

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 22 February 2013



COUNTDOWN TO VI COMMONWEALTH TENPIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The countdown has begun to the sixth biennial Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship with teams and officials now arriving in Auckland for the tournament that starts on Monday.

"We are on our way tomorrow....can't wait. It's so cold and grey here in the UK at the moment," emailed Wales' bowler Ali Moore. "I want sunshine, lovely people, good food and wine and good bowling!" she added.

Ali and her teammates won't be disappointed. February is renowned as a beautiful time to visit Auckland – normally the warmest and most settled month of the year with a temperature range of 16-24 degrees and the lowest average rainfall.

The harbour city is turning on all of its charm this week weather-wise and excitement is building as some of the world's top bowlers begin arriving from ten Commonwealth nations to compete in a week-long tournament of Singles, Doubles and Teams events.

The player line-up comprises an impressive mix of successful experience and emerging talent. 21 year-old Sam Cooley from Australia has four World Youth championship Gold medals to his credit while England's Kirsten Penny and Australia's Ann-Maree Putney have both won a swathe of international awards including the Bowling World Cup, World Masters and World Games titles.

Many of the competitors in the CTBF Championship this year are keen to repeat their success at previous events. Singapore's Geraldine Ng was a dual Gold-medallist at the last Commonwealth Championship held in Kuala Lumpur and Neil Sullivan from Malta will be striving for Gold following his Silver-medal performance in the Men's Singles in KL. Even some of the team coaches such as Remy Ong from Singapore and Chris Batson from Australia are champions in their own right.

Official practice begins on the two WTBA designated lane-oil patterns following the Team Managers' meeting on Monday, 25 February and spectators are welcome to watch the action on the lanes at Pins Lincoln Bowl in Henderson throughout the week. Events begin at 10am daily and admission is free.

The Championship website will have updates after every game throughout the tournament - go to www.ctbc2013.org for scores and further details.

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