Sydney Welcomes International Superstars to AMF Australian Masters

Australia will shortly welcome some of the world’s most exciting professional tenpin bowlers, when Sydney plays host to the 2010 AMF Australian Masters.

The tournament jointly presented by Tenpin Bowling Australia and AMF Bowling, will take place in October at the brand new AMF Rooty Hill RSL, Sydney. The only tournament of its kind in Australia, the prize pool of over $110,000 and its professional format has attracted major international superstars.

“The AMF Australian Masters, the highlight of the 2010 National Championship, will provide an opportunity for local and international competitive bowlers to compete at our newest bowling centre in Sydney,” said Jordan Rodgers, CEO AMF Bowling. “The bowling action promises to be top class – for spectators and bowlers alike.”

Cara Honeychurch, CEO of Tenpin Bowling Australia (TBA) commented “We saw an opportunity to partner with AMF Bowling to reinvigorate the Australian Masters event to ensure it is the premier event on the bowling calendar and bring Australia into the global arena for world class bowling tournaments.”. “TBA is committed to increasing the profile of tenpin bowling as a competitive sport in Australia – bowling is growing in popularity every year and there are some really promising young bowlers coming through the ranks.” The prize pool is impressive, with the top male bowler receiving $25,000 in prize money and a total prize pool for the event of $112,400.

Some of the international level bowlers who have already signed on to compete include:

Wendy Macpherson, USA, is truly one of the legends of the sport. In her 20 year professional career, Wendy has amassed an incredible 20 titles, was named PWBA Player of the Year on four occasions and was the Bowlers Journal Player of the Decade for the 1990s. Now competing on the professional tour in Japan, she has continued her success with five titles to her name since 2004. Wendy was inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame in 2009 and was the all time earnings leader in Women’s Professional bowling with $1.2 million in 2003 when the PWBA ceased operations.

Clara Guerrero, Colombia, is the reigning Women’s World Champion winning gold in the All Events and Masters events at the 2009 Women’s World Championships. She was named Columbian Athlete of the Year in 2009 and in March this year represented Colombia at the Jegos Suramericanos (South-American Games) where she won six gold medals and a silver medal.

Lynda Barnes, USA, is a 12 time Team USA member and was the Qubica AMF World Cup Champion in 2005. During her professional career she won the highly prestigious USBC Queens title in 1998 and 2008.

Dana Miller-Mackie, inducted into the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in 2000 has 16 professional titles to her name including the 1983 and 1990 US Open and the 1998 and 1999 AMF Gold Cup. In addition to being a 5 time WIBC All-American and 4 time Bowlers Journal International All-American, she was inducted into the Indian Sports Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

To see some of the world’s greatest bowlers in action head to AMF Rooty Hill RSL on October 29-30th to watch the finals.
TBA Welcomes Mike Seymour to Board of Directors

The Board of Tenpin Bowling Australia Ltd is proud to announce the appointment of Mike Seymour to the role of bowler representative. This is not Mike’s first appointment to the TBA Board, serving as Director and Chairman in 2006 and 2007. Unfortunately due to work commitments Mike’s term on the Board was relatively short however he has remained a very active member of the bowling community. Mike is the current TBA State Manager of ACT and is Chairman of the TBA seniors’ sub-committee. In addition to his administrative duties, Mike is also a highly accomplished bowler taking home a bronze medal in the team event at the 2009 Asian Seniors Championship in Manila. We welcome Mike back to the Board and look forward to his contributions in furthering the sport of Tenpin Bowling in Australia.

TBA would like to take the opportunity to thank outgoing Australian Bowling Proprietors Association representative Edi De Pellegrin for her contribution to the Board during her tenure and wish her continuing success in her role as General Manager of Werribee Superbowl. Bruce Morris has now replaced Edi as the ABPA representative transitioning from his previous board position of bowler representative.

State Training Programs

The Tenpin Bowling Association of Queensland have 70 athletes currently enrolled in their State Training Squad coming from as far North as Cairns to the Gold Coast in the South. In partnership with Tenpin Bowling Australia the August program received support from the Queensland State Government, TBAQ Sport Services, Columbia and AMF Mt Gravatt lanes.

