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CALIFORNIA

BOWLING NEWS

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GIANNA BRANDOLINO WINS 2024 PBA LBC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CLASH

Teenage star outlasts the pros to win second annual event and \$60,000 scholarship

by Nolan Hughes



Gianna Brandolino will henceforth be known by one name: The Dutchess.

The 17-year-old Illinois native won the 2024 PBA LBC National Championship Clash, featuring the finalists from the 2024 PBA LBC National Championships.

In the one-ball, roll-off eliminator format taped at Portland, Maine's Bayside Bowl, Brandolino outlasted a dozen competitors to win the coveted Duke trophy and the \$60,000 top prize. The high school senior and Jacksonville State University commit will accept the winnings as a continued on page 4

THE HALL OF FAME RESILIENCE OF LENNIE BORESCH JR.

The last two-plus years for Lennie Boresch Jr., on paper, have been nothing short of a career renaissance.

Since June 2022, Boresch won his fifth PBA50 Tour title in the PBA Senior U.S. Open, was elected and inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame, won the Senior Classic division of the inaugural PBA LBC National Championships and led the Super Senior division of the 2024 PBA LBC National Championships.

Boresch returned to the national stage during last year's PBA LBC National Championships Clash. He struck on six of his nine shots, celebrating one of which with the iconic Norm Duke pose, and finished third.

A man whose PBA Tour career never reached the heights he dreamed suddenly saw all of his wildest imaginations become reality.

"You're on top of the world one minute," Boresch said, "And continued on page 2



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Toby Lee and Roxanne Berch Top NFL Clubhouse League

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – The “BEST OF THE BEST” that’s what Empire Bowl bowlers are saying about **TOBY LEE** these days.

Toby is leading his Cleveland BROWNS bowling team in the NFL Clubhouse League to within points of first place as he maintains his league high average at 236! Everyone knows Toby is destined to end the season at or above 240, proving he is the best bowler in the area.

The NFL Clubhouse League is Empire Bowl’s top league with a dozen bowlers averaging 200 or higher. The TOP 3 league bowlers follow:

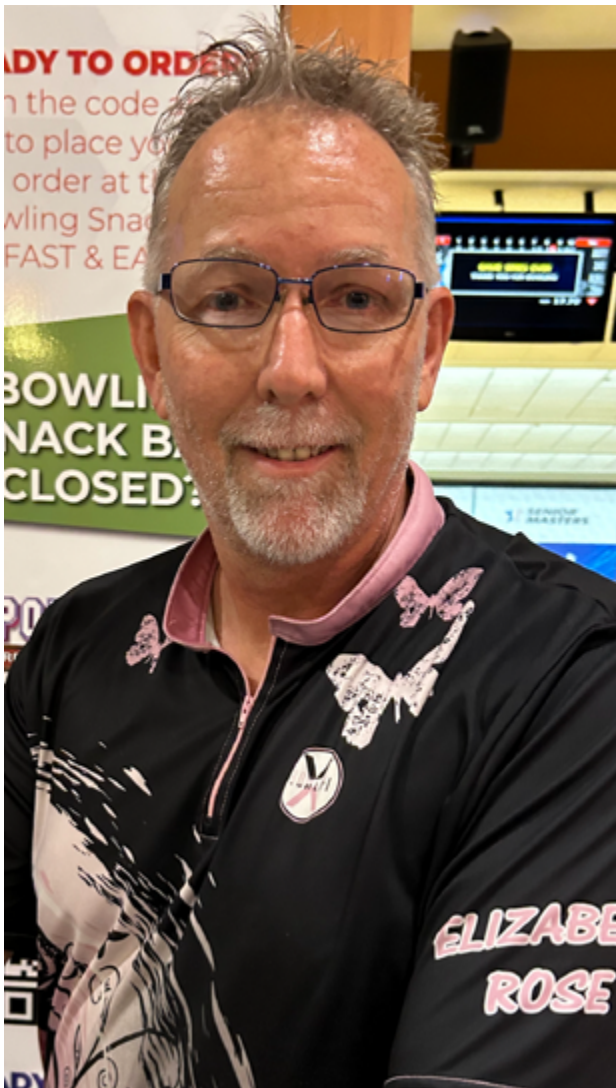
- 1. Toby Lee 236
- 2. Jordan Price 230
- 3. Kirby Warner 214

The League wishes to give a “SHOUTOUT” to **Jordan Price** for rolling a huge 792 scratch series and 300 game a couple of weeks ago.

