## Martin Wins 2024 USBC Queens becomes the youngest to win the event

GREEN BAY, Wis. - Jillian Martin of Stow, Ohio, took the longest road to the 2024 United States Bowling Congress Queens win Tuesday night at The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Martin qualified as the No. 2 seed heading into match play, but was upset and sent to the Elimination Bracket with her back against the wall. That did not stop her from winning match after match, getting all the way to the final round and claiming the No. 3 seed on the stepladder show. All told, she bowled 42 games before the show even began.

It culminated in her becoming the youngest person to win the USBC Queens at 19 years old, defeating Hope Gramly of Aubrey, Texas, 267-220.

"It means the world to me, just being able to go out here and show everyone that anything is possible, no matter your age and no matter who you are," Martin said after her win.

Her stepladder journey started with a match against the defending champion, Lindsay Boomershine of Brigham City, Utah, looking to be the first to defend the tiara in over 40 years, and riding the



momentum of winning the opening match over Canada's Felicia Wong, 193-154.

Boomershine made three great shots to start the match against Martin, but couldn't get the 10 pin to fall all three times, while Martin had a spare and three strikes from the offset. A miss by Martin in the fifth frame opened the door for Boomershine to seize control of the match, but another 10 pin and a split kept Martin in the driver's seat.

Martin ended the match first, going strike, nine, spare to close out with a 206, which meant Boomershine had to punch out for the tie. The 10 pin reared its head yet again, even after a ball change, ending Boomershine's pursuit for her second Queens title as she bowed out with a 186. Boomershine earned \$17,500 for her fourth-place finish.

Up next was Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, who brought her many years of experience to the table, as Kulick won her first major before Martin was even born, setting up a match between the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour past and continued on page 7

## DAVID "BOOG" KROL WINS PBA PLAYOFFS

Krol completes storybook journey from PTQs to Playoffs title

From pre-tournament to-Two qualifiers, to his first PBA Tour title, to the Playoffs and his second title: David "Boog" Krol wrote the final chapter to one of the most improbable stories in PBA history on Sunday afternoon.

Krol defeated Jesper Svensson in a roll-off to win the 2024 PBA Playoffs title at AMF Kissimmee Lanes in Kissimmee, Fla. The win marked the second title of 28-year-old Krol's season and career.

Svensson took the first game of the Race-

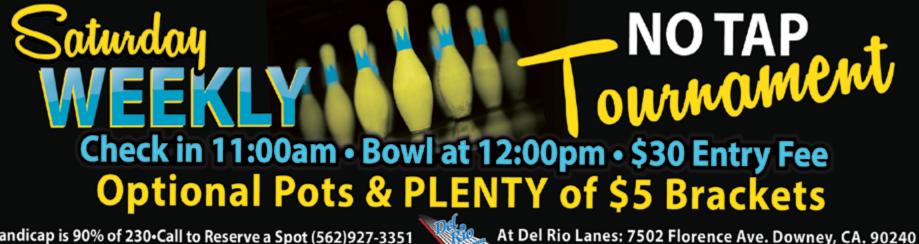
championship match. Krol then rebounded to win the second game and force a ninth and 10th frame roll-

Krol struck to start the roll-off. Svensson spared an 8-pin, then added a strike and spare in his 10th frame.

Krol, needing a mark, aced a strike to clinch the victory.

Krol defeated O'Neill in the first semifinal, 243-202. Krol also defeated O'Neill in his first-ever televised match continued on page 5





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## Tangles Or Not, String Machines Are Here To Stay

by Dave Williams

This month's issue of Bowling Center Management (BCM) Magazine included an interesting 8 page promotional pull-out for AMF's version of a string machine, known as EDGE String. Since being introduced in 2019, EDGE String has become the best selling string machine in the world with over 10,000 machines installed in more than 600 bowling centers in 50 countries, according to the AMF leaflet.

But just what is a string machine? Have the braintrust at AMF entered into the pasta business, with some newfangled machine that makes spaghetti? Hardly. The string machine has been around for many decades, with nylon strings attached onto bowling pins allowing them to be "pulled up" for the next shot, rather than utilizing the more expensive "free fall" pins that require many more moving parts of machinery.

