the ongoing task of picking up spares whilst never actually getting a crack at a full pin-set. So why not upset the balance and try 'Scotch Trios'? Eric seemed to think he was definitely on to a winner. Yes - OK. I went along with it too! 'Big E' went off to work out just how it could be formatted, whilst I sat down to sort out the basic administration and think of a name. I suppose it didn't take too long to come up with *Triple Scotch* - can't think why!

We agreed a format which gave us a nine-game round robin qualifier - all 'Scotch' - and a four-game 'Scotch' stepladder final. We thought about making it handicap, but, with three bowlers all bowling as one, working out a fair handicap could be quite a tester. In any event, the levelling effect of three individuals trying to bowl one game was considered a handicap in itself! It really sounded like something considerably different to anything either of us had ever seen before. (I feel sure it is quite unique!) The only worry was, would BTBA sanction it? We have this little rule that anything we do *must* be sanctioned - a rule I recommend to everyone. After all, we like to attract England internationals - and they are not permitted to play in unsanctioned competition. (Not a lot of people know that!) But, a tournament that contains no aspect of individual performance at all? That might be stretching things a bit!

Good old BTBA! The sanction certificate duly arrived and I toyed with a few interesting possibilities. What if we got a 'Scotch Trio' perfect game? What would the BTBA offer as an appropriate award? A third of a 300 badge each, perhaps? But then that would just be a 100 badge, wouldn't it? Oh well, that's a bridge to cross if we ever come to it.

Our next concern was whether anyone would really want to play this format. We'd worked out that we could offer a team top prize of £300, which should be attractive enough, but we had to get 10 or 20 teams *exactly*, or the system would fall over. We needn't have worried. We ended up comfortably but not embarrassingly oversubscribed, with an array of internationals, county bowlers and local league players of varying ages, abilities and sex (well - one of two!) from many parts of south-east England; sixty of them in twenty teams - all very curious themselves about how this tournament would work and what it would be like to play in.

And so, on the day, both bowlers and organisers were filled with an unusual kind of anticipatory excitement. Our round robin qualifier was in two squads of ten teams each. For each of the nine head-to-head games (or should that be heads-to-heads?), a bonus of 30 points was awarded for a win; 15 for a tie. The first three or four games of squad one were, not surprisingly, a learning experience for everyone. It was curious to see how team colleagues reacted to one of their number missing a spare. They couldn't seem to agree whether to scold, sympathise or just say nothing at all! At last a 200 game was scored - 210 from Alex Bushell, Andy Parish and Robert Gore from the University of Kent. Seconds later, that was beaten by their opponents - the local team of Helen Perkins, Lisa Wraight and Kate Foxley - who rolled a super 222, a score that was destined to remain the best of the day. A special announcement was made when 'The Old Masters' - Jerry and Doreen Lodge with Alan Petherick - actually won a game. But they then went and spoiled the mystique by winning the next one as well!

As the squad drew to a close (nine games took over two hours), runaway leaders Adrian and Christine Conner and John Hinch of Bexleyheath, with a superb 1869 points, and Lewisham's Vic Butler, Craig Wanden and Cliff Dew with 1785 qualified for the final. Our criteria dictated that the top two points scorers from each squad went through, plus the highest scoring loser. So third placed Londoners Jon Santinella, Martin Boyd and Terry Kochevar (1774) had to wait until squad Two had bowled to see if they, too, had done enough.

Squad Two was a much closer affair. The lanes were redressed, but didn't hold up half as well as they had for squad One. It was nip and tuck right the way through. Our original notion that playing trios rather than doubles would even out your chances of being able to go for a strike proved to be wishful thinking. Ask Keith Hodge! Others commented that, just as they had sorted out a strike line on a particular lane, they had to wait seven frames before they had

a chance of using it - and by then, the conditions had changed!

The local YBC boys' team of Andrews Wraight and Senior and Nathan Clark, fresh from their team bronze medal winning performance at the junior 'Nationals' a fortnight before, had played very well to lead the squad going into the last game, but they were overtaken by squad winners Jan and Keith Hodge with Carol Callow (1749) and the tournament managers' 'offspring' team of Jennifer and Tim Beale with Nikki Harvey on 1737. The boys' 1728 wasn't quite enough to beat squad One's best losers' score, so they had to be satisfied with a very sound but, for them, disappointing overall sixth place.

And so to the 'stepladder', taken in first-round points order. The Beale and Harvey troupe relegated the Hodge and Callow trio to the 'graveyard' fifth place - so near, but no prize money! They then bowled a 203 to leave Santinella, Boyd and Kochevar with a tenner apiece for fourth.

On a roll now, Tim, Jenny and Nikki confidently confronted the Lewisham trio. Fate decreed that the deciding shot was down to the youngest bowler in the tournament, 14-year-old Jennifer. She coolly converted a seven spare with the last ball of the game to sneak the match 159-158, leaving Vic, Craig and Cliff with £90 for third place.

But all good things must come to an end. Whether they were relaxing a little and getting over-confident or whether they were just outplayed is a moot point, but the Conners with John Hinch bowled well in the final (especially considering that they hadn't bowled for a good three hours) to win 173-166 and take the top prize, leaving the 'kiddies' to share £150 for second.

Did it come off as a viable format? Well, everyone seemed to enjoy what was obviously a unique challenge, including Whitstable Centre Manager Steve Maple, who, this time, was a competitor himself. However, within a couple of days, I got a call from Eric. You see, he's had this other idea...

Ever had that feeling of déjà vu?

RESULT

Winners:

Adrian Conner, Christine Conner
& John Hinch.

