

MASTER BOWLERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This report allows us to reflect on this past year and to highlight the initiatives that the board has undertaken. In response to the ongoing concern by our membership to try and get our Annual report into your hands as early as possible and with the fact that most of our members have access to the internet, we have elected to provide this report mainly by email and website. A few hard copies will be available at the zone meetings and will be sent to those masters who have indicated that they would like hard copies. The Financials will be made available at the Zone Meeting.

This year we underwent a change in our Master Youth Events in response to a decline in the YBC numbers. Although there was a slight decline in the overall participation in this event, it appears that with the feedback received thus far that we have met the needs of allowing Masters to participate with youth from their own centres. It appears that the atmosphere of having Bantams and Juniors participate with one another was also positive.

Dave Johnson has continued as our Director of Operations and this year has been very busy with Revenue Canada through an accounting firm in processing Voluntary Disclosure with respect to the GST/HST. In the past, as a non-profit organization we have been provided with conflicting information as to whether we were required to collect the GST/HST and therefore, have not filed according to advice provided. However, Dave attended a seminar in the fall where it became apparent that we should be doing so. We would like to thank him for his efforts in processing us to be up to date with respect to the HST. Unfortunately, this has come at a cost to our association but in going forward, we will have the proper procedures in place for this. He also continues to work diligently with our Treasurer Brenda Walters in overseeing our finances.

We continue to pursue the following goals:

Membership . We continue to support our membership as teaching, tournament and senior members as well as unaffiliated masters along with the YBC rookies and what each group offers for the association. We are also hoping to be able to offer some kind of incentive for masters bringing in new masters or having masters return who have been out for awhile and hope to have the details ready for the AGM. Our Years of Service Program continues to roll out as we update our database and we thank Fraser for his ongoing efforts in this endeavor.

Coaching . The competitive coach program has been approved and is now rolling out in the field and our office will assist in this process. You will find further information under the coaching report.

For promotion, we have launched a page on Facebook and hope that this will allow us to enhance our promotion through our website as well as build a social network for our members as well as others who may be interested in our association.

We also rely heavily on our Zone Delegates to assist with promotion of our association and events in their local areas and we thank them for their efforts with this.

At our AGM last year, the members asked that we bring to the MBAC a motion regarding sending a separate singles representative in the Teaching Division. This was discussed in January at the MBAC national meeting and was defeated due to a number of reasons including the extra cost involved, the increase in number of lane beds required and also a concern regarding having these bowlers participate on a national scale individually. It was felt that they much preferred the team environment. However, there was thought given to the idea of having a stepladder final for the singles and this will be discussed further in July.

Liaison . We continue to meet with Bowl Ontario and the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers Association with respect to our game of 5 pin bowling and the successes and challenges we face. Our association is dependent in a number of ways on both of these organizations. Unfortunately with the decline in the number of centres joining Bowl Ontario, this is impacting our access to youth bowlers in YBC programs and going forward we will need to review this.

Tournaments

We continue to offer a variety of events for our membership including scratch events, POA events, combined events, youth events, Rookie Tour events and Senior events. These events continue to be well attended. We also offer the opportunity to all groups to come together to participate in such events as the Doubles Event, the Special Olympics-MBAO event, the New YearsqClassic and the Master Senior.

Again this year, we have trialed opening the tournament division events to a non-master to expose them to the association. There will be no ring awarded to non-members. We have had a number of bowlers take advantage of this and we had one from last season join us this year as a master.

Henry Fehr, our Tournament Director continues to assist with the ongoing delivery of the tournaments. Our Zone Delegates are an integral part of our association and each board member is linked with a zone delegate to support them as they bring our voice to the field. We pride ourselves that our events are run in a professional fashion and this begins with the work of Dave in the office and continues with the various tournament staff we utilize throughout the season. Our programs would not be as strong without these individuals and we are grateful for their efforts on behalf of the MBAO.

Operational Initiatives

We continually review and monitor our operational finances in order to optimize the revenue and decrease the expenses. We are also undertaking a review of the fees we charge for our events in light of the HST and this will include the national assessment fees charged.

Fundraising Initiatives - The Pro Am and the Year End Elimination Draw remain key fundraising initiatives for our association and both contribute significantly to our bottom line. With the HST now factoring in, our revenues from our membership has been decreased along with our decrease in numbers so these events become even more important
I strongly encourage all masters to participate in purchasing an Elimination Year End ticket and in selling Pro Am tickets either through an individual kit, a zone kit or a bowling centre kit.

Sponsorship: Our sponsors continue to be one of the key supporters of our game. These sponsors are brought to our association through the marketing efforts of Walter Heeney as well as through board members and MBO members. This year we thank and welcome Don Walker and Pla Mor Lanes in St. Catharines for their upcoming sponsorship of the Dorothy Walker Memorial tournament. While we are limited to one shift for this season, we are hoping to expand participation for next season. Orleans Bowling Centre and Jonathan Piche have also come on board this season for sponsorship of our Eastern Optional Event. Our other sponsors are: Jeff Chaplin of Jeffrey Allan and Associates Inc. continue to provide our jewellery and awards; Nith Valley Construction continued to sponsor our first Tournament Division event held at Waterloo Lanes; Echo Bowl for their sponsorship of the Western Ontario Event; NEBS in Oshawa for their support at the New Year's Classic and Master Senior Event in May; Phipps Bowling and Softroll are continuing as a sponsor for our Master Youth Events and we thank Steve Phipps for becoming involved in our program; Parkway Bowl for their sponsorship of the Bursary Tournament and our future members; Special Olympics Ontario, Anna Swartzman and Shoppers Drug Mart for our Special Olympics and MBO event, Sanders Pro Distributing who provide us with a pair of Dexter Shoes each year.

Individual Sponsors are also much appreciated and we would like to acknowledge Bresser Construction Management Limited (Phil Winter), Little Ceasars Pizza (Barb Wray).

This past season we partnered again with the Down Syndrome Association of Ontario through both of our Master youth events. In the Fall Master Youth event, we raised \$1355.50 and we look forward to further participation at the Spring Master zone roll offs in February. Bowling Sales of Canada added their support through gift certificates to the top fundraisers during the Down Syndrome Family days held in Ontario. We would like to thank all the zones that participated in this fundraiser.

Year End: Last year we revived our year end banquet as an opportunity for our members to come together for a meal and to properly congratulate and recognize our past champions and national contingent members. This banquet was well received by the members in attendance and allowed the evening time frame with the recognition to advance nicely. There were some concerns raised over a meal offered by the hotel the same night and we have provided the hotel with feedback regarding this. This year, we have opted to offer the banquet again and are in the process of finalizing the menu and details. Tickets will be made available over the next couple of tournaments and we encouraged everyone to purchase a ticket and sit down as a group as we celebrate our members and their success.

I would like to thank everyone for their support, their feedback and their ongoing contributions to our association. The association can only be as strong as its members and on behalf of the board we thank you for the interest you take.

Good luck to everyone in the remaining events this season and I look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM.

Yours in Bowling,

Brenda Pankoff
President