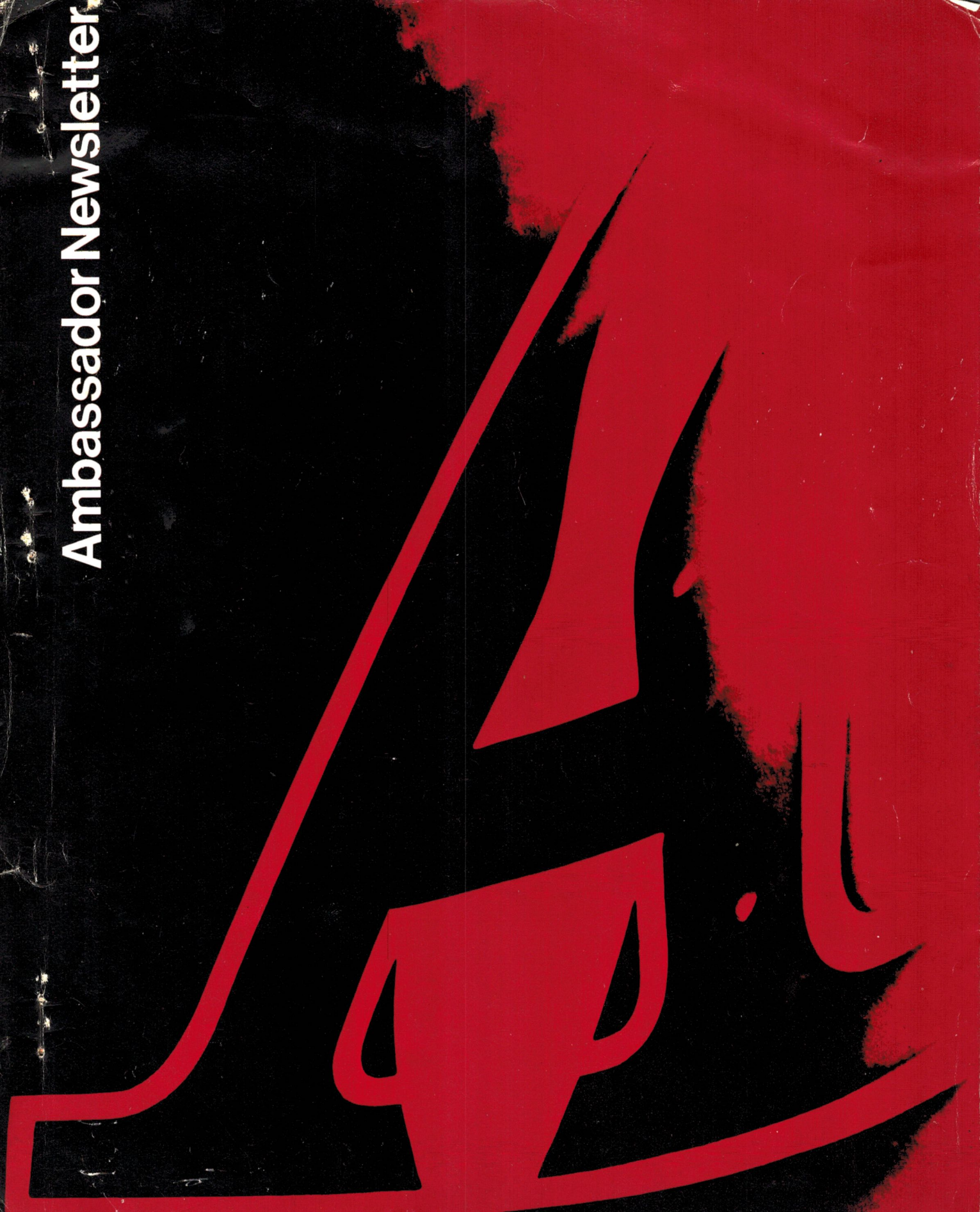


**Ambassador Newsletter**



NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OFAMBASSADOR BOWLING LIMITED

On behalf of the Board of Ambassador Bowling Limited, I take this opportunity of wishing all members of Ambassador's Staff, and all patrons of Ambassador Bowling Centres a happy New Year.

Tenpin Bowling has established itself as one of England's leading participation leisure time activities and much of the pleasure that is derived from it, depends on the enthusiasm of the many volunteers throughout the country who are responsible for organising league activity. Ambassador Bowling Limited would particularly like to convey its hearty good wishes to the League Secretaries and other League Officers whose hard work and keenness has contributed so much to the enjoyment of others.

To all connected with the wonderful sport of Tenpin Bowling, best wishes for a happy and prosperous 1966.



L.S. Michael  
Managing Director  
Ambassador Bowling Limited

AROUND HEAD OFFICE

Head Office are pleased to announce two more for the marriage stakes. First to get engaged was the latest addition to the Accounts Department, Brian Nuttgens, and last week old chatterbox herself, Lyn Timms. Congratulations to them both, and to the lucky people involved..... Could the next be our very own Keith Axon?