This training program was attended by over 40 bowlers who enjoyed sessions on performance psychology from Dr. Phil Jauncey, short, long and medium lane conditions, equipment care and enhancements, fitness and conditioning incorporating injury prevention strategies (Dan Wijker) and on lane technique enhancements provided by TBA High performance coaches including the National Coach, Chris Batson. Equipment matching and the opportunity to try different layouts using demonstration balls was also a feature of an entertaining and enjoyable ‘all things bowling’ event. Thanks must go to Glenn Rowland and his Columbia team of Carl Bottomley and Kate Pilkington for their time and contribution.

Each bowler received a CD containing advice on nutrition and equipment matching of the bowler to the lane condition. Truly a sign of what TBA and State Associations can do when working for the future of our sport. Thank you to all who participated, presented, sponsored and observed.
TBA’s Coaching Subsidy Program – Become a Coach!

TBA announced its plan to subsidise 300 Level One coaching positions nationally back in May. The positions which were allocated to both bowling centre proprietors and TBA State Associations allow participants for a fee of just $90 to receive TBA and ASC coaching registration, coaches insurance, course materials and the one day on lane program.

The spread of coaching subsidy positions gives proprietors the opportunity to train their staff in basic coaching principles which should lead to increased enjoyment of the sport by social bowlers thus hopefully leading to an increase in league bowlers. Additionally the allocation of positions to each state association is aimed at ensuring that many of the dedicated volunteers that are keen to get involved in coaching programs and develop bowlers in their state and local areas are given the opportunity to do so at minimal cost.

TBA CEO, Cara Honeychurch commented, “If the sport is to increase its participation numbers both in the short and long term, we simply must have more coaches so that bowlers of all ability levels can continue to improve their skills and enjoy the sport”.

Women in Sport Initiative

TBA also has on offer a further 20 fully subsidised positions for women as part of the $5,000 Women in Sport Grant received from the Australian Sports Commission. These positions will be allocated to each state association in proportion with membership. Honeychurch further commented, “It is important to get more women involved in the coaching and administration of the sport and this initiative is aimed at doing just this”.

Level Two Subsidy

With the first ASC approved Level 2 coaching course taking place at Tenpin City, Sydney, on July 17th and 18th, TBA further announced its plan to subsidise 40 National Level Two coaching positions. Level Two accreditation is a minimum requirement for all coaches that wish to coach State and National teams. The allocation of the subsidy will be made to the first 40 Level Two coaches who successfully complete all components of the course. In addition to the sports specific component, Level Two requires coaches to complete an ASC Intermediate Coaching General Principles and obtain a Senior First Aid Certificate (including CPR).

With the help of our State Bodies Tenpin Bowling Australia has currently added another 75 new Level One coaches, 3 new Level Two with another 5 Level Two’s to complete their ASC components.

Like to become a coach? If so, please contact your State Association for more details:

Queensland – Gail Torrens gail@tbaq.org.au
New South Wales – Geoff Sara gsara@bigpond.net.au
ACT – Mike Seymour mikeseymour@grapevine.com.au
Victoria – Denece Jones denece@bigpond.net.au
Tasmania – John Phillips johncp99@bigpond.net.au
South Australia – Lyn Alexander rob_lyn@bigpond.net.au
Western Australia – Tom Lyon tom.lyon@bigpond.com
Northern Territory – June Voukolos vouky@ozemail.com.au

Husband and wife team of Janelle & Geoff Sara have been working hard running several Level One and Team Managers courses in NSW and ACT in recent months.

ACT’s Graham Shoesmith recently became Australia’s first graduate under TBA’s newly accredited Level Two program.

ACT Level One course participants
TBAQ Interschool Challenge

Interschool Challenge Secondary Finals 2010

The Tenpin Bowling QLD Interschool Challenge 2010 is a statewide schools competition held for all primary and secondary school students in QLD and Northern NSW that TBAQ have been running since 2000. The Interschool Challenge is a School vs School competition run in 2 parts. Initially schools participate in a qualifying round held in May with the top 10 schools on pinfall qualifying through to the final held in August. This year’s event saw 46 teams and 276 students compete.

