



## Belated wishes ... and questions I wish I could get answered

One of the things I have enjoyed doing the past four years is writing my wish list for the upcoming season. Usually I do this during the summer. However, this summer was a little more hectic for me and it was really easy to say, "I'll finish that list tomorrow." Well, as is usually the case for most of us, tomorrows came and went and the list went untouched, so I decided to finish it today!

So, even though the season is already underway, I still wish...

- Someday, somewhere, somehow, the Virginia Masters scratch league is reborn so that once again we can see the best bowlers in our area at their competitive best.

- We all pay more attention to our junior bowlers, both on and off the lanes—they are our future.

- The true touring professional bowlers are recognized for the athletic ability and expertise they possess on the lanes.

- Mike Hahn gets his wheels healthy, his body fit, and his mind set so that he can show us all (once again) that he is the best there is when it comes to bowling for the tournament cash—bar none!

- Chuck Gannon's comeback continues and we get to see the talent that he possesses and hear maybe just one more "Gannon story"—only this time, one with a happy ending.

- Gray Ransom can help one of my staff members find the missing "fingers" he has been searching for on Thursday nights.

- Bowlers in our association and associations everywhere take the "they" out of ABC and WIBC and replace it with "we." "They" are there to help guide us and protect us from

ourselves, but ultimately "we" decide when, how, and where we bowl. So we all need to work together.

- "The Guru" (Gary Parsons) is recognized not only for his verbose articles and bowling skills but also for the knowledge, dedication, and teaching skills he possesses.

- The next time you have a pleasant experience in someone's pro shop or bowling center or league, you express your appreciation to those responsible.

- Those of us who bowl league try not to forget that we are just playing a game, and that we should be enjoying ourselves to some extent. (This is one I might try myself!)

- Someone will answer this question for me: When the cost of bowling goes up 30 cents, why do we vote to increase the cost of bowling by \$1? ... and then bitch that we can't afford to bowl leagues because they're too expensive!

- Our local associations get the support they deserve so they will see a record number of entries in their annual championship tournaments this season.

- My cousin, Syd Jones, has continued success in the tournaments he runs and that he never loses his Sumo(s), the ball that makes his swing look better than ever.

- This season I meet at least one person who truly loves to bowl as much as Pat Blackmore.

- Someone tells me that "The Doctor" (Greg Goetz) is "in." We miss his talent, his style, and his always being late for tournaments.

- This is the season that I don't hear one horror story about missing funds from a league account.

- "Crazy Ted" (Ted Gruszkowski Jr.) keeps right on plugging to bring the fun back to league bowling by getting everyone involved both on and off the lanes.

- The last thing shown on a PBA telecast this season is Rich Wolfe holding the championship trophy up high for all of us to see.

- Bruce Merriman someday is recognized for his contributions to the game we play. From juniors to the casual league bowler and all the way up to the scratch player, he is one who truly cares and wants to see all get the most they can out of their bowling experience.

- Someone will answer this question for me: Why do the greatest bowlers in the world, the touring professional players, feel threatened by a league bowler averaging higher than any one of them? Did Ted Williams or George Brett ever complain about a sandlot ballplayer hitting for a higher average?

- The great minds in bowling technology, like Mo Pinel, never lose the desire to take our game to another level.

- Anyone who has his own business, bowling-related or not, is blessed with a staff and co-workers like I have been.

- Bowlers realize that with all of the variables involved (human, mechanical, and natural) that they may not always encounter the lane conditions that are pleasing to them.

- Those of us who play the game of bowling learn all we can from books and videos but never forget that there is no substitute for actual on-lane practicing.

- "The Editor" (Bob Cosgrove) has his *Washington Times* column appear regularly and that it is more widely appreciated by all of us. (And also, that he has more success with some of his *BOWL Magazine* columnists submitting their columns on time.)

- You all have the best season possible. Get out there and practice at your favorite bowling center, support those who support the game we play, and visit the professional ball driller of your choice—he or she can make a difference in how successful you will be on the lanes.



When your BVL volunteer asks . . . Just Say Yes.



*NCABA Hall of Famer Jerry Francomano, a recognized authority on bowling equipment, operates the Sports Plus/Carmen Don Pro Shop in Alexandria.*