



Press Release 14: EBT 2010 on the road

The 11th season of the European Bowling Tour took off yesterday, when Brunswick Ballmaster Open presented two full squads in famous Tali Bowling Centre, the fully renovated 36 lane bowling centre, situated in the Finnish capital, Helsinki.

Brunswick Ballmaster Open is in more ways a unique tournament; it is the only tournament on the tour program in all 11 seasons, it is over time the longest unbrokenly conducted tournament in the tour, the 2010 issue is conducted in a shining 40 years jubilee celebration and it looks like this 40th issue of the tournament will brake all existing records of stop participation.

72 spots are available in each squad and 72 players were signed up both in Squad 1 and in Squad 2, conducted yesterday on 2 January 2010 in Helsinki. In total the tournament has been played by not less than 133 different players already after day 1.

The remaining 13 qualification squad's looks pretty packed and the organizer reports up to 500 players taking part, with a fair possibility to pass the magic 1.000 entries line, at the end of the qualification on Saturday 9 January.

The previous participation records belongs to the 1st Viernheim Open (Gutperle Anniversary), which attracted 440 players in 2005 in Germany and to Brunswick Euro Challenge, which had a total of 960 played entries in 2008 in France. So as it looks by now, both records are seriously attacked by the tremendous number of players heading towards Helsinki in the coming days.

Like the Brunswick Ballmaster Open, which by it selves is a classic, is the final of this years jubilee issue a real classic, introducing 8 games in the final step 1 for all 48 qualified players, reducing it to a 16 players round robin in step 2, topped by a 4 persons stepladder final at the end; televised in Finland and with additional 3 transmissions later at Eurosport.

Other tournaments, with a high number of appearances in the tour program, since the tour took off with its first issue in 2000, is Trofeu Internacional Ciutat de Barcelona with 10 appearances, Bowltech Aalborg International with 9 appearances and Columbia 300 Vienna Open with 8 appearances. Opposite to the first more turbulent years in the early stages of the tour, many tournaments are, in the later stages of the tour, returning to the tour program year after year.

The first year in the second decade of the European Bowling Tour indicates, in more ways, a new beginning of the tour.

The EBT 2010 includes for the first time 4 categories, namely EBT Satellites with a minimum prize fund of 20.000 €, EBT Silver Tournaments with a minimum prize fund of 40.000 €, EBT Gold Tournaments with a minimum prize fund of 60.000 € and EBT Platinum Tournaments with a minimum prize fund of 100.000 €.



Not less than 21 tournaments are included in the EBT 2010 program, distributed over the 4 categories as follows: 2 Platinum Tournaments (Brunswick Ballmaster Open and Qatar Bowling Open), 7 EBT Gold Tournaments, 8 EBT Silver Tournaments and 4 EBT Satellites.

The tour passes during its 2010 season through 17 different federations (the highest number ever), which is Austria, Catalonia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Qatar, Russia, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. In Poland, Russia and Slovakia a tour stop is conducted for the first time.

The total sum of 2010 prize money in the 21 stops will, together with the EBT Masters prize money, be 1.2 million €, which is the highest amount so far in the European Bowling Tour.

As of 2007, the European Bowling Tour got its own independent final, named the EBT Masters, conducted so far twice, namely in 2008 in Ankara, Turkey as the final of the EBT 2007 and in 2009 in Aalborg, Denmark as the final of the EBT 2008.

EBT Masters winners in the men's division has so far been Osku Palermaa from Finland in 2008 and Paul Moor from England in 2009, while Kamilla Kjeldsen from Denmark won the EBT Masters titles in the women's division both in 2008 and 2009. Palermaa is a three times tour titleholder (2007, 2008 and 2009), Moor also holds three tour titles (2004, 2005 and 2006), while Kjeldsen holds two tour titles in the women's division (2000 and 2003).

The EBT Masters 2010 (the final of the EBT 2009) will be conducted in Vienna, Austria on 3-4 May in conjunction with the conduction of the 1st Ebonite Austria Challenge (EBT 2010 Stop 08). Furthermore we are in these weeks receiving applications for hosting the EBT Masters 2011 and the host of the EBT Masters 2012 will be found later this year.

