

JUNE 25, 2020

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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Eddie Katz & Ron Mohr

RON MOHR Wins "60 And Over Senior Scratch Classic"

by Frank Weiler

CABAZON – Just another day in the desert for PBA Hall of Famer Ron Mohr. Whether he competes near the sands of SoNEV or SoCAL Ron is capable of dominating. And that's what he did last Sunday at Canyon Lanes.

Ron used a pair of Halo Pearl balls, one pin up and one pin down, to average 252 during six games of qualifying. That scoring pace was high enough to seed him Number 1 in the finals.

Ron's 252 average (+315) gave him a 138 pin advantage over GARY MORGAN who average to 229 during qualifying. After Mohr and Morgan the finalists were MIKE RAUSCH (219 average, +119), GERRY VERTIGAN (218, +110), DAVE BAREMORE (218, +108) and MIKE MELLICK (218, +108).

Tournament Director EDDIE KATZ missed the cut by just five pins to finish in 7th place, averaging 217. Eddie's slow start cost him a chance at the title. His first three games saw him shoot 601 while his

second three game set was 702. Had he maintained his finishing scoring pace (234 average) for all six games he would have finished the qualifying round in second place!

The tournament drew 30 entries including such notables is DON BLATCHFORD (Multiple Tournament Champion), KEVIN GANNON (All-time WCST champion and money winner), BOB HILVOSKY (Citrus Belt Hall of Famer) and DON MOSER (PBA Regional Champion).

Last month's Classic Champion and veteran WCST and SST Champion DIZ FRANCISCO finished in 11th Place, averaging 209. Great bowling Diz. Francisco is a great guy to bowl with or against. While being a tough competitor he still is very friendly, always with a big smile for those around him.

The six finalists bowled four Match Games. The winner of each Match Game earned 30 bonus pins. After Matchplay the final standings were:

continued on page 9

BREAKPOINT — BOB SMITH — AMERICAN BOWLERS TOURNAMENT ASSOCIATION

ABTA/Honoring the man behind the longest-running tournament club in So. California

by Bette Addington, California Bowling Writers

DOWNEY – Bob Smith came quietly on the bowling scene in Southern California in the early-1970's. A native of a small town, Diamondville, Wyoming where Smith said, "Everybody knew everybody," he quickly understood the importance of working with those around him and creating an atmosphere bowlers would feel comfortable competing in. (Yah, you've heard of Diamondville, WY.... that town of 800 is connected to Kemmerer Wyoming pop. 2400 where the first JC Penney store was originated in 1902)

also connected was Frontier population 500.

He started his own bowling career as a senior in high school in Wyoming where he joined a high school league. He then went on to college in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he bowled in the College League there'd also played baseball there. After leaving for Western Wyoming University he also bowled in the college League, but he never stopped bowling up until about nine years ago when he had a strange happening when on the approach in League Roll-offs,

as he got ready to start his approach but he couldn't move his feet. It was embarrassing!! He felt it was time to take a few years off but is now excited about taking up bowling once again. His bowling career has graced him with (7) 300 games and although he has not had the pleasure of winning any City, State or National titles, he has bowled some big money leagues over the years. Not one to credit himself, Smith said when asked of the best bowler he had bowled with, he said with no doubt, Dave Wilson!!, a longtime friend.



Bob Smith

In 1977, Smith was with his best friend, Bob Lomax who at the time was the head of the (ABA Scratch Event) and Lomax asked continued on page 7

Dates, Broadcast Info Set For PBA Tour Finals

by Lucas Wiseman

The PBA returned this month with a pair of non-title special events, but in July, for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic began, a PBA Tour title will be on the line.

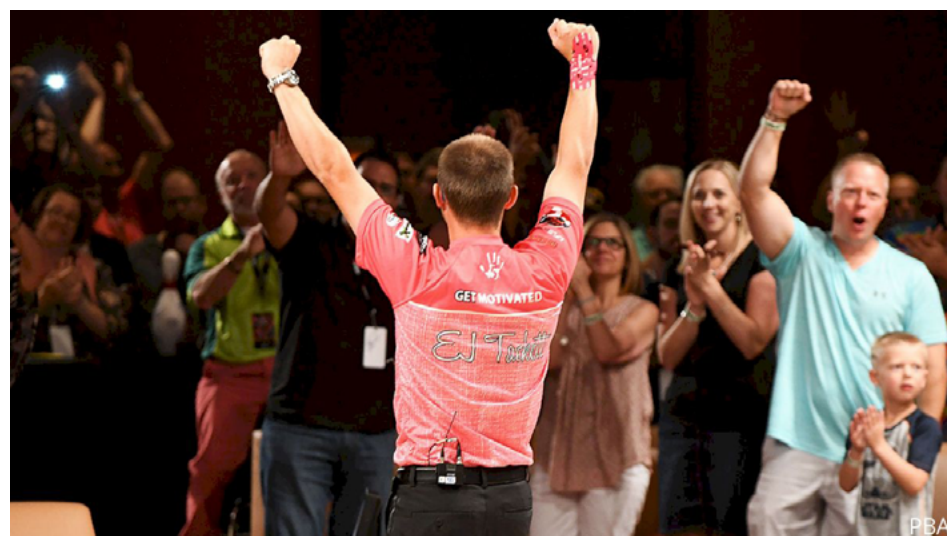
The 2020 PBA Tour Finals will return July 18-19 with eight players competing at Bowlero Jupiter in Florida live on CBS Sports Network (United States) and FloBowling (international).

