

By John Towdy.

PLASTIC?

How many times have you heard someone say they used a "Plastic" ball, or a "Resin" ball? I hope you're not surprised to hear that these are misrepresented and distorted words for describing bowling balls being used on the lanes today. Plastic and resin (used to describe bowling balls) are mistakenly applied, not only by a majority of bowlers, but also by pro shop operators who order these balls.

Manufacturers classify bowling balls in their proper category; meaning either polyester or urethane. Somewhere, somehow, outside the ball manufacturing industry, "resin balls" and "plastic balls" surfaced as the latest lingo, cliché, and jargon. Interestingly, the usage of "plastic" is not only misused by bowlers themselves but is NEVER corrected or explained by those who should know better, including me. It has been bantered about by professional bowlers, pro shop operators, bowling writers, sales representatives, and sacrilegiously uttered by ball reps on both professional bowling tours. It is improperly employed by analysts on bowling television shows who unabashedly refer to a bowler shooting at a 10-pin spare with a plastic ball. Yet, somehow, in some situations, the word plastic, rather than polyester, has crept into a number of manufacturer's vernacular. This is, perhaps, due to the continuous and prolonged usage of the word plastic among bowling participants.

Before proceeding any further, let's examine the origin and source of this misinformation. Webster's Dictionary defines resin as a "synthetic, usually resinous substance, which, when subjected to heat and pressure, can be cast, pressed, extruded, or molded into various shapes." Again, referring to Mr. Webster, synthetic is defined as "compounds produced artificially by chemical reaction in a laboratory as opposed to those of natural origin". Furthermore, dictionaries define plastic as "any of various nonmetallic compounds, synthetically produced, which can be molded or hardened for commercial use".

Sufficient to say, the term plastic renders *all* bowling balls as synthetic products. Consequently, the term "plastic" *not only covers polyester, but also includes urethane.*

THE KCTDA AGM

Simply stated, every ball manufactured and marketed during the past 30 to 35 years has been formulated from a synthetic substance, including many of the so-called rubber balls dating back to the 40' and 50's. As a matter of fact, during the World War II, when the demand for pure rubber products exceeded the natural output, rubber balls, as well as automobile tires, were created with plastic materials. Hence, the word "synthetic" is the most appropriate characterization of any and all bowling balls today. Further, we can then say that while *all* bowling balls are synthetic, some are polyester resin and some are urethane resin.

During the late 50's, Brunswick and Columbia produced the original synthetic balls in various colors. It was familiarly referred to as a plastic ball. Although plastic covered a multitude of man-made materials, the synthetic substance utilized by Columbia and Brunswick at that time was, and continues to be, polyester resin.

In the late 70's, AMF revolutionized the bowling ball market with the introduction of the Angle, a ball produced from urethane, one of the most intricate and sophisticated resins on the market. urethane, a rapid curing resin, is an extremely rigid material, yet possesses unbelievable traction on the lanes. Needless to say, other manufacturers jumped on the urethane bandwagon.

In the late 80's, Steve Cooper, a former professional bowler from Southern California, produced the X-Calibur, a urethane ball concocted with various additives that created a "tacky" feel that helped the ball to increase the grabbing effect on the lanes. The incredible hooking action and explosiveness of this missile sent manufacturers scurrying throughout the country, seeking advice from chemical manufacturers for similar resulting materials. Cooper's ball, displaying extraordinary movement and entry to the pocket, earned the endearing reputation "cheater ball" from professional players. The combined various materials in these type balls have been categorized by manufacturers as "reactive" resins, thus providing bowlers with even greater sophisticated weapons.

During the past few years, urethane balls have been customized with glass particles and other various adhesive concoctions. Such foreign substances, heretofore banned by ABC/WIBC regulations, now have managed to skirt the rules and infiltrate the manufacturing of these types bowling balls. The new ingredients served to put even more

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THE KTBA AGM

WILL BE HELD ON

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2006

AT

THE SPYGLASS & KETTLE

WOODSIDE, WIGMORE.

THE AGM COMMENCES AT 7.00 PM

FOLLOWING THIS (APPROX 8.00 PM)
WE WILL BE HOLDING A

QUIZ NIGHT

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE KENT TEAMS.