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Congratulations also go to Miss Jean Chapman, Accounts and Diane Cope, Wages, on reaching the ripe old age of 21.

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THE LONDON TENPIN BOWLING LEAGUE

The Promotions Department are now providing the London Tenpin Bowling League with a Records & Results Service. Throughout the season teams playing in the League have had difficulty in obtaining results on time, and at a meeting of Team Captains at Streatham on the 12th December, Ambassador made an offer, unanimously accepted, to provide the Secretarial Service for the second half of the season.

After deduction of purely basic costs, the Company will be making a trophy presentation to the League with the balance of the 6d. a week per bowler Secretarial fee.

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SUCCESS FOR AMBASSADOR LEAGUE BOWLERS

IN LARGEST EVER

LONDON AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Heroes of a fabulous London Area Tournament, held at Brunswick's London Airport Bowl, were Ena Grant and Nick Verneti, winners of the Ladies and Men's All Events titles. Both are regular bowlers at Hounslow.

In all Hounslow's League Bowlers won seven titles out of a possible sixteen.

After the first day's play, Wimpy Ambassadors, Captained by Johnny Jones, were leading in the team division, but were eventually beaten by the Hi-Los, an American Servicemen's Team from West Ruislip.

Highlight in the Ladies Division was the superb bowling by 13-year-old Sue Winter, who, partnered by Denise Russell, won the Ladies Doubles - both are from Hounslow.

The number of entries totalled 905 - well up on last year's total when the tournament was held at Edgware. Although no National Records were broken, scores ran very high and Tony Collendan from Slough, currently topping the London League averages, had the high game with 276. High series - 656 - went to young Phil Russell from Wembley. Joe Kilian, winner of the Scratch All Events title carried a 200+ average over the nine games, this was the first tournament Joe had entered since being invited to join the Brunswick Jets.

PROVISIONAL WINNERS

Men's Handicap Division

Singles -	P. Russell	- Wembley
Doubles -	M. Lee, D. Russell	- Hounslow
Team -	The Hi-Los	- West Ruislip
All Events -	N. Verneti	- Hounslow

Men's Scratch Division

Singles -	P. Russell	- Wembley
Doubles -	T. Collendan, F. Earis	- Slough
Team -	Debonairs	- Hounslow
All Events -	J. Kilian	- Hounslow

Ladies Handicap Division

Singles -	D. Miles	- Airport
Doubles -	S. Winter, D. Russell	- Hounslow
Team -	Squaws	- Streatham
All Events -	E. Grant	- Hounslow

Ladies Scratch Division

Singles -	D. Miles	- Airport
Doubles -	S. Winter, D. Russell	- Hounslow
Team -	Brunswick Jetabelles	- Stamford Hill
All Events -	D. Miles	- Airport

3 for 2

With five weeks left in the present thirteen week campaign, a total of 9,626 vouchers have been handed in at our ten Centres. It is calculated that 6,650 books containing nearly 100,000 vouchers were received by League Bowlers and Club Members. The return to date amounts to 9.6% of the whole - quite an encouraging figure when it is remembered that the average direct mail return is in the region of 6%.

It is also interesting to note that the Centres with lower percentage returns are those in which the distribution was made to Club Members, which seems to indicate that many of our Club Members are not, in fact, active bowlers.

Centre by Centre:

	<u>Vouchers in circulation</u>	<u>Vouchers returned</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Basildon	11,500	870	7.6
Edware	16,000	1,320	8.2
Harlow	3,000	412	13.7
Hemel Hempstead	16,000	1,721	10.7
Hounslow	13,500	1,590	11.8
Ipswich	11,500	788	6.8
Liverpool	4,500	512	11.4
Portsmouth	6,250	281	4.5
Stevenage	8,000	281	3.5
Wolverhampton	9,750	1,851	19.0
Overall	100,000	9,626	9.6

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## A PRICE LIST

Following Catering Controller, Bob Miller's interesting Christmas article on the choice of wines, we thought it would be interesting to print some sample prices from the 1909 price list of his family firm of Robert Miller, a Wine, Spirit and Bottled Beer Merchant in Ipswich. The firm was founded by Bob's Grandfather in 1880.

A beautifully printed list includes Ports from 1/- to 4/- a bottle. A Good Pale Sherry at 1/- a bottle and a "Very Choice" Sherry at 4/-. Clarets from 1/- to 2/- a bottle. Burgundy from 2/6 to 3/6 for a quart flagon. "Very Good" Brandy 3/- a bottle. Three Star Brandy 4/6 a bottle. "Very Good" Irish Whiskey 2/3 a bottle. Branded Irish Whiskey 4/- a bottle. "Very Good" Scotch Whisky 2/3 a bottle. Teachers 4/- a bottle. "Very Good" Gin 2/3 a bottle, Nicholsons Dry Gin 3/- a bottle. Cobbolds Light Bitter Ale 1 pints at 2/- a dozen. A gallon jar of Bullards Celebrated Beer at 1/-.