A few years ago, I remember commenting on the string machines popularity among new bowling proprietors because of the lower operating costs for labor, electricity and replacement parts ("Cables And Strings," appearing in most publications in March of 2022). There was a campaign underway to certify the string pinsetters, and that reality was achieved on August 1, 2023.

In the "Cables And Strings" article, I remembered my personal experience with string bowling machines in Europe, where they have been a part of the bowling landscape for more than 50 years. It was a fascinating machine that accomplished the same ultimate goal of resetting the pins and returning the bowling ball, but in a completely different manner from either a traditional AMF or Brunswick machine — which are also totally unique from one another.

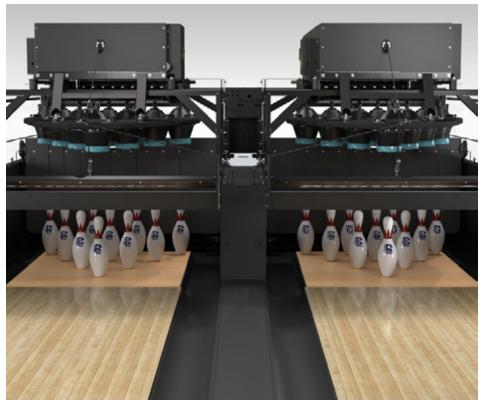
Perhaps my favorite memory was with a string machine mechanic in England. With so few moving parts, as opposed to either the traditional AMF or Brunswick machines, I asked what the major problem was in the operation of the string device? The mechanic looked back at me with a very somber expression and replied, "Tangles."

The business case for the EDGE String machine is strong. The brochure states that the machine has become the top selling pin spotting technology worldwide, far exceeding free fall machines as the preferred choice to replace older pin spotting equipment in existing bowling businesses, and for new projects as well.

The operational cost savings are substantial, when compared to traditional machines. The time that bowling lane mechanics spend on operation and preventive maintenance is reduced by 80%-90%, according to the brochure. I wonder if this will result in lower prices for a game of bowling, once these incredible reductions are spread over many years of operation?

Another tremendous cost savings is in the area of replacement parts. It is the second largest operating expense, after labor. According to the brochure, typical free fall machines require \$350-\$700 per lane per year. There's an interesting photo comparison in the EDGE String leaflet that shows an entire wall of spare parts inventory for a typical free fall facility. Conversely, a photo adjacent to that shows a typical string machine work bench, with only a handful of tools noticeable, and no spare parts. I wonder if this will also change as the new string machines begin to age?

Electricity is a big expense in a bowling center. The bowling machines, with motors, aging electronics, wiring, etc., represent a huge part of a bowling center's utility bill. EDGE String machines use extremely efficient 24V DC electronics and



#### **Brunswick Boost ST String Machine**

drive systems, resulting in power consumption that is less than a typical household coffee maker for each bowling machine! That means 70%-90% less electricity expense for the bowling center proprietor!

What could possibly be a downside, you might ask? A USBC article from April 27, 2023, outlines some of the potential concerns, mostly for bowlers. Some of their findings, reported by Dave Schroeder, include the following:

- Striking percentage is 7.1% less than when using free fall machines
- League averages could decline by as much as 10 pins or more
- Unusual spare conversions have been enhanced because of the strings

I guess you could say that the string machine might help put an end to inflated league bowling averages. It could also enhance your chances of picking up the 7-10 split. The machines have been certified but remain an independent category of equipment and competition, effective August 1, 2023. USBC will continue additional testing with an objective of determining whether string averages can be used in the same category of free fall averages, or if a separate category will be necessary.

The full report can be found at: BOWL.com/Stringpinsetters. Schroeder reports that an update on the additional testing and potential for conversion will be provided prior to the 2024-2025 season.