The players competing in the event include defending champion EJ Tackett, Anthony Simonsen, Bill O'Neill, Sean Rash, Jakob Butturff, Kris Prather, Kyle Troup and Norm Duke.

Players were selected for the event based on points over the past two seasons, concluding with the last event to award a PBA Tour title, the PBA World Championship on March 15.

Jason Belmonte, who leads the points list, is unable to attend the event due to travel restrictions because of the pandemic. That allowed Duke, who was ninth in points, to earn a spot in the event.

The PBA Tour Finals will consist of nine hours of live coverage. Two qualifying rounds, each lasting two hours, will be broadcast on July 18. On July 19, two two-hour group stepladders will be followed by a one-



hour championship match.

According to the PBA's news release put out Monday, the PBA Tour Finals will incorporate the same format as the past two years, with the eight-player field divided into two four-player groups. The field will bowl four games of qualifying in their respective groups. The four-game pinfall totals for each player will be used to determine the seeding for a separate stepladder finals in each group. The final match of each group's stepladder will be a Race to Two Points match with each game worth one point and, if the two games are split, the final point is awarded via a 9th and 10th frame roll off. The two group winners will then meet in another Race to Two Points championship match that

will also use a 9th and 10th frame roll-off should there be a tie after two games.

The four total pinfall seeding rounds will air Saturday, July 18, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. will determine the order for the Group 1 stepladder matches at 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 19, and the Group 2 stepladder at 11 a.m. The winners of each group stepladder will the face off in the championship match Sunday, July 19, at 1 p.m.

PBA Tour Finals

CBS Sports Network - Bowlero Jupiter, Florida
Saturday, July 18

9 a.m. – Group 1 total pinfall round (four games)

11 a.m. – Group 2 total pinfall round (four games)

Sunday, July 19

9 a.m. – Group 1 Stepladder Finals

11 a.m. – Group 2 Stepladder Finals

1 p.m. – Championship Match

(Top 8 in PBA Tour points for 2019 and 2020)

***Jason Belmonte**, Australia 61,485.00 (unable to attend)

Anthony Simonsen, Little Elm, Texas 47,085.00

EJ Tackett, Bluffton, Ind. 44,950.00

Bill O'Neill, Langhorne, Pa. 42,507.50

Sean Rash, Montgomery, Ill. 41,360.00

Jakob Butturff, Tempe, Ariz. 38,175.00

Kristopher Prather, Plainfield, Ill. 37,280.00

Kyle Troup, Taylorsville, N.C. 31,755.00

Norm Duke, Clermont, Fla. 31,132.50

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PBA50 MEMBER ON SITE

The Times They Are A-Changin'

by Dave Williams

When Bob Dylan wrote the famous lyrics to the song *The Times They Are A-Changin'*, I will bet that he had no idea how poignant they would be 56 years later. Before you take it for granted that I'm talking about the Coronavirus pandemic, or the civil unrest that appears to be engulfing our entire nation, you can rest assured that this scribe is instead writing about the professional bowling exploits of a man from Little Elm, Texas.