There is an interesting footnote reading:

"Bottles, Cases, Jars, Syphons and Casks are not included in the following prices and must be returned within a reasonable time, or will be charged for.

Five percent discount is allowed for Cash on Wines, Spirits, Bottled Ales and Stouts, on orders value 10/- and above that amount."

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## TWO FUTURE EVENTS

On Wednesday the 19th January, A.T.V. will be making two half-hour television recordings at Edware, of Jackpot Bowling, for transmission on, as yet, undecided future dates. It is hoped that all the bowlers taking part will be from Ambassador Centres. The two shows will again be compered by Shaw Taylor.

Sunday the 6th March is the proposed date for the 3rd Annual Ipswich England v. Ipswich South Dakota U.S.A. Tenpin Bowling match, a 2 x 5-man team handicap event. Ambassador Ipswich are very much hoping for a victory this year, after two 5-3 defeats, and with averages at the Centre ever improving, victory seems to be in sight.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LOW MAN ON TEAM WITH 238

The all time league high game record was set on April 14th, 1950 at Al's Bowladrome in Lodi, New Jersey, when the Hook Grip Five shot 1342. Individual scores were Sam Vitola 276, Tony Lakawicz 266, Pete Kavalik 296, Stan Niemiec 238, and Stixie Mulick 266. The previous record was held by Hermann Undertakers from St. Louis who in 1937 hit 1325.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LOWEST AVERAGE EVER PETERSEN WINNER

Since its inception in December 1921, the Petersen Classic has been setting records. The entry lists and total prize funds keep growing and the big payoff of \$30,000 plus for first place is the greatest for a singles tournament anywhere in the world.

When Richard Larson, a 177 average once-a-week league bowler from Palatine Ill., carried home the top prize last July 11, he set another Petersen first. He became the lowest average bowler ever to win the tournament. His eight games produced a 1654 pin total.

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## THE SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF HOW TO SCORE

Submitted by Joe Wibden

Scoring is a fascinating and enjoyable part of the game of bowling. If you know how to score, you are indeed fortunate, mainly because scoring gives you a chance to sit down. Here then, is the brief explanation of how to score.

A game of bowling consists of ten innings or frames. There are ten pins set up for each frame, and you have two balls, or chances to knock as many of them down as you can. If you knock down, say, four pins with the first ball in the first frame, you put a four in the left hand little box in the frame's big box on the scoresheet, (the little boxes are not for the scores of the midgets bowling on the next lane). If you then knock down three further pins with the second ball in the first frame, you put a three in the right hand little box and a seven, being the total for that frame at the bottom of the frame's big box. If you knock down all ten pins with your two balls, that is a spare. If you knock down all ten pins with your first ball that is a strike. If you make a spare you don't put anything in the big box, you put your first ball score in the left hand little box and a spare sign in the right hand little box, giving you ten pins plus the amount of pins you knock down with your next ball. If you get a strike, you put a strike sign in the left hand little box and this gives you ten pins plus the amount of pins you knock down with you next two balls. Thus if you get a spare in the first frame, and you knock down eight pins with the first ball in the second frame, you can see that you get eighteen in the first frame. If you get a strike in the first frame and knock down nine pins with both balls in the second frame, you can see that you get nineteen in the first frame and nine more in the second frame for a total of twenty-eight.

However, if you get ten pins with both balls in the second frame, you can see that this gives you twenty points in the first frame and a spare sign in the second frame, which means that in the second frame, you'll add ten pins to the twenty in the first frame plus the amount of pins you knock down with the first ball in the third frame. Now if you get a strike with the first ball in the second frame, and you already had a strike in the

first frame, then you can't put anything down in the first frame, because, as you can see, you still have another ball coming, which won't be rolled until the third frame. Thus the pins you knock down with the first ball in the third frame will be added to the ten pins you knocked down with the strike ball in the second frame, and all that will be added to the ten pins you knocked down with the strike ball in the first frame, to give you your first frame score. Then, the pins you knock down with the second ball you roll in the third frame will be added to the pins you knocked down with the first ball in the third frame, and that will be added to the ten pins you knocked down with the strike ball in the second frame which will be added to the score in the first frame to give you the score in the second frame. Now, if you happen to get a strike with the first ball you roll in the third frame, then you still owe one more ball to the second frame, which won't be rolled until the fourth frame, and which will be the first of the two you owe to the third frame and .....

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THE ADVENTURES OF IVOR GUTTERBALL

(Part IV)

By Stephen Age

Five whole days had passed without mishap, five wonderful days with the Bowling Centre free of their house worry, Ivor Gutterball. Even Fred the manager was his usual jovial self, in fact he had even patted Elsie the Control Clerk on the bottom as he came through the control desk to take his hourly till reading and as Elsie was referred to as the "new girl" (she had only been there for 19 months), this was certainly a red letter day in the history of the Centre. Elsie looked up into Fred's eyes,

"Why, Mr. Brown, you do look well today - it must have been that early night you had last night". (Fred had knocked off at 10.30 last night.)