ROXANNE BERCH leads the league’s ladies with a 192 average. Last week she rolled a 577 scratch series with a solid 205 game. The TOP 3 league women follow:

- 1. Roxanne Berch 192
- 2. Michelle Quintana 175
- 3. Rachel Warren 174

The exploits of these great bowlers prove again that “**CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD**”.



Toby Lee

Boresch Jr. continued from page 1 then...”

Between every shot of the taped show, Boresch said he ran to the bathroom to pee. After multiple misdiagnoses related to his prostate, Boresch was awaiting more test results and bracing for the worst.

“It was pure misery being here last year,” he said. “I was a nervous wreck. I was so worried. I think I was so nervous that it kept my mind off bowling, and that’s why I did so well.”

Two weeks after the event, Boresch said he was diagnosed with a rare form of small cell carcinoma in his prostate. He said the cancer, most commonly found in the lungs, had spread to his lymph nodes.

Boresch, who was also battling kidney failure, asked his doctor to tell him straight: How long do I have?

“Well, it could be a couple months, or it could be a couple years,” he said his doctor told him.

After leaving a 10-pin to finish third in last year’s Clash, Boresch said he didn’t pick up a ball for six months.

He has received 27 chemotherapy infusions and, at one point, 33 consecutive days of radiation, on top of additional treatment, his daughter Lauren wrote.

While the relentless fight for his life pushed bowling to the backburner, he would never let anyone or any disease take away the game he loves so dearly away.

“I didn’t want my last shot to be a flat-10,” Boresch said with a chuckle.

Bowling gave Boresch something to strive for, something to keep his mind off reality. When he laced up his bowling shoes, no matter what was going on off the lanes, he was a Hall of Famer again.

Boresch found a way to bowl the PBA50 Tour stop in The Villages in May and the USBC Open Championships in Las Vegas. He finished runner-up in July’s PBA60 Tristan’s T.A.P.S. Memorial Open.

The 62-year-old also bowled the PBA LBC National Championships this summer and shot 1,357 for his six games. As the leading Super Senior player, Boresch became one of two players to book a return trip to the Clash.

“I didn’t expect anything, and then I had a big last three games and here I am,” Boresch said.


Returning to Bayside Bowl, the place where he felt so miserable a year ago, made him appreciative of the people who helped him get there.

Support for Boresch has been ubiquitous on social media since he shared his diagnosis last fall. A [GoFundMe](#), organized by Christopher Keane, has raised more than \$46,000 for Boresch’s family.

“The bowling community has been so supportive, unbelievable,” Boresch said. “I go to these treatments and I see people that are way worse than I am. I see kids. Sometimes I think I ain’t got it that bad.

“I didn’t know, even a week ago, if I’d be here. But you know, I said if I could stand in line and throw the ball, I’m going to be here. Make another memory.”






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Forty Years Later...

The Most Advanced Bowling Center In The World

by Dave Williams

In conversations with Chris Nichols and Elliot Kane over the past four weeks, I was surprised that they had never heard of the \$1.5 million overhaul of AMF East Meadow Bowl that took place 40 years ago, with a grand reopening extravaganza on February 14, 1985, in East Meadow, New York. Adjusted for inflation, \$1.5 million today would represent a modernization package worth \$4,388,420.