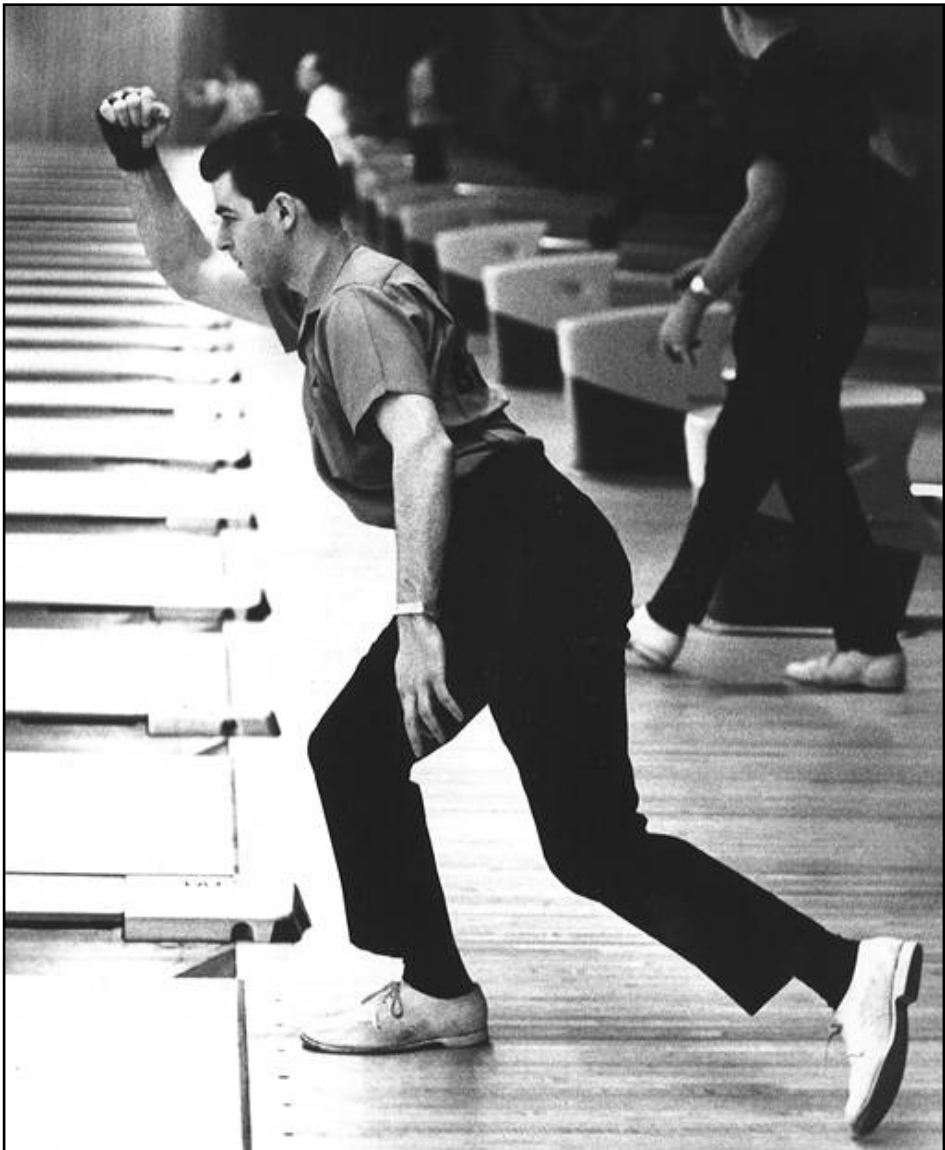
Anthony Simonsen, at the age of 23, has accomplished more than perhaps any pro bowler at such a young age, with 7 overall victories and 2 major titles, qualifications that essentially make him eligible for the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Hall of Fame. The only customary requirements that Anthony is missing are at least 10 years competing on the pro bowling circuit, and the traditional minimum age of thirty-five. Needless to say, he's a shoo-in for the Hall of Fame honor.

As I looked forward to the second tournament to be aired by the PBA since the Coronavirus pandemic hit our shores, the Summer Clash promised to be an exciting event, pitting the top male and female bowlers in competition at the famed Bowlero Jupiter Lanes in Jupiter, Florida.

I wondered to myself if Shannon O'Keefe or Danielle McEwan could dominate their male counterparts, just as Kelly Kulick had done ten years earlier, when she defeated Chris Barnes for the coveted Tournament of Champions title.

However, it was young Simonsen that stole the show when he came out with both hands blazing a two-handed backup ball! Although Sean Rash eventually won the \$20,000 first prize, there's no question that Anthony stole the show for the first eight rounds of the event, utilizing his backup delivery from the left side of the lane as a compelling strategy that almost brought him to the PBA winner's circle for yet another victory in his young career.

Now here's where this story gets interesting, for you see, when this same backup delivery was attempted almost 50 years ago, at the 1971 Ebonite Open at Saratoga Lanes in San Jose, California, the players were actually fined! In that tournament the top 16 finishers were all left-handed. Seventeenth place alternate Nelson Burton Jr. of St. Louis, Missouri, a member of the PBA Hall of Fame, was fined for rolling a backup ball, in what was termed "conduct unbecoming a professional bowler." Another Hall of Fame member and St. Louis native, Dick Weber, who finished 33rd in the standings, was also fined for using the backup method.



Smooth stylist Nelson Burton Jr. came close to making the finals of the 1971 Ebonite Open, but was instead fined for using a backup ball. PHOTO PBA, LLC

I reached out to Jim Wangeman, proprietor of Harvest Park Bowl in Brentwood, California, and he remembered the event very well. Jim was the supervisor of Saratoga Lanes for over twenty years while working for American Recreation Centers (ARC). "The qualifying field was then cut to 16, rather than the present 24 bowlers, and all 16 of the bowlers were left-handed for the first and only time in history," stated Mr. Wangeman. "The very next week the PBA had announced the formation of a lane maintenance crew, headed by Sam Baca."

A new era had begun in professional bowling, as the lefty versus righty dilemma that had been festering for many years reached a fevered pitch. No longer would the lefties dominate particular events, as the scoring became a political hot potato, with percentages becoming the rule, rather than the exception.

So, come gather around people wherever you roam, the PBA is back on television and there's no telling who will be winning, and by whatever method known, for *The Times They are A-Changin'*.