"No love - it's not the early night, it's the fact that Ivor Gutterball is off my neck at last - no more will I have to put up with his nagging and no more do I have to climb out of my Office window in order to miss him - it's wonderful". He chuckled to himself as he thought of the events following that first awful night when Ivor started duty at the Bowl as a shoe clerk, he was still chuckling as the telephone bell went.

"Ullo, this is the Bowling Alley" he said into the phone, "What can I do for you?"

"For a start, you can call me sir", said the voice of his operations manager from the other end, "Secondly, you can call it a Bowling Centre".

Fred gulped "Sorry sir, yes sir", he was now standing to attention, his left hand extended down his side and the thumb running down the seam of his trousers, which was Fred's normal stance when on the 'phone to any of the Head Office "sirs".

"What the hell do you mean by sending that ruddy bloke Gutterball along on a mechanics course - Whitstable is in one big panic and I've had AMF New York on the phone to me. It's the first time AMF have had to go to Brunswick for spare parts and it's all Gutterball's fault, he had disrupted everything, all production at the factory has stopped and half the staff have walked out. The last message that came through was that a state of emergency has been declared in the whole of Kent and even the other Bowling Centres have been closed".

Fred closed his eyes and went green.

"Sorry sir but ....."

Sir's voice came back "Shut up and listen - I want you to get into your car and drive straight down there and pick up that stupid man and then take him back to Stevenage with you, if you can arrange for him to fall out of the car on the way back so much the better, but run over him a couple of times to make sure - but whatever you do, don't let him get away from you in the London area, he might even come to Head Office".

The line went dead as "Sir" thought of the havoc that Ivor could do in the nerve centre at Head Office.

"Listen Fred - get going man and 'phone me as soon as you get back - we have to have a little chat about your future".

Fred's eardrum almost shattered as the phone was slammed down, Elsie following up her little conversation earlier went on,

"By the way sir, about a rise, I've been here ....."

"Shut up for Gawd's sake woman" said Fred, "Tell my assistant that I've gone down to Whitstable to pick someone up - tell him it's Gutterball, he will understand". With that, he leapt from the control desk and bounded out into the car park.

"Cor, it's all right for him gallivanting down to the seaside while we do all the work", said Elsie, watching Fred's car vanish in a cloud of smoke in the direction of Whitstable.

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BASILDON

The prize presentation for the recent Lyons Maid competition was made on Friday 10th December and our two winners were, by rather strange coincidence, father and son. The entries were apparently made out on completely separate occasions, so this may be a case of thought transference.

\*\*\*\*\*

Very flattering reports were made to the Management here by the Basildon Mini Travel League Team after their visit to Hounslow. The Team asked that their appreciation of the services given by Hounslow be recorded in the Newsletter and we willingly do this.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Sunday the 12th December a challenge football match in aid of the local Boys Clubs was held in the town, the visitors team comprising of T.V. entertainers, who all paid us a visit in the evening. The complete team was seen down on the lanes, but the most noticeable feature of the evening was the large take in the bar!

\*\*\*\*\*

We are very pleased to welcome a new Ladies League to the Centre - Frizzel House from Billericay. This Company already has a male league rolling and if the ladies continue to improve at their present rate, the men will almost certainly be challenged, and possibly beaten.

\*\*\*\*\*

On the 30th January, six 5-person teams from the Lathol League will be playing a match at Cliftonville, followed by a social evening. A return match will be played later at Basildon, and the Lathol League are open to similar challenges, and very much hope that the Ambassador Centres will take up the challenge.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our annual "Match of the Year" has been played between Charrilocks and Harp Lager. Harp took the first game with a storming 1006 to Charrilocks' 856, but Charrilocks came back well in the second to win the game by 26 pins and the third game by 22 pins, but this good recovery was not quite enough to wipe out the deficit of the first game and the series went to Harp with 2759 to Charrilocks 2657. All bowlers broke the 500 mark - top series for Harp Lager being 588 by Richie Jeffs and for Charrilocks 556 by Len Morris.

\*\*\*\*\*

EDGWARE

Steady League bowling by Barry Patrick on December 16th made the House High with a 670 series made up of 200, 264, 206. Later the same evening, in practice for the London League team he bowled a fine 635 - 214 218, 203. It was a treat to watch the regularity of bowling of this player, who rolls a curving left hander.

\*\*\*\*\*

Paul Harris, a local 13 year-old lad, took the limelight on Saturday 18th December when Mr. J. Wright of Lyons Maid presented him with a Packagram battery operated portable radiogram, the Centre Winners prize in the Sunshine Holiday Contest, held in the summer months.

\*\*\*\*\*

So great is the demand for league times and places that a third league standing frame has now been erected to carry the weekly wealth of points and positions won by the pin battlers.

\*\*\*\*\*

Strong rumour is that the Industrial League, currently claiming the country's largest membership of 64 teams, will shortly be in an unassailable position with Divisions 5 and 6, bringing the total to 96 teams. Any challengers?

