

“ SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EVENT ”

The end of September 2016 marks Andy Mitchell's 30th Anniversary running the ABT franchise tournaments in the Philadelphia/Delaware Branch. When he bought this branch from Roland Pepin, the entry fee was only \$26.00 with \$1.00 high game pots per game. There were six squads on Saturday with four games per squad. The Semis and Finals were held on Sunday with a re-entry squad on Sunday morning for those bowlers that bowled on Saturday. In order to make the Semis they had to beat the cut score from Saturday. In addition, there was only one Division of 189 average and under.

September 27-28, 1986 was Andy's first tournament held at Facenda Whitaker Lanes, Norristown, PA. There were 171 entries. The men's cut was -25 and the women's cut was -29. Ron Shemeley won for \$800.00 with a 178 average.

February 28-29, 1987 (Leap Year) was the first Delaware tournament held at Price Lanes, Wilmington, DE. There were 300 entries. The men's cut was +41 and the women's cut was +16. Hank Stiehl won for \$1,000.00 with a 169 average.

In 1995, ABT added the Master Division at 190-220. Shawn Boyd was the first Master member in the Philadelphia Branch to join. There were separate prize funds for both divisions. The first tournament was March 10-12 at Conchester Lanes, Boothwyn, PA. Friday night squads were added. There were 32 Master entries and 214 Classic entries. Master cut was +12 - Classic cut was +18 and Women's cut was +3. John Disantis won the Master Division for \$400. Tim Murr won the Classic Division for \$1,000. Entry fee was \$30 for Classic and \$50 for Masters. There was also a 285 pot offered for \$1.00.

In 1998 Andy took over the South Jersey Branch and started running two tournaments per week; one in South Jersey and one in Pennsylvania/Delaware.

For eleven years (2000 – 2010) Andy also ran the ABT National Tournament in Las Vegas and Reno which included Showboat, Castaways, Sam's Town, Reno Hilton and The Stadium. There was a Spring and Fall tournament and ABT members from all over the country came to bowl for a much larger prize fund. Optional tournament events were also available such as, Doubles, Scratch, and Seniors for an additional fee.

There have been a few changes and adjustments made since starting out, but the main objective to running these tournaments has been and always will be a love for the sport, as well as a love for the participants; many of whom he has come to see as his extended family. By running the ABT tournaments, Andy has offered many bowlers the challenge and opportunity to compete and socialize with others who enjoy bowling throughout the years. The Amateur Bowlers Tour is the largest bowling organization in the country and has been around since 1977. Our branch alone has paid out over \$16,206,093.00.

On October 22 – 23 we would like to celebrate Andy's 30th Anniversary with ABT at Bowlerama Lanes, New Castle, DE. Please come out and join us. We would love to see some of our old members too.