Anthony Simonsen's unique two-handed delivery allows him to excel from the right... or left side of the lane! PHOTO PBA, LLC

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19



PBA50 Tour Will Have Four-Title World Series In August

by Lucas Wiseman

The coronavirus pandemic has wreaked havoc on the PBA50 Tour schedule this season but all will not be lost as the PBA announced Wednesday the Florida Blue Medicare PBA50 World Series of Bowling will take place in August.

The four-title mega event will take place at Spanish Springs Lanes in The Villages, Florida, from Aug. 8-15 and will feature a maximum field of 192 players. The PBA reported the total prize pool for the week is expected to be \$224,000.

All rounds of the PBA50 WSOB, including qualifying, match play and finals, will be broadcast live exclusively on FloBowling.

POWER RANKINGS: Final 2019 PBA50 Power Rankings

Among the players expected to compete are PBA Hall of Famers like Walter Ray Williams Jr., Norm Duke, Pete Weber, Parker Bohn III, Johnny Petraglia and Amleto Monacelli, among others.

New faces to the PBA50 Tour are also expected to participate as Chris Barnes and Jason Couch are both eligible for the 50-plus events for the first time.

The cornerstone event of the PBA50 WSOB will be the PBA50 National Championship with all rounds of qualifying from the other three title events feeding into it. The PBA50 National Championship will be the only major conducted in 2020 for PBA50 players.

The PBA50 Mark Roth Championship, PBA50 Del Ballard Championship and the PBA50 Johnny Petraglia Championship will be contested leading up to the finals of the PBA50 National Championship.

Each of the first three events will feature the same format. All players will bowl six games of qualifying with the top 24 advancing to bracket match play based on at least 128 entries.

Players who qualify first through eighth will receive a bye in the first round of the bracket. The first three rounds of the bracket will feature best-of-three single-elimination matches, while the semifinals and final will be one-game matches.

For the PBA50 National Championship, the top 32 players after 18 total games of qualifying in the Roth, Ballard and Petraglia events combined will advance. Those players will bowl 12 games of match play to determine the five stepladder finalists.

The lane patterns for the events will be, predictably, PBA Roth 42, PBA Ballard 34 and PBA Petraglia 46 for the first three events. For the PBA50 National Championship, players will bowl on the PBA Holman 37 pattern.

As for health and safety measures for the event, the PBA did not release specific details other than saying players will be spread out over three squads for qualifying rounds. With a maximum field of 192 in a 32-lane bowling center, that means four players per pair per squad.

The PBA also formally announced Wednesday the cancelation of all other PBA50 events for the 2020 season. The Johnny Petraglia BVL Open, Mooresville Open, Lubbock Sports Cup, Suncoast U.S. Senior Open, Fountain Valley Open, River City Extreme Open, South Shore Open, Championship Lanes Classic, Spectrum Lanes Open, Jax 60 Open and the PBA60 Dick Weber Classic will not be contested.

PBA50 World Series of Bowling Schedule

All times Eastern

Saturday, August 8

- 8:30 a.m. – A Squad Practice
- 11 a.m. – B Squad Practice
- 1:30 p.m. – C Squad Practice

Sunday, August 9

- 8 a.m. – PBA50 Mark Roth Championship A Squad Qualifying (six games)
- 1 p.m. – PBA50 Mark Roth Championship B Squad Qualifying (six games)
- 6 p.m. – PBA50 Mark Roth Championship C Squad Qualifying (six games)
- Top 24 advance to bracket match play based on 128 entries

Monday, August 10

- 10 a.m. – PBA50 Mark Roth Championship Round of 24 (qualifiers 9-24 only, best of three)
- 11:30 a.m. – PBA50 Mark Roth Championship Round of 16 (best of three)
- 5 p.m. – PBA50 Mark Roth Championship Round of 8 (best of three)
- 6:30 p.m. – PBA50 Mark Roth Championship Semifinals (one game)
- 7:15 p.m. – PBA50 Mark Roth Championship Final (one game)

Tuesday, August 11

- 8 a.m. – PBA50 Del Ballard Championship B Squad Qualifying (six games)
- 1 p.m. – PBA50 Del Ballard Championship C Squad Qualifying (six games)
- 6 p.m. – PBA50 Del Ballard Championship A Squad Qualifying (six games)
- Top 24 advance to bracket match play based on 128 entries

Wednesday, August 12

- 10 a.m. – PBA50 Del Ballard Championship Round of 24 (qualifiers 9-24 only, best of three)
- 11:30 a.m. – PBA50 Del Ballard Championship Round of 16 (best of three)
- 5 p.m. – PBA50 Del Ballard Championship Round of 8 (best of three)
- 6:30 p.m. – PBA50 Del Ballard Championship Semifinals (one game)
- 7:15 p.m. – PBA50 Del Ballard Championship Final (one game)

Thursday, August 13

- 8 a.m. – PBA50 Johnny Petraglia Championship C Squad Qualifying (six games)
- 1 p.m. – PBA50 Johnny Petraglia Championship A Squad Qualifying (six games)
- 6 p.m. – PBA50 Johnny Petraglia Championship B Squad Qualifying (six games)
- Top 24 advance to bracket match play based on 128 entries; Top 32 after 18 total games of qualifying advance to PBA50 National Championship match play

