

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

23 November 2008



Bowlers welcomed to Belfast

Bowlers, officials and supporters from 16 Commonwealth countries were welcomed to Belfast at Sunday evening's official Opening of the IV Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship by the Mayor of Castlereagh, Cr. Ann-Marie Beattie and the High Sheriff of Belfast, Cr. Margaret McKenzie.

The Championship is a highlight on the international calendar of the sport of Tenpin Bowling. Held biennially, it has previously been staged in Scotland, Cyprus and Australia, and this year the Northern Ireland Tenpin Bowling Federation is hosting the event at Dundonald International Ice Bowl, Castlereagh.

National and international dignitaries attended the Opening, including the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Association, Mr. Robert McVeigh, Secretary-General of the sport's international governing body, FIQ – Mr. Addie Ophelders, consular officials from several of the participating countries, University of Ulster's Sports Development Manager, Alison Moffitt, the President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Julian Pace-Bonello from Malta and members of the CTBF Executive Committee from England, Malaysia and Australia. They were treated to a colourful march past of teams competing in this year's event, and an entertaining display of Irish folk dancing and music.

"My Council is immensely proud of our bowling facility, and we are extremely delighted that once again you have chosen this venue to hold such a prestigious event," said Mayor Beattie prior to declaring the Championship officially open. Following the ceremony, participants and guests were led by a Piper to a Welcome Reception hosted by Castlereagh Borough Council, and enjoyed further entertainment by a lively Jazz band.

Full details of the IV Commonwealth Championship schedule, international participants and technical information, etc. can be found on the Championship website – www.ctbc2008.com. Dundonald International Ice Bowl and Castlereagh Borough Council, together with Belfast City Council, Sport Northern Ireland, the British Tenpin Bowling Association, QubicaAMF, Holiday Inn Belfast, Discover Ireland and FonaCab, are sponsoring the event.

Spectators will be welcome during the week of the Championship, with play commencing at 10am daily from Monday 24 November – admission to the venue is free.

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