

The Corner Pin

August 2008

August already! Summer's almost over...football's back, baseball pennant races are heating up, back to school (yes!), and oh yeah...almost time for fall/winter bowling season. Time to dust off the bowling balls, decide what league(s) to bowl in, and if you want to help the economy, go buy a new ball!

This month we're going to gear up for the new season with a talk about the PBA experience with Barry Winter, proprietor of Southern Dutchess Bowl in Beacon. If you haven't heard about the PBA Experience, it's a Sport Bowling League using the Pro Bowler's Tour oil patterns. We'll also get some tips from Melinda Young and Steve Marsh on what everyone should know, league secretary and bowler, to help your bowling league run smoothly. There might be more if I think of anything else by the time I get to the bottom of this newsletter.

But First: The PBA Experience!

Barry Winter is the proprietor of Southern Dutchess Bowl in Beacon. The Tatro Classic League bowls a split season and, in January of 2007, decided to bowl the second half of their season as a PBA Experience League. They liked it enough to keep the format for the full season and now the league is The Tatro PBA Experience Classic League. They bowl on Thursday nights and are looking for more bowlers that are looking for a challenge. Here is my question and answer talk with Barry about the league and the PBA experience

Pete: There are bowlers that do not know about the PBA Experience so basically, what is the PBA Experience?

Barry: The PBA Experience is bowling on the same conditions the professionals bowl on during the Pro Bowler's Tour. There are five different patterns and they all have different challenges for the bowler.

Pete: What is the difference between the PBA Experience and the typical house shot?

Barry: Basically all the patterns make the shot more difficult than a regular house pattern and you soon realize that you can't miss (your shot) as much as in a regular house pattern. (Bowling and practicing on the PBA Experience) will make you a better bowler. For example, on a regular house pattern when you miss to the right the ball will hook back. When you miss to the left, the ball will hold. (Note: Barry and I are both right handers, so you lefties....it's the opposite) On the PBA shots, if you miss left, the ball keeps going left. If you miss right, if you have the right bowling equipment, speed, hand....you can create a little area. (Emphasis on "little")

Pete: When your league switched to the PBA Experience, what was the effect on the league bowlers? Were they more discouraged or encouraged to practice more?

Barry: Well, I think there were 2 types of people in the beginning. It started out as people being curious and some who had what I call "beer muscles". Everybody didn't realize how hard it was

going to be. So everybody in the beginning started to practice. I would have the shots up on the weekend so the guys could practice on it before league night. After awhile people did start to realize how hard it was and then the two types came out. Some practiced and worked at it and they improved. Some didn't put the time into it and stayed where they were.

Pete: Do you see your Tatro PBA Experience League as a pioneer league of sorts to be the future of classic leagues?

Barry: I think it's the only way you're going to have a classic league in the future, if any classic leagues survive at all. Actually I feel the classic "scratch" league should go away, at least until sport shots are needed to be classified as a classic league. In order to create fair PBA leagues in today's world, it should be a handicap league. It's so hard to determine how some people are going to bowl or someone's ability from their averages on house conditions to something I call really bowling (PBA shot). Some people get it and some don't. So when you try to build a classic league based on house shot averages it ends up being so inequitable. The teams don't end up fair and people get discouraged. I think it would be fairer to have a handicap league and based on their league average, it'll work better. Everybody is handicapped based on their ability and how quick they get it (PBA shot). The other thing I've noticed in the PBA Experience League is the guys that throw the ball straighter definitely do better on all the patterns because they don't have to move so much. They don't require buying or changing different equipment. The guys that hook the ball a lot, I like to say boom it, need to work harder at it because the patterns are very, very different so obviously the more you hook it, the more the lane affects your shot. So typically the high average guys on a house shot that like to boom it do worse on the PBA shot than the high average guys that have a straighter shot.

Pete: As far as your league goes, what do you use to base someone's average coming into the league?