The Secondary Schools Final was held at Strathpine Hyperbowl on 21st – 22nd August 2010 with teams battling it out over 10 games to find the 2010 Secondary State Champion. The competition was fierce with the lead changing many times especially with the winning team not decided until the last ball of the day!

Congratulations go to Runcorn State High School for winning the competition for the second year in a row. A mere 7.5 points separated the top 3 placings ensuring that the final round was exciting to watch with over 100 spectators cheering on their favorite team. The competition had 76 x 200 games bowled showcasing the high caliber of bowling over the two days of competition.

Final standing:

1st Runcorn State High School
2nd St Mary’s Catholic College
3rd Ayr State High School

The 2010 Secondary All Star Team is calculated on the 5 highest averages over the 10 games. The 2010 team consists of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>School</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jarrod Langford</td>
<td>212.3</td>
<td>Ayr State High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Bowling</td>
<td>208.5</td>
<td>Runcorn State High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Dickson</td>
<td>201.7</td>
<td>St Mary’s Catholic College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Hotz</td>
<td>201.2</td>
<td>Toowoomba State High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brendan Woodley</td>
<td>195.4</td>
<td>Runcorn State High School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Secondary Schools competition had two sportsperson awards in 2010, due to the overwhelming number of votes received for two people. This award is voted on by the students and congratulations go to Morgan James (Kepnock State High School) and Katey Furze (St Mary’s Catholic College). Morgan was also the highest average female bowler, just missing out on the All Star Team with 191.8 average.

For more information, visit the TBAQ website www.tbaq.org.au for full results of the competition. If you have any questions please contact Evelyn Amy, TBAQ State Development Manager, at evelyn@tbaq.org.au.
TBAQ continues their partnership with AUS

TBAQ continue their junior and youth development through managing the Tenpin Bowling competition for the Northern University Games. This competition was held at Toowoomba Sunset Superbowl from 4 – 7 July 2010.

Launched in 1991, the Northern University Games has been renowned for providing a friendly but competitive environment for student athletes from all over Queensland, northern New South Wales and Northern Territory. Owned by Australian University Sport (AUS), the peak governing body of university sport in Australia, this competition is seen as a pre-emptive event for the Australian University Games later in the year.

This year, the 2010 Northern University Games was hosted in Toowoomba and consisted of 10 sports competing over three days. The Games attracted over 1,000 participants.

The 2010 competition saw Griffith University claiming victory, continuing their success from winning the Australian University Games 2009 Division B. With teams bowling 6 games a day for 3 days, many of the athletes were surprised at how exhausted they were by the end of each day.

Managed by Australian University Sport (AUS), the Northern University Games was run simultaneously with two other AUS regional events, the Eastern University Games (Coffs Harbour, NSW), and the Southern University Games (Bendigo, Victoria). Tenpin Bowling was only held at the Northern University Games this year.

TBAQ have a strong partnership with Australian University Sport that run the 3 regional events as a lead up to the Australian University Games (AUG) held later in the year. AUG is held biannually in Queensland, with TBAQ involved in the 2009 competition and again is set to manage the upcoming 2011 competition. TBAQ have reported a solid continuation of bowlers from the Secondary Inter-school Challenge competition into the University Games’ Competition once they have left school.

Since its inception in 1993, the Australian University Games (AUG) has grown to be Australia’s largest annual multi-sport event, attracting over 6,000 participants each year. Held each September/October, the Games is renowned for providing a friendly but competitive environment for Australian University athletes. AUG is known as the flagship event on the national university sporting calendar. The Australian University Games 2009 was held at Gold Coast Superbowl with 24 teams (146 participants) competing over 5 days to find the 2009 AUG Tenpin Bowling Champions.

Universities represent an untapped resource for bowling centers to create social leagues. Over 80% of bowlers who compete in the Australian University Games continue bowling at their local center after the competition as they find it an enjoyable sport that can be played with friends on a social and competitive level.
Bowler Profile: Jason Belmonte

Birthday: 29th of July 1983
Star Sign: Leo
First Job: Orange Tenpin Bowl
First Paying Job: Blockbuster

The Reason I Bowl: I love the sport and it’s how I make a living

If I wasn’t a bowler I would be: Either a “B” grade movie critic or helping the family run the Orange Tenpin Bowl.

