

INTERNATIONAL

BOWLING INDUSTRY

Vol. 28 | September/October 2020

THE WORLD'S ONLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE BUSINESS OF BOWLING



Dean and Bridgette Tschurwald,
Dogger's Bar and Lanes



Mike and Donna Marese,
The Bowling Alley



Shawn Taylor,
Logan Lanes

Keeping The Lights On

Small town centers find ways to survive

STELTRONIC:
40 YEARS STRONG

STRINGS ATTACHED
GO-AHEAD

LEAGUES
GET ROLLIN'



QUBICA AMF
**"SOME STRINGS ATTACHED"
TOURNAMENT**

**THE WORLD'S
FIRST TOURNAMENT
BOWLED ON STRING
AND FREE-FALL PINSPOTTERS**

The Some Strings Attached Tournament was held at HeadPinz in Naples, Florida on July 25th and 26th 2020. 65 bowlers, with 20 years competitive experience on average, bowled 670 games. Half of the games were bowled on EDGE String and half on free-fall pinspotting machines.

**EDGE
STRING** **VS** **FREE
FALL**

**THE WINNER IS
BOWLING!**

EDGE String
335 Games bowled
204.7 Average Score

Free-Fall
335 Games bowled
203.4 Average Score

ONLY 1.3 PINS DIFFERENCE
AMAZINGLY SIMILAR SCORING BETWEEN
EDGE STRING AND FREE-FALL



■ By Natalie Davis

With care and planning, the Some Strings Attached Invitational was hosted at HeadPinz Entertainment Center in Naples, FL, July 25 – 26, 2020. It was the first tournament featuring a combination of string and free-fall machines and the first major tournament in the coronavirus era. Following proper procedures made spectators and guests feel safe. Custom-made masks and temperature checks were mandatory for entry. New hand sanitizer stations were placed throughout the whole facility. Additionally, the tournament was bowled socially distanced across 16 lanes split evenly between eight free-fall machines and eight EDGE String machines. HeadPinz general manager Mike Cannington was a bit nervous about this first pandemic tournament. “I’ve got to be honest, operating an event of this magnitude in the coronavirus-era presented some challenges. We had to greatly limit the number of spectators in the area and make sure those not competing were wearing masks. I was thrilled with the acceptance of these rules by everyone. We had zero complaints on the safety front.”

The tournament kicked off Saturday by

invitation-only to 48 professional bowlers. Headliners included Walter Ray Williams Jr., Norm Duke, Amleto Monacelli, and Jason Couch. On Sunday the 26th, the tournament was open on a first come first serve basis. The two-day tournament hosted 65 participants. The winner of Saturday’s Invitational was Kenny Ryan; the winner of the Open tournament on Sunday was Jason Couch.

“I was very impressed with EDGE String. I think these machines are a step in the right direction for bowling,” said Couch, 16-time PBA tour champion and PBA and USBC

John Losito and Lucas Wiseman live-streamed the tournament on FloBowling



The Some Strings Attached tournament gets underway with proper safety and health precautions



Winner Kenny Ryan (center) receives his prize from Pat Ciniello (left) and John Hough (right)

Hall of Famer. The results showed very little scoring difference between EDGE String and the free-fall machines. The overall results for both days was a score of 204.76 on string and 203.43 on the free-fall machines —only a 1.3 pin difference.

NEW CHALLENGER: STRING MACHINES

String machines are the new kids in the world of bowling. Touting low cost, and low maintenance, the new string pinsetters are simple to operate. With the QubicaAMF EDGE String pinspotter, an employee could be trained in an afternoon on the system, and by evening, they could fix a problem with just a smart phone using the innovative Tech Wizard app that guides users with operation and maintenance through a combination of videos and text instruction.

Moises Jaffif, who operates Strike 10 Bowling and Sports Lounge in Hallandale Beach, FL, said, “One of the biggest threats to our



business success was dependence on hard-to-find pinsetter technicians, and we did not have a solution.” Moises explained that lane downtime has now been

When asked if they would participate in another tournament with EDGE String pinsetters, 97% of bowlers said they would.

eliminated and they are saving between \$9,000 and \$11,000 in pinsetter parts costs per year.

Darrin Skinner, owner of Lake Wylie Bowl N' Bounce in Lake Wylie, SC, is saving around \$45,000 per year in parts and labor across 16 lanes. His room full of spare pinsetter parts has been reduced to just one small shelf. He says, “The EDGE String pinsetters have given me peace of mind. They transformed something that was a major source of heartburn into something that is no longer an issue.” Skinner can now perhaps dedicate that extra space into a money-making space.

THE TALLY?

As might be expected, pinfall behavior on certain shot combinations did behave a little differently than what folks are used to with free-fall machines, however the overall scoring between string and free-fall was very consistent. The overall feedback and perception of the bowling experience on the EDGE String pinsetters from the tournament participants was very positive. The vast majority of participants agreed that they would bowl in a tournament with string pinsetters again. ❖



The QubicaAMF crew



Natalie Davis is the marketing manager for *International Bowling Industry* magazine and its parent company B2B Media, Inc. Helping recreational businesses connect with millennials is her forte. She enjoys working from her home base of sunny Fort Lauderdale, FL.



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STRING** **VS** **FREE
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**THE WINNER IS
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EDGE
STRING

65 Bowlers
222 Participant bowling average
20 Years competitive experience on average

97%

**WOULD BOWL IN ANOTHER TOURNAMENT
WITH EDGE STRING PINSPOTTERS**



I enjoyed it. It was fun

Kenny Ryan, Winner of the Invitational



I would absolutely bowl another tournament on EDGE String

Jason Couch, Winner of the Open



Great tournament, very fun, very impressed

Nate Garcia



It was my first time, I would do it again

Sean Wilcox



It is still bowling and I love to do it

Verity Crawley



It was a lot of fun

Ashly Galante