



# BOWLING NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2007

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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the KTBA Executive Officers.

## All change at the KTBA

As they had previously announced at our AGM last year, both KTBA President John Cudmore and Secretary Rosemary Moll retired from their positions as of 10 February 2007. In addition, Vice President David Pitt and Alan Petherick have also decided to retire. John Cudmore and Rosemary will, however, be staying on as members of Council.

I am now pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Winch as our new President, George Krajewski as Vice President and John Lyall as Acting Secretary.

Our thanks and appreciation go to John Cudmore, Alan Petherick, Rosemary Moll and David Pitt in recognition of their enthusiasm and hard work in the organisation and running of the KTBA for so many years. We now wish Mike, George and John Lyall every success in their new roles and look forward to expansion of the services provided by the KTBA.

Within this newsletter is a tribute to David Percival who tragically passed away last May. Sadly, we also lost Colin Pepler who died suddenly last year. Back in the early 70's, Colin was one of England's leading youth bowlers and was a founder member of the "Playboys" team that bowled at Cliftonville and Chatham. In recent years, he was a member of Whitstable's "Roughnecks" team. He was also an invitee at the 2006 KTBA Masters where he reached the final stages.



### KTBA AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS

AMF Whitstable - 13,20,27 May 2007

*There are male/female singles, doubles and team (4s) events with handicap and scratch divisions. Note that the team event is now 4 person only. Don't forget to bring your BTBA cards!*

*Enries sent after closing date may be accepted subject to space. Contact Alan Haley at ahaley@lineone.net or telephone him on 01227 274281.*



# DELIVERIES

## LATE DESPATCH OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORMS

KTBA is well aware that tournament entry forms, including those for the forthcoming Area Championships, have been too slow in distribution. For this, we apologise. New procedures are to be implemented which will greatly improve the situation. We will be printing them earlier and also plan to e-mail league contacts with details of forthcoming tournaments. Details will also appear on the new KTBA website (see story below). Note that the KTBA Club Tournament has been delayed until later this year.

## HELP US TO KEEP YOU IN THE PICTURE!

The KTBA always sends tournament entry forms to the bowling centres but we are often told that they cannot be found there. In order to improve this situation, we want to send e-mails to a contact from every league in Kent informing them that entry forms have been sent to their local bowl. We will also communicate other important KTBA news in this manner. In order to get this project fully up and running we now need all leagues (BTBA sanctioned or not) to provide an e-mail addresses for one or two of their bowlers. The idea being that the recipients will pass on the information to other members of their league.

We have already received a few e-mail addresses but we need more leagues involved if this is to work effectively. So, please do make sure your league is included by sending a contact e-mail address (or two) to [jerry.moll@btopenworld.com](mailto:jerry.moll@btopenworld.com).

## NEW KTBA WEBSITE!

KTBA is pleased to announce its new website [www.ktba.org.uk](http://www.ktba.org.uk) which should hopefully be live by the time you read this! We are progressively increasing its content so it will soon become the prime source of news and information for all Kent bowlers. So, please e-mail tournament results, interesting news items and, indeed, any comments you may have, to [mikektba@hotmail.com](mailto:mikektba@hotmail.com).

Should you be interested in advertising your business or service on this website at a very attractive cost, please contact Mike Winch at [mikektba@hotmail.com](mailto:mikektba@hotmail.com) or tel: 01795 535084.

## FAILURE CLUB RELAUNCHED!

Included in this month's issue, is a resurrection by former KTBA President Ted Shrimpton of the infamous Failures Club!! Becoming a member of this exclusive group is an honour (?) that money cannot buy!! If you have any complaints that you have, or indeed have not, been nominated, please contact Ted!!

## JOHN JOWDY'S "VIEWS FROM THE USA"

In this month's issue is a thought provoking article sent to me by John Jowdy. John is one of the most accomplished USA bowling coaches and he is also a leading tenpin writer. His article relates to the manufacture of high-tech bowling bowls and pins. On the subject of pins, have you seen the back of the new £20 notes which mentions pin manufacturing?!