Friday, August 14

- 1 p.m. – PBA50 Johnny Petraglia Championship Round of 24 (qualifiers 9-24 only, best of three)
- 2:30 p.m. – PBA50 Johnny Petraglia Championship Round of 16 (best of three)
- 5 p.m. – PBA50 Johnny Petraglia Championship Round of 8 (best of three)
- 6:30 p.m. – PBA50 Johnny Petraglia Championship Semifinals (one game)
- 7:15 p.m. – PBA50 Johnny Petraglia Championship Final (one game)

Saturday, August 15

- 9 a.m. – PBA50 National Championship Match Play Round 1
- 2 p.m. – PBA50 National Championship Match Play Round 2
- 7 p.m. – PBA50 National Championship Stepladder Finals



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Molly Doyle Leaves California

by Mary Lynly

A fixture in bowling in California for nearly 40 years, Molly Doyle picked up her precious dog Mandy and moved lock, stock and barrel to Tennessee. The draw was a childhood friend who consider her family as well as the cost of living, “1/3 the cost of living in California”, she says, “It was the right thing to do.” Well known in the 500 Club arena Molly served on local, state and national boards during her involvement in bowling. Her first introduction to bowling was in high school and then her freshman year in college in New Hampshire where they had a candlestick format. Little did she know a 150 average in candlestick was above par at that time!

She grew up in Columbus, Ohio and in college she was back to ten pin bowling for college credit and a lot of recreational bowling which increased her average. She initially planned to major in Medical Technology but wound up becoming a Cytotechnologist (studying cells looking for cancer, mainly pap smears.) At age 20, in 1961, she moved to California and went out on her own. She worked at Good Samaritan hospital in Los Angeles as a lab clerk where she did her Cytotechnology training and worked in the field for five years. *She says microscopes wear out the eyes!* An only child, she is a 5th generation only female child on her mother’s side. Molly has a BA in Mathematics from Long Beach State and she worked and taught in the Los Angeles City School district for six years at Banning High School.

She held her first office in a league she joined in Torrance, CA until she moved to Arroyo Grande where she would stay until 2020. In 1981 someone in her Bunco group asked her to join a morning league and at the annual banquet – guess what? She was elected Secretary-Treasurer - a position she held for 25 years. This was the beginning of a stellar bowling career and soon she was involved in the local 500 Club – director/secretary-treasurer, the state 500 club – director/secretary-treasurer and now the National 500 Club where she served in all board positions and is *currently* the secretary-treasurer. Along the way (she says) she served on the San Luis Obispo Women’s Association as director and secretary-treasurer and secretary of the San Luis Obispo County Men’s Association. The men were always smart picking capable women for their secretaries. Throughout the years she was a given on WIBC and CWBA convention committees. Where does the work ethic come from? She was taught “*if a job is worth doing....it is worth doing well.*”

She is a lover of animals and rode horses for many years. She has had a variety of dogs and cats and her current love is a nine-year old Westie, Mandy, whom she said was a trooper on the drive all the way to Tennessee. She bowled in 25 CWBA state tournaments and 30 years plus in National tournaments in addition to numerous state and national 500 Club tournaments. She also organized bus trips to the CWBA Senior Tournament.

She looks forward to spending time “at the lake” with her longtime friend and an opportunity for Mandy to swim – a first. A member to die for, Molly Doyle’s move to Tennessee is certainly California’s loss but she left her mark.



Molly Doyle and Mandy

BOWLING CALENDAR

SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE CHECK WITH EACH EVENT IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE TO BE SURE THE CENTER IS OPEN FOR THE EVENT

JUNE

by Bette Addington

- USBC Open Nationals, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV—POSTPONED to Sept. 12 – Nov. 21 (2021 will be in Las Vegas, NV)
- USBC Women’s Nationals, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, NV—POSTPONED to Sept. 19 – Oct. 18, bowl.com (2021 will be in Addison, Illinois)
- 27 – CBT Beat the Board Doubles & Singles, squads at 10/12/2/4/6, Glenfair Lanes, Glendale, AZ, 661/418-8007, cbtbowling.com—CANCELED
- 27-7/4 – CBT Big July 4th 2K Doubles/1K Singles Tournament, Bowlum, Montclair, 661/418-8007, cbtbowling.com
- 28 – San Joaquin Bowling Club Doubles Tourn., 10:30am, Freeway Lanes, Selma, 559/385-8837
- 28 – HammerPins Summer Scratch 8 Gamer – Singles, 10am, Stars Rec. Ctr., Vacaville, 707/631-1331
- 29 – 20th Summer TAT, The Orleans, Las Vegas, 6/29-7/5—POSTPONED to either 8/31-9/6 or 9/7-13, 1/844/321-8100