In July 2008 the Catalan Bowling Federation opened the I Federation Tenpin Bowling Cup 2008 in Barcelona and recently we announced the II Federation Tenpin Bowling Cup 2010 to be scheduled in July 2010, again on the initiative of the Catalan Bowling Federation and again in Barcelona.

The Federation Tenpin Bowling Cup is indeed unique, since it is a competition between zone teams (one 4 person's male team and one 4 person's female team) from Pan American Bowling Confederation, Asian Bowling Federation and European Tenpin Bowling Federation.

The four men and the four women representing ETBF in the II Federation Tenpin Bowling Cup 2010 will be the 4 highest positioned players in the women's respectively the men's ranking of the European Bowling Tour after the first 9 stops in 2010. Stop 09 of the EBT 2010 is the 7th Istanbul Bowling Open.

Also on initiative of the Catalan Bowling Federation, we witnessed the first tour stop in Eurosport transmissions, when the final of the 31st Trofeu Internacional Ciutat de Barcelona was aired three times in July and August 2009 on Eurosport 2.

As presented above, the final of Brunswick Ballmaster Open will be transmitted in Eurosport in January and finals of more stops are expected to be transmitted at Eurosport over the season. Negotiations are presently ongoing and more news will be published soonest possible.

EBT on Eurosport; that introduces a new area and the same did the first stages of a co-operation between PBA and ETBF, when Osku Palermaa qualified for the 2009 PBA World Se-



ries in Detroit, because of his leading position in the European Bowling Tour. We expect a continued co-operation with PBA and will return with more news after a period of negotiations.

A great beginning of the new tour season with the massively attended Brunswick Ballmaster Open, a new tour with 21 stops spread over 17 different federations and an increased external interest for the European Bowling Tour, indicates a healthy tour. Still on the right track despite of the challenging financial period the World is facing at the moment.

The official invitation for organizers to apply for adoption of their tournaments in the EBT 2011 is, together with an opening for bids of hosting the EBT Masters 2012, circulated early March, with an expected deadline mid June. We hope to see more federations being able to join with at least satellite stops for a beginning, so the tour can be spread even more widely for the benefit of the development of the sport of bowling.

A list including all stops of the EBT 2010 is presented at the following page.

Kim Thorsgaard Jensen
EBT Director



Tournaments included in the European Bowling Tour 2010				
Stop	Date	Federation	Tournament	Category
01	02.01-10.01	Finland	Brunswick Ballmaster Open	Platinum
02	07.02-14.02	Netherlands	Hammer Bronzen Schietspoel Tournament	Silver
03	15.02-21.02	Poland	4 th International Wroclaw Open by Hammer	Satellite
04	23.02-28.02	Catalonia	VIII Catalonia Open - Trofeu Galasa	Silver
05	05.03-14.03	France	Brunswick Euro Challenge	Gold
06	15.03-21.03	Luxembourg	Ebonite International Luxembourg Open	Satellite
07	13.04-18.04	Slovenia	4 th Qubica/AMF Open 2010	Silver
08	28.04-02.05	Austria	1 st Ebonite Austria Challenge	Silver
09	10.05-16.05	Turkey	7 th Istanbul Bowling Open	Gold
10	24.05-30.05	Denmark	Bowltech Aalborg International 2010	Gold
11	27.06-04.07	Germany	1 st Track Dream-Bowl Palace Open 2010	Silver
12	03.07-11.07	San Marino	6 th San Marino Open	Gold
13	13.07-18.07	Catalonia	32 Trofeu Internacional Ciutat de Barcelona	Gold
14	23.08-29.08	Slovakia	BNC Bratislava Open	Silver
15	11.09-19.09	Italy	1 st Torneo Internazionale di Roma	Satellite
16	14.09-19.09	Russia	1 st Pavlovskiy Posad Open	Satellite
17	18.09-26.09	Turkey	Ankara Open	Gold
18	28.09-03.10	Austria	8 th Columbia 300 Vienna Open	Gold
19	09.10-17.10	Finland	Lahti Open	Silver
20	06.12-12.12	England	Ebonite English Open	Silver
21	11.12-19.12	Qatar	Qatar Bowling Open	Platinum