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Acton bowling up and kickin' after setback

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Have you ever wondered why the Acton Bowling Lanes are jammed every time you visit for public bowling? And have you ever wondered why you have such hard luck because you seem to enter the building every fall and winter and it's de-ja-vu all over again.

Well, in a month's time, you won't have to face these mind-boggling scenarios and be continuously turned away at the door. The reason?

It's simple. The Acton Five Pin Bowling Association (AFPBA) and its 210 members will be bidding adieu to another September to May league season of gutter balls, spares and, if you're a budding professional, strikes.

"It's like a community in itself here," says Cathie Ahearn, president of the AFPBA, from her home away from home for the past 16 years. "Bowling is still a fairly cheap activity that you can do and it's still a sport."

Men's league returning

Bowling is a sport that seems to be gaining in popularity at an alarming rate. Ahearn says there are about eight Acton leagues which gather at all hours Monday through Friday at the Main Street North lanes. And there's already demands for at least two more come the fall.

"There are a lot of bowlers out," remarks Ahearn. She adds that proprietor Dave Manes has done a good job promoting the leagues. "And a lot of bowlers are coming back, ones who didn't want to quit when the lanes closed (temporarily

in the fall of 1991). The Men's league is coming back and that's about 36 bowlers."

The Young Adult Bowling Association (ages 19-35), having jumped ship a little more than a year ago to Guelph due to the closure, is apparently headed back to Acton. Ahearn thinks it could be here by the fall.

"We have to go through head office first," she says, "but it shouldn't be a problem. The only thing I can think is, (the Guelph establishment) is a (renowned) Bowlerama house and they might have some pull."

If it were up to the YABA members, they would be contacting Dave Manes pronto, in order to slot them in this Sunday for their regular gathering.

League needs bowlers

"A lot of bowlers have expressed interest already in returning to Acton," states an excited Ahearn. She points out that in the two years only one Guelph resident joined the league. "That's a reason in itself for the move."

"A lot of people in that age group are interested because it's a money tournament league and they already know people involved in it. We have to get more people; you need 16 to run the league."

If nothing else, it's a great way to meet new people.

"There's going to be five weddings this summer of people who met through this league," Ahearn says. "Acton's been very good to us and it's cheaper here. Plus, most of the bowlers are from here."

The AFPBA caters to all ages with several different leagues running at all times of the week. Mon-



EXPANDING COMMITTEE: The Acton Five Pin Bowling Association (AFPBA) consists of a seven-member executive committee. However, AFPBA president Cathie Ahearn (middle) is hoping this number will jump to 15 following tonight's nomination meeting at the Station Hotel at 7 pm. Flanking Ahearn are Sue Walton (left), who's in charge of membership, awards and recording league scores, and Julie Heatley, lottery chairperson and manager of Acton Bowling Lanes. (Doug Harrison photo)

day afternoon is the senior citizens' league and the 36 participants just love it, says Ahearn.

"They bowl here and some of them enter tournaments — they just amaze me," she adds.

About 20 little guys and girls, known as the Smurfs in the Youth Bowling Council, head to the alley on Wednesdays with their mom or dad (usually their mom) right behind them. The parents usually sit and have coffee or tea and the kids have cookies, chips, pop and get in an hour of bowling.

Peewees invade lanes

"Any funds we raise through ticket sales is donated to the YBC,"

Ahearn reveals. "We want them to grow with us into the adult leagues."

On Saturday mornings, the Peewees invade the premises with two shifts (8 am and 10 am).

"The lanes are full twice and it's a direct result of the Smurfs," says Ahearn of the Peewee league, which is governed by program directors, Brent and Barb Dance. "We're keeping it growing. One group feeds the other."

"We've had great zone backing. We had 160 teams come in and bowl for the Matthew Fleet fund-raiser (in June, 1992). It sparked a lot of interest."

It has subsequently sparked

more fund-raising events.

"We do different kinds of fund-raising. We sell Strike It Rich tickets throughout the season."

Strike It Rich tickets resemble a Nevada ticket with strikes and spares determining the outcome.

Executive nominations

The Acton Bowling Executive Committee currently has seven members. Ahearn is looking to double the number and more with a proposed 15 members for the 1993-94 season.

Nominations are scheduled for tonight (Wednesday) at the Station Hotel at 7 pm, while the elections are slated for April 28.

Denny, DaPonte lead AHS in badminton tourney

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

The Acton High Badminton team competed in the pairs division of a tournament held last Wednesday at Notre Dame High School in Burlington and left with a third-place finish in Ladies Doubles.

Acton coach Barb Johnson was pleased with the result, reporting that her players were excellent representatives of Acton High School.

Particular congratulations go to Trisha Denny and Shelby DaPonte, who captured third in Doubles and now advance to the Halton Closed tournament at Bishop Reding High School in Milton on Thursday, April 15.

The Acton High Badminton squad is comprised of: Steve

Turkosz, Shannon Bailey, Janisse Bailey, Mai Nguyen, Carroll Thorpe, Denny and DaPonte.

The alternate players were: Stephanie Jones, Barbara Cox and Kelly Auger.



WATER WORKOUT: Brenda Samson, of Acton, has been an avid land aerobics participant for three years and after hearing the water gives you more resistance, decided to explore water aerobics during a recent Wednesday class at McKenzie-Smith Middle School. She also thought it was something different and could be a lot of fun. (Doug Harrison photo)

Stangs ready for final meet

BY JAMIE BIRRELL, M-S Reporter

The McKenzie-Smith Mustangs' swim team has been working hard on their five individual events and team relays for several months in order to achieve the best results for the last two meets of the season.

Both coaches and team members are very pleased with the team's progress to date. They are quite impressed with a recent win in Acton over Georgetown's Centennial swim squad. The Mustangs put forth a great effort and managed to win the meet with less than a full team.

The Stangs' final meet is on Thursday, April 22 at E.C. Drury High School in Milton. This meet is very important to the Acton club because they have not lost a meet for 10 years and they would like to keep the streak intact.