



WORLDLETTER-PLUS

Late-March, 2010

www.worldbowlingwriters.com

33rd Year



WTBA NEWSLETTER

Invitation to host WYC 2012 - URGENT

All member federations are invited to send an application to host the 2012 World Youth Championships. The time period for WYC is late July/early August.

If you are interested, please contact WTBA Secretary General (christer.jonsson@swebowl.se) to get an application document. Applications must be sent to WTBA Secretary General at the latest June 15, 2010.

Update federation information

In the process to update WTBA website we need to collect updated information about all member federations. In a near future we will send a questionnaire to you and we ask you to answer immediately.

New WTBA bank account

Account Number: 5109469

Account Name: World Tenpin Bowling Association

Bank Address: Valley Exchange Bank

100 1st & Main

Tea, SD 57064 USA

ABA Code: 091401922

Bank Phone Number: +1 605-368-2051

WYC 2010

World Youth Championship 2010 will be organized in Helsinki, Finland July 23 – August 2. The official WYC 2010 website address is www.keilailu.fi/wyc

WYC 2010 Bulletin 2 was distributed February 22, 2010. If you missed it you can download from WYC website. To participate in WYC 2010 the players must be born 1 January 1989 or later.

WMC 2010

World Men Championship 2010 will be organized in Munich, Germany August 12 – 21. The official WMC 2010 website address is www.bowling-wm.de

Adjustment Playing rule 2.10.2

When updating the Playing rules a mistake was made which may cause confusion, so an adjustment has been made. The last sentence was in contradiction to what is said before in the paragraph. Because of that the last sentence has been cancelled. The adjusted text of 2.10.2 is as follows:

“Altering the surface of the bowling ball, besides what is mentioned in 2.10.1, is allowed in a designated area only during the official practice session, during the practice session immediately preceding a competition round, and between competition rounds.

Altering the surface of the bowling ball during a game is not allowed.

If the surface is adjusted during a game the penalty is zero pinfall in that game”

The rule book on WTBA website will be updated soonest. We are in the process of moving the website, so it may take some weeks.

No more WRM

WTBA Presidium has decided to cancel WRM from the program. There will be no more World Ranking Masters. The Tournament Committee and the Presidium are working on a new ranking system or a World Tour.

Committee changes

The Presidium has decided to cancel the Federation Development Committee and instead create a Youth Development Committee. Members in the new committee will be appointed soonest.

Gus Falgen, USA has been appointed as member of Technical/Coaching Committee and Sonja Jäine, Sweden has been appointed as member of Tournament Committee.

Next Presidium meeting.

Next WTBA Presidium meeting will be held August 10, 2010 in Munich, Germany. Member federations that want to submit proposals which they wish to be considered by the Presidium have to send the proposals to WTBA Secretary General latest July 10, 2010

Kevin Dornberger

WTBA President

Christer Jonsson
WTBA Secretary General

CANADA: AS OUR 2009/2010 season draws closer to the end our membership statistics continue to drop. With 29,317 memberships processed for 2009/2010 this figure is down 12.1 % from our 2008/2009 total of 33,359. Although some memberships are still coming in, it appears our final count will show a drop of about 10%. This significant drop in revenues will have an effect on programs for this season and next.



Changes to our awards programs over the last two seasons have not begun to reflect the savings on the expense side. Cost of Goods Sold has increased 16.5% in 2008/2009, pushing the amount spent on awards over \$200,000.

Seventy eight additional 300, 700 and 800 honour score awards were processed in the 2008/2009 season for a total of 671 awards.

With the implementation of Once in a Lifetime 300/800 awards in the 2008/2009 season, our current Cost of Goods expense reflects a 22% drop in awards costs to date. Although this reflects a decrease, awards applications have been slow coming in and are now beginning to arrive at National Office, so the next couple of months will determine whether or not a savings will emerge.

The number of members and the number of awards submitted by members are the two areas that National Office has no control of.

With the decline in membership and the increasing cost of awards, this has a dramatic effect on our budget. In an effort to offset revenue shortfalls a National Fundraiser was submitted to all leagues across Canada. A potential \$75,000 in revenues was available by selling 2000 cases of chocolates, which was equal to two cases per league. This seemed like a simple task with not much effort needed by the leagues. National Office quickly found out that leagues are not prepared to support a National Fund Raiser. As a result, approximately 300 cases were ordered resulting in \$13,000 in revenue.

The Board of Directors has reviewed our current budget and made adjustments to reflect our current revenues. In addition, a complete review of our 2010/2011 budget will be completed at the April Board Meeting for presentation at the AGM to be held on April 24, 2010 in Laval, QC.

Stan May, Executive Director

DENMARK: AFTER THE decision of moving the 3rd EBT Masters from Vienna to Aalborg was taken, all 32 participants were asked to reconfirm their participation for the new dates, which is 31 May and 1 June 2010 in Lovvang Bowling Centre, Aalborg.



All 32 qualified players (16 women and 16 men) have over the last couple of weeks reconfirmed their participation, and no excuses were given - all 32 qualified will participate.

The format of the EBT Masters 2010 is, for each division separated, 18 games qualification, divided as follows: Squad 1 over 6 games at pattern 1, Squad 2 over 6 games at pattern 2 and squad 3 over six games combined dual lane conditions, using pattern 1 and 2. The field is here after reduced to eight players continuing with the pinfall from the 18 games qualification carried forward into a seven-game round robin final, played on combined dual lane conditions, to decide the two Masters of 2010 over a 23 games total, including bonuses from the seven final matches.