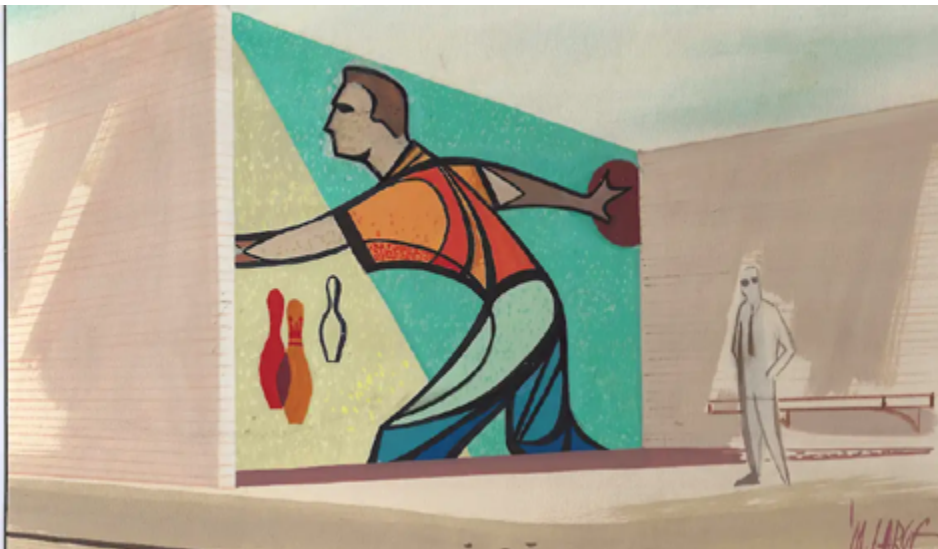
Mr. Nichols was particularly surprised by the overall lack of history involving all of the openings from the googie era in the 1950's and 1960's. While California has done a better job of restoring and keeping in memory the bowling centers of the past, there are at least a few examples of googie architecture in almost every state, as catalogued on page 199 of "Bowlamama, The Architecture of Mid-Century Bowling."

Those conversations with Chris and Elliot led me on a quest to find the AMF East Meadow Bowl "before and after" photos brochure that we prepared for the bowling industry in 1985. With my health not being what it was just a few short months ago, I was grateful that the box containing the brochure samples was at a level that I could manage to retrieve in my Mini-Storage Warehouse Museum.

What memories! The brochure was prepared primarily for a special proprietors and industry insiders preview the day before the grand reopening. All of the Multi-Unit Bowling Industry Group (MUBIG) heavy hitters were there. It was a Who's Who in the World of Bowling, headed by Irwin Jacobs of Minstar, who had recently purchased the entire AMF Corporation, consisting of 27 different companies.

We welcomed the MUBIG members to East Meadow Bowl and offered tours of the center, advertised as the most technically and architecturally advanced bowling facility in the world. Believe it or not, the East Meadow modernization was completed while remaining fully operational. I remember visiting one day and there was no roof - but all of the daytime leagues were there to bowl. I thought to myself at the time how much people will endure, if they know it's going to result in an improvement.

Another amusing story that I remember during the MUBIG presentation was a group from Japan that had come to witness the change. They were most interested in the AccuScore and AccuTrac systems that were also being introduced at East Meadow. Bob Rainford, the general manager of the bowling center, was showing them the cash register and how no extra frames could be rolled without resulting in a charge.



El Dorado Lanes mosaic created by artist Murray Large (1959, Ron Cleveland)



The Masquerade Room at Beverly Bowling Center (1960, Chapman, McCorkel & Associates)

About that time, a group came up to pay their bill. Rainford again explained how every frame would be counted in the final tabulation. "Holy (expletive)!", cried one of the customers, as the total with the newly increased prices, as well as the extra frames being charged, was a bit more of a fee than expected. But again, like the example with the roof, the customers accepted the change and commented on what a beautiful experience they had.

That year, East Meadow enjoyed one of the highest lineage and revenue results at AMF, topped only by Wallington Lanes in Wallington, N.J., Altamonte Lanes in Altamonte Springs, Fla., and Main Lanes in Columbus, Ohio. Their profit as a percentage of sales was number one, and their maintenance cost the lowest of any AMF Leisureland Center.

The remainder of the grand reopening weekend was like no other, with a marketing budget that I had never witnessed before, or since. Every detail was covered in making the customer feel completely at home in our flagship center. "Our East Meadow center is one of the most modern bowling centers in America and presents new opportunities for the sport and AMF," said Scott Werthmann, AMF's vice president of the Bowling Products Group.

"We are fulfilling a vital need to provide a family-oriented leisure complex where bowlers can enjoy themselves in attractive surroundings. At East Meadow we have spared no expense in creating an exciting new environment for bowling," stated Werthmann. It was no secret that East Meadow was being used as an example for proprietors worldwide to modernize with AMF's new products and facilities design department.

The weekend was one to remember, with a black tie main event featuring the likes of professional bowlers Dick Weber and Cheryl Robinson. It was Mr. Weber who had the honor of throwing out the first ceremonial Gold Angle bowling ball before television crews and those in attendance. He did not disappoint, rolling a strike... in a tuxedo!