\*\*\*\*\*

The staff of the Edgware Bowl, supported by £27 donated by our bowlers, arranged a party for some 40 children from homes for orphans in the Edgware and Hendon districts. A coach was provided free, to collect the children from the homes, the food for the party was provided by the catering staff, organised by Mrs. Pat Blackman, while Bill McGregor, our Chief Mechanic, donned the robes of Father Christmas, to distribute toys, fruit and sweets to each of the children. The event was conceived and organised by Peter Marshall.

\*\*\*\*\*



It is with regret that we say farewell to Assistant Manager Peter Marshall, who has decided that after so long in the confines of the Bowling Centres, a spell in the open air will be to his benefit. I understand that Peter is taking up a spot as Property Negotiator with a Leicester Estate Agency, and we wish him well in this new job.

\*\*\*\*\*

Charity Moonlight Bowls are quite the thing in this part of the bowling world, and following on the success of the recent event organised for the Old People of the district, our next night out is on January 14th when we give our support to the Mayor of Harrow's Charity Appeal Fund. Demand for tickets is good and the event looks an early sell out.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Classic Five Man Team League is in the process of formation to roll at weekends. Teams must be composed of bowlers of 150 average and above. This League will have money prizes and be supported by a local sponsor if present arrangements can be successfully completed. Teams will be accepted from other bowls for the league, which we hope will become the strongest Classic League in the area.

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## HARLOW

December proved to be a good month at Harlow. The Wednesday competition is now turning out quite a successful idea and bowlers are regularly winning good prizes.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Coates/Britvic/Babycham Day was a great success, the tournament being won by a very narrow margin from Audrey Pond by her husband Stan. On this same day, a challenge match was played between the Baracudas from R.A.F. Wethersfield, the A.F.N. Team, the Coates Cider Team and the Harlow Apaches - the prize was a barrel of cider, supplied by Coates. The teams were very even and the match was eventually won by Wethersfield on pinfall. However, the barrel was shared between all teams. During the evening, great fun was had by Tom Owen, Ed Munn and Bob McKenzie who dressed up as Coates Cider Old Yokels and romped round the Bowl generally disturbing and amusing the bowlers. After all the hilarity they collected for the Harlow Old Age Pensioners, and together with the Odeon, who collected at the same time, enough money was raised to distribute 50 £1 Christmas parcels to the pensioners, which Ed Munn and Tom Owen helped to deliver.

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Arrangements are in hand for a match between the Forum Bowl, Coventry and ourselves on a home and away basis. We are hoping to have twelve 5-man teams from each Centre taking part.

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## HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Commencing at midnight on Friday 17th December, Hemel's Christmas Charity Bowl in aid of the N.S.P.C.C. was an occasion that all agree was a night that they will long remember. Opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony and simultaneous pin drop, bowlers soon got into the mood required to make the novelty bowling events such a success. With over 150 prizes to be given away, ranging from pansy seeds to a transistor radio, forfeits to be carried out and Hemel's own back-up ball to be bowled, it is little wonder that all available tickets were sold within two days of being advertised. Highlight of the evening was a display of precision marching and baton twirling by the Kent Majorettes who travelled from Maidstone to give their display. During the exhibition, two male bowlers were so engrossed that one burnt the seat of the pants of the other with his cigarette, and neither knew until another bowler smelt burning and investigated! Our sincere thanks go to Daphne Jones, a member of the Kent Majorettes and also Hemel's Staff, who organised the girls for the display. Thank you also to Keith Drysdale and his staff for such a magnificent buffet. The evening, or rather morning, ended with the Majorettes leading everyone into a conga concluding with a large circle Auld Lang Syne on the approaches - yes, a night to remember.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bowling came into the limelight when the Independent Order of Foresters held their Christmas Dance at the Ovaltine Ballroom, attended by over 850 people. The Chief Ranger chose this occasion to present the trophies he was awarding to the Bowling Section of the I.O.F. for the most improved lady and gentleman bowlers, during the last year. Proud receivers of the trophies were the husband and wife combination of Helen and George Dixon. Runners-up were Shirley Brown and Geoff Whiting.

\*\*\*\*\*

The month of December saw the arrival and departure at Hemel of trainee Manager Dave Spence. David was well liked by bowlers and staff, and everyone here hopes that it will not be long before he returns to see us. We wish him every success in his career with the Company.