The 32 qualified for the EBT Masters 2010 are as follows:

Women's Division: Nicki Ainge, England; Nicole Sanders, Netherlands; Nina Flack, Sweden; Britt Brøndsted, Denmark; Mai Ginge Jensen, Denmark; Diana Zavjalova, Latvia; Kirsten Penny, England; Patricia Luoto, Germany; Ghislaine van der Tol, Netherlands; Veronica Lantto, Sweden; Kamilla Kjeldsen, Denmark; Priscilla Maaswinkel, Netherlands; Rikke Holm Rasmussen, Denmark; Lisanne Breeschoten, Netherlands; Krista Pöllänen, Finland; Anja Ginge Jensen, Denmark.

Men's Division: Osku Palermaa, Finland; Dominic Barrett, England; Paul Moor, England; Martin Larsen, Sweden; Mads Sandbaekken, Norway; Stuart Williams, England; Dennis Eklund, Sweden; Robert Andersson, Sweden; Tore Torgersen, Norway; Tobias Karlsson, Sweden; Thomas Larsen, Denmark; Jesper Agerbo, Denmark; Mathias Aarup, Sweden; Peter Ljung, Sweden; Pasi Uotila, Finland; Gery Verbruggen, Belgium.

Kim Thorsgaard Jensen, EBT Director



EUROPEAN ZONE RANKINGS: THE EUROPEAN BOWLING TOUR rankings after stage 6 of the 2010 schedule show, WBW Bowlers of the Year Dominic Barrett (left) and Nina Flack (right) topping the tables after stage 6 of the tour, the Ebonite Luxembourg International Open. Barrett won the WBW award



in 2008 and 2009 and Flack in 2008.

Barrett heads PBA bowlers Mika Koivuniemi and Parker Bohn III, both of whom sped back to the United States immediately after the Brunswick Euro Challenge and met a fairly exit from the RVing PBA Tournament in Norwich, Connecticut.

None of the top sectors in either division played in Luxembourg. Barrett and Osku Palermaa were competing in the Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur.

Current Standings – Men: 1. Dominic Barrett, England 325 points; 2.



Mika Koivuniemi, Finland; 3. Parker Bohn III, United States 260; 4. Osku Palermaa, Finland 249; 5. Kimmo Lehtonen, Finland 216; 6. Michael Fagan, United States 200; 7. Tomas Leandersson, Sweden 175; 8. Gery Verbruggen, Belgium 170; 9. Thomas Larsen, Denmark 164; 10. Yoan Alix, France 160; 11. Tony Ranta, Finland 156; 12. Rob Thurlby, England 150; 13. Dennis Eklund, Sweden 148; 14. Mathias Arup, Sweden 132; 15. Adrian Ang, Malaysia 120; 16. Martin Larsen, Sweden 115.

Women: 1. Nina Flack, Sweden 320; 2. Cherie Tan, Singapore 250; 3. Tina Hulsch, Germany 248; 4. Nina Manninen, Finland 200; 5. Krista Pollanen, Finland 180; 6. Diana Zavjalova, Latvia 178; 7. Joline Persson-Planefors, Sweden 175; 8. Rikke Holm Rasmussen, Denmark 174; 9. Mari Kalliokoski, Finland/Mai ginge Jensen, Denmark 150; 11. Martina Beckel, Germany 144; 12. Nicki Ainge, England 126; 13. Lisanne Breeschoten, Netherlands 120; 14. Priscilla Maaswinkel, Netherlands 119; 15. Rebecka Larsen Jr., Sweden 115; 16. Reija Lunden, Finland 110. www.etbf.eu

FINLAND: LAHTI VETERAN Seppo Koukonen dug deep coming up the home stretch in the EBPA Senior's 2010 Tour opener to guarantee a home win at the world famous Tali Bowl arena. The Finn dashed Lena Sulkanen's bid for victory on her debut tour appearance right at the death in a tense final full of drama.

The 1983 women's world champion strode into the Sunday March 7 final in pole position, still playing with the steely grit and swagger of self-belief that marked her out as such a fierce competitor down the years. No one from the Swedish bowling scene needs reminding of that momentous achievement back in '83, when the Swedish ladies made a clean sweep of gold, silver and bronze in Caracas, Venezuela. But having conceded the first game of the final, 68-year-old Koukonen held his nerve – and his rhythm – to power home with a strong second game and wrap up the win.

Just getting to Helsinki for the weekend was dramatic enough for the many players travelling over from Sweden by ferry. Severe cold in the Baltic saw both cruise lines' ships stuck in the ice just off the archipelago outside Stockholm on the way over. Captains were forced to return to port and pick up pilots before navigating a new passage through the frozen waters. Ten hours were added to the usual crossing time, so for many it was check in to the hotels and immediate transit to the bowl to make the squad times.

Come Sunday and with Sulkanen making top position, it was left to Bjorn Bergvall and Christer Danielsson in the position rounds to try and break up the Finnish monopoly atop the leader board. Danielsson started full of confidence but never recovered from a 7-10 leave after hitting the pocket in the fifth, while Bergvall folded with a low 190. Koukonen then saw off the doughty Reijo Saarinen in a real cliffhanger, striking through frame 10 to edge it, 246-237, and move forward to a showdown with Sulkanen.

In the final the Swede, now a full time administrator with the Swedish Bowling Federation, began with a double and looked pumped. But the strikes dried up and both players experienced some cruel leaves as each traded spare shots like two prize sluggers.

