

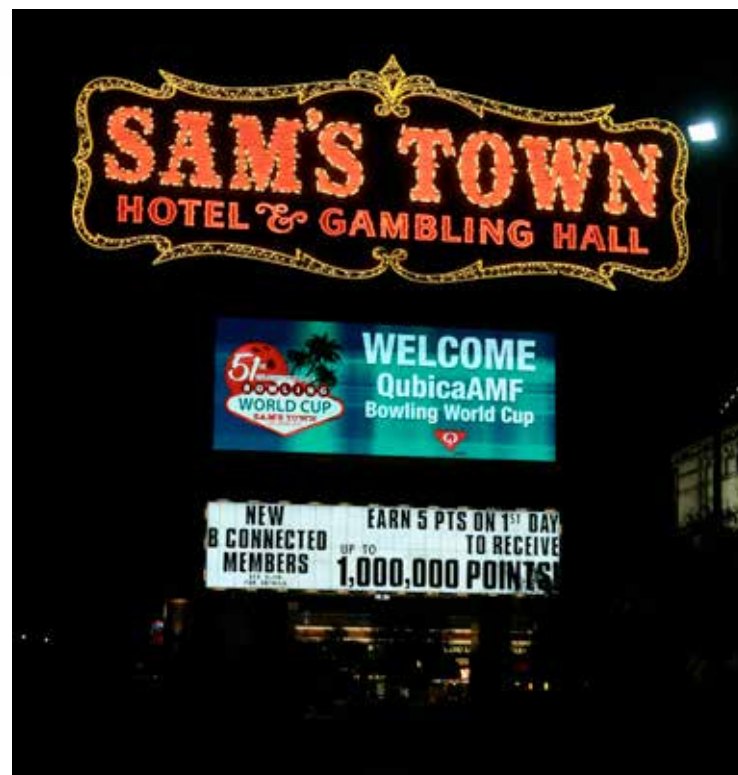


Welcome!

'Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas!' is the greeting you find everywhere. And they're not wrong: it is fabulous. Best known for The Strip with amazing hotels and shows, Las Vegas is one of the entertainment centres of the world.

The QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup, embarking on its second half century (yes, it really is older than the Superbowl!), was returning to Nevada, having last been here in 1999. As then, we were at Sam's Town, a huge hotel and gambling centre on Boulder Highway. The hotel rooms surround a huge atrium which features plants and a light show and which became a popular meeting area for bowlers and guests.

The bowling centre is an integral part of the hotel complex. It runs a full league programme on its 56 lanes – and of course 56 lanes meant the World Cup could complete each qualifying round in just one shift for men and one for women. And centre manager Tom Pippenger and his staff pulled out all the stops to ensure the tournament ran smoothly.



A view of the Sam's Town complex at night



Inside the atrium at Sam's Town



Tom Pippenger (right) and Tournament Director Bernard Gibbons at the reception desk



A fish eye view of the 56 lanes adorned with the flags of the nations of the Bowling World Cup

Time to practice

First things first: an hour of official practice on the official oil pattern, to work out a line and get used to the lanes. Then it was on to a briefing for bowlers and coaches, so all could find out how the tournament was going to proceed.

Here we see some of the players in action.



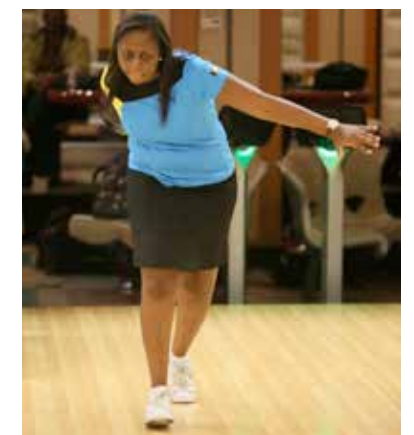
The bowlers assemble at the briefing



Bernard Gibbons and World Bowling technical delegate Marios Nicolaides get all the papers in order for the briefing



Michael Little (Australia). Michael is married to Amanda Bradley who won the women's title when we were last in Las Vegas in 1999



Driskell Rolle of the Bahamas



Jean-Francois Gorley of Canada



Wei Yang of China



Ivana Krajacic of Croatia



Katerina Bestova of the Czech Republic



Nathalie Kempgens of Germany



Aldar Hardardottir of Iceland



Dhruv Sarda of India



Leta Anuziene of Lithuania



Caroline Horan of Northern Ireland



Alexis Moreno of Panama



Jean Perez of Puerto Rico



Mark McQueen of Scotland



Tatjana Zalocar of Slovenia



Monica Jimenez of Spain



Arifov Bakhodir of Uzbekistan

The opening ceremony

Given the fantastic facilities at Sam's Town, the opening ceremony was not held in the bowling centre but in the show arena.

