

The Elkhart Team Challenge was started in 1996 as an idea for a Team Scratch Tournament in the Elkhart Area. As a bowler who has bowled hundreds of Tournaments, I wanted to start one myself.

I then brought the idea to the then owner of Country Club Lanes Marv Bowlby and he said sure, give it a shot. That was amazing in that I had only been an Elkhart Resident for 6 months or so. The Tournament has been with Country Club Lanes since it's inception and through ownership changes.

The Tournament was intended to be a smaller version of the now defunct Brunswick World Team Challenge Tournament conducted by the ABC (now USBC).

The first year the ETC drew 14 teams. There was a 3 game qualifying set with a 4-team, 4 game semi finals, which preceded a 3-team, 2 game stepladder finals. Starting the 2nd year, the format was changed to the top 8 teams making the cut for an 8 team head to head semi-finals. It has been this way ever since with a 1 in 3 cashing ratio. The Finals consist of 3 teams with a stepladder head to head matches. Each team bowls 2 baker games. One game shot on each lane with total wood determining the winner. The format is / was an exact copy of BWTC on a smaller scale. We tried to style it the same way even when they made changes.

As the years have past, the entry count each year has increased due to popularity and word of mouth from the Bowlers. We went to 18 teams the 2nd year, 21 the 3rd and 4th year, 22 the 5th year, 27 the 6th year, 28 the 7th year, dropped to 26 the 8th due to a scheduling change and finally the last 6 years the field was full at 32 teams.

The ETC has had only one repeat champion in the 14-year History of the Tournament. That was the 7th & 8th year with Froberg's Pro Shop.

In 2008, The ETC had it's first Baker 300 shot by Cellular Consultants of Lafayette, In. during Match Play.

The ETC has had 633 different bowlers compete from 4 different states. Only 6 bowlers have won the tournament with 2 different

teams. Todd Brown, Jerry Healey Sr., Phil Vincze, Sammy Stewart, Wayne Wootten and Steve Gard. We have had 22 women compete in the Tournament and in 2009 had two all Female teams. One team in 2008 came in 8th out of the 32 teams and made match play while shooting 3458 in qualifying.

The ETC has had Five 800 Series shot and Sixteen 300 games. Todd Brown is the only bowler to have two 300 games during the 14 year span. See All Time Record Links for the bowlers.

I wish the best to all bowlers and bowling fans.

Roy Kolaya
ETC Tournament Director