Sulkanen got a crucial double at the top of the tenth, and when Seppo saw another top shot fail to trip the 7-pin, it was first blood to Sulkanen, 213-206.

Game two seemed to be going Sulkanen's way as she opened with a four bagger and the Finn cracked first, an edgy spare in the fourth after three in a row. But from the mid-point Sulkanen suddenly started to struggle with the lane profile, especially on the right. "In fact, I should have changed my ball earlier", she admitted afterwards.

Scrambling spare were converted on both the bucket and wash-out after missing the pocket, but Sulkanen was hanging on by her fingertips, as Koukonen scented blood. A one pin game after seven frames transformed in the blink of an eye – the man from Lahti, unfazed throughout, raised his game at just the right moment and stretched away with a five-bagger finishing spurt.

The official score with handicap adjusted : Koukonen beat Sulkanen, 464-424.

"I'm very disappointed right now, give me 15 minutes to recover," Lena said as she packed up her balls for the ferry home. "When you take the first set it is especially hard to take the loss. I was pulling out some big spare shots but in truth there were too high a percentage of loose ones in there as well. It's tough to take right now."

But the message is clear for the rest of the season. Watch out, there's a wounded world champion out there.

A truly memorable final to mark the inaugural Tali Seniors Open the first event of 14 on this, the 5th EBPA Seniors Tour. Next stop – the Les Lion Cup, Norrkoping at Easter.

Many thanks to all who participated and the welcome afforded the players by the organizers at Tali Bowl. The EBPA also commend all participants who made their way to Helsinki in such severe weather, including players from Russia and Estonia for the first time among the 100 plus competitors.

All results go to www.ebpatour.com

Phil Mison, EBPA Media Director

FRANCE: EUROSPORT TV in Paris has confirmed dates for commentaries on the first four TV stepladder finals of the 2009/10 PBA Tour season. These will be shown in the UK on Eurosport UK 2 and throughout Europe and beyond on the Eurosport 2 network and other worldwide affiliates starting early April 2010.

Eurosport did feature the PBA 2008/9 season and now seen to have embraced tenpin after many years in the wilderness. Recent other tenpin features included live coverage of the stepladder finals of the Brunswick Euro Challenge, won by Team England player Rob Thurlby against Adrian Ang of Malaysia.

Cass Edwards

* * * * *

THE OUTSTANDING ENTRY of 448 players from 34 nations made Plaza Bowling, St. Maximin, near Paris, France an extremely vibrant center indeed for the ten-day run of the prestigious Brunswick Euro Challenge, the fifth stage of the 2010 European Bowling Tour, March 5-14.



As standard on the Tour, qualifying was over six games with re-entries as required and available in the 28-lane center. The top 52, plus six early squad winners and six qualifiers from a Desperado squad, advanced to the finals.

The elite squad, those finishing in the top 16, had byes into the second round of the finals, the rest played a further six games from which the leading 16 would advance to the second round.

Qualifying scores were outstanding with Anthony Pepe of the United States the leader on 1572, one of the highest-ever six-game qualifiers on the Tour. The top five qualifiers all topped 1500 and with 1400 usually embracing the cut, this time it took 1407 to make 52nd place and much sympathy for Mohamade Sarmadi of France whose 1401 placed him 53rd. Lithe Fredrik Ohrgaard of Denmark led the field from round one, once again shooting a high 1560, 58 pins ahead of newly-inducted WBW Hall of Famer Gery Verbruggen of Belgium. It took 1391 to qualify in the top 16 and the final place was held by Jean Marc Lebon of Belgium.

The field now switched format to best of three games over 16 matches, high seed versus low, and that format was to continue through to the quarterfinal. From then onwards was a four-man stepladder final.

Most eyes were on the American pro bowlers. Norm Duke, Parker Bohn III, Michael Fagan, Bill O'Neill and Carolyn Dorin-Ballard were all in contention. Duke excelled with a 249 & 279 two-game win over Sweden's Malin Glendert. An all-/Swedish confrontation saw petite Nina Flack take out fellow countryman Martin Larsem with a pair of 265s whilst



Ang, Thurlby, Zulkifli and Luiz

Larsen replied with 257 and 244. Parker Bohn disposed of Thomas Larsen from Denmark, the recent 2010 Catalonia Open champion, again over two games. It took three games for Fagan to defeat Dennis Eklund of Sweden and Zulmazran Zulkifli of Malaysia had a tough ride to beat Tony Ranta of Finland, 2-1. Another 279 came from the dual hands of Finn Osku Palermaa in his second game against Denmark's Mik Stampe. He needed all those pins to beat Stampe's 274.

The eight winners from the squad went through it all again, high seed against low, and three of the eight matches went into overtime. Fagan managed to pip Lebon, 2-1; Zulmazran took out Jari Ratia of Finland, 2-1; and Adrian Ang of Malaysia had a fine win over Parker Bohn, 2-1. Two-nil for Palermaa over Steffen Wendlandt of Germany; Duke against Jahi; Ildemaro Luiz, all the way from Venezuela against top woman Flack; Finnish leftie Kimmo Lehtonen beating Ohrgaard; and

England's Rob Thurlby defeating the only other remaining woman, Mai Ginge Jensen of Denmark.

Exciting and tense action in the quarterfinals as the eight jostled for the four places in the stepladder final. Two Malaysians, a Venezuelan and an Englishman were to survive. Alas, no American pro bowlers.

