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## Spotlight Shines on Commonwealth Bowling Talent

The spotlight shone on bowlers from Commonwealth nations as the global bowling community recently celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup in the ancient Polish city of Wroclaw.

The week-long spectacular concluded with Malaysia's Sin Li Jane runner-up to Clara Juliana Guerrero from Colombia in the Women's division and Australia's Glen Loader placed sixth in the strong field of 82 male bowlers. 22 year-old Li Jane improved on her maiden appearance at the World Cup two years earlier where she finished fourth, while team-mate Syafiq Ridhwan won the Men's title that year, with the duo earning Malaysia the Best Country title.

Neil Sullivan from Malta initially took the honours for Commonwealth players by bowling the first perfect game on Day Two of the tournament. Neil has been his nation's national champion twice and won a Silver medal at the Commonwealth Championships in KL in 2011 but this is the first time he has represented Malta in the Bowling World Cup. "It's my third 300", he said after his game, "but it's the first time I was not nervous."

On the same day, Malaysia's Syafiq Ridhwan rolled the high series with an impressive 1248 over five games, and at the half-way point in qualifying players from 11 Commonwealth countries - England, India, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, Scotland, Singapore, Wales, Gibraltar, Bermuda and New Zealand - were in contention.

At the completion of 20 qualifying games on Day Four, bowlers from nine Commonwealth nations - Malaysia, Australia, Canada, England, India, Singapore, Malta, Gibraltar and New Zealand - made the cut to top 24.

The results included best-ever finishes for male bowlers from several countries. India's Dhruv Sarda placed 15<sup>th</sup>, beating his country's previous best of 37<sup>th</sup> in 1987 and for Gibraltar, Adam Shrubbs finished the round in 18<sup>th</sup> place, improving on his 25<sup>th</sup> place in 2012.

Following a further round to determine the top eight to go through to the round robin stage of the tournament, players from three Commonwealth nations made the cut - Australia's Glen Loader, Sin Li Jane from Malaysia and defending champion, Carolyn Lagrange from Canada, while Singapore's Cherie Tan missed the cut by a mere 3 pins.

Recognised as the most prestigious amateur Singles event in the sport of tenpin bowling, the QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup is the world's largest annual sporting event in terms of the

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number of participating nations. It began its colourful life in Ireland in 1965, when just 20 countries competed in the men-only tournament and in 1972, the women's division was added – recently, as many as 95 countries compete in this unique tournament.

Held in a different country each year, the Bowling World Cup has traversed the globe and in the half-century the Bowling World Cup has visited more than 40 nations.

“In the months leading up to the Bowling World Cup more than half a million bowlers entered local and national qualifiers hoping for the chance to be their country's representative at the grand final in Poland this year,” said BWC organiser, Anne-Marie Board before the event started. “Although only one man and one woman emerge as the World Champions, just the chance to take part in this event is, for most, a once in a lifetime opportunity”, she added.

Full results, together with facts, photos and statistics from this, and each of the previous 49 championships can be found at [www.qubicaamf.com](http://www.qubicaamf.com) while results from the six Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championships held since 2002 are published on the CTBF website – [www.ctbf.org](http://www.ctbf.org).

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*For further details regarding the CTBF and Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championships please contact Lynne Clay at [lynne.clay@outlook.com](mailto:lynne.clay@outlook.com)*