JULY

- 2-6 – Bowl Expo, Gaylord Rockies Hotel & Conv. Ctr., Denver, CO—CANCELED
- 5 – Elite Bowling Club #1 Scratch 8 Gamer, 10am, Bowlum, Montclair, 909/450-9415
- 5 – PBA/PWBA Mixed Doubles presented by Go Bowling!, 4pm, FS1
- 6-9 – Turbotech Collegiate Expo, Las Vegas—CANCELED
- 7-12 – PWBA Las Vegas Open, Sam’s Town, Las Vegas –CANCELED
- 8-12 – USA Bowling Youth National Championships, Texas Station, Las Vegas—CANCELED
- 8-26 – Youth Open Championships, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas—CANCELED
- 11-26 – CUSBC 2020 Youth State Championships, Forest Lanes, Lake Forest—CANCELED
- 11 – EBI Harley Valley Bowl Scratch 6 Gamer Singles, 5pm, Harley’s Valley Bowl, Simi Valley, 805/415-7018
- 11 – Silver Foxes TOC, 10:30am check-in; bowl at 12, Sierra Lanes, Fresno, 559/381-0356
- 12 – Elite Bowling Club #2 Scratch 6 Gamer, 9am, Arlington Lanes, Riverside, 909/450-9415—SOLD OUT!
- 17-18 – Go Bowling PBA Tour Finals, Bowlero, Jupiter, FL, Sat. 10am, Sun. 10am, CBS Sports Network
- 19 – 60 and Over Scratch Classic, 10:30am, Linbrook Bowl, Anaheim, 562/243-0175
- 19 – Valentine & LeForbes 645 Anchor Girl Trios Tourn., 9am & 1pm, Bowlum Lanes, Montclair, 645anchorgirltrios@gmail.com

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Here Are Some of the Best Team Names in L.A. Bowling

by Fred Eisenhammer

Los Angeles may not be bowling’s center of the universe. But the City of Angels does have one distinction.

It’s quite creative in coming up with daring and witty league team names.

Here is just a small sampling of some of my favorite names from Los Angeles area league teams:

- **Irritable Bowl Syndrome** (Jerry Zerg, Bob Sturla and Clancy Martel).
 - **Zero to Hero** (Amy Davis, Judith Davis, Adrienne Roseberry and Doug Tucker).
 - **Mark It X Dude** (Travis Abeyta, Jim O’Connell, Christy Fentress and Martin Torres).
 - **Stupid Ball!!** (Marti Tirabassi, Diane Weed, Tom Kolski and Pete Diffley).
 - **Pin Busters** (Ken Borshell, Randy Silverman, Larry Menzer and Cecil Fine).
 - **Winners & Winos** (Mike Hahn, Perry Haberman, Shannon Renee and Mike Weekley).
 - **Pit Bulls on Crack** (Alan Logan, Tim Tschappat, Chris Ohmstede and Lillian Matson).
 - **The 4 Stooges** (Brett Seiwerts, Mitch Brown, Carole Sugar-Brown, Kris Jaster).
 - **Crazy mother tucker** (Carol Tucker, John De La Rionda, Ernie Gamez, Joe Curry).
 - **Who Gives a Split** (Jim O’Connell, Sharon Jundef, Jake Jundef and Scott Cupetelli).
 - **Sandbaggers** (Jim Henderson, Wayne Bouffard, Jeremy Forkner and Nick Henderson).
- Note: Other L.A. teams have gone on to copy this name.
- **Odd Balls** (Dave Donner, Kylowna Moton, Mahala Jory, Bill Maguire and Phil Brown).

Then there’s my all-time personal favorite: **Girls With Balls**
(Laura Coury, Ann Egan, Jaye Rettedal and Stacey Tarantino).

Sometimes, you have to wonder how some of these names got past the censors.



Stacey Tarantino, second from left, says no one on her team seems to know who coined the Girls With Balls name more than 20 years ago. “It’s just a mystery to all of us. We don’t know who came up with it,” Stacey says. Others: Laura, left; Ann, second from right; Jaye, right.

Photo by Fred Eisenhammer



The Irritable Bowl Syndrome’s team name was the brainchild of Clancy Martel and endorsed by teammate Jerry Zerg, left. “It was the most apt name we could get,” he says.

Photo by Fred Eisenhammer

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MIXED DOUBLES EVENT

August 22nd and 23rd 2020
Team Entry Fee \$300
Oak Tree Lanes
(Diamond Bar, California)
Cash Ratio 1:5
USBC Rules
All Bowlers must provide 1099 information for tax purposes

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday August 22nd
A Squad Check-in 8am
7 Games Qualifying 9am

B Squad Check-in 2pm
7 games Qualifying 3pm
CUT TO TOP 12
(Tie for 12th will be 1 game roll-off)

Sunday August 23rd
Top 12 plus Alternate
Check-in 8:30am
6 Games Round Robin Match Play
1 Hour Break (no re-oil)
6 Games Round Robin Match Play
(WINNER DETERMINED BY TOTAL PINS)

~30 Bonus pins for each team game win
~10 Bonus pins for each individual game win
~tie for team game 15 pins each
~tie for individual game 5 pins each

Bob Smith continued from page 1
him to join he and two other men Bruce Clary and Jim Olsen to start the ABTA which would be a handicap tournament club.