Fagan opened with a 278 against Luiz, but the Venezuelan packed in 231 and 267 to book his place. Zulkifli had a surprising easier ride to take out Palermaa, 2-0; an even bigger shock was Thurlby defeating Duke, 2-0, as the American hit the only sub-200 games of all qualifying rounds with 186 and 190; then, despite opening with 267, Lehtonen lost to Ang over three games.

Live TV from satellite channel Eurosport took over for the stepladder finals, beaming their signal throughout Europe and beyond through partners.

Malaysia versus Venezuela in the opener as Zulmazran Zulkifli took on Ildemaro Luiz. The Malaysian advanced to match 2 with a 230-202 win.

Now, if Zulkifli could defeat Rob Thurlby of England he would be up against Malaysian Elite National team-mate Ang, but that was a hurdle he couldn't cover. The Englishman advanced with a 233-194 win.

Nobody could complain about the standard of bowling in a spectacular final. A veritable strikefest saw Thurlby earn the title in a squeaker, 253-248.

Returning home, Thurlby faced an interview on www.talktenpin.net in which he made the following comment: "Winning the Brunswick Euro Challenge was an amazing feeling, thanks to the support I got from the crowd. It was such a high. I could have bowled out there all day."

Once again the BEC was a triumph for the hard-working Brunswick crew which has created one of the most popular events on the tour.

Final Standings: 1. €13,000: Rob Thurlby, England; 2. €7,500: Adrian Ang, Malaysia; 3. €4,750: Zulmazran Zulkifli, Malaysia; 4. €3,500: Ildemaro Luiz, Venezuela; 5. €2,000: Michael Fagan, United States; 6. €1,900: Osku Palermaa, Finland; 7. €1,800: Norm Duke, United States; 8. €1,700: Kimmo Lehtonen, Finland; 9. €1,600: Nina Flack, Sweden (+€1,300 women's added prize); 10. €1,500: Jari Ratia, Finland. **Photo courtesy of Ban Cheng Cheah, Malaysia**

Keith Hale

GERMANY: THERE ARE ALREADY 132 entries from 16 countries for the 1st Track Dream Bowl Palace Open in Unterföhring, Munich, the tenth stage of the 2010 European Bowling Tour. Hosted by the brand-new, 52-lane, Brunswick-equipped Dream Bowl Palace, June 27 – July 4, the organizers expect a heavy entry from international teams getting a feel for the lanes ready for the 2010 World Men's Championships being staged at the center in August. A first prize €10,000 awaits the ultimate champion and the €50,000 prize fund covers prizes down to 48th place. Full details on www.dreambowl.de.

Keith Hale

* * * * *

The 1st Tour stop of the International Seniors Bowling Tour (ISBT) was at the brand-new 22-lane Vegasbowling in Monheim, Germany at the 5th Arthur's Senior Open.



One of the ISBT rules implies that there will be a separate Men's and Ladies Final and prize money and it showed that this rule is a success.

Hosts Arthur DAhn and Katrin Stelljes were satisfied as there were more entries than last year's edition. Scores were also great and showed that this tournament has been organized

by (tournament) bowlers.

The cut with the ladies and men show that there were great bowlers, on top of that we had the pleasure to welcome 3 x 300s in the qualification round, Reiner Plein, Ralf Gräwe, both from Germany, and Mick Ince/UK - and one 300 in a final step by Barry Horne/USA.



Ron Oldfield

from fourth position

but with good scoring occupied third place.

Results: 1st Yvette Murath / BE; 2nd Liliane Vintens / BE; 3rd Marianne Pelz / GE

The tournament welcomed bowlers from 10 different countries and with a good mix between men and ladies the tour looks very promising for the coming events.

Next tournament stop will be at Gabriele Benvuniti's place at Reno Bowling, Bologna for the Italy Senior Open 2010.

For full details please check the ISBT site, we look forward to meet you there again.

Results : <http://www.vegas-bowling.de/one/category/turniere>

Charley Blom, ISBT Tour Manager



Liliane Vintens



LUXEMBOURG: The Ebonite Luxembourg International, the sixth stage of the 2010 European Bowling Tour, attracted 185 competitors from 13 nations to the X-Treme

Bowling & Billiard Center in Foetz, Luxembourg, March 15-21.

The format called for the normal six games of qualifying and newly-inducted WBW Hall of Famer Gery Verbruggen of Belgium topped the leader board with 1431.

After the initial round of the finals, six games for the lower section, the top 32 went into total pinfall over two game matches, the field reducing by half after each round.

Two Belgians, a German and a Swede made it through to the semi-finals. Mats Maggi of Belgium defeated German Karsten Aust of Germany, 458-377, and Ulf Bolleby of Sweden foiled an all-Belgian finale by beating Nico Joris, 436-426.

Bolleby took the title with a convincing win over Maggi, 439-384, for his first EBT win.

Final Standings: 1. Ulf Bolleby, Sweden €4,000; 2. Mats Maggi, Sweden €2,500; 3. Nico Joris, Belgium €1,500; 4. Karsten Aust, Germany €1,500; 5 – 8, €750 each: 5. Manuel Mrosek, Germany; 6. Marcus Zuber, Germany; 7. Marilyn Planchard, France; 8. Peder Grimsen, Sweden.

Keith Hale

MALAYSIA: The Men's Open Masters title of the 33rd Canon Malaysian International Open remained in Malaysia as top seed Adrian Ang emerged as champion, while debutant Kelly Kulick gave America their second victory in the ladies' division on March 20 at the Pyramid MegaLanes.