The tables for the welcome party were already laid out. Players from 88 countries lined up outside to music from a Dixie Band trio, then marched in, country by country, to receive a participation medal and certificate before going up on stage to be introduced to our VIPs, Martin Faber, President of the Pan-American Zone of the WTBA, and Emanuele Govoni, Chief Executive Officer of QubicaAMF, and to the audience. As every country marched in, its flag was displayed on big screens.

The warmest and most prolonged applause was for France as the news had only just broken of the terrorist attacks in Paris.

The last country to come in, as is now customary, were our hosts, the USA, represented by two-time champion Shannon Pluhowsky and 17-year-old Kamron Doyle. Everyone stood for the national anthem of the USA, sung a capella by Ginger Glass who had the same honour in 1999.

Speeches were kept to the minimum. John Sou, General Manager of Sam's Town, welcomed everyone to Las Vegas and the facilities of Sam's Town, before Martin Faber wished everyone good luck.

The oaths of fair play and fair judgement were taken by Shannon and Vern Vernazzaro respectively. Vern is the President of Southern Nevada Bowling Association and was our chief lane marshal.

It was up to Emanuele Govoni to speak to the champions of every country and say: "Let the games begin!"



The Dixie band welcomed everyone



Shannon Pluhowsky taking the oath on behalf of all the players



Dmitri Chilkine and Inna Kunts of Belarus



David Johnson and Theresa Depka of the Virgin Islands



Resplendent in national costume is Djene Hailemariam Yimer of Ethiopia



Janet Shaikh and Ijaz Ur Rehman. Janet was our sportswoman of the tournament in 2013 in Krasnoyarsk



Farid Ghobrial and Samy-Anna Saba of Egypt. Samy-Anna has dual nationality and represented New Caledonia last year



Mike Bartaire and Amandine Jacques of France



Zoe Dias Ma and Julia Sou Keng Lam of Macau



Shant Panos Tomassian of Iraq. Shant was chosen as sportsman of the tournament last year in Wroclaw



Tanya Cuva and Kwan Harn-Chieh of Switzerland



Jay Leon Guerrero of Guam



Tomasz Janicki and of Poland. Tomasz ran the pro shop during the tournament last year. He had always wanted to play in the World Cup and this year eventually won the place.



Emanuele Govoni encourages all the bowlers and declares the 51st QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup open



All the players and guests stand for the national anthem



Martin Faber



John Sou addressing the audience



Vern Vernazzaro taking the oath on behalf of all the officials.



Ginger Glass singing the 'Star Spangled Banner'

The Welcome Party

After the opening ceremony, everyone remained to enjoy the rest of the evening. Sam's Town provided a buffet dinner and everyone then got down to the serious business of eating and meeting up with friends from all over the world.



Kaloyan Ivanov and Marina Stefanova of Bulgaria



Marco Moretti and Viviana Delgado Cruz of Costa Rica



Married couple Hela and Khaled Meziou of Tunisia



Steeve Thia Song Fat of Mauritius



Lara Jesus of the Azores joins fellow Portuguese speakers Helena Lourenco and Paolo Lopes of Portugal.



Baataarchuluun Oyuntsetseg and Enkhbayar Enkhbold of Mongolia



Queuing up at the buffet



Several of the bowlers and guests teamed up to dance with our Las Vegas showgirl

The men play 24 games

The men started off the proceedings, bowling 24 games in three sets of eight, one set a day.

On day one, Muhammad Jaris Goh of Singapore, a 20-year-old student, took an early lead with a score of 1855 over his eight games (231.88 average). Close behind, on 1846 was Francois Louw of South Africa on 1846. Francois came 9th when the event was held in Toulon, France, in 2010, missing out on the top eight in a one game roll off.

Ildemaro Ruiz of Venezuela was in third place on 1798. Ildemaro played in the World Cup in 2007, in St Petersburg where he was the first player to hit a 300 game, hence winning the high game trophy. "It was a lovely trophy," he said, "but unfortunately I broke it on the way home! So I shall just have to win it again here."

