

# **HELP SAVE THE PBA IN THE USA**

The PBA in the USA needs your assistance because it is on the verge of becoming non-existent in our country. Please allow me to give you a little history about the PBA and what a golden opportunity it provides players who would like to compete on an International level.

The Professional Bowls Association, known as the PBA, has branches in numerous countries around the World. The organization's goal is to bring together competitors of the highest caliber to compete in International and World Championships in Europe and in the process promote bowls around the World

Some of the countries that belong include the USA, Canada, Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, Australia, South Africa, Israel, Spain, and China, just to name a few.

In each of these countries playoffs are held once a year to determine who will represent their country in the Championship matches that are held in Scotland, England and sometimes Wales.

The unique thing about the PBA is that it provides an opportunity for bowlers to compete in World Championships without the need to be selected by U.S. Team Selectors. As a result it is a rare opportunity for good bowlers who may not have been selected to compete on Team USA, but who want the chance to represent their country and possibly win a World Championship and in the process a lot of money, fame and glory.

At the present time the qualifying matches are the Scottish International Open Singles, The Singles and Pairs World Championships at Potters Leisure Resort in Great Yarmouth England and the International Singles held in Blackpool, England.

The way it works is you first join the PBA by emailing Frank Souza the head of the PBA in the USA at [frslb1up@cox.net](mailto:frslb1up@cox.net) and tell him you want to join up. Once you pay the membership fee you then get to compete in the qualifying matches, which hopefully will be held this year in Sun City Arizona. There are no other entry fees after you pay your membership dues. There is, however, one small problem. That problem is that for the first time in years the membership in the USA has declined to the point that the events may not be staged this year. If that happens then all those bowlers in the USA who could have had an opportunity to bowl in a World Championship and represent the United States, will lose that opportunity. That would be a big loss to those individual bowlers and bowls in general in the USA.

Technically in order for the US PBA to hold qualifying events 48 members are required. Frank Souza has indicated that if we get close to that number our chances are good that we will be able to stage our Qualifiers this year. Our goal, however, is to meet the 48 members required. What this low membership number means, is that you have a pretty good chance of winning one of the four events (3 singles and 1 pairs), competing at Potters Leisure resort or one of the other venues, for prize money, which when I went was \$60,000 for first place. The prize money changes every year, but it is substantial at the World Championships.

In addition many of the events are televised on the BBC and Sky Europe. Every game is recorded on camera. That means that you come home with a DVD of your match(s). You may watch these events anytime on the Internet by going to 247.tv.

At the Scottish International Open and the International held in Blackpool, you get about \$1,000 just for playing, **win or lose**. I don't know of any of our local tournaments that pay you a \$1,000 for losing. Now if you win a match then you make more money and at an increasing amount for every match you win. The player money helps defray your travel costs and if you win can pay for your entire vacation.

Of course if you win the whole thing you can buy yourself a nice new car.

The matches are played on the portable rink, a blue Dales carpet. It's a single rink that is transported and set up in each of the three venues where the competitions are played. It's a great surface to play on, quick and true. I have been lucky enough to play on it at the Welsh Open, Scottish Open and at Potters in England. For me it has been something I would not have missed for the World. The opportunity to play against the World's best bowlers, visit some great bowling clubs, especially Potters Leisure Resort, which is a five star resort with professional entertainment at night as well as fine dining, was a lot of fun.

At Potters your hotel stay is covered while you are competing. Also included are your meals and the entertainment. In Scotland and Blackpool, at the International Open tournaments, you get paid for qualifying win or lose, but you have to make your own hotel arrangements, which basically is paid for with your qualifying money.

The PBA is a wonderful opportunity to play against the top ranked players in the World. All you have to do is win in the USA, which is a real possibility given the small number of entrants. In the USA we are competing against a small number of players, whereas in other countries the competition is in the hundreds or thousands, thus much more difficult to qualify.

Don't let this opportunity pass you by, join today by calling Frank Souza at 623-388-6160 or emailing him at [frslb1up@cox.net](mailto:frslb1up@cox.net).