

First Adult Ranking Win for Juniors Sloan and Larkin

Junior bowler Christopher Sloan defeated three top class, experienced bowlers to take his first Adult title in the City Limits Classic in Oranmore, Galway on October 7th. And it was a clean sweep for the juniors as Amanda Larkin took the ladies title.

Sloan, despite improving hugely over the last 12 months, was certainly a surprise winner as he came up against Paul Stott, who has won on the European Circuit in recent months, as well as Seismic Bowling staffer Matt Hann and Fran Puzzouli.

With lane conditions proving tricky over the course of the weekend, and with the added issue of poor approaches hindering bowlers, this was an event which took all of the players' attention to produce any kind of scores.

As a result it was little surprise that after the first round (eight games qualifying) only three bowlers in the men's section held an average over 200.

The top 12 men were due to progress along with four from the desperado squad, but with only three players playing in the desperado the top 13 from qualifying eventually joined them to make up the second round.

In the ladies section, there were only six entrants, with the top four making it through round one qualifying.

The lack of players in this event was the only sour note on a weekend that saw bowlers create huge excitement, especially when things came down to the stepladder finals.

In the men's section, the top four after round one did not change after four more games in round two. In the first stepladder match, Fran Puzzouli and Matt Hann locked horns and it was Puzzouli who came through. He then set his sights on Sloan, but the youngster surprised many by showing steely determination to see off his more experienced counterpart and reach the final match.

It is often the case that momentum is the key in the stepladder format, but Paul Stott was clearly still the favourite going into this one. However, it was Stott who looked the shakier as Sloan capitalised on a poor game from him to take his first Adult title.

In the ladies section, Ros O'Reilly and Yvonne Randell faced off for a place in the semi-final match, with Randell coming out on top. She would then move on to take on Carol Catchpole, but it would prove a step too far as Catchpole proved too strong and progressed to the final match.

Again it would have been fair to favour the more experienced Catchpole in this one, but once again the junior bowler showed heart and desire to come through and take the title.

As always the City Limits Classic was an exciting event, and even though the number of entrants was down this year, the bowlers that did make the trip to Galway fought hard for the all-important Team Ireland ranking points.

Congratulations to both first-time junior winners. Let's hope it's a sign for the future.

Final standings can be seen below:

Pos	Name
1	Christopher Sloan
2	Paul Stott
3	Fran Puzouli
4	Matt Hann
5	Haulie Storan
6	Graham Turner
7	Stephen Joyce
8	Gareth Neary
9	Dave O Malley
10	Alan Bride
11	Jason Byrnes
12	Simon English
13	Eoin Mc Laughlin
14	Dave English
15	Alan Traynor
16	Terry Bride
17	Stephen Redmond
18	PJ Shine
19	Barry Brown
20	Liam Hogan
21	Barry Foley

1	Amanda Larkin
2	Carol Catchpole
3	Yvonne Randell
4	Ros O Reilly
5	Mary Heffernan
6	Kerena Dykes