Smith did join them. The first tournament was held at Rowland Bowl in Rowland Heights in March 1977. The First Champion was John Ellars, Runner-up John Pease and ABTA was off and running. Smith liking this, got more and more involved with ABTA and eventually took it over in 1980. He had dreams for ABTA to “grow into a large Bowling Event which people would respect”. ABTA stayed a handicap tournament club (based on 80% of 210). Smith said he, “enjoyed it from the first tournament on.” And the bowlers came! ABTA hosted 41-44 events a year with only 8-10 byes. That’s a whole lot of pre-planning and dedication.

Smith had to replace the directors and finally the ABTA was growing. It was also very big about getting the word out to bowlers by mail of his advanced dates two to three months out! He was big into advertising his events in both Pacific Bowler and California Bowling News, saying, “Dean and Carol at CBN and R.F. and Berdalee at Pacific Bowler were great and produced excellent bowling publications! The first year for ABTA had some growing adjustments as they used to charge \$25 as an ABTA membership fee which also gave the member a shirt with their name, but Smith wasn’t happy with that and after a year changed their membership fee to just \$10 for the 1st year, and members never had to pay a renewal after that. ABTA had two separate divisions for men and women. It also recognized the Seniors (65 for men and 55 for women) and these Seniors never had to pay a membership fee plus had their own board at the tournaments. ABTA events had a guaranteed payout for each event as well—none of this based on number of entries fine print!

ABTA did not have a TOC at the end of the season rather it hosted 2-3 BIG events in Las Vegas every year — one on Martin Luther King’s Holiday and the other on the 4th of July. By BIG, we are talking an average of 720- 750 entrants for these 4-day events that first were held at Showboat, then Gold Coast, The Orleans and SouthPoint. Record of most entrants was 790.

ABTA drew bowlers from 16 states as well as a group from Frankfurt, Germany, members from Tijuana & Mexico City, Canada, Guam and the Philippines. Bob made lasting friendships with many of his bowlers and they returned year after year to bowl in his events. In 2016, some good friends Renan and Cecilia Cruz, Ricky Pastrana and Rowie Jucal and Smith started the ABTA International event which had been held in San Juan, Philippines and they had planned to return but were never able to do so, but there is a possibility of going again and making it an Annual Event in the Philippines!

But it didn’t stop there with having all these tournaments each year, Smith also was big on having drawings for prizes every event and popular 3-6-9 roll-offs and Doubles at the events. His sponsors were 900 Global / Dave Smart, SouthPoint and Gold Coast. And a special thanks to John Davis / Davis Bowling Supply who got him sponsors and equipment to raffle to bowlers. ABTA also recognized the ABTA Bowler of the Year each year for one man and one woman, and Senior Man & Woman. In addition to that award, ABTA also recognized a Sportsmanship award. They were presented each year!

And, bet you never knew ABTA was on TV? In the 1980’s? Shulman Production Company from Anaheim approached the ABTA liked the way it was run and covered 11 tournaments with the legendary Barry Asher as the color commentator.

Tournament Finals were aired on Channel 56. Only (8) TV shows aired due to the economy in early 80’s and the huge expenses and sponsors were hard to get!! So, the TV Show was put on hold. Tournaments were aired in 1982-1983.

Several bowlers emerged and saw their careers take off after bowling in the ABTA like Brian Albert who won a Summer PBA Title and Michael Haugen Jr. who had won also. Smith reflected on Haugen saying he was one of the most modest competitors for the talent he had and a complete gentleman at all times.

So, after running ABTA for a record 37 1/2 years, Smith decided to retire from the ABTA after major surgery. He had developed a special friendship with many people and one being Jeff Taino, who competed regularly in the ABTA tournaments since 1995!

Smith then, after being asked by Jeff, decided to help Jeff start the XFrame Bowling Tour and it worked out. It began in March 2017. Xframe is now a very good tournament to bowl in. With nice payoffs and some other nice perks. Jeff as some super sponsors, STORM and the TAT Tournament. Bob still drops in on Jeff’s XFrame events from time to time and helps out by doing the announcing as well as helping him on the lanes. He also socializes as he knows many of the bowlers in Xframe as they are former ABTA Members and many liked him and respected him.

If any ABTA Member or their family passed away, Bob would be at their funeral unless impossible to do so. His thought is if they are bowling with or bowled in the ABTA it is only right for me to be there for their last rites! He gave several obituaries.

Another group that got a lasting impression of Smith are from Bakersfield. John Curtis/Central Valley Masters had traveled to southern CA to bowl ABTA events two years before Smith retired. Curtis, a complete gentleman who is President of Central Valley Masters in Bakersfield had this to say. “Some people don’t know this, but Bob Smith, and ABTA were a huge factor in us starting Central Valley Masters. We bowled ABTA several times and when we returned home, Rick Mathews ABTA member, told us we should start our own tournament club because it’s closer and we could make it the way we want. We ran with it and we are still going strong today. We have Bob to thank for showing us a great tournament club. We loved to bowl ABTA. Bob and his crew were the nicest people and ran a great tournament.”