Both the champions were forced into the third and deciding game in the best-of-3 finals when the contenders drew level after the second game. In the men's division, top seed Adrian Ang narrowly beat challenger Osku Palermaa 163-147 as both struggled on very difficult lane conditions.

In the second match, Palermaa got the better of Ang after the Finn made the changes quicker than the Malaysian. Ang was just unlucky when he could not find a connecting strike to go down, 200-238, forcing a decider.



**Kelly Kulick &
Adrian Ang**

Adrian Ang.

"In the first game, we were struggling and my coach told me to use a different ball on the left lane and another on the right. It sure paid off, for which I'm glad."

"Actually I was very nervous and I just couldn't watch his last shot. Osku is a very good bowler and once he found the line, he is just simply great."

The champion also had to work hard when he beat No. 7 seed, Hussain Al-Suwaidi of UAE, 261-187, 238-247 and 199-169 for a 2-1 victory in the semi-finals, while Palermaa also took three games to beat No. 4 seed, Yusuf B Abdul Raof of Malaysia, 213-170, 183-202 and 207-159 for a 2-1 win in the other semi.

Ang sailed through the quarter-finals by ousting No. 8 seed, Shaker Al-Hassan of UAE, 2-0, and Palermaa again took three games to knockout Singapore's Basil Low in his quarterfinal encounter.

Defending champion Zulmazran Zulkifli crashed out in the quarterfinal after losing to Hussain Al-Suwaidi, 171-235, 224-213 and 186-194, and missed out on the chance to win the title for the third consecutive year.

Meanwhile, PBA Tournament of Champions winner and top seed Kelly Kulick retained the ladies' crown for America, following in the footsteps of her compatriot Carolyn Dorrin-Ballard, who won last year.

But her victory did not come easy either, after being stretched to the third and deciding game in the finals against challenger Chien Hsiu-Lan of Chinese Taipei. Two unlucky splits in the first game put the American on the back foot, losing 184-211 to the Taiwanese.

A quick ball change made the difference in the second game when she bounced back with a 218-212 victory to force the deciding game. Although Chien started the third match with a double, Kulick again was forced to trail by two frames after a split in the second frame.

A turkey from frame four and another double in the eighth and ninth frames gave the American a breather as Chien failed to knock down a single strike after her early double, which gave Kulick a 211-201 victory.

"Yes it was very exciting. Each game came down to the last frame," said the delighted American, Kelly Kulick.

"The lanes were drastically different and I had to make many changes. So I went to my bag and had to find a suitable ball. I'm glad I made the right change early."

Kulick breezed through to the finals after beating No. 5 seed, Liza Del Rosario of the Philippines, 2-0, in the first semi-final, while Chien took three games to defeat 2008 AMF World Cup champion and No. 3 seed, Jasmine Yeong-Nathan of Singapore, 2-1 in the other semi.

Chien had an easier passage into the semi-finals when he knocked out No. 7 seed, Tannya Roumimper of Indonesia, 2-0 in the quarterfinals, while the American needed three games to beat No. 8 seed, Siti Safiyah Amirah of Malaysia, in her quarterfinal round.

Malaysia's Zandra Aziela lost to Rosario, 1-2, in the quarterfinal, while Malaysian Backup Elite squad member Hee Kar Yen went down to Yeong-Nathan, 0-2.

Adrian Ang pocketed the top prize of RM35,000 (approx. US\$10,000) as Palermaa settled for RM17,000. Yusuf B Abdul Raof and Hussain Al-Suwaidi took home RM7,000 each although Yusuf finished third.

Kelly Kulick won RM15,000 and Chien Hsiu-Lan settled for RM7,500. Yeong-Nathan and Rosario fourth took home RM4,000 each as losing semi-finalists but the final podium went to the Singaporean.

Final standings – Men: 1. Adrian Ang, Malaysia; 2. Osku Palermaa, Finland; 3. Yusuf B Abdul Raof, Malaysia; 4. Hussain Al-Suwaidi, UAE; 5. Zulmazran Zulkifli, Malaysia; 6. Yannaphon Larpapharat, Thailand; 7. Basil Low, Singapore; 8. Shaker Al-Hassan, UAE.

Women: 1. Kelly Kulick, United States; 2. Chien Hsiu-Lan, Chinese Taipei; 3. Jasmine Yeong-Nathan, Singapore; 4. Liza Del Rosario, Philippines; 5. Zandra Aziela, Malaysia; 6. Hee Kar Yen, Malaysia; 7. Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia; 8. Siti Safiyah, Malaysia.

Terence Yaw, abf-online.org

* * * * *

MALAYSIA WAS denied victory for the third consecutive time after losing to Team Rest of the World (ROW), 2-3 in the Canon Cup 2010 at the Sunway Mega Lanes on Sunday March 21, despite putting a tough fight towards the end.

Malaysia had drawn level at 2-2 after national elite squad member Zandra Aziela alienated newly-crowned Canon Malaysian Open champion Kelly Kulick of USA, 211-163, in the fourth match, setting up a grand finale for a final rematch between Adrian Ang of Malaysia and Osku Palermaa of Finland.

Two-time Malaysian Open champion Zulmazran Zulkifli was expected to take the first match against a relatively inexperienced and 17-year-old, Basil Low of Singapore. But the youngster caused an upset, defeating Zulmazran, 198-143, to take a 1-0 lead for ROW.



