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'OFFICIALS & OTHERS' COMPETITION at Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship

Inspired by the motto coined by WTBA President, Heikki Sarso – “EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BOWL”, the III CTBF Championship began on a light-hearted note following this afternoon's Opening ceremony. Under the supervision of Tournament Manager, Peter Coburn, Coaches, Managers and some unofficial officials took to the lanes at Altona's OzBowl, after accepting the challenge of a single game contest with the ultimate level playing field – house shoes and a house ball.

The encouraging words from Commonwealth Games superstar, Cara Honeychurch during the Opening Ceremony keynote address spurred on the international line-up of players who entertained bowlers and spectators alike with a unique combination of skill, and vaudeville.

England's Chris Buck was just warming up in the final frames, finishing with a Turkey plus 1, and despite a strong challenge on the adjoining lanes from Mohd Razib Yahya of Malaysia, Jersey's Jim Le Lion emerged as the 2006 O & O champion on 179, 3 pins ahead of his Malaysian challenger, while Brunei Coach, ex-Melbourne bowler Mike Griffiths tied for third with Tony Galea from Gibraltar on 160.

“How many games”? called one spectator from the stands after the match finished. “Luckily that was it” responded Buck good-naturedly. “I'll send the bill for the manipulation” added Buck, grinning widely.

While perhaps not the pinnacle of his career, the magnificent trophy of a toy Kangaroo with a bush hat and corks will certainly be a talking point in the Le Lions' trophy cabinet. His high score for the season was 254, Le Lion told awed onlookers “but that was a series” quipped Dean Saunders as the fun-filled event brought today's Official Practice and Opening Ceremony to a close.

Play in earnest begins at 9am tomorrow with the Men's Singles – a 6-game event to be played on Long Oil. The Women's Singles starts at 1pm, with the first Medal ceremony of the Championship scheduled for 5pm.

Spectators are welcome at OzTenpin Bowl, Blackshaws Road, Altona North during the week of the Championship - admission is free. Full details of the III Commonwealth Championship schedule and participants scores can be found on the Championship's official website - www.2006ctbc.com.

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Media enquiries, please contact CTBF Secretary-General and Media Director, Lynne Clay on +61 419 444 280 or email lynneclay@bigpond.com

Secretary General:
Lynne M. Clay

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 280 Church Point
NSW 2105
Australia

Email address:
lynneclay@bigpond.com

Fax:
+61 2 9880 8844

Telephone:
+61 2 9880 8866

Mobile Tel:
+61 419 444 280