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South Africa strikes Gold in Men's Doubles and Malaysian duo wins Women's Doubles

The atmosphere was electric at Northcliff Bowl in Johannesburg this afternoon as the host nation's Men's Doubles pair of Andrew Cyster and Quintin Haywood seized Gold for South Africa for the first time in the history of Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championships.

A stunning 252.5 average by 26 year-old Quintin Haywood combined with Cyster's 224.33 average for the Doubles event delighted the crowd of local supporters.

At the midway point in the event, the Malaysian duo led South Africa by a small margin, with India and Australia also in contention. In Game 4, the Malaysians increased their lead and Malta leapt into third place, but slipped behind Australia again in the fifth. The England pair of Sam Rose and Elliot Crosby trailed Malta by 44 pins and going into the final game the medal tally was impossible to forecast.

All eyes were on lanes 5/6 as the Singles Gold and Silver medallists, Timmy Tan and Muhd Nur Aiman from Malaysia pulled out all stops to overcome the 2861 target set by the South African duo. In a thrilling final game, Malaysia's Timmy Tan needed to strike out but after shooting a strike, nine, spare the crowd erupted into tumultuous cheers as their local heroes seized the Gold medal by a mere 3 pins.

The England duo also rallied, storming home to clinch the Bronze with a combined 500 game in the sixth.

Earlier in the day, in the Women's Doubles event, the Malaysian pair of Shalin Zulkifli and Siti Amirah avenged their disappointment in the Singles event with a dominant 434.3 average to claim Malaysia's first medal in the Women's division.

The Malta pair of Tiziana Carannante and Sue Abela posted lines of 490, 462 and 457 in the final three games to secure the Silver medal, overtaking the Australian duo of Dena Buxton and Bec Whiting who suffered an uncharacteristic lapse in the final match.

High Game honours went to Malaysia's Shalin Zulkifli who shot a 279 in Game 2. With an average of 216.5, Zulkifli shares the Women's All Events standings with Malta's Tiziana Carannante, and Australia's Bec Whiting on 214.75 and Malta's Sue Abela on 213.7 are in hot pursuit.

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Play resumes with the first block of Mixed Doubles this evening and continues tomorrow at Northcliff Bowl.

Full scores are available online via the official Championship website – www.ctbc2016.org.

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