2010 Canon Cup champions

Malaysian Open first runner-up, Chien Hsiu-Lan of Chinese Taipei was expected to beat less experienced Malaysian backup elite squad member Hee Kar Yen in the second match, but the table was turned around with Kar Yen surprising Chien with a 174-159 win to allow Malaysia to draw level at one a piece.

The third match was an easy victory for Yannaphon Larpapharat. The 25-year-old Thai thrashed Malaysia's Yusuf Bin Abdul Raof, 213-158, to give Team ROW a 2-1 lead.

Fortunately, Aziela stepped to her task to give Malaysia a chance to regain the Canon Cup they first won in the inaugural competition in 2007 after she beat the tough

American opponent in the crucial fourth match.

The deciding match saw Adrian Ang of Malaysia meeting Osku Palermaa of Finland for a rematch of the previous day's Canon Malaysian Open title match. Ang got off the blocks with a good double strike to take a healthy lead after the Finn opened in the second frame.

Despite a split in the third frame for Ang, the Malaysian still maintained a one-frame lead over Palermaa. The tide turned to the Finn's side as he downed four consecutive strikes and ended the game with an eight-spare and a strike for a 213 total.

Ang responded with a double in frames 8 and 9 and needed a strike in the tenth frame to seal the victory but delivered a weak shot to land only 6 pins, which he subsequently spared, then struck and hit 9 pins to lose the match with 201 and the Canon Cup 2-3.

"I was a little bit lucky today and that's bowling. I've been bowling good and was unfortunate to lose yesterday," said the ROW anchorman, Osku Palermaa. "But today it's good and this has been a good trip. I threw a good shot yesterday in the last frame to win and I didn't get the strike but today it was better. I didn't expect that today's scores would be this high.

"But I enjoyed it and it's nice to win the cup for the Rest of the World," added the two-handed Finn.

"My coach and I made a good decision to use different balls for different lanes after the warming up period and I'm glad it worked well," said Zandra Aziela, who was the 2007 Malaysian Open champion. "Kelly is a very tough opponent and I'm happy that I bowled better. I've been bowling in three consecutive Canon Cup competitions but unfortunately I've not been able to win it. Hopefully we can do it next year."

Team Rest of the World won RM30,000 (\$9,000) for their victory, which will be shared by their players, while Team Malaysia again settled for RM15,000. The prizes were presented by Ms Wang Hui Cheng, Corporate Communications Manager for the title sponsor, Canon Marketing (M) Sdn Bhd.

The Canon Cup 2010 was also televised live on Astro SuperSport, the official broadcast sponsor of the event and witnessed by a packed house at the Sunway Mega Lanes in Sunway Pyramid Shopping Centre.

Terence Yaw

QATAR: QATAR'S MUBARAK AL-MURAIKHI (pictured) regained the title he won in 2008 after beating No. 4 seed and challenger Naif Oqab of UAE, 449-415, to capture the H.H. Emir Cup 2010 crown for the second time on March 4. Mubarak, who beat team-mate and No. 2 seed, Mansour Al-Awamy, 459-397, in the earlier Step 4 semi-finals, lost to



No. 4 seed, Naif Oqab of UAE, 202-212, in the first match to trail the Emirati by 10 pins.

In the second match, Mubarak made no mistakes as opposed to Naif's bad break in the fourth frame where he encountered a 7-10 split, despite a seemingly perfect pocket shot. Thereafter, it was smooth sailing for the Qatari as he fired five strikes-in-a-row and then struck out from frame 10 to end the match with 247.



Mubarak Al-Muraikhi

Naif managed two doubles in the fifth-sixth frames and eighth-ninth frames but only managed 203. Mubarak clinched the title with 449 over Naif's 415 and claimed the top prize of Qatar Riyal 75,000 (approx. US\$20,600).

"I didn't settle down well in the first match and had two splits but thanks to a turkey and a double strike, I managed 202 in the end," said the delighted 34-year-old Qatari national bowler, Mubarak.

"But in the second match, I just told myself to put more focus on making good shots and hitting the target and when I was able to string together five strikes, I knew the title was there for me to take."

The champion sailed through Step 3 finals with a victory over Hong Kong's Wu Siu Hong, 387-356, before disposing off his team-mate Mansour in the Step 4 semis. Naif also trashed his Emirati team-mate Sayed Ibrahim Al-Hashemi, 458-396, in the first round.

Top seed, Remy Ong of Singapore, who breezed through the first round after he easily beat No. 8 seed Yousif Falah of Bahrain, 479-387, lost to Naif, 397-455, in the Step 4 finals. The Singaporean also lost to Mansour Al-Awamy, 365-440, to finish fourth and took home QTR 10,000.

Mansour won QTR 20,000 for finishing third and Naif settled for QTR 40,000 for finishing second again. Naif had last week lost to Osku Palermaa in the 1st Dubai Open despite advancing to the title match as top seed.

Former Qatar Bowling Federation president, Mr Salman Abdulla and current president, Mr Abdul Salam presented the prizes to the winners, witnessed by sponsors and invited guests.

Final standings: 1. Mubarak Al-Muraikhi, Qatar \$20,500; 2. Naif Oqab, UAE \$10,250; 3. Mansour Al-Awamy, UAE \$5,125; 4. Remy Ong, Singapore \$2,575; 5. Ryan Lalisang, Indonesia \$1,500; 6. Sayed Ibrahim Al-Hashemi, UAE \$1,500; 7. Yousef Falah, Bahrain \$1,500; 8. Wu Siu Hong, Hong Kong \$1,500.