At this stage, he was in with a shout. He was one of three players with a high game of 289, the others being Francois, and Kamron Doyle of the USA.

Jaris remained in the lead after 16 games but he had to work hard today to stay up there. The lead changed hands several times during the afternoon but he came through with some really steady bowling. He shot 1746 to give him a 16 game total of 3601, 60 pins ahead of Kamron with Alexei Parshukov of Russia in third, just two pins behind Kamron. Alexei came third in Krasnoyarsk in 2013.

The high game on day two was 277 from Mohamed Al Saud, a prince of the Saudi royal family. His cousin played in the event in Hermosillo in 2008 and there was some family rivalry to get the best result.

By the third day, things were heating up. With just one game of the qualifying 24 to go, any one of six or seven men could have made it into the top 24.

In the end, it was Dmitri Chilkin of Belarus and Patrick Meka of the Netherlands who dropped out of the top 24, allowing Muhammad Rafiq Ismail of Malaysia and Benjamin Martinez of Mexico in to the next round. Mike Bartaire of France dropped down but still finished in 24th place, just making it to the next round.

Francois had taken over the lead on 5351 a 222.96 average. Kamron was in second and Siu Hong Wu of Hong Kong in third. 289 remained the high game with Oron Cohen of Israel hitting 278 in the third block of eight.



Keep your earphones in until the last minute! Manino Fernandez of the Dominican Republic in practice



Hafthor Hardarson of Iceland and Jean-Marc Samain of Belgium get ready for their final eight games



One of the practice sessions before each squad



Zane Carlson of New Zealand is an inspiration to many. He has cerebral palsy but has still won his national championship and bowled more than one 300 game.



France's Mike Bartaire made the most of the practice session before the final squad, finishing just inside the top 24



Sadly for Patrick Meka of the Netherlands, he did not make the cut



Making it to the top 24 - Muhammad Rafiq Ismail of Malaysia and Mexico's Benjamin Martinez



Kaloyan Ivanov from Bulgaria looks like he's enjoying himself



Venezuela's Ildemaro Ruiz was one of three players on a 289 high game



Before every squad, QubicaAMF's lanesman Gerry Barrett makes sure the lanes are oiled in accordance with the official pattern



Dmitri Chilkin of Belarus just missed the cut - again! He finished 25th in Poland last year.

The women take to the lanes

With four former champions in the field, we expected some fine bowling and we were not disappointed.

After day one and the first eight games, two-time champ Aumi Guerra of the Dominican Republic was in the lead but it could not have been closer: she had just a one pin advantage over defending champ Clara Guerrero from Colombia (1738 to 1737) with Geraldine Ng Su Yi of Singapore in third on 1714.

But by day two, and what she described as an awful day, Aumi had slipped to 11th. Our other two-time champion, Shannon Pluhowsky of the USA was in the lead, just ahead of Sandra Gongoro of Mexico. And coming up into contention was the young student from Russia, Maria Bulanova.

By day three, Clara had taken over at the head of the leader board on 5177, a 215.71 average, ahead of Sandra on 5158 and Shannon in third on 5134.

Catherine Durieux of Belgium had a few anxious moments but jumped with joy when she saw her name go up in 24th place. She went into the last game also in 24th place and bowled a clean game, including sparing two baby splits, to finish with a 204 game. She said afterwards: "I was pretty sure I had made it but you never know until the scores go up."

The unlucky player to finish in 25th was Narelle Baker of Australia. The cut for the top 24 was a 194.46 average.

At the end of the qualifying round, 288 from Stephanie Martins of Brazil, bowled in the second game of the first squad, was the high game - so far.



The start of the final squad



Aumi Guerra talks with coach Craig Woodhouse



Clara Guerrero prepares her hand



Narelle Baker - preparing to bowl but sadly she didn't make the next round



Yifat Tal of Israel shows how flexible she is



Iceland's Alda Hardardottir stretches before her squad



Manal Al Hijawi from Jordan goes through her strength exercise



Shannon Pluhowsky in practice



Catherine Durieux can hardly dare look at the leader board, but she made it

Meet all the players



The learning zone

QubicaAMF runs several seminars during the World Cup on a variety of topics. This year, the sessions dealt with how to promote the sport of bowling better around the world.

The sessions were introduced by Roger Creamer, QubicaAMF's EMEA Regional Manager, before breaking out into workshop groups, each facilitated by a member of QubicaAMF staff.

