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Day One – Men's Singles III Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship

Bowlers from five Commonwealth countries shared medal glory on Day One of the III Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championships, currently underway in Melbourne, Australia.

26 year-old Jon Zadel from The Midlands in England struck Gold in the first event of the Championship, played on Long Oil, with a total of 1314 for the 6-game block, including the Men's event High Game of 244.

Bahama's national champion since 1999, Sonith Lockhart won the Silver, the first medal for The Bahamas in the history of the Commonwealth Championships, with a 1253 score while Australia's George Frilingos from Brisbane pipped George Lambert IV from Canada to clinch the Bronze by a single pin to finish on 1247.

Highlighting the tight finish to this event, Jason Waters from New Zealand, Mohd Noer Said from Malaysia and Cypriot Andreas Karystianos took the next three places with a margin of only ten pins between all three bowlers.

A Gold in the Teams event at the 2001 European Championships had been Zadel's previous career highlight, telling reporters following the medal presentation ceremony this evening that he was "over the moon" with this individual win and commending the restructured training program at Team England.

Sonith Lockhart from the island of Abaco was equally jubilant with his historic medal achievement for The Bahamas. An all-round sports star in Tennis, Pool and Bowling, 46 year-old Lockhart now focuses totally on tenpin bowling. "It's determination and love for the game that my husband travelled this far for" his wife Ann said proudly afterwards. "I enjoy the camaraderie and competitiveness but at the end of the day we are all like family, hoping to see each other succeed.....this Commonwealth connection is by far the best connection in the world" added Sonith Lockhart.

Australia's George Frilingos echoed these sentiments in describing the unparalleled excitement of competing in this Championship. "This is the third time I've represented my country but the atmosphere at this tournament, Cara's inspirational words at the Opening ceremony and the tremendous sportsmanship on the lanes have combined to make this a really unique experience" Frilingos said.

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