WHY NOT GET A TEAM OF UP TO SIX
PLAYERS AND SEE WHETHER YOU CAN BE
THE KTBA QUIZ CHAMPIONS

NON-BOWLERS WILL BE WELCOME

ENTRY FEE £7.50 PER PERSON
(THIS INCLUDES A LIGHT BUFFET)

PLEASE BOOK SPACES FOR THE QUIZ NIGHT BY RETURNING
ENTRY FORM (AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LEAGUE SECRETARY)
OR PHONING ROSEMARY MOLL 01634 326322

300 GAME

CONGRATULATIONS TO

GORDON PUXTY

FOR ROLLING A 300 GAME IN THE
OLYMPIC LEAGUE AT AMF GRAVESEND
ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2005

300 GAME

CONGRATULATIONS TO

KEITH HODGE

FOR ROLLING A 300 GAME IN THE
OLYMPIC LEAGUE AT AMF GRAVESEND
ON 1ST DECEMBER 2005

KTBA AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

FINAL RESULTS

REGULAR SINGLES HANDICAP

1	Chris Skudder	727
2	Matt Tomlin	716
	Chris Smith	716
4	Ron Lovett	715
5	Paul Bidder	711
6	Ben Seaden	680
7	Dan Hobson Wallace	677
8	Steve Gore	672
9	Sean Purcell	668
10	Colin Pepler	665
11	Colin Evans	662
12	Alan Jones	650
13	Reg Belchem	645
14	Peter Bockerill	643
15	Gavin Grant	636
16	Andy Oldham	633
17	Andy Cook	631
18	Clive Smith	625
	Buck Bromwich	625
20	Bob Potts	623
21	Merve Steen	622
	David Ross	622
23	John Reynolds	621
24	Brian Major	620
	Ben Frost	620
26	Peter Rogers	618
	Pete Williams	618
	Peter Myhill	618
29	Phil Reeve	617
	Gary Kerr	617
31	Mike Abrol	616
32	Clive Mitchell	614
33	Trevor Reeve	611
34	Ryan Hadlow	609
35	Malc Gedded	608
36	Nathan Clark	603
37	Steve Carnall	596
38	John Cudmore	595
	Chris Genovese	595
40	Jerry Moll	594
41	Jack Denne	588
42	Brian Godden	584
43	Dave Goddard	580
44	Ted Shrimpton	579
	Roy Memmott	579
46	Ryan Adlem	578
47	Trevor Myhill	577
48	Duncan McClellan	574
	Keeff Allen	574
50	Gary Steventon	573
51	Keith Porter	569

52	Bob Smith	567
53	Tom Sawyer	565
54	Paul Clark	562
55	Jeff Weatherill	560
	Selwyn Morgan	560
57	Jon Wells	559
58	Ken Barnard	558
	Paul Crundell	558
60	Allan Best	555
61	Brian Snook	554
62	Tony Gamble	548
63	Alex Thisleton	538
	Peter Williams	538
65	Dave Buck	536
66	Lee Fisher	535
67	John Smith	533
68	Philip Tilley	529
69	Bernard Downs	528
70	Bill Shrimpton	519
71	Peter Allen	511
72	David Percival	479
73	Terry Connor	476

REGULAR SINGLES SCRATCH

1	Chris Smith	701
2	Chris Skudder	664
3	Sean Purcell	653
4	Matt Tomlin	644
5	Steve Gore	624
6	Colin Pepler	608
	Alan Jones	608
8	Clive Smith	598
9	Jason Cooper	590
10	Andy Cook	589
11	David Ross	586
12	Colin Evans	584
13	Nathan Clark	582
	Peter Williams	582
15	Steve Carnall	578
16	Brian Major	575
	Bob Potts	575
18	Clive Mitchell	569
19	Gary Steventon	552
20	Ben Frost	548
21	Dave Buck	536
22	Gavin Grant	525
23	Keith Porter	524
24	Paul Crundell	519
25	Ryan Hadlow	516
26	John Smith	512
27	Tom Sawyer	502
28	Duncan McClellan	493