#### Photo credits:

- Brunswick Boost ST String Machine provided by Brunswick Bowling
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**QubicaAMF EDGE String Machine** 















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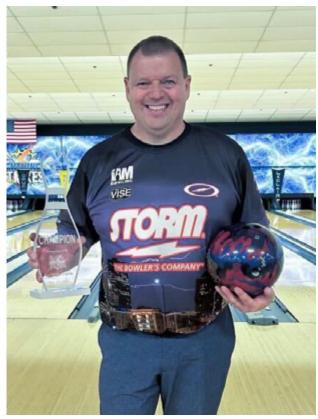


## TOM HESS DEFENDS TITLE AT PBA50 FORT MYERS CLASSIC

Fort Myers, Florida Overcoming adversity has the ability to will athletes to the finish line. For the first time all week, Tom Hess rolled back-to-back games under 200, during the fourgame Advancers Round at the 2024 PBA50 Fort Myers Classic, to see his 97-pin lead in the tournament completely evapo-

He admits he didn't execute very well as he fell out of the top seed for the first time after 16 games at Lightning Strikes Bowl. Now behind John Janawicz, Hess roared back with a great ball change and a 297 game to close his deficit. He then beat Janawicz to get back on top by just nine pins.

rate.



Champion Tom Hess

"Old Tom Hess would have gotten upset and really let that bug him," Hess admitted. "I just kept fighting and fighting and I was able to overcome. It was a big confidence boost to get back to that No. 1 seed."

After winning his match play rounds over Bill Rowe and Christopher Keane, he remained No. 1 in the stepladder finals. In the championship match against Brad Angelo, Hess started off with a 7-10 split, changed balls and confidently went on to earn the 227-192 win, defending his title as well. He watched the players in front of him use balls with a lot of surface, while also playing further right of where he wanted to play throughout the stepladder. He knew that would make the championship pair better for him.

"Brad had an early double, but then never really got anything going," Hess said. "It was a good win."

This is Hess's seventh career PBA50 title, and second win out of four tournaments this year. His successful season began immediately after his induction into the PBA Hall of Fame.

"After that induction speech, everything just felt different. I'm one of the Hall of Famers to beat every week," he said. "I've said it all the time, this is a Hall of Fame Tour and there's not very many stepladders that don't have a Hall of Famer or two on it. It's just great to be part of the club."

In the opening match of the stepladder finals, Janawicz defeated James Campbell 236-190. Paul Koehler beat Janawicz 227-193 then Angelo topped Koehler 230-202 in the semifinals. Next up, the PBA50 Tour heads to Clearwater, Florida for the Johnny Petraglia BVL Open that begins on Monday only on BowlTV.

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND SCORES**

Match 1: John Janawicz def. James Campbell, 236-190

Match 2: Paul Koehler def. John Janawicz, 227-193

Match 3: Brad Angelo def. Paul Koehler, 230-202

Championship match: Tom Hess def. Brad Angelo, 227-192

#### PBA50 FORT MYERS CLASSIC STANDINGS

1. Tom Hess, \$8,000

2. Brad Angelo, \$4,000

3. Paul Koehler, \$3,200 4. John Janawicz, \$2,600

5. James Campbell, \$2,200

Final standings - PBA50 Fort Myers Classic

#### **PBA Playoffs** continued from page 1

in February's PBA Delaware Classic, which Krol went on to win for his first PBA Tour title.

O'Neill started the match with splits in the first and third frames on the left lane, which featured the 45-foot Dick Weber oil pattern. The right lane featured the 39foot Mike Aulby pattern.

As Krol mounted the first five strikes, that early deficit proved to be too much for O'Neill to overcome.

"I didn't actually mind the shots too much, but when you're in the wrong part of the lane with the wrong ball sometimes it doesn't matter how good you throw it," said O'Neill, who won the 2020 Playoffs. "It's tough when it's a one-game match. You have to get out of the gates strong. You can't be guessing like that."

In the second semifinal, two-time defending Playoffs champion Kyle Troup stormed out to a similarly commanding lead over Svensson. But after throwing the first five strikes, Troup trudged down the stretch.

Troup split in the sixth frame, then missed a 10-pin spare in the eighth after hitting his ankle. After sparing the 3-6-10 in the ninth frame, Troup opened the door for Svensson to throw three strikes and shut him out.

Svensson, who has bragged about his dominance over his close friend and Roth/Holman Doubles partner for years, seized the opportunity. The Iceman struck in the ninth, added two more in the 10th and knocked over the nine pins he needed on the fill ball.

The Playoffs featured the top 16 players in competition points during the regular season. The four finalists advanced to the championship round by virtue of their quarterfinal wins at Angel of the Winds in Arlington, Wash.

The championship match featured a Race-to-Two format. If either player won both games, they would secure the title; a 1-1 split would result in a ninth and 10th frame roll-off.

