

# TOURNAMENTS

## PBA Regional Tour Takes On Whole New Meaning

SEATTLE – The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) has made considerable changes to its Regional Tour to coincide with changes being implemented on the PBA Tour for the 2004-2005 Season. One of the most significant changes will be the addition of \$600,000 to the Regional prize funds for the 2004-2005 Season (a 20% increase). This comes on the heels of the increased number of tournaments for members over the past few years.

The change is being made in anticipation of an increase in regional entries including bowlers who did not earn exempt status on the PBA Tour during the 2003-2004 Season. Those bowlers now will try to earn their exemption through the Regional Tour.

"The restructuring of the PBA Tour was necessary in order to create both an inspi  
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## Dexter Shoe Company Announces Free Shoes For PBA Regional Players

Promotion Runs through December 31, 2004

SEATTLE – Dexter Shoe Company has announced a brand new promotion for all participating PBA Regional and Senior Regional players beginning immediately.

All participants of 2004 PBA Regional and Senior Regional tournaments that elect to wear a Dexter logo patch during competition have the opportunity to receive a 25% discount certificate on shoes available from Dexter and its Parent Company H. H. Brown through its Shoeline.com Division. PBA Regional and Senior Regional participants can choose from Casual Shoes, Boots, Men's and Women's dress shoes and of course Dexter Bowling Shoes. Any shoe that is available on www.shoeline.com is available to a PBA Regional or Senior Regional player at a discount.

As an added bonus the winner and second place finisher of any PBA Regional or Senior Regional tournament wearing a Dexter logo patch will receive a certificate for free shoes. Players finishing first receive two certificates; the second place finisher receives a certificate for one free pair. Players finishing third through eighth will receive a 50% off certificate.

The only eligibility requirement to receive any discount or a free shoe certificate is that the player must wear the Dexter logo patch during all rounds of competition. Wearing Dexter Bowling shoes is recommended but not required.

The Regional Tour will consist of over 200 tournaments during the 2004-2005 Season (up from 167 in 2002). It was recently announced that the prize funds for the upcoming season will raise \$600,000 as bowlers vie for a shot at exemption on the PBA Tour.

Dexter Bowling is a division of Dexter Sports and H.H. Brown Shoe Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway. For more information, please contact Dexter Marketing at (603) 880-8900.

For more information contact:

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## NCST

Last shot at Saratoga

The first event of 2004 was held at AMF Saratoga lanes, Saratoga, California. It was our first event of 2004, and unfortunately probably Saratoga's last as Saratoga Lanes is scheduled for closure in March of this year. You could hear all the great stories being told as members and guest recalled all the great events and bowlers that had past through the doors over the years and decades. A special thanks to Greg Gonzales, his desk staff, mechanics, and all the employees who hosted a great and memorable event for everyone to add to their memories of Saratoga Lanes for years to come.

Entries for this event were lower than anticipated, we qualified 14 Seniors and 5  
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## PRO

Lee Patterson & Kim Power Are First-Time PRO Champs - Dave Hewitt Wins Another One, Close Scores Make For An Exciting Day At AMF Mowry Lanes

There have been higher-scoring PRO tournaments, but never have we seen an event where scoring was as close as it was during our January 11<sup>th</sup> event at AMF Mowry Lanes in Fremont. The oil pattern was a bit on the tough side, making every shot count. In the end, a total of 17 people made the main prize fund cash lists across all three divisions...with just 88 pins separating those 17 bowlers.

How close was the competition? So close that leads were changing hands literally every game and literally in every division; so close that it would take more space than we have here to detail just how competitive the action was. How tough were the lane conditions? So tough that just one bowler...Jimmy Jean, of Yuba City...was able to record all eight games at or above the 200 mark.

Lee Patterson made the biggest splash of all 64 entries, winning the Open Division on his first try...and he almost didn't bowl. The Fresno resident was a bit tuckered out after competing in another tournament several hundred miles away just the day before, but made a last-minute decision to drive to Fremont. The gamble paid off, as Patterson took the top spot on the strength of his 1,810 total over the eight-game route.

Patterson's win was a real squeaker, though, as he edged-out young Mac Martin by a mere six pins to take the \$775 top award; Martin earned \$425 for his runner-up 1,804 total. There was no faulting either bowler all day: each battled for the lead without stumbling, and neither showed any sign of faltering. At the end, Martin had a little trouble carrying the pocket, and his 206 finale couldn't hold off Patterson's 224.

Nick Melnikoff was also in the thick of things, sitting among the top three heading into the final game. But Melnikoff, too, had carry problems at the end of the day; his 194 finish took him to an 1,802 total and third place (\$350). Melnikoff also recorded the day's only perfect 300 game.

Jeff O'Connor is a formidable competitor who, until this tournament, was just a whisker away from showing what he can really do. This time out, though, he overcame the challenging lane conditions to grab the fourth-place spot on the strength of his 1,788 total (\$300).

A mere 22 pins separated fifth place through 10<sup>th</sup> place...an incredibly tight spread for a tournament. In order, the final six cashers in the Open Division's main prize fund were Steve Ting (1,766 total - \$225), Glenn Reichmuth (1,757 - \$175), Gene Bruhl (1,756 - \$160), Dave Snow (1,750 - \$155), George Aboud (1,746 - \$150) and Cid Blueford (1,744 - \$145).

Seven of the Top 10 Open Division bowlers also cashed in side pot action

Senior Division competition was brutal, with just 21 pins separating the Top Four. Dave Hewitt struggled the first five games but still managed to hang around the fringes of the cash list. He then proved that tenacity can pay off, recording a 731 total his final three games to edge Don Clyburn by just nine pins: 1,770 – 1,761. Hewitt, recording his second straight Senior Division win, pocketed \$550, while Clyburn banked \$300.

Perennial threat Bill Tuttle also made his presence known. Despite a slow start, Tuttle came on strong in his final five games, topping his set with a 279 game to take third place (1,750 - \$175). Garrie Yacap overcame a very slow start, bouncing back from his 166-173 openers in a big way to secure fourth place (1,749 - \$150).

All Top Four Senior Division bowlers also cashed in side pots.

This is the point in the story where we stop to consider that, so far, just 66 pins are separating 14 bowlers: 1,744 (Cid Blueford) to 1,810 (Lee Patterson).

Kim Power has been making her presence known for the past six or eight months, improving each tournament. (She recently became just the second woman to record a perfect 300 game in a PRO tournament.)

Power wasn't even in the hunt at the half-way mark of the Women's Division competition. But she showed the grit that is a hallmark of her personality, turning on the afterburners with a 932 in the back half to earn her first PRO title with a 1,761 total, worth \$300.

Two-time champ Jodi Smith took the runner-up spot with a 1,725 total (\$175), while Amie Willett grabbed third place with a 1,722 (\$110).

All Top Three Women's Division cashers also took home side pot money.

There you have it, just 88 pins separating 17 main prize fund cashers, from Lee Patterson (1,810) to Amie Willett (1,722). And that's how tough PRO competition is.

Quite a few other bowlers made trips to the pay window. Other cashers on the day included Curtis Cage, Tracy Castro, Dwayne Cross, Charlie Esteban, Bobby Flores, Ed Floyd, Dave Houck, Mike Hung, Jimmy Jean, Marchael Kelly, Jim Montgomery, Don Parks, Ed Rehnberg, Roger Schindewolf, Karen Sookikian, Chet

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