

# Jolly Good SPORTS

WHY WOULD one hundred and sixty-eight bowlers choose to spend a beautiful July weekend in Coventry? OK, so they couldn't guarantee it would be really hot outside, but the odds would be fairly short, even in England. Eric Hayton was invited to find out exactly what the Sportsmanship Games are all about.

**A**RE THEY England's elite battling it out for places in next year's team, or maybe juniors struggling to raise their average in the Merit Table? No! Well, has it got a mega prize fund with huge sponsorship? Again, no. It must have something, surely.

The bowlers are a mix of people from all over the country, with varying experience of bowling and at a very wide range of ability, and most are BTBA members. Most of them have played most of the tournaments, which began at Derby. Between them they have kept one of bowling's best kept secrets - they are all hooked on a tournament run by Diane Joyce since 1995.

There are no cash prizes - none, not a penny.

It makes no difference to the bowlers, they're here for the crack of competing against each other and having fun. Two days of bowling, 12 games each person, singles, doubles, trios, fives (plus 6th man singles), team & individual all-events, all with handicap and scratch sections - absolutely loads of medals to be spread around.

With an 80% No-limit handicap based on 210 scratch average, everyone can be competitive.

That is the key to the success of the event.

It is competitive. Everyone wants to win, but they want to have fun doing it. That can be seen from the imaginative shirt designs - Star Trek TSG (The Silly Generation) with the

characters names punned to death (A-whore-A = Ahura!) to the Herts of Gold and FRIENDS teams having a list of the Sportsmanship Games previous tour stops listed.

The handicaps ranged from just eight pins per game for Swindon's Tony Stephens to an enormous 83 per game for Derby Strikers' Charlotte Clark.

And the story of this tournament is not about Tony (sorry mate), it's about Charlotte.

Twenty-one year old Charlotte is the girlfriend of Adam Booker, who has been involved in bowling for years at Derby. Adam took her along to last year's event at Blackpool, and Charlotte basically she decided, "to start bowling, because the bowlers at Blackpool had so much fun. This is a team effort and you need to have a laugh. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!"

She has been bowling for just one year now, playing one league a week and has got an average just over 100, a personal best series around 430, and a high game of 156.

Her preparation for the tournament was basically not to bowl very much in the last

three months, as her studies in nursing at John Moore's in Liverpool interfered. She hoped to achieve one or two goals during the event - her first 200, beating some of team-mates scratch, maybe even win a medal, but mostly she wanted to find out what the bowling buzz is all about in her first ever tournament.

Charlotte obviously enjoyed herself during the first three events, even bowling the low game of 84, but her moment of glory came in the 6th Man singles. With her whole team cheering her on, she began with a strike, and continued to keep the adrenaline high going to shoot her pb game of 158, and was in line for a medal right up to her last ball of the set of 413, despite the odd gutter ball. "That was brilliant," she said, "all my team-mates cheering me on. Fantastic!"

There were some other personal bests

bowled - Claire McVeigh of Meggie Minglers rolled her first ever deuce, a 218, and Steve Wedgbury his first 600. Martin Trowbridge from Bits & Pieces spared the 4-7-10 split twice in his 12 games.

I walked in to the bowl on Sunday morning, after a good night at the Coventry Hilton, expecting to see some very 'worse-for-wear'



bowlers who had celebrated the night away at the disco. Sad to say, they all looked a little too good, at least to start with, though there were some who paid the price later. Obviously this lot are well experienced in both partying and bowling. The bowlers also have





the chance to vote for the 'Good Sport', and this year they voted for Pete Adcock, who has been 'trying for years' according to Diane Joyce. He began campaigning right from the start with his jester's cap. Eventually he must have worn down his 'constituency' to poll enough votes to beat other worthies.

This tournament proves the old adage - You only get out of something as much as you're prepared to put in. Fun events can pull bowlers into the sport - Charlotte is the proof. - Thanks bowlers.

### AFTERWORD

If you're thinking about running an event like this - be warned - it can get a bit complicated applying the rule that says you can only win either one handicap or scratch prize in each event (which is a good rule). The scratch bowlers section is addressed first. Check first to see if the scratch winner is in the top three of the h'cap, eliminate if necessary. And so on. This means that you

could finish as low as sixth in the handicap section and still win a medal. Charlotte's '6th Man Singles' effort actually put her in seventh place a few pins off a medal. Check the 6th Man results to see what I mean. One other point to note, Ladies and Men are treated equally, no separate prizes, no discrimination!