Photo and text by Terence Yaw

UNITED STATES: MATCH PLAY is the theme as High Roller's single game elimination match play format at Sam's Town in Las Vegas from June 28 through July 3rd. Times have changed since 1982 but match play is the most exciting format of them all.

There is a change in divisions for the July High Roller as there is now a division just for Seniors and a separate division for the 215 Average & Under players. There is also the Age 49 & Under division. The 215 Average & Under division is regardless of age.

High Roller week starts with a Free Practice Session and a Sweeper on Monday, June 28. Then from Tuesday through Saturday, it's the main event, match play. There are four rounds each day and those players that win that fourth round advance to Round 5 on Saturday to shoot for the \$25,000 top prize. The grand finale of the July High Roller is The Big Game in which the last remaining player from each of the three divisions bowl one game on the same pair for the title. Each player is guaranteed at least \$10,000.

Four separate \$3,000 VIP purses are available from Tuesday through Friday. The one-game event is a great tune-up for match play each morning. The VIP's follow the free practice sessions, also Tuesday through Friday.

Sam's Town is offering the lowest rates around starting at \$26.99! Call them toll free at 1-877-593-5993 and mention High Roller to take advantage of those great rates.

Further information at www.high-roller.com and click on Brochures.

Next up is the Senior Easter Classic March 28 to April 4 followed by the July High Roller from June 28 to July 3. Sam's Town Hotel, Gambling Hall & Bowling Center in Las Vegas will host both events.

Brad Edelman

* * * * *

Arlington, Texas – IN AN EFFORT to bolster communications with members, associations and media, the United States Bowling Congress is continuing to grow its presence on social networking Web sites.

USBC recently re-launched its Twitter feed, while the USBC Facebook fan page continues to grow. Both sites serve as a complement to USBC's main presence on the Internet: BOWL.com.

"We post Twitter updates several times per day with relevant USBC information," USBC Vice President of Media Pete Tredwell said. "A story will often be tweeted before it gets posted on BOWL.com. Even more valuable, there will be many nuggets of information that may not be deemed important enough for a press release, but many fans of USBC will still want to know."

USBC's Twitter feed can be accessed by going to twitter.com/usbc. There is no login or registration required to access USBC's tweets. On Facebook, USBC launched its fan page in October and now has nearly 17,000 fans. Facebook fans get not only text updates, but also exclusive photos and links to videos. To access USBC's Facebook fan page, go to facebook.com/usbc1.

Lucas Wiseman, USBC Communications

* * * * *

Arlington, Texas – BOWLING FANS planning to attend tournaments and trade shows across the country can save money on airfare this year thanks to a special American Airlines group rate. The group travel discount provides 5 percent off the lowest applicable fare.



Destination cities include Reno, Nev., El Paso, Texas, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Dallas-Fort Worth and Philadelphia.

The valid travel dates allow for a discount when flying to USBC Open Championships, Convention, Women's Championships, Queens, U.S. Women's Open, Intercollegiate Team Championships, Hall of Fame inductions, BPAA International Bowl Expo and East Coast Bowling Centers Convention.

To take advantage of the 5 percent discount, go directly to www.aa.com to book your flights. After you have selected your flight(s) under the "Enter Passenger Details" tab, go to the "AA.com Promotion Code" field and enter in your authorization code.

The authorization codes are: Reno and El Paso: 8130BN; Indianapolis and Dallas-Fort Worth: 5570AX; Las Vegas: 2160BJ; Philadelphia: 98H0AV.

Discount fares are valid for travel on American Airlines, American Eagle®, AmericanConnection®, oneworld Alliance, and codeshare partners from anywhere to your event destination.

For additional information about travel packages visit BOWL.com/travel.

Terry Bigham, USBC Communications

* * * * *

Muskegon, Mich. - IN AN EFFORT to help grow the sport of bowling as a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) sport and promote the importance of athletics to today's youth, Brunswick Bowling is proud to be the exclusive sponsor of the 2009/2010 NCAA Women's Bowling All America awards.

Since 2003, NCAA Women's Bowling has been a sanctioned championship sport. Now in its seventh season, more than 60 Divisions I, II and III institutions sponsor bowling.

The 2010 championship tournament will be held April 6-8 at Brunswick Zone - Carolier in North Brunswick, N.J.

Brunswick Pro Staff member and PBA Hall of Famer, Johnny Petraglia, will be on hand to roll out the first ball of the tournament. Petraglia will also present the NTCA First Team All-America, Bowler of the Year, Rookie of the Year and Coach of the Year awards during the NCAA Championship banquet. As the exclusive sponsor, Brunswick Bowling is providing the awards presented by Petraglia. "I am honored to present the awards to the student-athletes on behalf of Brunswick," said Petraglia.

Awards are bestowed upon deserving individuals by voting members of the National Tenpins Coaches Association (NTCA) after the completion of the 2009-2010 regular season. Additionally, Brunswick will sponsor the All-NTCA Academic Awards for student-athletes who maintain a 3.4 GPA throughout the course of the 2009-2010 academic year. All-NTCA Academic awards will be presented at the end of the spring academic term.

Kristin Filz

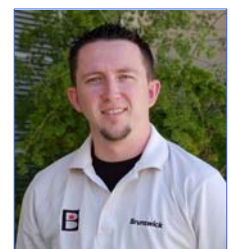
* * * * *

Muskegon, Mich.: BRUNSWICK BOWLING welcomes a new product specialist to its consumer products team.

