

Windsor-Essex Chatham-Kent Bowling Association

Submitted by Mike Ouellette, President



The following article was written for *The Tilbury Times*, a weekly paper in Tilbury, a community of about 4000 people within the municipality of Chatham-Kent in southwestern Ontario. In this day and age, Tilbury's J&D Bowling & Pizza, a 6 lane house, might seem to be an anachronism, but far from it. In addition to the bowling component, J&D has a thriving restaurant, noted for its fresh Lake Erie perch dinners, broasted chicken, pizza, bridal showers, birthday parties, other seasonal parties, and family gatherings. But one must not look upon the centre itself disparagingly. The six synthetic lanes are beautiful, and above each is a Brunswick A-2 pinsetter; the computer-driven lane management is directed by a combination of Brunswick Vector software and CDE's BLS-2017 A/S. Cosmic bowling is also available.

A total of 114 CTF sanctioned bowlers compete at J&D – Monday & Wednesday Men's leagues with 64 bowlers (12 of us are members of both leagues), Tuesday Nite Ladies with 29 women including substitutes, and 21 Youth bowlers in a rejuvenated Saturday program. Naturally all leagues are six teams! An unsanctioned ladies group which includes part of the Tuesday League also bowls on Wednesday mornings. I do the secretarial work for all four sanctioned groups in addition to my Association responsibilities. Thanks, Cathy, for letting me use your April space.

Yesterday was Family Day, a great day for soccer moms and hockey parents and all families to observe. This, then, can be considered Family Week at least when one considers the local bowling community. Traditionally there are a number of familial connections which permeate our sport each year and included here are a number of these which are current. Remarkably, the sport of bowling often transcends generations.

J&D has been owned by **Joe and Doreen Belanger** for, as Joe says, "X-number of years". Joe participates on the Orion Jewellers' team as their sixth man. Son Dave is a force in both Men's Leagues as is grandson Stefan Stacey. Sister-in-law Renee Belanger recently returned to fill out a roster spot in the Tuesday Nite Ladies League. Renee's sister, Michelle Harper, rejoined at the season's start.

The Cartier family embraces three generations with Judy Cartier serving as the Ladies' Treasurer; son Joe is President of the Men's Leagues, and is a Director in the Windsor Essex Chatham-Kent Bowling Association. Joe's son, Tyler, shows much promise in the Youth program. Behind all this is the inspiration of the late patriarch of the family,

Roger Cartier, a longtime bowler who passionately directed the Youth bowlers here for many, many years. Brother-in-law, John Montpetit, is Joe's teammate on Jams Appliance Repair.

Jay Bennett, who claims he spent most of his life around J&D, says he hates bowling and is employed as the mechanic at Ruthven's Empire Lanes, captains the successful Rivait Motorsport-2 team in the Monday Men's League. Son Eric anchors that team, and Jay's son-in-law, Tyler Roszell, was told to join the team when he married Eric's sister, Rachel. Another member of Jay's team is Ross Gozzard, cousin by marriage to Joe Belanger.

Orion's Jarrod Anderson joined the Men's League largely because twins Cameron and Nathan and now older brother Justin have taken to the sport. Now they have a new common thread and Jarrod is able to commiserate about bowling with them. Each checks everyone's posted scores regularly!

John and Therese Mackay keep busy too. John competes on the J&D team, Rivait-2's arch rival. Being part of a new team, the Pin Pushers, Therese has resumed activity on Tuesday this season after knee surgery. Their son Shawn is a member of the Simpson Electric team, subs on J&D and granddaughter, Karissa, is always one of the first to arrive for the Saturday Youth League.

Ryan McCracken is key member of one of Wednesday's strongest teams, Home Building Centre, along with his father-law, Kim Beselaere. Both are proud of Annabella and Reegan, Ryan's children, who are Youth bowlers too. The Builders also boast a father-son combination, Bruce and Ryan Hill.

Stan and Cory Powell similarly are found at the top and bottom of the Knights of Columbus lineup on Mondays.

Denise Ouimet, Debbie Ouimet and Ruth Ann Ouimet are bowling sisters-in-law. Ruth Ann sometimes competes against the other two and her niece, Mary Jane Goodreau, who form part of the C&E Bombers with Michelle Harper. Sabrina Mosey sometimes subs for her mother, Penny, captain of the On Strike team.

We also must include brothers, Chris and Danny Jones, who are believed to have overcome lifelong sibling rivalry by being on the Laliberte Collision team. Dave Marentette is their teammate, and his sister, Lynn Natyshak, has done an excellent job in heading the Ladies League as its President.

Brothers-in-law, Dave Marshall and Randy Schmeltz, are teammates of Dave Belanger and Shawn Mackay and Randy keeps his attention focused on his grandson, Kaiden on Saturday mornings.

Although Paul Peltier is currently inactive, he and his brother Stan have toiled for Monday's J&D team. Younger cousin Kayden McAuliffe is in his 2nd year in the Youth League and is a teammate of Tyler Cartier.

Robert Roegiest, anchor of the Rivait Motorsports-1 squad, also keeps tabs on the progress of granddaughter, Shayna Jodon.

The future is cast as the Youth League has two other pairs of brothers in addition to the Andersons - Micah and Malachi Meunier, and Hunter and Trevor Nolet. Let the pins fall!