All previous matches in the PBA Playoffs were single-game matches.

Svensson took the first game, 220-213, as Krol struggled to control his tempo early in the match.

Krol rebounded in Game 2, racing out to an early lead over the two-handed lefty. Krol's lead grew when Svensson left the Big Four in the sixth frame; however, Krol returned the favor and left a Big Four of his own in the seventh.

The same trend occurred in the next set of frames: Svensson spared a 2-4-7 in the seventh frame and a 7-pin in the eighth, then Krol spared a 4-pin in the ninth when he had an opportunity to completely take control.

Ultimately, a Krol earned a 204-194 win to force the roll-off.

Even though Svensson aced three strikes on the left lane to end Game 2, Krol opted to let the Swede bowl his final roll-off frame on that lane.

"I knew in the roll-off I was starting on the left lane. That was my bad lane for sure and I had no trust on that lane," said Krol, who struck just once on that lane in Game 2. "But I need one strike on this lane, I'm going to do whatever it takes to hit the head-pin and strike."

That's exactly what Krol did, shifting the pressure over to Svensson. The southpaw went light on the right lane, leaving and sparing the 8-pin. In the 10th, Svensson struck then left and spared the 3-5-6-10.

Krol then struck in his first shot on the right lane to clinch the win, completing his improbable and inspirational journey from the PTQs to Playoffs and two-time PBA Tour champion.

"All I can say is it's been a dream come true," Krol said. "I fought so long for this and I finally trusted myself this year to bowl everything as much as I could. We're reaping the benefits right now. Not even winning a title or winning this, just knowing and feeling that I can beat these guys every week and this could be a career that I could hold for another 10 years out here."

#### **Championship Round Scores**

Semifinal 1: No. 9 David Krol def. No. 4 Bill O'Neill, 243-202

Semifinal 2: No. 10 Jesper Svensson def. No. 6 Kyle Troup, 224-211

Championship: No. 9 David Krol def. No. 10 Jesper Svensson, 2-1 (213-220, 204-194, 48-40)

#### **Final Standings**

- David Krol, \$75,000
- Jesper Svensson, \$50,000
- Bill O'Neill, \$25,000
- Kyle Troup, \$25,000 EJ Tackett, \$15,000
- Marshall Kent, \$15,000
- Anthony Simonsen, \$15,000
- Jason Belmonte, \$15,000
- Matt Russo, \$10,000
- 10. Zach Wilkins, \$10,000
- Chris Via, \$10,000
- Tom Smallwood, \$10,000
- 13. Andrew Anderson, \$8,000 14. Packy Hanrahan, \$7,000
- 15. Graham Fach, \$6,000
- 16. AJ Johnson, \$5,000



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## A Reminder About Bowling Etiquette

By Fred Eisenhammer

One can never remind players enough about bowling etiquette. This may be an appropriate time for that reminder because many new bowlers have recently joined the just-underway summer leagues.

Remember, you're not bowling in a vacuum. There are bowlers all around you. If you forget everything else, just remember this: Be considerate.

OK, so do you have a pet peeve about etiquette and courtesy when you bowl? I have one. When I release the ball at the foul line, oftentimes a bowler on an adjoining lane will thunder to my side and rifle his or her ball while I'm still tracking my shot and anticipating my upcoming pin action (or lack thereof).

It's easy to get startled by such an ill-mannered bowler . . . and annoyed. Why can't that bowler just wait a few seconds and allow me to watch my electrifying shot (thinking positively) before I triumphantly return to my seat?

The fact is that rudeness sometimes prevails in a bowling house. It's rarely intentional, but it can produce a heart-stopping – and irritating – moment or two.



On the same topic, *perfectbowling.com*, a nifty website that provides bowling tips, advice and other interesting data, came up with its list of nine bowling rules for etiquette and courtesy.

So here goes – the etiquette rules from perfectbowling.com.

- **1** The first rule in bowling is to never bother another bowler while they are in the process of bowling.
- 2 Bowlers on the right-hand lane have the right-of-way to bowl first.
- **3** Never pick up your ball from the return rack while another bowler is preparing to bowl and is in his/her starting position.
- 4 Refrain from using obscenities or vulgar language.
- 5 After your shot, let others bowl.

