

“THIRD TIME’S A CHARM” - WHEELER WINS

Those words were fitting for this year’s champion as he had knocked twice on the champion’s door the last two years. The phrase “Third time’s a charm” is often used as an idiom to encourage someone to try for the third time even after failing two times earlier, making them realize that their efforts might give them the desired results on their third time. It could not have been more fitting for Larry Wheeler, Jr (Suisin City, Ca.) who did just that. He won four straight matches to emerge as the winner of the winner’s bracket. He now would have to wait and see who he would have to face from the winner of the loser’s bracket. That match was between Chris Hillman (Newark, Ca.) and Robert Harmon (Jackson, Ca.). Robert was up to the task defeating Chris 503-448. Now it was up for Larry to have some redemption, coming so close to claiming the title the last two years. In their championship match Larry jumped ahead after game 1 by a huge margin of 60 pins (244-184). At this point Larry was feeling pretty good, but knew from prior experience that no lead was ever really safe. Robert would have to bowl a very good game and hope Larry would run into some problems in order to win this first match to force a second match. If Robert would have won this first match he would have to defeat Larry again as you have to be defeated twice to be eliminated from the tournament. However, Larry stayed close to Robert’s second game bowling 210 to Robert’s 224 winning the match by 46 pins (454-408) and earning the title to become our 28th annual Brunswick Modesto Masters champion. Larry received \$3,000 for the title and Robert received \$1,600 for his runner up efforts.

This year’s tournament had added money of \$4,300.00 thanks to Brunswick and our other sponsors - Cal-West Roofing, Bowling Outfitters-Modesto, McHenry Bowl, Yosemite Lanes, Yosemite Lanes Pro Shop, Modesto USBC Association and Mark Baker Bowling.

Our high qualifier this year was Zarcoff Boutell from Newbury Park with a seven game total of 1818 or a 259.7 average. This year’s winner – Larry Wheeler, Jr qualified 2nd with 1762 or a 251.7 average. Our runner up (Robert) qualified 12th with 1672 or 238.8 average. Our 3rd place finisher was Chris Hillman who qualified 6th with 1725 or a 246.4 average and received a total of \$1,100 for his efforts. Rounding out the top four was our qualifying leader, Zarcoff earning a respectable \$850, which included a high qualifier bonus of \$50.

It took a seven game score of 1660 (16th place) or a 237.1 average to make it to match play and a score of 1619 (22th place) or a 231.2 average to receive the final check from the main prize fund. Local bowlers grabbed 3 of the 22 checks and 2 of them competed in match play.

Local bowlers competing in match play were Michael Pixley of Turlock and Nick Kelley of Modesto. Michael qualified 3rd with 1752 (250.2 avg.) finished in the round of 9th-12th and received a total of \$400. Nick qualified 22nd with 1660 (237.1 avg.) finished in the round of 13th-16th and received a total of \$300. Our other local casher was Casey Custer of Modesto who finished 20th with a score of 1628 (232.5) and received \$200.

For the thirteenth year in a row an incentive was in place for the top local league bowler out of the cash from the main prize fund. Miguel Nunez from Salida (finished 25th with 1611) and received that award of \$140. In addition, there was a \$10 optional insurance pool for bowlers the age of 50 and over. It paid out 2 spots this year. Bowlers receiving money from the insurance pool were Rodney Bridgeman from Vallejo with a score of 1599 for \$80 and Wayne Garber of Modesto with a score of 1590 for \$90. This was the 18th year “seniors” could put up \$10 in addition to the standard entry fee for insurance. It pays

1 spot for every 8 entries for the “insurance” bowlers. There were a total of 16 eligible bowlers opting to pay the extra amount for “insurance”.

This year there were a total of 90 entries coming from all parts of Northern and Southern California, Nevada, Texas and Washington. Total sponsorships from **Brunswick** and the local businesses were \$4,300 and along with the prize fund from the entries, the main prize fund paid out \$12,940.

There were some high scores bowled on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday they included 5-300's and 2-800's series. On Sunday there were 2 300's. On Saturday the 300 games were bowled by Larry W, Michael P, David Serna from Stockton, Chris H and Danny Lew from Stockton. The 800's on Saturday were bowled by Danny in his 1st 3 games 803 (258,245,300), and Casey Ryan from Rocklin in the second 3 games - 801 (288,234,279). Sunday's 300's were bowled by David Serna and John Lewis from Rohnert Park.

Congratulations to all the bowlers who cashed and thank you to all bowlers who participated. Special thanks go out to Brian Garland from Brunswick and all of our local sponsors. Most of all thank you to all of the helpers who worked the tournament and assisted in the ball raffles.

Next year's tournament is tentatively scheduled for April 11 and 12, 2026 at Yosemite Lanes.

Jim Gordin April 14, 2025

April 13, 2025
28th Annual Brunswick
Modesto Masters Prize Fund

1 st	Larry Wheeler, Jr	Suisin City	3,000
2 nd	Robert Harmon	Jackson	1,600
3 rd	Chris Hillman	Newark	1,100
4 th	Zarcoff Boutell	Newbury Park	850
5-6 th	Danny Lew	Stockton	625
	John Lewis	Rohnert Park	625
7-8 th	Ed Silva	Manteca	500
	Chris Preble	Clovis	500
9-12 th	Michael Pixley	Turlock	400
	Tommy Nguyen	San Jose	400
	David Serna	Stockton	400
	Casey Ryan	Rocklin	400
13-16 th	Nick Kelley	Modesto	300
	Steve E. Davis	Manteca	300
	George Gohagen III	Las Vegas, Nv	300
	Lee Patterson	Antioch	300
17-22 nd	Scott Boyle	Sacramento	200
	Robby Britton	Clovis	200
	Cody Patterson	Antioch (SMART)	200
	Casey Custer	Modesto	200
	Roger (Jay) Melton	Fresno	200
	Lanndyn Carnate	Redding	200
Local out of cash-	Miguel Nunez	Modesto	140

	Total		\$12,940