Smith reflects some of the highlights of running ABTA, “Loved the camaraderie” of the bowlers! I truly Enjoyed the people! We ran it Honest!! Had Great Directors too!

The girls that worked for/with me were dynamite!! — Annaliza Agoncillo, April Newberg, Bobbie and Deborah!” With Marife Catalasan (part time) and Gina Velarde others were Leo Tartamella who recently passed away and Simon Rojas who passed in 1991. Other Staff Members were Ed Saleh, Greg Kokanour, Chris Kelly, Glen Matsumoto, Josie Matsumoto, Marvin Crowder, Rey Josefatz, and Bedell Vasquez, Patty Rogers and Pat Rogers.

Bob said, “Through running the ABTA, I was fortunate to have me some of the nicest people you can meet. Without this, I would not have met many people who are my friends today! I am Truly Blessed in that Respect!!”

Good Times at the ABTA



More on next page

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Bob and ABTA Staff

More Good Times in the ABTA



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CHECK IN 9AM
BOWL AT 10AM

6 GAMER
JULY 12TH
ARLINGTON LANES
CHECK IN 8AM
BOWL 9AM

8 GAMER
AUGUST 9TH
TBA
CHECK IN 9AM
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MIXED
DOUBLES
AUGUST 22ND
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TBA

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Every year Bob gave out Christmas presents to his bowlers

Mohr continued from page 1

1.	Ron Mohr (Champion)	+491	\$700
2.	Mike Rausch (Super Senior)	+399	600
3.	Gary Morgan	+303	500
4.	Gerry Vertigan	+251	390
5.	Dave Baremore	+117	315
6.	Mike Mellick	+108	290

Kevin Gannon earned the Super Senior check (\$150) averaging 215. Kevin missed the cut by just 24 pins. The high Super Senior bowler not earning a regular check wins the Super Senior check. Don Blatchford finished just 4 pins behind Gannon for this check.

Tournament highlights included a 803 (278-267-258) series by Champion Ron Mohr to start the day. Ron's 278 game was also the high game of the day. The high game during the Finals was a 276 by Gary Morgan.

Ron Mohr exhibited why he is a PBA Hall of Famer. He was unbelievably accurate. By my estimation he hit the pocket on 99% of his shots, maybe 100%! I followed him for most of the qualifying round and throughout the finals. His accuracy was amazing. Congratulations to Ron for winning and hats off for his bowling excellence.

The tournament was an overwhelming success. There was great bowling on a challenging oil condition. The bowlers exhibited a great deal of skill and it all brought back fond memories of the heyday of DICK SANDER'S West Coast Senior Tour (WCST) and LEN MILE's Super Senior Tour (SST).

Thank GOD for Tournament Director EDDIE KATZ. He has brought back life into the senior scratch tournament scene. He appears to be in good health and hopefully with strong support from his fellow seniors will be running this tournament for years to come. The future for the tournament seems bright because GLOBAL 900 may be coming on board as tournament sponsor.

Thanks to Canyon Lanes for being a great host and Manager Dave Baremore for his cooperation and support. Thank you to the BOWLING NEWS for supporting CALIFORNIA and Nevada senior bowlers.

Dates, Contenders Set For PBA King Of The Lanes

by Lucas Wiseman

When it was announced the PBA King of the Lanes was returning in July, it was assumed reigning king Wes Malott would be back to defend his crown.

Malott will indeed be back, but he will face a monumental test from established pros, rising stars, hall of famers and PWBA players if he wants to keep his perch.

The PBA announced the field of contenders along with broadcast details Thursday for another prime-time special event. The King of the Lanes will take place July 20-22 with six hours of live shows on FS1 (United States) and FloBowling (international).

During the original run of the PBA King of Bowling in 2009, Malott had an undefeated five-day run as the king and bowled two televised 300 games during that stretch. There have been other iterations of the King series and Malott has successfully defended his crown each time.

The first King of the Lanes show, which will air July 20 at 5 p.m., will feature bowling legends Norm Duke and Walter Ray Williams Jr. facing off in the contenders match for the right to take on Malott.

On the second show (July 20, 6 p.m.), Anthony Simonson and EJ Tackett will battle in the contenders match taking on the reigning king, which will be either Malott, Duke or Williams.

Bill O'Neill will face Sean Rash in the contenders



match on the third show (July 21, 4 p.m.) for the right to challenge the king. On the fourth show (July 21, 5 p.m.), Jakob Butturff and Clara Guerrero will face off as contenders.

The final night of broadcasts will see Kris Prather take on Gazmine Mason on July 22 at 5 p.m. for the right to battle the king. The final contenders match will showcase Kyle Troup against Pete Weber on July 22 at 6 p.m. All matches will be traditional 10-frame bowling games to determine winners.

The PBA King of the Lanes will be the back portion of a six-day stretch of live televised bowling. The PBA Tour Finals will take place July 18-19 on CBS Sports Network (United States) and FloBowling (international).



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