

Arlington Dental Bowling Team 2007-2008

Dawning of a new bowling league

*You guys wanted a newsletter. Well you got it!
As they say, be careful what you ask for! ☺*

Wow! It's only the first week of the season and what a historic news-filled night it was!

The Highlights section is the real short version. But if you only read this part, there will be a quiz. And if you fail, well...let's just say Ryan is waiting in the wings!!

The Highlights:

- We were accused of bowling too slow last year. A few teams were unhappy and another threatened to pull out of the league if we didn't do something about it.
- The Knights of Columbus League is now defunct, over, finished, it no longer exists.
- All five remaining teams folded into the Friday Night Men's League that bowled next to us.
- We bowled Glueckert (not sure if that's still their name anymore). I do believe we lost five points.
- We still had a blast!
- Yes, Bill....there was a 'line of the night'.

The Business of Bowling:

Okay so let's take a few steps back and review what got us here.

In my humble opinion, this all started a few years ago when for some reason we developed a target on our back. I know Lee does not agree, and that's fine. But, remember I'm the author! So, my opinion is the only one that counts right now! ☺

Anyway, what really got the ball rolling was the second half of last year. Remember during the first half we really did not bowl great, but we managed to stay within ten points of Toyoda, the first place winner. Then we "turned it up a notch" and really got on a roll. After losing three times by a score of 7-0 to L&O, we turned things around and beat them three straight times: 5-2, 7-0, and 7-0 in the second half. The rumblings from L&O started during the second match, but it really picked up steam the last match when we got in to that big argument. I said it before, and I'll say it again, they are sore losers, and so is just about everyone else in that league, with the exception of maybe a hand full of guys.

Personally, I have bowled the same my whole life. As a kid I was in some pretty intense high school tournaments and was in a HUGE big-time money league. And you know what?! NO ONE ever complained about the speed of play. On top of that if anyone in our league knew bowling etiquette, which is "two lanes over", we wouldn't take so long.

Anyway after winning it all last year, I guess a few teams just could not handle it. So, they joined together and forced Tom's hand. Their demand was, "either Arlington Dental bowls faster or we won't stay in the league." So, Tom was left with no choice but to bring this up.

First he called Lee on Monday to tell him the problem. Lee told me at around 6:30 just before I walked into the alley on Friday. Mark showed up a little after 6:30. Tom barely said hello and basically jumped at Mark asking if we had a team meeting. When Mark asked why, he

told him because we need to speed up play. Obviously Mark had no idea what Tom was talking about.

Now mind you, I know most of this is centered on me. And that's just fine. They can say all they want it's the entire team, but I know the biggest focus is on me. But, Tom did NOT have the balls to confront me face-to-face, man-to-man. He has my phone number, because I've talked to him before about the league. That to me is weak.

With that in mind, last week Phil sent out a note to Mark, Lee and me pretty much stating the status of our league, which was that this would probably be the last season of its existence. We would either be going with four five-man teams or five four-man teams because of so many teams continuously losing guys. He also stated, and again this goes the total and complete lack of character and integrity he has, that we could NOT join the other league this year because it was too late. That was obviously a bold faced lie! What else is new?

Anyway, Tom called a league meeting at around 7:15 on Friday before we started. Of course the very first topic was our slow bowling. I think we all did a great job of taking the high road on this, because I for one could have very easily gone off. But, I left it up to Lee, who gave a perfect non-committal answer of "we'll see what we can do to speed things up. This was after Rich from Gangi said he spoke for the entire league while stating his stance. Whatever. This coming from a guy who runs up to the alley, grabs his ball, never looks to his right or left, and goes. I want to see him do this in the new league.

Then the important topic, which to me should have been discussed first, because it made the first discussion a moot point, was brought up; that being the status of the league. One of the options he gave us WAS to join the other league. Again, I bit my tongue because I was DYING to say... "Phil said it was too late." Anyway, after a league vote the majority ruled to join the other league.

All I have to say is... Thank GOD! And bring it on!!! Finally, the whining, sniveling, pain in the ass league is over with. Sustaining this league for even one more year would have only delayed the inevitable. Honestly guys, if the league would have voted to stay together, I would have suggested we leave anyway. But, the vote took care of that.

This was all about jealousy, plain and simple. It's really sad that grown men have to carry on like that. I would have loved to hear Art in that meeting.