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PBA Clash continued from page 1

SMART scholarship.

“As a PBA Hall of Famer and everything, (Norm Duke) is a great representation of the sport of bowling. To have his trophy, it’s just crazy,” Brandolino said.

The 17-year-old finished as the runner-up in the PBA Junior Girls National Championship earlier this year and could have competed in the Girls Jr. Handicap division of the PBA LBC National Championships.

Instead, Brandolino opted to compete in the Women’s Classic division against PWBA Tour stars like Liz Johnson, Danielle McEwan, Verity Crawley, Stephanie Zavala and co.

“It would be more beneficial to learn and grow when going against the women instead of the girls, so I decided to just throw myself out there, do what I do and hope for the best,” she said after taking the division lead in June.

While Johnson went on to surpass Brandolino’s 1,396 six-game score, Brandolino still clinched a berth in the Clash as the second-highest qualifier.

“I could have bowled in the junior division, but I wanted to bowl on my own without handicap and show that I can go up against all the divisions. Proving that I can beat even the PBA pros is crazy,” she said.

If there was one pro who ever-so-slightly intimidated the teenager, it was the one she faced in the final round: Kris Prather, a six-time titleist and two-time major champion on the PBA Tour.

“It came down to me and him and I was like Uh oh,” she said. “I knew I could do it, but I might need a little help. And he gave me that little bit of help.”

Prather, who knocked over just seven pins on his shot in the final round, admitted he felt the same way about facing Brandolino.

“Her calmness made me a little nervous,” Prather said. “Obviously she feels no pressure. She has tons of experience for her age — I don’t know how many times she’s already bowled on TV and she’s been on Junior Team USA — but I was like, ‘Man, this girl is not going away. This is wild.’”

“I hate to say it for the ladies out there, but if this is where she gets that huge confidence boost, I’m really sorry for you all,” Prather added.

In the Clash, the teenager proved wise beyond her years.

Before the event, Brandolino said she practiced bowling one shot in 30-minute intervals to prepare herself for the show’s unique format. During the show, she took notes between shots to help stay ahead of transition.

“You’re sitting there for 20-ish minutes and your adrenaline is high, so you’re going to forget things,” Brandolino said. “I wrote down where I was standing each time and if I thought I needed to make a move or not. I’d look at it before I bowled, and then I’d write down what I thought for the next time on that lane only since lanes are so different.”

Brandolino didn’t allow the blaring music to distract her; in fact, she harnessed its energy to power herself forward.

In total, she struck on eight of her 12 shots, including eight of nine between Rounds 2-10, and knocked over at least nine pins on every shot after Round 1.

In the moments after her win, she said the crowd at Bayside Bowl was the coolest part of her entire experience.

“It doesn’t matter that they’ve never seen me before, they still treated me like I’m one of their own,” she said.

Prather earned \$10,000 for his second-place finish, followed by David “Boog” Krol in third place.

After finishing third in last year’s event, Lennie Boesch Jr. brought home an inspirational fourth-place finish this year.

The 62-year-old PBA Hall of Famer has battled small cell carcinoma and kidney failure over the past year, finishing his third round of chemotherapy just a week before the Clash’s Sept. 15 taping.

Boesch struck on eight of his first nine shots and eight of 11 attempts overall. He was eliminated after leaving a pocket 7-10 in the Round 10 roll-off against Boog Krol.

Bobby Kunimura, Graham Fach, Chloe Hickland, Mark Blaha, Billy Froberg and Garrett 12-year-old Beyer each finished in the top 10. Brianna Merner, Liz Johnson and Kahlen Ransen rounded out the Clash field.



2025 PBA LBC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Priority registration for the 2025 PBA LBC National Championships, returning to Bowlero Mount Prospect in the Chicago area, is now open.

All PBA LBC members (Bowlero Corp. league bowlers), PBA members, and past participants of the PBA LBC National Championships are eligible to sign up for \$100 through Nov. 30, 2024.

Beginning on Dec. 1, 2024, registration will open to bowlers of all skill levels and from all centers, including non PBA LBC and non PBA members.

The 2025 event will be held on weekends from May 31 through July 13, 2025. More information, including how to register, is available [here](#).