The Bowler I’d most like to partner in a double tournament: Chris Barnes
Sporting Hero: Roger Federer

My Proudest moment In my bowling career: Winning my first PBA Tour Title

Winning isn’t everything it’s: The reward for preparation

I would Like to Bowl Like : No-one else, I like the way I bowl.

I Can’t Get By Without: My wife and daughter

I Like to Watch On TV: My beloved West Tigers winning and Judge Judy.

I Like to Listen to: Everclear

I’m Happiest When : My daughter does everything for the first time.

Where I Would Like To Be In 10 Years: Right where I am now, with a couple more children and few more world/PBA titles.

The Tenpin Bowling Show

The Tenpin Bowling Show is now in its third year of production having commenced in March 2007 at Woodville, South Australia by filming league matches and having them shown on Adelaide Television. Interest in the program from interstate Television stations wanting access to the show soon followed. Showing just how far the program has come in 3 years, the Tenpin Bowling Show was nominated for the Best Sports Program Award at the 2010 Antenna Awards in Melbourne. The Antenna Awards recognise the work of producers, presenters and technical program makers across community television across Australia.

The Tenpin Bowling Show is now broadcast 12 times a week on Television in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide and Perth. Various editions of the show can be viewed on Australia’s in-house Bowling centre systems and is also available free via the internet, giving the sport live global coverage as the show is being simulcast over Sydney.

Today the show’s crew travels from coast to coast filming major Tournaments and Events with the intention of increasing public awareness of a sport that anyone can play, whether for fun, fitness, or serious competition at the international level.

As a result of Federal Government support the show can now be viewed in Full Widescreen Digital Stereo on Channel 44. The same capital city platform as ONE HD and GO! (Adelaide commences this November). The upgrade to Digital Transmission has resulted in an increase in both the number of viewers and picture quality, as the show continues to improve with every Tournament Broadcast.

Interbowl Australia is the show’s major sponsor with additional sponsorship coming from the ABPA and GOLPIN bowling centres. Show times and information from www.tenpinbowlingshow.com.au
After a long two-days Stephen Cowland and Lexi Nicoll from NSW took home the 2010 Tenpin SA Youth Masters. The duo fought off strong second day competitors South Australian’s Ashley Warren and Jen Jones also from NSW. Stephen and Ashley swapped the lead all day and never looked like being challenged from the other competitors. Stephen won the final 3-0 to take home his 3rd Australian Nationally Ranked Youth Title.

Lexi put on a second day charge and was dominant all day after a slow start to qualifying. In the final, however, Jen Jones took her to 5 games in a fantastic nail biting final. Lexi had to throw another 289 (and almost took home the Atticus Management Solutions $300 for 300) to beat a very competitive Jen.

Full results can be found on the Tenpin SA website www.tenpinsa.com.au or at www.tenpin.org.au. Tenpin SA would again like to thank its sponsors Nando’s, AMF Bowling, City South-side Real-estate, Atticus Management Solutions and the Woodville Bowlers Association.

Cowland & Nicoll win Tenpin SA Youth Masters

The South Australian President’s Shield Trials were held on 3rd & 4th July at AMF Norwood and AMF Cross Road. The team will be heading to Geelong, Victoria to improve on the bronze medal performance by the SA Boys Team in 2010.

The girls team includes veterans Sarah Bernhardt (Captain), Madeline Little, Shona Forbes, Amber Hutchison and first time President’s Shield Representatives Lisa Wilford, Kaitlyn Dallow and April Sims.

The boys team will be lead by second year Li-Sheng Yeoh (Captain) and includes his team mates from the bronze medal winning performance of Michael Taylor and Ethan Gill. The boys will be looking to better last years performance with the assistance of first timers Ryan Hall, Daniel Pellegrini, Mitchell Thiele and Michael Murray.

Tenpin SA wishes the team all the best for their preparations and hopes to see more medals come April 2011.

Want to Become a Coach?

Live in South Australia and want to become a coach? For further details contact State Coaching Co-ordinator Robert Alexander via email at rob_lyn@bigpond.net.au.

