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FINLAND TAKE DOUBLES GOLD

BOTH matches of the semi-finals were played on the short oil condition.

"We were talking in the practice time as to which pattern we would take," said Finland's Petteri Salonen. "For me it doesn't really matter, the same for Osku Palermaa, although I seemed to get better shots on the short. So we decided to take the short. We switched to long for the final because the Swedes played so well on the short in the semi-final and Palermaa ran into trouble a couple of times

on that pattern."

"As always, the scores evened up and this time we came out on top," commented Palermaa. "I wasn't worried about the Swedish score from their first game and even felt that we could have still done well on the short oil.

"I'll wait to see what the lanes are like tomorrow, The score has to be taken, it doesn't come to you."

Semi-Finals:

England (Dominic Barrett & Stuart Williams) 394; Sweden (Robert Andersson & Martin Larsen) 523 Finland (Osku Palermaa & Petteri Salonen) 400; Norway (Petter Hansen & Roger Svein Olsen) 379.



Doubles gold medalists Osku Palermaa and Petteri Salonen of Finland. (Photo: Keith Hale)

**FINAL:
FINLAND: 429
SWEDEN: 416**

Busy Internet

A check on Monday afternoon showed that there were 1,400-plus people watching the online scoring, a figure that normally doubles during evenings and weekends. The emc2009.dk website has attracted over 1.6 million 'hits' to date with the majority coming from Sweden and Denmark. In all, there have been 'hits' from 87 countries to date.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR EUROPEAN BOWLING

January 20, 2010 will mark the 50th anniversary of Tenpin Bowling in Europe as the first commercial centre with automatic pinspotters was opened at Stamford Hill, north London in 1960. The 14-lane, AMF equipped centre was situated in a converted cinema and is believed to be the first commercial centre in Europe, outside of Sweden and Finland.

Unfortunately, as far as we can ascertain, no celebrations have been planned, which is quite a shame compared with the huge efforts to mark the hundredth year of bowling in Sweden (see below).

NOW 100 YEARS FOR SWEDEN

Swedish bowling is celebrating its 100 years of existence this year. The first bowling centre was opened on October 10, 1909, in Hotel Regina in downtown Stockholm.

Bowling was brought to Sweden by Bruno Söderström, a business man and former track and field athlete. Söderström was a silver medalist in pole vault in the Olympics in Athens 1906. He had visited the United States and became fascinated by tenpin bowling and decided to bring the new sport, usually named "American bowling", to Sweden.

Söderström opened several centers in Stockholm in the early years and soon the new sport started to spread around the country. During the celebration year the Swedish Bowling Federation and the Bowling Proprietors Association have got together and organized many activities and projects. One of them is the production of a book "100 moments 100 years" which sums up a century of bowling in Sweden. Another big event will be the Celebration Gala in Stockholm on Octber.10.when the Swedish bowling community will gather and many awards will be presented.

'IT WAS ME' is presumably the 4-pin left by Israel's Izhak Dekel when he shot 299 in the sixth game of the short oil section.



sen himself.

"This would have been my second lifetime 300 game," said Dekel. "But the ball was tight in the pocket and left the 4-pin, so that was a big disappointment."

"We know this was the pin because all at Lovvang Bowl have microchips installed and we can scan them to find out where and when they were placed," said Lovvang MD Kim Thorsgaard Jensen. (Believe that and you will believe anything.)

Anyway, the true fact is that in a nice local ceremony the pin was presented to Izhak Dekel by Kim Thorsgaard Jen-