**Fred Eisenhammer**: In other words, don't linger on the lane after your shot. **6** – Wear proper shoes.

- 7 Keep food and other refreshments off the approach.
- 8 Remember, there are others waiting to bowl.

**Fred Eisenhammer**: In other words, don't wander off aimlessly or socialize too long when your turn is about to arrive.

9 - Above all else, have fun.

I'll add Rule No. 10 to the list: Let the bowler next to you complete his or her turn and walk back to his or her seat before you start your approach.

Of course, it's inevitable that some bowlers will slip up from time to time, so it's important not to get flustered if someone violates one of these rules.

No slamming your bowling ball on the lane in disgust.

Distractions happen – even when pros are bowling.

Remember, it's just a game.

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"Frank-It-Up" Championship Team of Noonlighters League: (Left to Right: Frank Weiler, Therese Weiler & Tim Frank)

## Tim Frank Leads Team to Noonlighters League Title

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Tim Frank averaged a league high 226 as he led his "Frank-it-Up" trio to a league high 60 wins and the league championship. The team settled into first place the first week of competition and stayed there for the duration of the season. That's 32 consecutive weeks of riding high over the other 13 league teams.

In addition to leading the league in average, Tim rolled both the league high scratch game (279) and the league high scratch series (802) on his way to "claiming the gold".



Tim teamed with Frank and Therese Weiler to produce one of the league's strongest teams in years. All three are pressure tested bowlers with multiple league titles under their belts.

When the trio clinched the title they immediately huddled and began humming a victory tune "We are the Champions". It was appropriate because their lead over the Purple Rollers and TEAM 13 had evaporated to a slim three wins as the season winded down. Who wouldn't celebrate when your team comes through for a league championship just when it looks like all is lost.

Congratulations to the "Frank-it-Ups", the 2024 Noonlighters League champions.



**Queens** continued from page 1 present versus the future of the tour.

For Kulick, the future looked to be here, as Martin rattled off four strikes in the first five frames while Kulick had two splits and was behind early. Martin kept the pressure up on Kulick, and an open in the ninth frame was but a blip for Martin, who struck all three shots in the 10th to fully shut out Kulick, 219-183. Kulick earned \$22,500 for the third-place finish.

Martin was now only one win away from earning the \$60,000 top prize and the tiara, with only Gramly in her way. Gramly earned the No. 1 seed after going 6-0 and averaging over 234 in match play and was looking to earn her first PWBA title and major. Gramly was in a similar position as Martin two years ago at the 2022 USBC Queens, who qualified for the TV show as an amateur, placing fifth.

Martin came out strong yet again, starting with three strikes in the first five frames while Gramly was unable to string together strikes. Gramly rolled a turkey in frames five through seven and seemed to take advantage of a spare from Martin.

That would be the last time Martin didn't strike.

She went off the sheet for the final seven strikes and Gramly was unable to keep up, with the final score of 267-220 in Martin's favor, and becoming the youngest to win the USBC Queens ever. The previous youngest was PWBA and USBC Hall of Fame Wendy Macpherson, who won in 1988 at the age of 20.

Gramly earned \$30,000 for her runner-up finish.

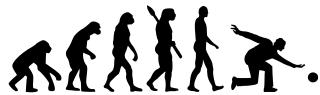
Martin credits her mental game for being able to get to this point with her back against the wall in the Elimination Bracket and to end the week with the tiara after 45 total games.

"It's that much sweeter knowing how good I was able to keep my mindset through it all," said Martin. "It shows the work I've put in on the mental side has paid off."

This is only the beginning for Martin, who already had a PWBA win, and is now a major champion.

"I hope everyone will see a lot more of me in the future."

The PWBA heads to Smyrna, Tennessee, for the PWBA Classic Series – Nashville starting May 28.





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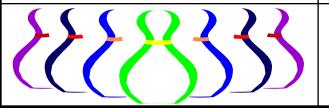
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## **Las Vegas** Laughlin

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# Brunswick Cal Bowl Locks Up The #1 Seed Forever Hope Foundation Holds A 2-Game Lead

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY - The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes for the second to last week of the season with five of the six playoff teams set. Only the overall wildcard spot was left with just three teams still mathematically alive for the spot. In the rolloffs, the 5th round winner will automatically be seeded 5th, and the overall wildcard will be seeded 6th, so the battle is on to see who will take on US Foods in the first playoff match.