Dates for upcoming courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level One</td>
<td>6th November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level Two</td>
<td>Contact Robert Alexander</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next Junior Youth Circuit Event

AMF Norwood 19th September
Northern Territory TBA News

NT Tenpins called on by other sports as leaders in governance and strategic management

The NT Department of Sport and Recreation has called on sporting leader June Voukolos to speak at a series of workshops for all sports on strategic leadership and planning.

June spoke of the difficulty NT faced in this area in their early years of operation with the key to success having a clear vision, commitment to that vision and strong work ethic.

“Sporting groups should not limit themselves to what is available to sport but tap into corporate and private sector knowledge. Know your membership and the skills that are available to you” was the advice from June. She continued, “There are many challenges for all sports in today’s climate but having strong leadership, a solid strategic plan and a task list which is checked and followed make the day to day running of a State organisation much easier for the various committees and the general membership to understand”.

All policies and financials must be available to members and access to training for volunteers is a must. Volunteers are your best asset and must be nurtured and valued otherwise your association will not prosper.

The main challenge for the NT Tenpin Bowling Association in this 12 months is the ability to increase membership, in particular junior and youth bowlers.

TBA Western Australia News

WA Youth Teams named for TBA National Youth Championships in January 2011 at Werribee Superbowl

The roll off for the WA Youth Teams was held 28-29th of August. The teams of 4 are determined through a roll-off with the top 3 males and females automatically selected into the team. The fourth member of each team is selected by the State from those participating in the roll off. The team will undergo regular training and preparation sessions before heading to Werribee Superbowl in Victoria for the TBA National Youth Championships from 8th to 14th of January 2011. Congratulations to the following bowlers who made the team:

Male: Chris Watson, Mitch Marris, Aaron Stack, Troy Marshall
Female: Libby Embury, Teagan Nairn, Chelsea Oliver, Nicole Williams

Congratulations to Chris Watson who bowled a 300 during the roll-off averaging an impressive 215.5.

WA 2010 State Championship All Events Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Classic</th>
<th>(A)</th>
<th>(B)</th>
<th>(C)</th>
<th>(D)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male: Matt Jones</td>
<td>Lennon Smartt</td>
<td>Kevin Sheedy</td>
<td>Alexander Goh</td>
<td>Alan Lampard</td>
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<td>Female: Teagan Nairn</td>
<td>Brenda Kirkwood</td>
<td>Pearl Seet</td>
<td>Carmel Ipock</td>
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<td>Junior Male: Troy Marshall</td>
<td>Aaron MacDonald</td>
<td>Zane Crisa</td>
<td>Trystan Spooner</td>
<td>Brendan Ferreria</td>
<td>Caleb Churchill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Female: Libby Embury</td>
<td>Stephanie MacDonald</td>
<td>Khara Johnson-Smith</td>
<td>Kelsey Glazbrook</td>
<td>Michele Norwood</td>
<td>Ashlyn Mohr-Jones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tenpin Bowling Australia Ranked Tournaments

YOUTH RANKED TOURNAMENTS

SHARP PLYWOOD CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS: 13th/14th of November 2010 at AMF Kedron contact Jason Lambert email: amf_kedron@amfbowling.com.au

AMF BOWLING YOUTH CUP: 11th/12th of December 2010 at AMF Illawarra contact Craig Jeffrey email: amf_illawarra@amfbowling.com.au

OPEN RANKED TOURNAMENTS

AMF AUSTRALIAN MASTERS: 29th/30th of October 2010 at AMF Rooty Hill contact John Coxon email: john.coxon@tenpin.org.au

AMF AUSTRALIA CUP: 4th/5th of December 2010 at AMF Illawarra contact Craig Jeffrey email: amf_illawarra@amfbowling.com.au

WOMEN’S RANKED TOURNAMENTS

AMF AUSTRALIAN MASTERS: 29th/30th of October 2010 at AMF Rooty Hill contact John Coxon email: john.coxon@tenpin.org.au

SENIOR RANKED TOURNAMENTS

NATIONAL SENIORS CUP: 18th October 2010 at AMF Rooty Hill contact John Coxon email: john.coxon@tenpin.org.au

BURNDY ELECTRICAL SENIORS CUP: 20th/21st of November 2010 at Oz Tenpin Epping contact Jenny Weber email: jenny@oztenpin.com.au
The Exclusive 300 Club for 2010 July—September

