

TOURNAMENT REPORT

The 2009-2010 Season is well underway and our divisions and players are all participating in different ways. We have endeavoured with planning to put together a program that is varied and allows us to work with our sponsors and members through their ongoing verbal, survey and workshop feedback. Although we have already initiated planning for next season, we are limited with the fact that the bowling calendar is not completed until July when the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers Association and the Bowl Canada/Ontario conventions have been completed and their calendars set.

We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Special Olympics Ontario event. We were able to highlight some of our previous winners on the Saturday night and again had a full field for the tournament on the Sunday. Rayad Mohammed and his partner Cory Clark were named Champions. Comments from our MBO Members and parents and families of the Special Olympians have reinforced our belief that this event is one that should not be missed as it brings home a meaning of competition where the event and competition itself and coming together as friends are what are really important. Following last year's feedback following re-introduction of the Doubles tournament, we made some changes and ran a successful event. 35 teams participated. Kassie Blesses and Mitch Davies won the event.

The Teaching Events continue to be a huge success so far this year with only a slight decrease in participation in both the Western and Central Tournaments. This is the third year we have run a combined event at our New Year's Classic. Everyone participating had a good time and although the date was a little earlier this year due to the way the Christmas holidays fell, we are looking forward to continuing with this event and watching participation grow.

With the declining YBC membership, we are hearing from the field that it is becoming more difficult to field teams and therefore, participation with masters is declining. The board and tournament committee has put a format together for next season whereby we hope we can sustain our membership as well as provide an opportunity for as many youth bowlers to participate as possible. We are changing these events to a Fall Master Youth Event and a Spring Master Youth event. It is hoped that by expanding the qualification across both groups it will allow us to meet these needs.

Our Tournament division continues to try new things to meet the ever changing needs of our elite players. The board continues to canvas past and present players to understand the pros and cons of changes we've implemented to understand what would make the Tournament tour more appealing to more players. Unfortunately, we had hoped to get a combined tournament off the ground with our neighbouring province of Quebec but due to changes in their leadership, this has had to be deferred. However, we are in ongoing discussions with the Quebec organization and hope to be able to offer this unique tournament next season.

Jeffrey Allen continues to sponsor an event. We thank Ron Roeder and his Nith Valley Construction Company for their contributions at the Thanksgiving Classic. Sandi Dickson and Bradford Bowl supported the association with a stop on the seniors tour and sponsorship dollars towards a tournament event. Controlling costs of these events is always a challenge and we'd like to thank those proprietors who assist us with reduced lineage, not only in the Tournament division but all events run through the Association.

We did introduce the ability for a non-member to participate in Tournament Division events. Although at the time of writing this, we have yet to see anyone take advantage of the field being opened, it is hoped that we will see some at our Jeffrey Allan event at the end of January.

The Seniors Division continues to be strong and the competition at these events continues to be very good. Players of this division have enjoyed the events and time to get together with friends from many years. It is always nice to see everyone out in our Seniors Division. We want to thank Sid Morris for his continued support of the %Sidney L. Morris Seniors Tour+and look forward to a strong relationship with Sid for many years to come. As a reminder, during this upcoming RRSP Season, if you are looking for some financial planning, Sid would be very happy to arrange a meeting with you.

Finally our YBC Rookie Tour has been supported by a very dedicated group of YBC Seniors who come out and enjoyed the many tournaments that we offer. The chance to bowl with Master Bowlers appeals to many of these young up and coming players. We believe that the discipline of our rules, dress code and conduct sets a standard that we are all proud to share with our youth.

In closing, on behalf of Brenda Pankoff, the MBAO President, Dave Johnson, our Director of Operations, and the rest of your Board of Directors, I wish you all continued success for the remainder of this season and for those of you who are working on making National Teams, the very best of luck. We truly appreciate your support, feedback and new ideas to help us continue to offer an Association we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

Kelly Martin
Chair, Tournament Committee