



## **ITBA Recognises Unique Achievement of Member Paddy Gibbons at 50<sup>th</sup> National Championships**

26/02/2014

The Irish Tenpin Bowling Association proudly presented Paddy Gibbons with a commemorative plate and gold medal at this year's 50th ITBA National Championships this past weekend, in recognition of his 50th consecutive appearance in the event.

Paddy is the only player to have taken part in the very first National Championships, then known as the Annual Championships, in 1966 and has played in every tournament since.

Paddy won his first medal in just the second year of the tournament in 1967, and was crowned National Champion for the first and only time in 1975 in Stillorgan Bowl.

The sport of tenpin bowling would not be were it is today without the input and dedication shown by Paddy over the last fifty years, and in 2013 Paddy's contribution was officially recognised at the 50th Anniversary of Tenpin Bowling in Ireland Gala Dinner, where Paddy became the first person to be given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Irish Tenpin Bowling Association.

Now at this 50th Anniversary the ITBA felt it was right for Paddy to be recognised again for an incredible achievement, one that may never be repeated in our sport. Paddy was presented the award during the Team Event medal presentation, and it was clear that it came as a huge shock to the man himself.

Speaking emotionally about his experiences over the past fifty years of National Championships, Paddy struggled to hold back the tears, recounting his earliest memories of the event, from his first appearance to his first medal and his first gold medal.

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