

Technology Anyone

It is kind of amazing and a little bit humorous on reflection how initial impressions of 5 Pin Technology are received. Once upon a time there were pinsetters and then there were none. The original belief was averages would climb quickly because the game would be faster and the pins some how would be placed more accurately. The game is faster but certainly not during tournament team play where games now take as much as seventy-five minutes to complete.

And for prosperity nothing beats the one two punch of computer scoring and glow bowling. Computer scoring, wow this will bring the crowds' in and it did. It also spawned the beginning of a generation or two unable to 'keep score'. Comparing the pre glow bowl era to our current time open play has grown more than just a couple of notches. Something that many thought was a fad has now endured almost twenty years! Glow bowl may just have been one of the nails in the coffin of league play. League play numbers are down, and open play continues to boom.

Before the arrival of personal bowling balls part of the fun for league bowlers was in getting to the lanes early enough so that you got first dibs on that ball you used last week. Remember the resignation felt knowing your game was headed to the dump just because you could not find that special ball – rats!

The personal bowling ball is alive and well but not so much for its original belief. Initially the general albeit naïve consensus was that individual averages would be catapulted to obscene heights but of course there has been no obscenity, with averages climbing only minimally. To that end I have found what has turned out to be a terrific measure of confidence AND resiliency. The challenge is to throw house balls alternating with your own and be consistent with either. IF the ball is of the same weight as your personal ball the use of a house ball may in the long effect your productivity and score but not in the short term.

The most recent advancement lets call it pin enhancement. Not likely to make the same lasting impression as those human enhancements some rush out for but nonetheless this pin enhancement has a body of research that says the enhancement is a good idea.

The Bowling Proprietors of Canada known as Bowl Canada are always on the lookout for methods to enhance the bowler experience. Most recently the proprietors have marketed a new pin that stands approximately 1 inch taller than its predecessor. The benefit has been that ball pin impact has been altered. Raising the pin now means that the ball hits lower on the pin rubber. This new hit dynamic has led to the pin deflection staying down (less tendency to fly around). Early research has shown approximately a 3-8% improvement in game score. On its own it does not seem like that big a deal but the reality is with this pin there has been an increase in the overall number of spareable shots, hence the opportunity to increase scoring. One prime example within the competitive rank and file can be found at the recent Tournament Players Championship

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in Edmonton, formerly the Rose Bowl of Five Pin. The host centre Callingwood Lanes, installed the enhanced pin this summer. The results were quite stunning!

The T.P.C. tournament format leads to the top thirty-two advancing to a double round match play format. Of this year's top thirty-two – thirty produced a qualifying average over 270! Nineteen bowlers were over 280, and five averaged in excess of 290. Compare those stats to 2010 and the difference is remarkable. In 2010 only eight bowlers averaged over 280 during qualifying AND NOBODY qualified with an average higher than 287!