ROUND SCORES

Round 1: Garrett Beyer 7, Brianna Merner 9, Mark Blaha X, Liz Johnson 9, Lennie Boesch Jr. X, Kris Prather 8, Chloe Hickland 7, Boog Krol 9, Bobby Kunimura 8, Kahlen Ranson 7, Billy Froberg 9, Gianna Brandolino 8, Graham Fach X
Roll-off: Beyer 9, Hickland X, Ranson 9 | Beyer X, Ranson 8
Kahlen Ranson eliminated

Round 2: Beyer 7, Merner X, Blaha X, Johnson 5, Boesch X, Prather 9, Hickland X, Krol 5, Kunimura 6, Froberg X, Brandolino X, Fach X
Roll-off: Johnson X, Krol X | Johnson X, Krol X | Johnson 7, Krol X
Liz Johnson eliminated

Round 3: Beyer X, Merner 9, Blaha X, Boesch X, Prather X, Hickland 9, Krol 9, Kunimura X, Froberg 9, Brandolino X, Fach X
Roll-off: Merner 6, Hickland 7, Krol X, Froberg 9
Brianna Merner eliminated

Round 4: Beyer 7, Blaha 7, Boesch 9, Prather X, Hickland X, Krol X, Kunimura X, Froberg 9, Brandolino X, Fach X
Roll-off: Beyer 5, Blaha 9
Garrett Beyer eliminated

Round 5: Blaha X, Boesch X, Prather X, Hickland 9, Krol X, Kunimura 9, Froberg 8, Brandolino 9, Fach X
Billy Froberg eliminated

Round 6: Blaha 7, Boesch X, Prather X, Hickland 8, Krol X, Kunimura 7, Brandolino X, Fach 8
Roll-off: Blaha 8, Kunimura 9
Mark Blaha eliminated

Round 7: Boesch X, Prather X, Hickland 8, Krol X, Kunimura X, Brandolino X, Fach X
Chloe Hickland eliminated

Round 8: Boesch X, Prather 9, Krol 8, Kunimura 5, Brandolino X, Fach 5
Roll-off: Kunimura 8, Fach 8 | Kunimura 9, Fach 6
Graham Fach eliminated

Round 9: Boesch X, Prather X, Krol X, Kunimura 9, Brandolino X
Bobby Kunimura eliminated

Round 10: Boesch 9, Prather X, Krol 9, Brandolino X
Roll-off: Boesch 8, Krol X
Lennie Boesch eliminated

Round 11: Prather X, Krol 8, Brandolino 9
Boog Krol eliminated

Final Round: Prather 7, Brandolino 9
Kris Prather eliminated; Gianna Brandolino wins


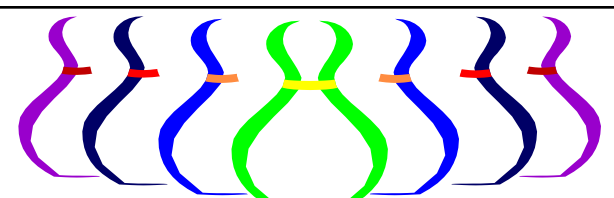
FINAL STANDINGS

1. Gianna Brandolino, \$60,000 (SMART scholarship)
2. Kris Prather, \$10,000
3. David “Boog” Krol, \$3,000
4. Lennie Boesch Jr., \$3,000
5. Bobby Kunimura, \$3,000
6. Graham Fach, \$3,000
7. Chloe Hickland, \$3,000
8. Mark Blaha, \$3,000
9. Billy Froberg, \$3,000
10. Garrett Beyer, \$3,000 (SMART scholarship)
11. Brianna Merner, \$3,000 (SMART scholarship)
12. Liz Johnson, \$3,000
13. Kahlen Ranson, \$3,000



The finalists of the 2024 PBA LBC National Championships Clash

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INVITATIONAL

Del Rio Lanes Jumps Into The Round Lead, Mike Zuck Blasts A Perfect 300

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes midway through the “practice” round as bowlers continued to enjoy the soft house-shot pattern. Don Julio Tequila was looking to increase their lead after a strong week three but Del Rio Lanes and Family Ties were right behind them in the chase. Mike Zuck wowed the crowd in game one with a perfect 300 game.

