



# COKE CLASSIC 2016

Wellington's cold weather greeted everyone coming to the 2016 COKE CLASSIC at Bowlarama Newtown, brrrr especially for the New Caledonians and even the Aussies from North Queensland who are used to a tropical climate.

A first for the tournament is that we hit the maximum entries of 44 athletes, including 1 from Australia and 5 from New Caledonia!

A challenge for those who dared to compete. The ones who keep coming back want the challenge. An eye opener for the New Caledonians indeed!

Qualifying started on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July with 2 squads bowling on the long pattern (43') James Kelly led squad A with a 217 average over the 8 games, while Dan Ellis led squad B with a 214 average over 8 games. Day 1 ended with the highlight being Dan's 278 game which was enough to win him the Hi Scratch Game of the day and the ROTO GRIP Eternal Cell bowling ball.

Day 2 was a struggle on the 33' short pattern for most with only Greg and Sonny managing a 200 over average over the 8 games. Sonny manage to win the Hi Scratch Game of the day with his 259 and won himself a STORM Lock bowling ball.

Day 3 was the semi-finals for the top 15 from the 2 days of qualifying.

After 7 games of 3-way head to head battle, I would say experience prevailed with James Kelly earning the top seed for the step ladder finals with a lead of 242 pins ahead of number 2 seed Youth bowler Leon Fox from Invercargill. It was a close affair between 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> seeds with only 70 pins separating them. John Miklos managed to do enough to hand on for 5<sup>th</sup> position ahead of Greg Nicolas by 30 pins.

The step ladder match 1 was a 3 way battle between 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> seeds in a one game match with the highest game score advancing to match 2 to face 2<sup>nd</sup> seed Leon Fox. Chris Haynes proved too good with a comprehensive 220 game over Sonny Reguerra (177) and John Miklos (176).

Match 2 was Chris vs Leon which saw Chris winning 213 over Leon 144. Experience and the mental game was evident in this match but I am sure Leon would have learned from his first step ladder appearance.

Final match up was Chris Haynes vs top seed James Kelly and James shot off the block with the front 7, although he didn't like a couple of the shots! James ended with a 256 win over Chris Haynes' 191.

2016 Coke Classic Champion – James Kelly from Waitakere!

Thank you to all who competed this year and we hope to see you all again in 2017.

A big thanks to our main sponsor Coca Cola, Storm and Roto Grip.

Special thanks to Marion Gunn, Glen Armstrong our tech and staff at the café as well as the Australians and New Caledonians for your participation.