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Are you a tweener, do you know if your ball has a high or a low RG, what's mass bias?? If you want to know the answers to these questions, and many more, have a look at the glossary of bowling terms at Storm's excellent website. It also has a very impressive ball selector which will help you find the best Storm bowling ball for you! Go to [www.stormbowling.com](http://www.stormbowling.com)

If you're after some great tips to improve your bowling, have a look at Ron Clifton's excellent coaching articles which can be accessed at [www.bowl4fun.com](http://www.bowl4fun.com)

A great new UK website which contains all manner of bowling related articles, news & International tournament results can be found at [www.talktenpin.co.uk](http://www.talktenpin.co.uk)



# Kent Tenpin Bowling Association (of the BTBA)

## Membership Benefits

The British Tenpin Bowling Association (BTBA) is the governing body for our sport and, as such, provides the rules by which we play and, if necessary, the back up to enforce these rules. They also supply, free of charge, the stationery needed for running the league, Personal Accident Insurance, free monthly copies of the Go Tenpin Magazine and free achievement awards. Each member also receives their own copy of the BTBA Playing Rules and Regulations.

Some of the money from your membership fees is passed to the Area Association, the Kent Tenpin Bowling Association (KTBA), to cover their running costs. The KTBA acts as a middle man between your league and the BTBA. We are there to answer any queries that you have whether they are about administrative matters or interpretation of the rules etc. The KTBA is responsible for the process of sanctioning the leagues and supplying the necessary information and stationery to the leagues. We would like to have a representative of each centre as a member of the Kent Council where they would be able to put forward your opinions and wishes on relevant matters and be in a position to keep your bowlers fully informed on any events etc. League Members would also be welcomed to attend our AGM.

The KTBA also runs various tournaments that are available for your members to participate in:

- The Kent Roll-off is held each year to determine which players will be included in the squad from which the Kent teams are selected. There are six categories: Under 14's, Under 16's, Under 18's, Under 24's, Adult and Senior (over 50's) all are available for male and female teams. The top players in each category are guaranteed to play for the County in the Inter-County Championships. Players who achieve the honour of bowling for their county have their bowling costs paid for by the County although most of these costs are covered by funds raised through fund raising carried out by our volunteers. Non- BTBA members can only enter by paying the cost of BTBA Membership (£18 for 2006-7).
- The Area Championships are held on three Sundays in May and include singles, doubles and team events in various categories including male or female, handicap and scratch. Non- BTBA members can only enter by paying the cost of BTBA Membership (£18 for 2006-7).
- The Bert & Vicky Timms Mixed doubles tournament is primarily a handicap event although a trophy is provided for the scratch winners as well as money prizes and a trophy in the handicap section. This tournament is open to non-BTBA members for a £1 registration fee.
- The Intercentre Championships are open to all centres in Kent and consist of singles doubles and team events. Non-BTBA members are permitted to take part for a £1 registration fee.

Your members get all this and more for just £1.50 per month – we believe that almost all other sports governing bodies charge more for membership than this!

Further information can be found on the BTBA website at [www.btba.org.uk](http://www.btba.org.uk) and on the KTBA website at [www.ktba.org.uk](http://www.ktba.org.uk) (due to be available by the start of May 2007).



David Percival aged 32 lost his 30 month fight against a brain tumour on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 06 leaving Lucy his wife of six years and their son Elliot only two days old.

During his illness it was life as usual. David & Lucy were determined not to let his illness slow them down. Their bravery during this very difficult time is an example to us all.

David and Lucy met long ago at the Bexleyheath YBC. Lucy then a Cudmore.

David a local Ten Pin Bowling hero, owner of two 300 games at Gravesend could be found Saturday mornings working with the Bexleyheath YBC.

The family would like to thank everyone who supported David & Lucy during this very difficult time.

Elliot is taking his place in a very large loving family and has more aunts, uncles and cousins than most children.

David will be missed.

*David*



1974 - 2006



### Skill? Technology? Easy Conditions?

Is technology influencing the degree of success in today's bowling game?

The United States Bowling Congress recently issued two newsletters. The first one, dated June 22, 2006 was refocusing its efforts on research and testing relating to the System of Bowling. The second one, issued August 4, 2006 will be addressed in a future column.

