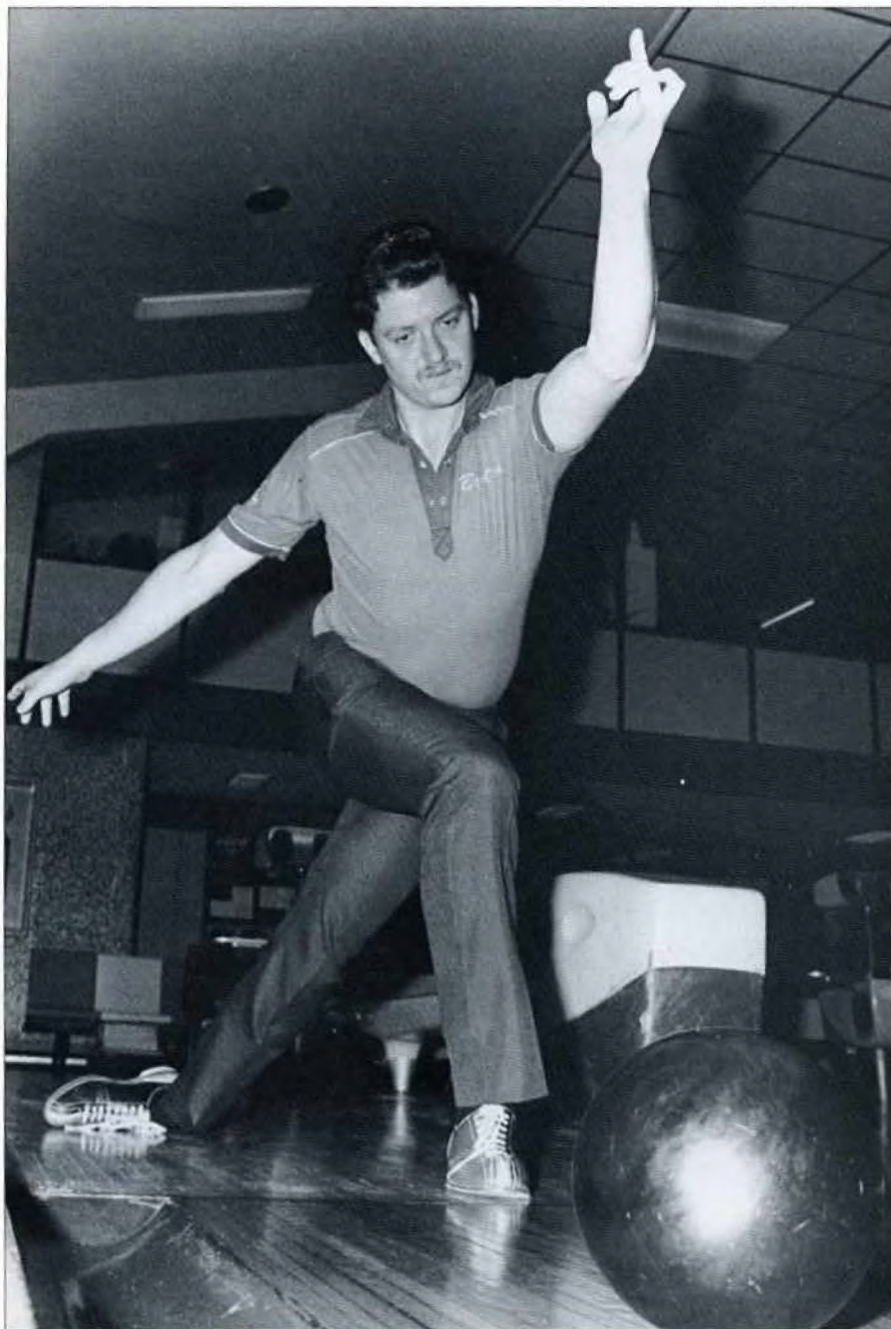


# BRENTON BOWLS 'EM OVER

by Detective Senior Constable Eric Dix Picture by Det. Sen. Const. Jack Ford



**Senior Constable Brenton Davy (Central Region) is fast making a name for himself in the ranks of Australia's leading tenpin bowlers.**

The 29-year-old left hander made an impressive start to the 1988 season. The way was paved with a string of consistent efforts in 1987, which included his South Australian State team debut, (he represented NSW in 1985) at the Rocking trophy event in Perth.

There the team broke a 17-year drought to become Australian Champions in bowling — equivalent to the

Sheffield Shield in cricket.

"That was by far the biggest thrill of my career, because I was part of a team, a successful team," he said. "My other wins have been in singles competition which, although extremely satisfying, have not meant as much as the team spirit experiences in the Rocking team."

Brenton has also tasted victory in the 1984 Leichhardt Cup, the 1987 Perth Cup, in 1988 the Launceston Cup in Tasmania and the City of Adelaide Plate, as well as holding the national 4 game record of 1046 (a 261.5 average).

Not coincidentally Brenton started bowling when he first joined the force in 1979. Recruited in Adelaide he was first stationed in Sydney. "I had to get out and start meeting people instead of just staring at four walls. Rockdale Bowl was close by so I started bowling," Brenton said. "I was lucky enough to meet up with Andy McKay, arguably Australia's leading coach and he encouraged me to practice and train hard because he thought I had potential."

Certainly there were times he doubted his coach's belief as he struggled to come to terms with first the physical then the mental aspects of the sport. "Once I had mastered the physical techniques I would get into a position to make tournament finals and the pressure would get to me and I would fall away and miss out, but fortunately I've been able to overcome the problem and become a winner."

Tenpin bowling at the top is a very expensive sport. Bowling balls (Brenton owns eight, all suited to different conditions) average between \$190 and \$320 retail. Top notch bowling shoes (imported) cost \$150. Add to that practice games (20 per week at between \$2.00 and \$2.50), tournament entry fees, travel and accommodation for country and interstate tournaments and the money mounts up.

There are financial rewards in bowling, but only the top 10 or so bowlers can hope to run to a profit over a year. With great new talent hitting the circuit all the time it's getting more and more competitive.

"The kids bowling in tournaments these days are so confident in their ability. They are not at all overawed." Brenton stated.

Currently working in Central Region's General Enquiry Unit, he finds the day work very convenient, but it was not always so. "I have to thank most of the people I've worked with because they have been most understanding and helpful with shift swaps etc." he said.

Recreation leave is used to travel to major interstate tournaments which requires careful planning when putting in leave requests and preferences. Brenton is confident about his future and believes he has yet to reach his best. "I believe I can be Australia's top ranked bowler, and I don't think it's too many seasons away!"