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>State</th>
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<th>State</th>
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<td>Dean Crampton</td>
<td>AMF Belconnen</td>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>17/05/2008</td>
<td>Lee Wentworth</td>
<td>AMF Ashmore</td>
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<td>6/08/2010</td>
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<td>Robert Petersen</td>
<td>Innisfail</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>2/02/2010</td>
<td>Mitch Marris</td>
<td>AMF Cannington</td>
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<td>Edmond-Jon Starkey</td>
<td>Innisfail</td>
<td>QLD</td>
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<td>Jay Palmer</td>
<td>AMF Mt Gravatt</td>
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<td>Dustbowl</td>
<td>NT</td>
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<td>David Flynn</td>
<td>Ashmore</td>
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<td>Paul White</td>
<td>Werribee</td>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>7/06/2010</td>
<td>Zac Kemp</td>
<td>Strathpine</td>
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<td>Chloe Harradine Hale</td>
<td>Fairfield 7-10 Split</td>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>12/06/2010</td>
<td>Stephen Montgomery</td>
<td>Super Bowl Melville</td>
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<td>AMF Cannington</td>
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<td>Clinton Phelps</td>
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<td>Kira Cheeseman</td>
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<td>Matthew Brittain</td>
<td>AMF Noarlunga</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>8/07/2010</td>
<td>Shaun Dunn</td>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>QLD</td>
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<td>Andrew Lloyd</td>
<td>Campbelltown</td>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>20/07/2010</td>
<td>Chris Watson</td>
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<td>Rikki Reid</td>
<td>Aspley</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>22/07/2010</td>
<td>David Altmann</td>
<td>Great Ocean Road</td>
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<td>Damian McAndrew</td>
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<td>AMF Castle Hill</td>
<td>NSW</td>
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<td>Mitchell Hennessy</td>
<td>Mt Warren Lanes</td>
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<td>Rhys McCormick</td>
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<td>5/08/2010</td>
<td>Lyall Gunn</td>
<td>AMF Moonah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Negus</td>
<td>Strathpine</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>5/08/2010</td>
<td>Tony Hamilton</td>
<td>ASpley Tenpin Bowl</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>14/092010</td>
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Jarrod Langford

Jarrod Langford aged 13, had his work cut out for him in the 2010 Mackay Open bowling against bowlers like George Frilingos, Jon King and Robbie Buckley. Jarrod who averaged 212 to make the match play followed up with an impressive 215 in the match play section to finish in 9th position overall.

Jarrod started bowling at 6 years old when he joined a league at Burdekin bowl in North Queensland. Jarrod’s short term goal is to defend the NQ Open Boys Masters title and perform well at the Junior Nationals at Geelong in 2011. Ultimately Jarrod would love to bowl professionally and represent Australia.

When asked what thoughts were going through his head whilst competing in the Mackay Open, Jarrod replied, “I was bowling with all these great Australian Bowlers who I have heard so much about and I just wanted to do well for myself but especially for my parents who have allowed me to bowl in both junior tournaments across Australia and open tournaments in North Queensland”. Jarrod has a few heroes including “George Frilingos because he is a left handed champion, Carl Bottomley for his concentration and Brandon Qualischefski for the help and encouragement he has given me with my bowling”.

Jarrod would like to thank Angelo Nucifora for his inspiration and Burdekin Bowl manager Geoff Ott.
On The Lane With Chris Batson

Changing Ball Reaction Using Varying Finger Positions

In today's world where it is not uncommon for an average bowler to bring 8 balls just to bowl league, a very important skill is quickly becoming lost and that is the fine art of varying releases and hand positions. With different releases you can make a strong hooking ball go straight or a very weak coverstock hook the lane. But that is the extreme of what a talented bowler with a good hand can do. In this article I am going to talk more about how you can fine tune your ball reaction by using different finger positions. Used effectively this can greatly increase your carry percentage as well as give you easier spares to shoot at. Try each of the finger positions below and pay close attention to your ball reaction.