In regard to the first newsletter, the USBC's major concern was the explosive increase in scoring in recent years. They have renewed emphasis on testing that will concentrate on four elements of the System of Bowling, a USBC-driven study of the key components that effect scoring in tenpin bowling balls, pins, lane conditioning and lane surfaces. I would like to address two of these concerns.

A...Bowling Balls: ...USBC is working on a study of bowling ball motion. USBC's goal is to learn and understand today's high-tech bowling balls with complex cores and weight blocks and inner motion characteristics of the balls. For the study, USBC's researchers are using advanced testing equipment such as the robotic precision bowling ball thrower named "Harry"-a similar machine to the United State Golf Association's robotic golfer called the "Iron Byron". USBC also uses the Computer Aided Tracking System, commonly referred to as C.A.T.S. This computerized mechanism uses information that determines ball speed, how much and when the ball hooks, entry and launch angle and relative friction.

In this ball motion study, USBC is testing bowling ball samples in random groups, such as balls with low and high radius of gyration,(RG), and differential and cover stock material.

At the risk of possibly alienating USBC officials and testers, I believe that arriving at any conclusion regarding changes in bowling ball construction would be an exercise in futility. First of all, it seems far too late to legislate against sophisticated cores that tend to add incredible revolutions to a ball, unless, of course, the regulatory body abides by the original rules; such as:

1. No extra holes in the ball other than those used to grip the ball. The extra holes balance a ball on the outside ONLY. There is no way to measure the inside of the ball. Modern cores greatly increase the hooking motion of the ball.
2. It was absolutely illegal to tamper with the surface of the ball. No sanding whatsoever. Sanding greatly influences ball traction on the lanes
3. Balls had to be drilled within three inches of the manufacturers label. Shifting the label can place cores in harder-hitting positions.
4. Foreign matters were not permitted in cover stocks, particularly



viscous, clinging materials that would aid in extra traction on the lanes.

What happened to all these regulations? When and how did the rules committees relent and permit the game to get out of hand? Now, with millions of dollars spent by bowlers on equipment and millions of dollars spent on research and development for modern bowling balls by manufacturers, it would necessitate a grandfather clause to legalize current bowling balls if new rules were legislated for future bowling balls.

B.... Bowling Pins:.... USBC is engaged in a new round of research intended to test the scoring impact of bowling pins with various specifications; that is, samples of different weights and centers of gravity and certain characteristics of bowling pins such as base diameter, base radius, and base attachment.

Results from recent testing support the conclusion that altering the specifications of bowling pins may have too great an impact on many bowlers. "So far, the data indicates that lowering the center of gravity of bowling pins would have a disproportionate impact on the averages of youth, senior and many women bowlers," said USBC Technical Director Neil Stremmer. "Minor adjustments to bowling pin specifications, in conjunction with specification changes to bowling balls and/or lane dressing patterns, may have the appropriate effect. Continued testing will give us more functional data."

Here are my thoughts on bowling pins. Inasmuch as it appears that USBC faces an uphill battle legislating bowling balls, why, after all these years, hasn't the governing body addressed the subject of pins, once the immovable object that stemmed the tide of the irresistible force?

Over 45 years ago, Bill Taylor, one of the most knowledgeable critics in the game, described pins as "pinettes", due to their fragile structure. Taylor cautioned and predicted the present onslaught of scoring records; yet, pins have been given a free pass on legislating the skyrocketing scores for the past 20-25 years. Shamefully, a number of pin manufacturers ran full-page ads, boasting and depicting the record-setting scores of their easy-toppling pins. And yes, they even ran these ads in ABC/WIBC magazines!

I am mystified by the ABC/WIBC, and now the USBC's failure to address the legislation of pins. For those who are unaware, bowling pins are constructed with voids in order to control the weight of the pin. Unfortunately, the governing bodies have failed to lower the voids that would control the center of gravity and place heavier weight in the lower section of the pin. This would definitely prevent the scattering effect and easy toppling of the pins, much like attempting to knock down wooden milk bottles at carnival stands.