Representatives from over 15 federations took part and the discussions were certainly stimulating.



Participants get involved



Kevin Dornberger, President of the WTBA, (centre right of the picture) was one of the delegates at this year's seminar



Pat Ciniello, Chairman of the Board of QubicaAMF, front left, leads one of the discussion groups



Roger Creamer introduces the sessions



Juan Cabezas, QubicaAMF's President and Chief Growth Officer, presents one of the souvenir pins to Martin Faber

Old friends, new friends

The Bowling World Cup has always been about more than just the scores on the lanes. Socialising is part of the event and many people have made lifetime friends through the event. One couple even got married after meeting at the tournament!

This year was no exception, and all being together in one hotel gave everyone a great chance to meet up socially.



Bowling World Cup Manager Anne-Marie Board and Assistant World Cup Manager Tina Quirke share a joke



Aoife Hall of Ireland is a physiotherapist in her life outside bowling. Here she gives QubicaAMF Marketing Director Stephanie Darby a much needed neck massage.



Estonian player Piia Pearce is a qualified pharmacist while Konstantinos Xagoraris of Greece is studying pharmacy. Together they checked out the ingredients of a cold treatment.



Lucas Wiseman again provided live streaming covering four lanes in the centre of the hall. This was popular around the world with well over 1000 people logging on at the peak. Here we see Lucas with all his equipment, talking to Laurie Pearce of QubicaAMF. Laurie runs the results and scoring system at the tournament.



We had a full press room this year. In the foreground on the left is Dominic Gall who joined the QubicaAMF media team to handle all the social media. He posted around 1,000 photos over the six days and posted on Facebook and Twitter over 300 times. The photo album on Facebook got 74,000 views alone. Dom was delighted to join us, saying: "I have watched the World cup since I was nine years old. As a young bowler I, like all kids, dreamed of winning or just being at one. To be asked to go to Vegas and do social media for QubicaAMF was like a dream come true and as good as competing for me." In the foreground on the right is Judy Howlett, our international media co-ordinator and herself runner up in the Bowling World Cup in 1985 in Seoul.



Right from the start, we enjoyed ourselves! Here we see Hero Noda, our official photographer and Cliff Adair, assistant tournament director, with our guest showgirl at the welcome party. And yes, that headdress is heavy!



This year, the centre provided lovely special pins as souvenirs for all to buy. Here we see Stephanie Martins of Brazil and Helga di Benedetto of Italy with their new pins, watched by tournament director Bernard Gibbons.



Players who were eliminated after 24 games could take part in a separate event organised by Sam's Town bowl and QubicaAMF, the 'Monster Match'. At stake was a possible big money prize. And this time it was won – by Mirsad Sejdiu of Kosovo. He won \$500 and was naturally delighted. "Fantastic!" he said. "It's almost better than winning the title!"



The former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia was competing in the World Cup for the first time. On the left is player Zvonko Volchevski; on the right is official Dejan Boskovski.



Not only did we have four returning champions playing in the event, we had four previous champions in the centre. Jeanette Baker, on the left, from Australia, was the first player to win back to back titles when she won in Scheveningen, Netherlands in 1982 and in Mexico City in 1983. Jeanette was here to support Narelle Baker who despite the name is no relation. To her left is another Aussie, Amanda Bradley, who won here in Las Vegas in 1999 and was here with her husband Michael Little and with their daughter Elvie. Next is Bong Co of the Philippines who won an incredible 36 years ago, in Bangkok, Thailand. And finally we see Peter Ljung of Sweden who won his title in 1986 in Copenhagen Denmark. Peter was here as coach to the Swedish representatives.



Bowling is a sport for all ages. That is clear from the participants in the Bowling World Cup: Dominique Merlot of the lovely island of Reunion was our oldest competitor at 60 while Dennise Quezada Pena of Ecuador was our youngest at just 15.



Cristina Sanz of Catalonia is a policewoman while Dutch player Patrick Meka works as a security officer at Schiphol international airport in Amsterdam. Here they meet three of the security officers from Sam's Town



We had four players who had won the tournament before, all women. Shannon Pluhowsky won in 2002, in Riga, Latvia. Next year in Honduras, she made the final but lost to Kerrie Ryan-Ciach of Canada. In 2004, in the city state of Singapore, the two of them met again in the final, and this time Shannon regained the title. Moving on to 2010, Aumi Guerra of the Dominican Republic, won in Toulon, France. She repeated the achievement in 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa, becoming the second player to win back to back titles. And then last year, in Wroclaw, Poland, Carla Guerrero of Colombia made it to the top of the podium, 14 years after she finished runner up in Lisbon. Here we see all four: left to right Shannon, Carla, Aumi and Kerrie.