Anyway, I guarantee, as sure as I am typing this that the ONLY complaints that will come from this new league about the new teams will be around the guys that do NOT follow proper bowling etiquette of waiting at least two lanes down. The other complaint will be about L&O trying to sandbag or losing interest. Well, they can't sandbag in the beginning because they have a rule that prevents that. Bottom line is, NO ONE will complain about how we bowl. On top of that, I bet most of the other teams will enjoy bowling us more than anyone else.

Let's have some fun and enjoy the ride. This is a good thing for us. Now it's time to see how good we really are.

About the new league, here is what we know and what we don't know.

- There are 14 teams.
- Each team consists of a 7-man roster. No more.
- Our roster is: Mark, Lee, Pete, Art, Brad, Chris, Bill
- The handicap is 100% of 210. This makes it more competitive.
- The cost is \$20 per man per week.

- They mystery pot is \$2 and has NOTHING to do with how well you bowl. It's a simple drawing. The scores are 120 through 300. If you bowl the score that is picked, you win the money. If no one wins, it gets rolled over.
- There is some other pot, but no one is sure what it is. We'll have to ask.
- We do not know if there is a free substitution rule, meaning someone from another team can bowl for you. I am guessing no, because they had never heard of this.
- We don't know if there are two halves to the year.
- We don't know how the play-offs work or how the champion is determined.
- The league stats are compiled and tracked by the Beverly Lanes staff via computer. (So, no one can cheat. Was that a cheap shot?)
- All results will be on their web site.

How We Did

This league will definitely be a challenge. But, I think it will be fun. All of us so far seem pretty excited. With fourteen teams to deal with and a hell of a lot more quality bowlers to compete against, this will definitely show how good we really are.

Through experience, I can tell you be patient. It's going to take a while to get used to the new competition and the new league. Just go out bowl and have fun! Forget who we are bowling against or what lane we are on. Talk to each other and keep each other up.

The new 100% handicap of 210 is definitely an advantage to the lower quality teams. So, when we are giving pins, we need to be careful.

Anyway, we bowled Glueckert, and for sure we only took 2 out of 5 points. It's early yet, so no biggie.

After looking at the scores, I realize the ONLY guy to not chip in a 200 game was me. Geez, even Chris got one! Nice going everyone.

Brad already seems to be mid-season form with two 200 games. Bowling in that summer league sure helped. Keep it up!

Bowling Comic Relief:

Okay, now that we've gotten through the bullshit, let's have some fun.

We're going to call this new segment, "*Bill's Line of the Night*", because he asked for it. This time it goes to Chris.

After Brad had a really tough frame, he came back looking for a fist from his brother, who refused and practically knocked him over with this classic.

"You don't deserve to touch my hand with that pathetic shit"

Mark and I had a fun conversation about the show Ghost Hunters. What you don't know what that is? Shame on you! The season premiere is Wednesday 9/26 on the Sci Fi Channel. Anyway, we found out that Lee has someone's ashes in his garage, and he doesn't even know who it is. We also found out:

He will NOT touch or move the ashes.

He is sometimes afraid of things that go bump in the night!!

He can't watch Ghost Hunters late at night either!!

Brad gets credit for the most disgusting story. Ask him about the guy whose balls are so big they covered an entire can!!

Did you know Brad went shopping for furniture and came home with a "voice changer" instead! What? Hey, I don't make this shit up. Just ask him.

Chris came up with the great idea of Jager shots to kick off the season. Mark was generous enough to comply. Hmmmm... how does that work? If it's your idea, then you don't have to pay? Anyway, the shots went down very nicely, which triggered this comment from me,
"I wish I could say I didn't enjoy that, but I can't"

Jenna came through with some home baked goodies: cookies and some Rice Krispie treats that included Chocolate Krispies! After Mark jammed about a fistful of this stuff in his mouth, Chris asked,

"Is this how you show your patients to take care of their teeth?"
To which Mark replied, "Do as I say, not as I do!"
Typical dentist!!
Thanks for the treats Jenna!!!

That's all for now boys.

Future Lineups

This of course can change if someone needs off. Just remember, we only have 7 bowlers this year.

9/14: Pete, Lee, Mark, Chris, Bill

9/21: Pete, Art, Brad, Chris, Bill

9/28: Lee, Mark, Brad, Chris, Bill

10/5: Pete, Lee, Art, Mark, Brad