First let’s look at the position of your index finger. That little guy can make a pretty big difference in your ball reaction. I suggest you start with your index finger spread in a comfortable position. Keep your little finger flat on the ball and tight against your ring finger. I call this our "base" finger position and the one to start with. Begin by throwing a few shots to get a good idea of your ball reaction. Notice not only how much the ball hooks but the shape of the hook.

Now spread the index finger wider and throw it again. In most cases that will give you a stronger back end reaction. Sometimes that alone is enough to get the 10 pin out or make the ball "turn the corner" a little harder when you need it to. Just by moving this index finger in and out a half inch at a time you can fine tune your ball reaction.

Now try pulling your index finger in closer to your middle finger but leave just a little space. This is less spread than our "base" starting position. For most people it is best not to pull the finger all the way in tight against your middle finger, because the ball can feel a little unstable in your hand. So leave just a little space. This time when you throw the ball it will go longer down the lane with a less pronounced back end reaction. You can use this when your line just starts to dry out or you just need to get the ball further down the lane before it hooks.

Both fingers are in. You may want to leave just a little more space between your index and your middle than this picture shows.
Now let’s look at the little finger. It can work in concert with the index finger to give you different ball reactions. With the index finger in the middle “base” position or a little wider and the little finger spread wide your ball will have a much weaker back end reaction. If you watch the pro’s on TV you will see them use this position a lot, if not most of the time. It causes the ball to have a back end reaction that diminishes as it gets closer to the head pin. In most cases you don’t want the ball to just keep hooking and hooking. This not only can cause bad pin carry but the ball can also be much harder to control.

Both fingers are spread. A common position used by the professionals.

Next let’s slide the index finger in and leave the little finger spread wide. This will give you more end over end roll and take a lot of hook off of the ball. This is good to use when the lanes are hooking too much or you need to play a very direct down and in line. If you really need to get behind the ball then try also to roll the ball more with the little finger.

How do I roll the ball with the little finger when it’s not in a hole? Well what I mean is, guide the ball with the little finger. Make your little finger go toward your target and feel your little finger come up the back of the ball. If you have never tried it, you will be amazed how much you can change the roll on a ball just by rolling it more with the little finger or index finger. You can also squeeze ever so slightly with your ring finger in the hole and lead and roll the ball more with that finger than the middle finger to yet again change your roll and ball reaction. The same goes for your middle finger.

For our next trick let’s try curling the little finger under and spread our index finger wide. To curl your little finger just bend it at the first joint so the ball will be next to the finger nail. This can be a little painful the first few times you try it. But most people adjust to the feeling with some practice. Now when you roll your next ball it will tend to go longer down the lane but hook strongly on the back end. This is not for everyone as some people do experience pain in the hand or fingers. If that happens to you then give this option a miss.

Notice I have not made mention of changing your revs or release in any way but only changing your finger positions. This allows for fine tuning your ball reaction to help it match up better with the lane and knock down more pins. To be able to use these finger positions effectively, you must practice them and understand what they do for you.
“Would You Believe”

Bob wanted to start bowling, so his friend Fred decided to go ahead and teach him about having to line his feet up with the centre pin, next roll the ball down and try to knock down the pins. But DO NOT knock all of them down, because they cheat you out of your second ball!!!!

Beach Tenpin Bowling

The appeal of the Australian summer and the beach does not stop tenpin bowling and the advantage of bowling bare feet is allowed, the lanes are free, and there’s an unlimited supply of pins!

**What You Need** * Plastic Cups  * Ball

1. Make 10 pins by filling a cup with moist sand (add water if the sand is too dry to hold shape). Carefully turn the cup over and lift it off. Create the pins in a triangle with one pin in front, two pins in the next row, three in the next and four in the back row.

2. Draw a line in the sand about 2 or 3 metres from the pins. Take turns standing behind the line and rolling a softball or other small ball towards the pins to knock them over. Each player gets to roll the ball twice.

3. Count how many pins you knock over, set them up again and keep score in the sand.

**Bowling Glossary**

Beer Frame: In team play, when all players strike, the one who doesn’t must treat (usually liquid refreshments). May also be the low scorer in a designated frame (often the 7th frame).

Clothesline: The 1-2-4-7 or 1-3-6-10

Do you have a great story to share? If so, we’d love to hear from you. Drop us an email at tenpin.bowling@tenpin.org.au