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## HOUNSLOW

Probably one of the most successful Centre Tournaments to be held had its finals on Sunday, 19th December at Hounslow - The 1965 Turkey Shoot. The outstanding enthusiasm for this Tournament meant that there were 808 bowlers competing over a week and on the day of the Finals, 224 bowlers rolling a 3 game series bowled in squads from 12.45 to 5.45 p.m. Sixteen teams competed in each section (2,3,4,5 man teams) for Turkeys (First prize), Chickens (Second prize), and Port and Sherry (Third Prize). The Tournament, organized by the Hounslow League and Tournament Committee (Chairman Pat Gurney, Secretary Ted McDonald), with a willing band of helpers, kept the time schedule throughout, and the last squad of 5 man teams started right on time. The standard of play throughout was good, but of greater importance was the spirit with which everyone bowled. Among the outstanding features of the Tournament was one that came in for special praise by London Area B.T.B.A. President, Mr. Eric Perkins, which was that during the whole of the Finals the total down time of the machines was 20 minutes which included the changing of one Micro Switch. Mr. Perkins paid tribute to our Chief Mechanic, George Herron and his able team of assistants for their major part in this successful Tournament. Mr. Perkins also took part in the four man team event and was kind enough to present the prizes - including a bottle of wine to himself to the cries of "fiddle".

### RESULTS

	<u>Team</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Scratch</u>	<u>Handicap</u>
PAIRS	1. Whytes	D. Russell & C. Campbell	1127	- 1265
	2. Jokers	J. Ketchell & D. Parker	1107	- 1251
	3. Crackpots	P. Hammond & L. Maylin-Tuck	1015	- 1177
3 MAN	1. Three Bears	E. Grant, P. Croxford, B. Stuart	1605	- 1890
	2. Roulettes	O. Young, G. Young, J. McKinley	1553	- 1733
	3. The Strangers	G.Liddiard, R. Addie, & Holford	1402	- 1717
4 MAN	1. Aristocrats	E. Grant, B. Grant, W. Denyer, P. Croxford	2134	- 2410
	2. Convertibles	E. Grant, T. Grant, B. Stewart, M. Green	2097	- 2385
	3. Taps	J. Perkins, E. Perkins, J. Fisher, G. Travers	2034	- 2298

	<u>Team</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Scratch</u>	<u>Handicap</u>
5 MAN	1. Eagle Jets	W. Saimons, P.Croxford, D.Russell, P. Gurney, S. Winter	2511	- 2869
	2. Yogi Bears	H.Bremner, K.Bremner, C.Campbell, P.Warling, K.Humphries	2386	- 2869
	3. Short Cuts	T.Timberlake, R.Winter, P.Mackey, J.Misseldine, & G. Mackey	2421	- 2859
	Hi Game	Individual Men	Colin Walden	237
	Hi Game	Individual Women	Denny Russell	221
	Hi Series	Individual Men	Pat Gurney	627
	Hi Series	Individual Women	Ena Grant	595

It is worthy of note that Pat Gurney, who took the high individual series with a 627, also bowled a fabulous game the previous Friday with strikes in the first 10 frames, ending with a score of 289.

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The Industrial League, Hounslow, entertained their counterparts from Edgware on Friday November 27th and narrowly defeated their guests by 10 games to 8. This was mainly due to the fine bowling of the No.1 team who rolled 976 in the final game. Ron Winter should also be congratulated for rolling a 602 series which included a 232 game.

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During the Lyons Maid Ice Cream demonstration which was held a fortnight ago, Gloria Howard, one of the team of demonstrators made a special knickerbocker glory for Ladies All Star Bowler, Mickey Winter. Having finished the speciality, Mickey went down to the lanes and bowled a 221 ..... is there a moral here?

\*\*\*\*\*

Early in December, Ambassador Hounslow erected a Christmas tree, donated by Judy Morris's Grandmother, in their foyer, with an appeal to patrons to "Donate a toy for a sick child". A raffle was also held to raise additional money and due principally to the charm of Marie Hennesey (she was also carrying a "persuader" we're told), a sum in excess of £35 was collected.

Toys for the children poured in, so that the organisers, (Management George Mackey and Les Ward, and the League & Tournament Committee under the chairmanship of Pat Gurney), were able to extend the original plan to include many more children and also the older folk in hospital.

Some forty members of the bowling leagues turned up on Christmas morning, a few of whom dressed in character costumes to attend Santa Claus. At 10 a.m. a motor cavalcade set out with Santa and his court, standing in the back of an open topped car, which even though it was not drawn by them, at least sported two reindeer on the bonnet.

Down the High Street Santa was greeted with cheers and good wishes, and several small children had the surprise of their lives when Santa stopped to give them an extra Christmas gift. The first official call was in Isleworth, where presents were distributed to three young children who, through no fault of their own were having a less happy Christmas than most. Leaving the youngsters convinced that he really does exist, Santa rode on in splendour, (albeit a little wet and cold), to the Hounslow Hospital, where he and his entourage visited every ward and distributed gifts, not only to the children but also to the older folk and nurses.

Though by now a little behind schedule, Santa and his friends moved on to a Children's Home in Heston, where once again the joy of meeting Santa and receiving extra presents beamed out from the youngsters' faces.

Still having many presents left, it was decided to make an un-scheduled stop, and being near the Cranford Estate, the cavalcade pulled to a halt with hooters blaring, in a corner of the Estate. Doors and windows flew open and with encouragement from Santa, the children came running, each to receive a gift and meet Santa Claus, many, for the first time in their young lives.