Second:

Jennifer Beale, Tim Beale & Nikki Harvey.

Third:

Vic Butler, Cliff Dew & Craig Wanden

Fourth:

Martin Boyd, Terry Kochevar
& Jon Santinella.

CLUB REGISTRATION 1997

This is the first list for those Bowlers who have qualified for Club Registration in 1997. Further lists will appear in the September and December issues of "Bowling News".

The criteria for qualification is:-

200 Club - One game by a player with an average of 159 and below or by a first year bowler.

500 Club - A Series bowled by a Lady.

550 Club - A Series bowled by a player with an average of 169 or below.

600 Club - A Series bowled by any player.

All games or series must be bowled in a BTBA Sanctioned League or Tournament.

200 Club

| | | |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| Sarah Davies | Whit | 215 |
| Margaret Jerram | Whit | 212 |
| Terry Brooks | Whit | 219 |
| Johnathon Couper | Whit | 208 |
| Simon Cornish | Whit | 218 |
| David Jerram | Whit | 210 |
| Michael Best | Whit | 204 |
| Kate Foxley | Whit | 204 |
| Vic Field | Bex | 201 |
| Ashley Cooper | Bex | 214 |
| Annalisa Edwards | Bex | 203 |
| Jan Lawrence | Bex | 204 |
| Trevor McGill | Bex | 210 |
| David Pitt | Chat | 203 |
| Margaret Shrimpton | Bex | 205 |
| Alan Holyoake | Bex | 201 |
| Daniel French | Bex | 206 |
| Mathew French | Bex | 200 |
| Yvonne Bird | Whit | 203 |
| Graham Hall | Whit | 227 |
| Phil Hobbs | Whit | 200 |

500 Club

| | | |
|------------------|------|-----|
| Sarah Davies | Whit | 519 |
| Marion Garrett | Whit | 503 |
| Margaret Jerram | Whit | 536 |
| Marion Last | Whit | 500 |
| Kate Foxley | Whit | 550 |
| Brenda Field | Bex | 503 |
| Yvonne Bright | Bex | 521 |
| Annalisa Edwards | Bex | 531 |
| Chris Conner | Bex | 595 |
| Jayne Bowman | Bex | 502 |
| Elaine Hinch | Bex | 546 |
| Tracy Dew | Bex | 595 |
| Sheila White | Bex | 563 |

| | | |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| Amanda Ottaway | Clif | 549 |
| Mandi Shrimpton | Bex | 517 |
| Doreen Lodge | Bex | 582 |
| Sylvia Thomas | Bex | 500 |
| Jenny Beale | Whit | 563 |
| Emma Drury | Bex | 542 |
| Lucy Cudmore | Bex | 531 |
| Lesley Pateman | Bex | 582 |
| Sandy Sawyer | Mar | 548 |
| Carol House | Bex | 524 |
| Sandy Knapp | Bex | 555 |
| Jackie Pullinger | Bex | 527 |
| Margaret Shrimpton | Bex | 552 |
| Angie Thick | Bex | 531 |
| Jan Hodge | Bex | 602 |
| Peggy Hammond | Bex | 502 |

550 Club

| | | |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| Ian Glover | Whit | 566 |
| Simon Coppins | Whit | 559 |
| Ian Scammell | Whit | 589 |
| Kate Foxley | Whit | 550 |
| Sandy Knapp | Bex | 555 |
| Jeff Higgs | Bex | 550 |
| Trevor McGill | Bex | 575 |
| David Pitt | Chat | 572 |
| Margaret Shrimpton | Bex | 552 |
| Mike Barrett | Bex | 571 |
| Nicholas Weston | Bex | 564 |
| Alf Gore | Whit | 570 |
| Bill Potter | Whit | 559 |
| Malcolm Frankland | Whit | 566 |
| Penny Allsop | Bex | 562 |
| Yvonne Bright | Whit | 577 |
| Jason Cooper | Chat | 615 |
| Vic Field | Bex | 579 |

600 Club

| | | |
|-------------------|------|-----|
| Earl Jarvis | Whit | 627 |
| David Ross | Whit | 613 |
| Chris Skudder | Bex | 601 |
| Neil Webb | Bex | 621 |
| Kevin Snook | Whit | 621 |
| Kevin Hollyhock | Bex | 635 |
| John Scott | Bex | 606 |
| Norman Roud | Bex | 620 |
| Keith Hodge | Bex | 627 |
| Duncan Goodfellow | Bex | 603 |
| Paul Fletcher | Bex | 678 |
| Spencer Davis | Bex | 630 |
| Andy Allerton | Mar | 631 |
| Mike Luckhurst | Clif | 650 |
| Shane Wilson | Mar | 684 |
| David Percival | Bex | 613 |
| Simon Coppins | Bex | 664 |
| John Hinch | Bex | 617 |
| Phil Eldridge | Bex | 610 |
| James Pateman | Bex | 620 |
| Steve Brough | Mar | 642 |
| Simon Carter | Bex | 641 |
| Jason Cooper | Chat | 615 |
| Cliff Dew | Bex | 752 |
| Tracy Dew | Bex | 602 |
| Paul Fox | Bex | 652 |
| Eric Frankland | Whit | 612 |
| Malcolm Frankland | Whit | 672 |
| Jan Hodge | Bex | 675 |
| Alan Jones | Bex | 609 |
| Gary Kerr | Chat | 605 |
| Clive Mitchell | Bex | 666 |
| Rob Packman | Bex | 655 |
| Pete Williams | Mar | 629 |
| Steve White | Bex | 627 |

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