Nick Smith has joined the Brunswick team and will support Brunswick consumer products distributors, Complete Bowling Service and Steve Cook's Bowling Supply, and their customers in Alaska, northern California, Idaho, Montana, northern Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, as well as the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

Smith's industry experience includes owning and operating his own pro shops for many years north of Los Angeles, Calif. Smith also has extensive experience supporting bowling tournaments. He worked as a private contractor for Brunswick during the 2006 and 2007 Mini Eliminator tournaments the company sponsored.

Smith reports to Ron Bragg, North America sales manager, consumer products. **Kristin Filz**



Nick Smith

* * * * *

Seattle, Wash. – THE PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS ASSOCIATION laid out general plans for the 2010-11 Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour season Wednesday in a meeting with the Exempt Tour players in Norwich, Conn., site of this week's Go RVing PBA Match Play Championship.

"The Professional Bowlers Association has weathered the most difficult economic year for professional sports of all kinds that most of us have ever seen," said PBA Tour Commissioner and CEO Fred Schreyer, "and we are continuing to reshape the future of professional bowling by introducing new concepts that are both necessary and exciting."

Highlights of the announcements made by Schreyer and Deputy Commissioner and COO Tom Clark included:

- The PBA Tour's signature event, the 2011 PBA Tournament of Champions, will feature a record \$1 million prize fund and a \$250,000 first prize, the richest in professional bowling history. Different eligibility rules will open the event to any PBA title winner, including players who have won National, Regional, Senior and Women's Series titles. The Tournament of Champions will air on ESPN on Jan. 23, 2011. The 2010 Tournament of Champions, which was won by Kelly Kulick in history-making fashion, produced the highest audience ratings for the PBA in five years.

- The 2010-11 ESPN television schedule will include 23 original PBA programs, beginning in late November and running through April.
 - Lumber Liquidators has affirmed its commitment as the PBA Tour's title sponsor through September 2011. Lumber Liquidators has been the title sponsor since the beginning of the 2008-09 PBA Tour season.
 - The PBA World Series of Bowling will return, producing nine separate TV shows and culminating with the PBA World Championship. In a story that captured the imagination of the sports world, the 2009 PBA World Championship was won by Michigan's Tom Smallwood. A United States vs. the World special competition will also emanate from the WSOB. Last year's inaugural PBA World Series of Bowling had participation from 700 different professionals from 14 different nations.
 - For the first time in PBA history, select events will feature three consecutive days of live television (Friday, Saturday, Sunday time slots on ESPN's family of networks). The PBA World Championship and the U.S. Open will both be telecast in this groundbreaking presentation. Previously, only the final championship round of any PBA Tour event has been telecast.
 - The USBC Masters will again round out the list of four major championships and will be aired live from Reno's National Bowling Stadium.
 - For the first time in PBA history, live telecasts will air on ESPN in high definition.
 - A new PBA Playoffs will conclude the season with a six-week series of shows. The elimination series will have its own separate prize fund and be a key decider in the PBA Player of the Year race.
 - The Chris Paul PBA Celebrity Invitational returns for the third consecutive year. The event, which benefits New Orleans Hornets guard Chris Paul's CP3 Foundation, features pro bowler/celebrity doubles teams. LeBron James, Ludacris, Dwyane Wade and Hines Ward are among celebrities who have competed the past two years.
 - A new "Xtra Frame Tour" will bring the PBA Tour players to at least five different locations across the nation for competitions that will be "broadcast" exclusively on pba.com's Xtra Frame video-streaming service, but will not air on network television. The non-televised events will be conducted using a format similar to that used on the PBA Senior Tour. Since its introduction during the World Series of bowling, Xtra Frame has grown consistently, more than doubling its subscriber base since August 2009.
- Further information with more specifics on prize funds, tournament formats, event locations, qualifying tournaments, competition dates and TV schedules will be released soon.

Bill Vint

HALL OF FAMER BILL BUNETTA DIES AT 90

Arlington, Texas – Bill Bunetta, a United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame member, died March 22 in Fresno, Calif., of heart failure. He was 90.

A Professional Bowlers Association charter member, he was asked to be the PBA's first commissioner when the pro tour was formed in 1958. But since he still was competitive as a bowler, he turned down the position. He won his only PBA Tour title in Fairless Hills, Pa., in 1960, and was inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame in 1968.

In addition to being a talented competitor on the lanes, Bunetta was one of bowling's most respected instructors. His inventive coaching techniques included the innovative "3-6-9" spare-shooting system, and he spent many years conducting clinics and exhibitions. He was often sought out by many young professionals for coaching assistance.

He was a member of the E&B and Pfeiffer teams in Detroit, and the Munsingwear team of Chicago that contributed to his five American Bowling Congress Championships (now USBC Open Championships) titles between 1949 and 1955.

In 1995, at age 76, he became the oldest bowler in history to roll back-to-back 300 games.

Terry Bigham, USBC Communications

Contact Information

Membership to World Bowling Writers is open to all media representatives, public relations personnel and federation officials. The annual fee is \$40.00, payable in U.S. funds to Luby Publishing, Inc. at the address below.

Payments by Visa or MasterCard or check in U.S. funds only can be accepted.

Send card name and number, security number, and with expiry date and name on card, affiliation and e-mail address to: nateh@lubypublishing.com. Please allow 28 days for membership activation.

Telephone 1-312-341-1110; FAX 1-312-341-1469

Postal address: 122 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1506, Chicago IL 60603

Electronic mail: keithhale679@aol.com; General Information: keithhale679@aol.com

Webmaster: keithhale679@aol.com

Administrator: Keith G. W. Hale