I said that the event is competitive - 19 of the 28 teams ended with at least one medal.

Note to centre manager Neil Hannigan - I keep my promises! Everyone should know he bowled a miserable 432 (506 including handicap) in the singles.

On a personal note: sorry to all the bowlers we didn't manage to fit in with their photos. I'm sure there must be some good ones amongst all the ones you took with the team cameras given to you by Diane.

Unofficially the event may be going to Nottingham next July for a special Millennium running, which would allow another 16 teams to enter. One more thing, when you first play the Sportsmanship you become an official 'Virgin' for the event, no matter what your age or experience.

Go Tenpin will be there, but just for fun. OK?



## SPORTSMANSHIP GAMES 1999

AMF Forum Bowl, Coventry • 24-25 July 1999

### SINGLES HANDICAP

1. Mary Hawkins Swindon Ladies 730
2. Carol Snell Six Pack 706
3. Robin Cooper Bicesterites 701

### SINGLES SCRATCH

1. Geoff Ashcroft Nuts & Bolts 601
2. Andy Fraser Happy Hedgehogs 595
3. Tony Stephens Swindon Men 588

### DOUBLES HANDICAP

1. Michelle Golightly & Philip Butler  
Looney Tunes (Steve Wedgbury & Gerry Wright) In the Mood 1378
2. Mark Williams & Pete Daniels  
Cadfael 1372
3. Kevin Furness & Simon Taylor  
Aylesbury Aces 1361
3. Pete Adcock & Barry Joyce  
Derby Strikers 1339

### DOUBLES SCRATCH

1. Pete Sampson & Ian Tucker  
Star Trek TSG 1179
2. Steve Wedgbury & Gerry Wright  
In the Mood (Mark Williams & Pete Daniels)  
Cadfael 1171
3. Pete Adcock & Barry Joyce  
Derby Strikers 1148

### TRIOS HANDICAP

1. Paul McGully, Sean Hanshaw,  
Steve Harrison  
Pin Action 1980
2. Chris Howland, Steve Legge,

- Terry Rand Team Wartz (Fred Miller, Danny Cox, Alan Dickenson)  
Pin Action 1952
3. Robin Cooper, Di Freeman,  
Di Adamson  
Bicesterites 1926

### TRIOS SCRATCH

1. Andy Fraser, John Fraser, Brian Sims  
Happy Hedgehogs 1681
2. Fred Miller, Danny Cox,  
Alan Dickenson  
Pin Action 1674
3. Pete Adcock, Andy Courtnage,  
Barry Joyce  
Derby Strikers 1673

### 6TH MAN SINGLES HANDICAP

1. Brian Sims Happy Hedgehogs 694
1. Peter Fyles If Only 691
2. Robin Vilder Stockport Rams (Geoff Gardiner)  
Sudbury Spinners 689
- (Philip Butler) Looney Tunes 680
3. Wilma Sustins Star Trek TSG 667

### 6TH MAN SINGLES SCRATCH

1. Brian Sims Happy Hedgehogs 598
- (Peter Fyles) If Only 589
2. Philip Butler Looney Tunes 584
3. Geoff Gardiner Sudbury Spinners 581

### FIVES HANDICAP

1. Looney Tunes 3201

- (Pin Action) 3189
2. Express YBC 3073
- (Cadfael) 3072
3. If Only 3065

### FIVES SCRATCH

1. Pin Action 2700
2. Cadfael 2604
3. Nuts & Bolts 2583

### TEAM ALL-EVENTS HANDICAP

- (Pin Action) 15251
1. Looney Tunes 14783
2. Aylesbury Aces 14659
3. Team Wartz 14635

### TEAM ALL-EVENTS SCRATCH

- (72 games) 12695
1. Pin Action 12664
2. Swindon Men 12664
3. Nuts & Bolts 12381

### INDIVIDUAL ALL-EVENTS

- HANDICAP (12 games)
1. Paul McEvilly Pin Action 2807
2. Robin Cooper Bicesterites 2684
3. Alan Dickenson Pin Action 2660

### INDIVIDUAL ALL-EVENTS SCRATCH

- (12 games)
1. Andy Fraser Happy Hedgehogs 2377
- (Paul McEvilly) Pin Action 2315
2. Tony Stephens Swindon Men 2311
3. Michael Shaw Sharks 2288