

# President's Letter

## Tournament

“Thank you” to everyone who bowled our association tournament; youth, women and men. The association tournament is one of our ways to provide a service for your membership dollars. Our board volunteers work hard on getting sponsor money to add to our prize fund in order to keep tournament bowling fees low and the prize fund high. Many man hours are expended to assure the tournament runs in a timely expedient manner and that checks get out quickly. Any suggestions regards the tournament being made better, please email to [walters35@msn.com](mailto:walters35@msn.com).

## High Scoring Articles & Opinions

Various articles have been written regards bowling's high scoring environment. What are we going to do to keep our sport a sport? A recent article in Bowler's Journal by Bob Johnson states, “What would be worthy of a banner headline today in a major newspaper, perhaps a 1500 team game? But if that were to happen, the story would probably need to be placed on the newspaper's obituary page under the heading: Bowling, Sport of.”

It is, at times, puzzling to me that we look at too many high scores as a real problem when we as an association work to coach and train Youth and Adults to be better bowlers all the time.

## Questions :

1. Should we drop all our coaching programs, tell the bowling centers to quit cleaning the lanes and go back to conditioning them with fly sprayers? ( Really, that is how many of the houses did them in the 50s and 60s.)
2. Hand buff with a buffing machine with no way to know how much conditioner was being put down or even if any was left on the lane in some spots?
3. Bowl on wooden lanes that may or may not have been sanded and resurfaced each year?

Was it harder to score then? Probably, but was it because of lane conditions, lack of coaching, rubber, plastic or urethane bowling balls or all of the above?

It's hard for me to criticize our bowlers for wanting to be better. I guess it's easier to criticize high scoring as a real problem and to want to go back to the “Good Old Days”.

Now on to the Olympic Games – The “Good Old Days” required track meets run on a cinder track, pole vault with a bamboo or aluminum pole, gymnastics floor exercise done on a hard mat with no springs underneath. Are new records being set at each Olympics Games? Absolutely! Is it due to conditions, modern equipment, better coaching or all the above? Sounds like bowling to me. I guess they all shouldn't be called sports.

## **Bowling – A sport worth supporting and defending.**

George Walters,  
President Mid-Minnesota USBC Assn.