

MEDIA RELEASE



Bowlers Vie for Masters Glory at Asian Seniors Championship in Sydney

Following the All Events cut on Tuesday, the Senior and Grand Senior division players were keen to return to the lanes at Sydney's AMF Rooty Hill RSL Bowl this morning for the first block of the Asian Seniors Masters events.

In accordance with Championship regulations, players representing five of the participating Asian nations – Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and the Philippines – qualified for the Senior and Grand Senior Women's Masters and all 32 bowlers eagerly stepped on to the approaches at 9am this morning in their quest for the coveted Masters titles.

At the conclusion of the first block of head to head matches, Korea's Mi Ja Kim leads the Senior Women's event on 1561, including 50 bonus points for wins in four of the first eight games. Japan's Yuko Miyakura is second on 1525, with New Zealand bowlers Annabelle Swain and Lynnaire Churchill equal third on 1474.



Mi Ja Kim

Boosted by 80 bonus points from wins in each of the first eight games of the Grand Senior Women's division, Australia's Barbara Richmond overtook early leader, Japan's Junko Kuji by 17 points to post an eight-game tally of 1799. Myung Suk Park from Korea is currently third on 1701, just ahead of New Zealand's Ivena Heald on 1679.



Barbara Richmond

Following lane maintenance, the Men's Senior and Grand Seniors events commenced at 1 pm local time and New Zealand's Greg Nicolas came out firing, shooting a 279 in the first game of the Seniors eight-game block. Lines of 237, 267, 255 and 236 quickly elevated Paul Terry from Australia to top place at the half-way mark of today's round, with Korea's Hui Jai Ho in close pursuit.

In the Grand Seniors division, Japan's Chikataka Iwai raced to an early lead, with wins in his first four matches adding 40 bonus points to his score – a near-perfect 279 in Game 4 pushing Iwai 113 pins clear of nearest rival, team-mate Hidehiro Madore.

Game 5 of the Men's Seniors saw another exciting 279 game rolled – this time by one of the victorious Teams gold-medallists, Australian Mark Cordedda. An uncharacteristic lapse by Chikataka Iwai in Game 5 allowed Hidehiro Madore to narrow Iwai's lead in the Grand Seniors division while All-Events Gold medallist Robert Zikman from Australia continued to apply pressure, overtaking Madore into second place with 277 and 259 games in the fifth and sixth.

Lines of 238 and 255 in Games 5 and 6 saw Paul Terry maintain his prominence in the Seniors division until he forfeited the lead to Korea's Hui Ja Ho in the seventh and finished seven pins behind Ho after Game 8 on 1867. New Zealand's Greg Nicolas is third on 1851 as the rest of the field jockeyed for placings going into tomorrow's final round.



Hui Ja Ho

A flurry of high scores in Games 7 and 8 put Aussies Robert Zikman and Kevin Webb in pole positions on 1895 and 1869 in the Grand Seniors division, with Japan's Chikataka Iwai and team-mate Hidehiro Madore currently in third and fourth place.



Robert Zikman

Play resumes at 9am on Thursday, when the second eight-game block of Senior and Grand Senior Men's Masters bowling gets underway. The final match will be played as a position round, making a total of 16 games, with the champion determined by total pinfall (including bonus points) of 16 games. The Women's divisions of Senior and Grand Senior will be contested from 12.30pm onwards, culminating in an Awards ceremony for both Men's and Women's divisions at around 3pm.

A gala Victory Banquet for all players, officials and supporters will be held tomorrow evening at the RSL Rooty Hill Club, adjacent to the Centre that has hosted this year's Championship.

Full results, and extensive score statistics for all competitors in each event of the Championship are posted on the official website - www.tenpinevents.org.au/2013_Asian_Seniors/index.aspx?headerbar=0

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