Returning to Hounslow Hospital to leave the remainder of the presents with Matron, Santa and the group had the pleasure of meeting the Mayor and the Lady Mayoress of Hounslow who had spent their customary Christmas morning, visiting patients in every hospital in the district.

Everybody who helped or supported this venture felt rewarded from the expressions they had seen on the children's and older folks' faces, and there is no doubt that all concerned intend to extend the activities next year, as this event has come to stay in the calendar of Ambassadors' Hounslow.

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## IPSWICH

Once again, the Annual Children's Party at Ipswich Centre proved to be as much fun for the staff and helpers as for the children themselves. We had a family of 38 this year, ranging in ages from 3 to 13 years. The generosity of our customers and suppliers exceeded even that of last year, and £27 was raised from raffles and gifts to be spent on the party as well as all the food and drink which was donated. Staff and customers gave time and effort to entertaining the children with games and film shows, in fact one John (Father Christmas) Boswell even gave up his lunch break to perform his duties and then hurried off back to work. Jack Pyett laid a beautiful table for our small guests, and they all went home well fed, happy and laden with gifts and sweets. Once again, a big thank you to all those who helped to make the Children's Party possible.

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Last month's highlight was a Novelty Moonlight Bowl held on Saturday 18th December. The event was a roaring success and tickets were completely sold out almost a week prior to the Moonlight. The three game series was followed by a most delicious breakfast cooked by Chef Jack Pyett and his able assistant, Bob Fletcher, and finished with a novelty two game series which found bowlers bowling between their legs, waltzing with their ladies on the approach and many other antics not usually seen in a Bowling Centre. Everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously and are asking when we will have another. The answer to that is - the end of January!

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to American bowler Jack Wessels who scored a fantastic 724 series for the Yankee Terrors in the Premier League. Jack's games were 254, 222 and 248. Besides this, Jack's score helped the Terrors to three British National Records so far this year when the team had games of 836 and 807 included in a series total of 2392 - and that, my friends, is bowling.

\*\*\*\*\*

LIVERPOOL  
LECTURE THEATRE, 10, COLLEGE STREET

Congratulations this month to Mrs. Stewart, Centre winner of the Lyons Maid promotion. Mrs. Stewart was presented with her prize, a battery radiogram, on Wednesday 22nd December, and her husband, who had previously been notified as the winner, in error, was presented with a bottle of champagne as a consolation prize.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Sunday 19th December, 46 spastic children were entertained to a Christmas lunch a la McClune. Our thanks go to Greg Whitehead who sponsored the affair and Chief Chef Jim McClune. Also we would like to pass on the thanks of the members of our Spastic League to Greg Whitehead for this sponsorship, help and encouragement during the season and also to James Sargent for some very fine trophies.

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Our best wishes go to Ralph Yates who having resigned from his position as Assistant Manager, is now seeking pastures new. So attached has Ralph become to this fair city that we believe he is now talking of becoming a naturalised Diddy Man.

\*\*\*\*\*

The New Year will see Liverpool falling in line with the other Centres by introducing a deposit charge on entrance to the Bowl. Whilst erecting our cash desk, we also intend bricking up several large panes of glass at our street entrance, which we hope will restrict the striking form recently shown by a number of our undesirable friends.

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## PORTSMOUTH

Our biggest and most popular event to date took place on December 11th when the Moonlight 'Pyjama' Bowl was held. Over 100 bowlers took part, each wearing either pyjamas or nightie, Grandad's nightshirt and Grandma's nightgown were never put to better use or looked so attractive as on our lady keglers. One enterprising student bowler even came equipped with a candle. (He was no doubt a spot bowler who felt a little 'cheating' was all right.) Ron Stoten made an excellent Master of Ceremonies, but no amount of persuasion could get him to wear a negligee. Shaun Ball looked most unattractive in a pink bowed nightie complete with Cleopatra wig (Richard Burton would never have got over it). Our lane marshalls for the night were Frank Bumstead, Peggy and Vic Spree, who gave out the prizes with amazing rapidity and Frank's sale of raffle tickets must be seen to be believed. To finish off the night a mock auction was held (fixed of course) and the winner has since been heard going around complaining of the price of chickens this year. Excellent, enjoyable, and over £30 raised for the N.S.P.C.C.

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Now that our pintables and fruit machines have been installed, it has been necessary to form a council of war. Field Marshall Stoten, assisted by privates Middleton and Ball are going into battle every day against the youngsters who not only spend their illgotten gains, but have even tried to take the machines away!

\*\*\*\*\*

Rod Bumstead's game of 265 will be remembered for all time, thanks to our Poet Laureat, Bill Mortley, Secretary of the Magpie League.

This is the tale of a lad called Rod,  
Who is an enterprising 'bod',  
On Wednesday night despite the roar,  
This lad rolled out a super score.  
In frames numbered one to five  
All the pins just took a dive.

