

The Corner Pin

Sept-Oct 08

Welcome to the new bowling season. All the leagues are up and running, so this month we are going to talk about league stuff ; specifically, what the duties are of the President and the Vice President. You know who they are, the ones that go to the bathroom during the meeting and everyone votes them in, right Bob V? I also have some events announcements. All sprinkled with my usual wit, humor, and intelligence. Ok, intelligence may be pushing it but I know my editor Sue will laugh. (I call her my editor, maybe more of a grammar checker)

If you are thinking about bowling in either the USBC Open or USBC Women's Tournaments, don't wait too long. They usually fill up fast so make a decision! The USBC Open Tournament runs from 2/21/09 until 7/23/09. That seems like a long time but they already have close to 16,000 teams. It is in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The USBC Women's Tournament is in Reno, Nevada from 3/28/09 until 7/4/09. They have close to 6,000 teams registered at this point.

The national tournaments are a good way to challenge yourself and your game. You will see some sort of a Sport shot setup in both tournaments. Ask anyone that's been there what it's like. Or you can be like me and go with the attitude of having fun with the group you go with and whatever happens on the lanes, good or bad, just roll with it! (if you know me, you know I lied about my attitude!)

One thing, when you pick a doubles partner, pick wisely! My recent doubles partners have generally used the doubles portion of a tournament for practice and then shine in the singles event. (Michelle T, Brian K) I guess the lesson is, if you're looking to make money in singles, bowl with me in doubles!

The MHBA's first tournament this year is the 9 Pin No Tap Tournament, or as it's been known the last few years, The Battle of the Sexes. Though it hasn't been much of a battle with the ladies winning the first two tournaments. The tournament will be held at Southern Dutchess Lanes on Nov. 2nd, 2008. This is a handicap tournament open to all bowlers. Entry sheets have been posted in all the houses and they can be turned in to any MHBA Director. Any questions contact Larry Byrd thru this website.

George Manning of Strike Force Pro Shop located in Bowling Time Lanes will be hosting an Ebonite Demo day on Saturday, November 29th. Ebonite also owns Hammer, Columbia, and Track bowling companies. I know that they have Ebonite and Hammer equipment available during the Demo, I'm not so sure about Columbia and Track. Ebonite will have a new ball out by then called the Pin Slasher and Hammer will have a new ball called the Sauce. If you've ever wanted to try a new ball before buying it, you can't beat the experience of a Demo Day. They also usually have a Pro and ball reps available for help during the day. I have met a few men and women Pros at these, Doug Kent, Ryan Shafer and Michele Feldman, to mention a few. But it depends on the time of year and if there are any Pro tournaments going on at the time.

If you are thinking of going, let me give you a few hints to get the most out of your day there. Loosen up with your equipment on one lane or maybe a pair, but better to line up on one lane. Once you are loose and lined up, think about what you are looking for. Are you looking for more or less reaction than the ball you have? Then ask the people working the Demo (I will be one of them) what they recommend, they will set up a ball for you and then take it back to your lane and try it out. This is why I say to keep yourself on one lane....it is the best way to compare your equipment to what you are trying out. If you keep moving lanes you are wasting your time.

If they have Columbia and Track equipment there, that's four ball companies to try out! There's no place else you can do this except for a Demo Day. Contact George Manning at Strike Force Pro Shop (562-1910) for more info and to sign up.

I have also just learned that John Lewis of Bowler's Edge in Chester is having an Ebonite Demo Day also, well it's actually a Demo Night. It is on Nov. 20th at 9:30pm right after the Thursday night league. Contact John at 469-2334.

Ok, that's all the announcements so let's move on to the duties of the President and Vice President of your league. I am going to outline Rule 102c in the USBC rule book for this discussion and so all of you know what they are supposed to be doing.

Let's start with the President of the league:

1. Preside at all meetings (that means be there! Easy so far!)
2. Enforce all rules and regulations of the league (know your leagues by laws!)

3. Arrange to have an account set up in a recognized banking institution (one that's not going under hopefully) in the name of the league with the signatures of at least two league officers needed for all withdrawals. *Most of the time league treasurers set up the account but either way it has to be in a bank with two signatures needed for withdrawals.*
4. Appoint a prize committee and an audit committee, as well as any other committees needed during the season. *In many leagues the secretary or treasurer will do the prize list. If none of these prize lists are accepted, it is the President's duty to get a committee to work on a prize list that is accepted by the league.*
5. Arrange to have the prize committee submit one or more prize lists for consideration/voting by the fifth week of the season. *Make sure the league expenses are listed along with the prizes and that they add up to the what the league will collect for the season.*
6. Personally verify the league's bank balance monthly. By "verify" it means you should know exactly what should be in that account. *Math will come in handy here! If it is short, then you should report that shortage immediately to USBC for possible actions related to the bonding insurance policy.*

My advice to the league Presidents out there, make sure you know what's going on in your league!

Next, the Vice President.....hmmmm.....well, the only thing listed is if the President is absent, you are in control. But just in case....you better know what the President knows, you never know!

Ok, that's all I have for this newsletter. Next month I will have some Q & A from USBC dealing with some rules and things we think we know. Also we'll talk about the basics of bowling balls. In the meantime, please feel free to email me with any announcements or any subject you would like to see.