Barry: We decided to do it two ways. First, if the whole team coming into the league doesn't have a sport league average we use their high book average and the league maximum is 625 for three people. The second way is, if the whole team coming in does have a sport league average then they would use those averages and the league maximum is 565. Individuals without a sport league average would use their high book average and it breaks down in two ways also. If a bowler's average is 210 and over then they would subtract 25 pins from their high book average. If the bowler's average is 209 and under, we use the sport league adjustment chart and then subtract an additional 5 pins. For example, if a bowler's average is 209, the sport league adjustment chart has the bowler adjusted to 194, we then take 5 additional pins off to get a final entering average of 189.

Pete: That's all I got, thanks Barry.

Barry: You're welcome, and just as a reminder I do setup the PBA Experience shot on the weekends for anyone that wants to try it or practice for the league.

So if anyone's looking for a challenge...there you go...Southern Dutchess, Thursday nights. I think a lot of bowling purists would like to see the sport shots or the PBA Experience

become a requirement for a classic league. It's very hard these days to tell the difference between bowlers with talent and bowlers that score well. My opinion is to break leagues in slowly. I think Barry's league is a pioneer league and I respect Barry's opinions on bowling. His handicap idea is pretty good. I think if I were to start a PBA league I would settle on one or two of the shots. The shots are hard enough without throwing you a curve every couple of weeks on a different shot. Let's face it, we've been bowling on a "soft" shot for so long you can't expect bowlers to not get discouraged trying to bowl on five different tough patterns. I think the guys that have ability will adjust or work at it to sharpen their skills enough to bowl well given the time. I do feel that the sport shots are the way to get back to having the guys with ability having the high averages.

Next, what you and your secretary should know for your leagues. Melinda Young is a Director in the MHBA and Steve Marsh is the President of the MHBA (introduced as a celebrity at the USBC National Tournament)(no one wanted his autograph) and here's what they have for reminders;

League organizational meetings should be held prior to first ball being thrown for the new season. Typically they are held 1 or 2 weeks before the first night. The league rules or bylaws are gone over with a majority vote needed to pass new rules or changes to the bylaws. After the first ball is thrown a 100% acceptance by the bowlers is needed to change or amend any rules.

An account must be opened in the name of the league at a bank or credit union for league funds. Personal accounts should not be used. The biggest reason for this is if something should happen to the money, USBC will guarantee 100% of the funds being insured if it is in a league account. The league President should be verifying deposits and the account by initialing deposit slips and/or the bank passbook if the secretary has one. Some leagues have an audit committee made up of non league officials that check/verify the leagues account.

Sanction Cards.....bowlers....fill them out *legibly* with the correct information. Substitutes...fill out a card in *every* league you bowl in. Secretaries.....sanction cards must be turned in within 30 days of the start of your league.

Prize Lists.....must be presented and voted on by the fifth week of bowling. A final approved copy should be available for all league bowlers. Secretaries....it is recommended you keep the copy that shows the voting.

Awards....all MHBA awards will be processed by Jason Rosenthal. The Newburgh Women's Assoc. Awards Representative is Renee Cusack. Secretaries....please turn in award sheets promptly in order to keep the award process running smooth. Even if you don't hand them out until the end of the year please allow the associations to process them on time so there are no awards missing.

Final average sheets need to be turned in to the association secretaries with in 2 weeks of the end of the league.

Secretaries.....The MHBA has League Representatives for each and every league sanctioned

thru the MHBA. This is also true for the Newburgh Women's Association. They should be at the lanes and at their assigned leagues at least twice a month. They are there to help you with your assigned duties, rules, sanctions, awards, and any other league issues. They are also there to make sure you and your league officials are doing their jobs. They will be checking your league check books and/or deposit slips, not for money amounts but to make sure the league president is doing his job also. They will also be requesting a copy of the leagues bylaws. The associations need a copy to use if any league problems arise.

Last thing, I knew I'd have something else by the time I got to the end. Tony Tarsio and his staff are starting a new league on Friday nights starting in September. It's a four person mixed league with the emphasis on fun not competition. Free rental shoes if you need them, three games of bowling, low priced drinks, and great dinners available at the snack bar. (Denise can cook!) They promise it will be different, affordable, and fun. Call or stop by Tarsio Lanes on RT. 52 in the Town of Newburgh.

Ok, that's it for August. Thank you to those of you who have given me some feedback. See everyone at the lanes, or back here in September.