And in six, seven and eight  
Again the pins were all prostrate.  
The first ball rolled in number nine  
Was just a fraction off the line.  
Someone shouted 'Oh you nit  
You've gone and left an awful split'.  
The second ball was soon in motion  
Delivered still without emotion,  
Two pins struck, one slithered wide  
And touched the tenth pin's laquered side.  
It moved. Alas but failed to fall  
A moan went up from one and all.  
This red haired lad, whom we all like,  
This time had failed to get a strike.  
Our hero now picked up his ball,  
A centre record beyond recall.  
First ball - A strike right in the pocket  
The shouts again began to rocket,  
And just as if Dame Fortune beckoned  
He rolled another with the second.  
Now remained the fateful third  
And not a sound could be heard.  
The ball soon speeding down the lane  
Hits the pins, a strike again.  
This two six five can surely rate  
A performance truly great,  
It would have been a perfect line  
But for that split in number Nine.

\*\*\*\*\*

Now that the cold weather is upon us the quest for firewood has reached frenzied proportions. A bewildered chief mechanic, Gin Peckam, is still puzzling over the whereabouts of lane 24.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our congratulations go to the President of the Albion League, Colin Fisher, who recently announced his engagement to another member of the same League, Carol Edwards. Incidentally both play in the Team from U.N.C.L.E. and like the hero in the T.V. programme, Colin has got his man. Sorry! Woman.

\*\*\*\*\*

A member of the staff overheard talking:-

"The fellow in that blooming office, who suggested having inter bowl staff matches, couldn't possibly have known what he was letting us in for. I mean to say, put some practice in by all means, but to have to jog along the seafront in brass monkey weather in my little shorts is blooming ridiculous. And to cap it all, I'm only second reserve."

"I don't know what you're complaining about, he's got me doing press ups every spare minute of the day and I'm only the scorer" came the reply.

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STEVENAGE

Once again the House High Five Man Series Record has been broken. This time by the USAF Team "Froompers Five" from Chicksands Air Base. Bowling in the Town Centre League during December, they had everyone on their toes, when they rolled a brilliant 2807 series. This series is now both the Open and League Play High Series.

\*\*\*\*\*

We now have new pins - brand new Brunswick Score Kings. We like them, but the bowlers are having trouble finding their marks and the averages are taking a tumble. Needless to say, it's the Management's fault, Pat and Doug can never be right.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have been more than busy this Christmas, making money for the N.S.P.C.C. Appeal. All the Christmas activities this year have been directed towards making more money for the children and getting nearer to the Centre's target figure. First off, we ran a variation of a Turkey Shoot, but called it a Chicken Pot. This was very popular with the bowlers and raised a nice sum of money. Secondly, the main feature of the Christmas fun, was our Grand Christmas Fancy Dress Party. Tickets for this event were priced at 21/-, which included bowling, buffet, over 100 prizes and many more novelties besides. Over 150 people gathered for what turned out to be the greatest night of the year in the Bowling Centre. The format for the evening's entertainment was as simple as possible, starting with two straight games with prizes given out frame by frame. At around 10 o'clock we broke for the buffet and a much needed sit down. After the break we carried on with the Fancy Dress Parade, for which there were 3 prizes, and the last section of bowling namely, a Hi/Low Contest.

The general opinion from all present seemed to be complete satisfaction and before saying goodnight we announced that on Sunday February 13th we would be holding a pyjama party.

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This year, we had as the central display in the Centre, a large Christmas Tree, on which our bowlers hung many gifts and presents. Tree and all were given to the Children's Home at Briars Patch, Letchworth in time for Christmas.

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WOLVERHAMPTON

A high game of 278 was bowled by Ron Stanley here this month, this equals the record game held by our old friend Vic Blood.

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The standard of bowling of the Ladies Intercentre Team has surprised a lot of people in this part of the world. The team, ably captained by Sylvia Draper, is at present lying third in the league. Rita Buntin and Margaret Cain have both improved their averages since coming into the teams and with the next match being played at home, we look forward to seeing our league position further improved.

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Keen interest is being shown in the new Staff Postal League, we have, up to the present time, formed one team, consisting of Jenny Griffiths, Hon. Sec. Chuck Smithson, mechanic, and Cliff Whitlock. We are not expecting to cover ourselves with glory but some fantastic results are expected when Jenny starts bowling her left hand googlies. We have been trying to persuade Trevor Ryall to bowl, but with no avail, we believe he is afraid of putting his 185 average in jeopardy. Incidentally, Trevor Ryall's average has now gone up to 192 over six games at 2 a.m. one morning last month. This was witnessed by the junior mechanic, who has since left the Company, but Trevor knows that all true bowlers will believe that there has been no sandbagging.

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Lost and Found Department. Last week a pair of men's trousers were found on lane 18. Appeals were made over the public address system for the Scotsman to come to control and when this produced no result, we then asked for the gentleman wearing a fig leaf. Imagine our amazement when a charming young lady, fully clothed we hasten to add, came to the control and claimed the trousers. It seems she had just collected them from the cleaners.

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