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Final Day – MASTERS GOLD for Banks and Frilingos at III Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship

An exuberant crowd of locals and overseas visitors cheered Australia's George Frilingos and England's Fiona Banks to victory in the final matches of the Masters Stepladder final at OzTenpin Bowl in Melbourne this afternoon.

Top seed Frilingos recovered from a 41 pin deficit in the first of the 2-game final to take the coveted Masters Gold by a slim 2 pin margin, (170-211, and 208-165) from Mohd Noer Said from Malaysia. Mohd Noer Said advanced to the final after defeating Jon Zadel from England 223-186 after Zadel uncharacteristically opened in two frames in the single-game Semi-final.

On the adjoining lanes, the first match of the Women's stepladder final saw Canada's Jennifer Willis-Park eliminate Australia's Ann Maree Putney in a close game, 213-210 to then face an in-form Fiona Banks from England in the 2-game final. The plucky Canadian established a 3 pin lead after both bowlers opened frames in the first game, but Fiona Banks closed the gap to clinch the Gold medal, 199-202 and 233-222.

A colourful closing ceremony and trophy presentation acknowledged the All-Events winners – Australia's Ann Maree Putney from Newcastle and Dominic Barrett from Essex in England. The TRIPLE DIAMOND PERPETUAL TROPHY, denoting the three Zones of the sport encompassed by the Commonwealth, was then presented to the inaugural Award winner, Team Australia, on behalf of donor, the Australian Diamond Company.

The ceremony culminated with a march-out of the Men's and Women's Masters medal-winners and their Coaches, with Commonwealth Games Federation CEO, Michael Hooper presenting the CGF-endorsed medals, assisted by TBA Director, Kathy Smith. Prior to presenting the Masters Championship medals, Michael Hooper addressed competitors and officials, commending the Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Federation for staging its third successful Championship and encouraging its members to enlarge the circle of participating countries as widely as possible in future Championships.

Full details of the entire week of competition at the III Commonwealth Championship, including detailed scores and statistics for each participant and an extensive Photo gallery can be viewed on the Championship's official website - www.2006ctbc.com.

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