In the wildcard hunt, the "A" match featured Forever Hope Foundation (Vernon Adams) sitting at 99 wins, taking on **DV8** (David Cogswell) who were 3 back at 96 wins. In a dramatic finish, DV8 takes the 3-2 win over Forever Hope Foundation with a 2-pin win for totals. Eric Williams Jr. led Forever Hope with a 559 series while Daniel Hong was high for DV8 with a 586 set. These two teams will meet again next week with Forever Hope Foundation sitting on a slim 2-game lead with just 5 points left up for grabs.

The "B" match was **Threadworks** (Eric Snow) who were hanging on by a string at 93 wins and needing every point the next two weeks plus perfect results above them, taking on Forest Lanes (JT Diso) who at 90 wins were just looking to bank wins for a better spot in the prize fund. ThreadWorks took a 4-1 win over Forest Lanes led by Ray Minter with a huge 709 set. JT Diso paced Forest Lanes with a 598 set. The one loss eliminates ThreadWorks from wildcard contention as they are mathematically eliminated at 97 wins.

In the battle of the round winners, Cal Bowl (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) had jumped back into the overall lead at 108.5 wins, sitting 4 games up on Junior Amateur Tour (Kevin Valmonte) as they continued their see-saw battle for the 7th straight week. Cal Bowl took care of business as they scored a 4-1 win to lock up the top-seed spot for the Championship Rolloffs leaving JAT with 105.5 wins.. Anthony Santos was big for JAT with a 644 set in the losing effort while Leonard Ruiz Jr. was again top for Cal Bowl with a 599 series. The other match featured **Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.) at 98 wins who had passed the 97 wins of Family Ties (Mikey Villarreal) last week and had their eyes set on a shot at the 2nd seed now just 5.5 back. Bowlium continued to be hot against Family Ties, banking 4 wins and extending their lead over Family Ties to 4 games and now only 3.5 games behind Junior Amateur Tour with one week to go.

The rest of the league was jocking for position in the prize fund payoff. Professional Approach Keystone took 4 from Touchstone Homes. Westminster Lanes swept Del Rio Lanes for 5 wins. iColor Printing banked 4 wins bowling against the scores of Pro Approach Keystone. Pro Approach Oak Tree takes 4 from Pro Approach Del **Rio** to round out the action.

The Financial Advisor's pot went to JT Diso (255) for \$160 with 2nd to Butch Jackson and Ray Minter (244) for \$35 each. Sidepots went to Jeff Hickenbottom and JT Diso for \$46 with (274) for \$138 with 2nd to Eric Snow for \$69.

#### Brunswick | INVITATIONAL | IRR \$16,000 \$5,000 \$10,000 \$4,000 \$3,800 \$3,400

#### TOP 10

709 Ray Minter **644 Anthony Santos 622 Vince Duarte** 619 Doug Harris III 600 Butch Jackson

599 Leonard Ruiz Jr. 598 JT Diso 586 Daniel Hong 579 Jonathan Gale

577 Scott Silva

#### SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.

1st JT Diso 255 \$160 • 2nd Butch Jackson/Ray Minter 244 \$35

TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.

11801 Pierce Street Suite 215 Riverside, CA 92505

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**Dean Sanderson** Investment Advisor Representative License: 0F92487

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Come on out and watch Southern Califor-2nd to Michael Barnett and Butch Jackson nia's Richest League as they finish up the for \$23. SuperPot went to Anthony Santos regular season on the long oil pattern next Monday night at 8:00.

## *7502 Florence Ave., Downey CA 90240 • (562) 927-3351*

**Weekly Scratch 5-Gamer Every Tuesday** 

\$55 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets Check-in at 6pm • Bowl at 7pm • 1 in 5 Payout May 21: Abbey Road / May 28: TAT

### **Saturday HDCP No-Tap Tournament**

\$30 Entry Fee with Optional Pots and Brackets Check-in at 11am • Bowl at Noon • 1 in 5 Payout 4 Games on Same Pair of Lanes on House Shot 22771 Centre Dr. Lake Forest, CA 92630 (949) 770-0055