In the “A” match, **Don Julio Tequila** (Gabe Garza) was just a half-game up on **Del Rio Lanes** (Michael Barnett) after strong showings last week. Del Rio Lanes came back strong, taking a close first game, then winning the second game and holding on for totals and a 4-1 win over Don Julio Tequila. Michael Barnett continues to kill the first round with a strong 724 set to lead Del Rio Lanes while Gabe Garza struck to a 710 set for Don Julio Tequila. Del Rio Lanes will remain in the “A” match next week.

The “B” match featured **Family Ties** (Bobby Campagnale) who took their first losses in week three to drop to third, taking on **Love Laundry** (Ramsey Basurto) coming off a sweep in week three. Love Laundry kept the momentum going as the swept through Family Ties to jump to second place in the round. Vernon Adams led the league and Love Laundry with a big 770 effort while Bobby Campagnale paced Family Ties with a 686 set.

Junior Amateur Tour (Kevin Valmonte) battled **Taco Bell** (Kaven Massey) in a battle of J.A.T. vs. their leadoff bowler from last season’s new team. Mike Zuck started strong with a perfect 300 and the front-16 to lead Taco Bell to the 4-1 win in a low-scoring match over Junior Amateur Tour. Zuck led Taco Bell with a strong 757 effort while Kevin Valmonte paced J.A.T. with a 650.

Forest Lanes (Jon Diso) and **Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut) were sitting in the middle of the pack with both teams at 8-7. Touchstone Homes took the bookend games dropping only game 2 en route to a 4-1 win over Forest Lanes. Terry Hatley pounded 705 for Touchstone Homes while Jesse Perez paced Forest with a 667 set.

Bowlium (Billy Myers Jr.) were looking to bounce back after a close week three, taking on **Weaverbird** (Eric Williams Jr.) coming off a 4-win week. Bowlium came out strong but dropped the second game big 961-807, then bounced back for a game three win as Weaverbird took the 3-2 win. AJ Garcia shot 700 on nose to lead Weaverbird while Billy Myers Jr. was again big for Bowlium with a 689 series.

US Foods (Gabe Martinez) was looking to keep the momentum going after a sweep in week three, taking on **Threadworks** (Eric Snow) who was looking to bounce back after a disappointing week. US Foods took the bookend games, but a huge 974-858 win in game two gave Threadworks the 3-2 win. Ray Minter went big for Threadworks with a 727 set while Charlie Kinstler struck to a strong 703 set for US Foods.

Pro Approach Cal Bowl (Austin Wasielewski), **DV8** (Jonathan Gale), **Pro Approach Oak Tree** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) and **Pro Approach Del Rio** (Augie Labrado Jr.) rounded out Monday’s action. DV8 took a sweep over Pro Approach Cal Bowl led by Jonathan Gale’s solid 672 set while the Cal Bowl shop guys were led by Scott Silva’s 663 series. The Oak Tree bunch broke their string of 1-win matches taking 4 from the Del Rio shop. Ramon Torres led Pro Approach Oak Tree with a 689 set while Augie Labrado Jr.’s 669 and Omar Ponce Jr.’s 668 were high for Pro Approach Del Rio.

Financial Advisors Pot went to Vernon Adams (278) for \$160 with 2nd to AJ Garcia (259) for \$70. Sidepots went to Daniel Hong (267) and Vernon Adams (267) for \$42 each in Game 1 with Vern Adams (278) for \$56 and Paul Varela (258) 2nd for \$28. SuperPot went to Mike Bogue (259) for \$168 with 2nd to Terry Hatley (246) for \$84.

TOP 10 ROUND 1 WEEK 4

Del Rio Lanes	16.5	Family Ties	11
Love Laundry	15	Junior Amateur Tour	11
Don Julio Tequila	14	DV8	10
Taco Bell	13	Bowlium	9.5
Touchstone Homes	12	Weaverbird	9

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

770 Vernon Adams	715 Ramsey Basurto
757 Mike Zuck	710 Gabe Garza
740 Marquan Rivers	705 Terry Hatley
727 Ray Minter	705 Paul Varela
724 Michael Barnett	703 Charlie Kinstler

SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc.
1st Vernon Adams 278 \$160 • 2nd AJ Garcia 259 \$70



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Come out on Mondays at 7:30 & watch Southern California’s Richest League take the lanes at Del Rio!

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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
10/1: 2024 USBC Team • 10/8: Spray & Pray

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