The round of 24

We were getting to the nail-biting part of the event as the top 24 men and women all bowled a further eight games.

The men's section produced some good scoring. Francois Louw of South Africa bowled supremely and increased his lead, finishing on 7130, a 222.81 average, over 100 ahead of second-placed Siu Hong Wu of Hong Kong. Paul Stott Jr of Ireland just kept plugging away, bowling very consistently for a 1773 and finishing in third. Muhammad Rafiq Ismail of Malaysia made the most of making the cut to the top 24 (in 23rd place), hitting 1950 and pulling himself all the way into the top eight.

With one game to go, four or five men were in with a shot of making the cut. Markus Jansson of Sweden was the one to miss out, finishing in 9th, 16 pins light, with Tomoyuki Sasaki of Japan going through. Kamron Doyle of the USA had a bad day, starting the day in second but dropping down the standings and finishing in 12th.

In the women's section, the lead changed back and forth during the eight games for the top 24 women and in the end it was defending champion Clara Guerrero of Colombia on top with 6901.

The real excitement came in the 31st game when Keira Reay of England shot the tournament's first 300 game. She was lying in 10th before this game and said: "I really needed that!" But it only hauled her up into 9th place, 16 pins off the cut and still needing to do more to make the top eight. She did not manage it, finishing in 9th place, behind Sanna Pasanen of Finland.

So now we knew the top eight to go through to the final day.



Our top 24 men (missing from the photo is Alexei Parshukov of Russia)



The top 24 women



Sanna Pasanen and coach Sami Konsteri



Tomoyuki Sasaki enjoys the thrill of finishing in the top eight with his coach



Keira Reay after hitting the first 300 of the tournament

QubicaAMF requests the pleasure

QubicaAMF always hosts a dinner for VIPs and special guests. This year, we were outside by the lovely swimming pool at Sam's Town.

The weather was not quite as fine as it might have been and extra patio heaters were brought in. Guests enjoyed drinks and a superb barbecue, all to the accompaniment of a steel band.

However, the star turn of the night was Erik Garder, now the coach for Norway who also covers the event to Norwegian media. Erik played in the event himself three times in 1978, 1983 and 1987. "It's not cold at all," he said as he stripped off to his swimming trunks and dived into the pool!

A fun evening indeed!



Erik Garder in the pool



The entertaining steel band



Guests enjoy the Qubica AMF hospitality

The round of eight

The first job for our top eight players was to pick up their special souvenir shirts which had been embroidered overnight with names and countries.

The women and men all played at the same time on alternate lanes, vying for a place in the stepladder top three later in the afternoon. The format was a seven game round robin, followed by a position round. There were 30 bonus pins for a win, so winning each match became more important.

Also up for grabs was the Petersen trophy for top country. The award is named for Bent Petersen, former AMF international vice president, who was the long-time AMF World Cup tournament manager. Under his guidance, the World Cup grew in stature to become the world's largest annual international sports championship in terms of the numbers of countries participating. Sadly, Bent died earlier this year so the 2015 award was particularly poignant. Three countries were still in with a chance of winning: Singapore, Russia and Malaysia.

The head to head nature of the round gave rise to some really tight games. Alexei Parshukov of Russia beat Paul Stott of Ireland 235 – 231 and that was just round one. Then Paul drew with Rafiq Ismail of Malaysia 212 each. Tournament leader Francois Louw of South Africa beat Jaris Goh of Singapore 244- 233. Rafiq beat Siu Hong Wu of Hong Kong 231 – 223.

With just the position round to go, it was already fairly clear who would go forward to the final. Francois and Hong and were in the top two places and clear of the field. Rafiq was in fourth playing Jaris, but trailing by 72 pins, so he needed to win by 43 to go ahead and into third place. He won, but it was not by enough and Jaris came through to reach the final.

With the women, the results were similarly exciting. In the fifth round, Geraldine Ng Su Yi of Singapore beat Clara Guerrero of Colombia, our tournament leader, 257 – 234 and in the very next game hit 277 to beat Siti Safirah Amirah of Malasia's 259. But Maria Bulanova of Russia put an end to Geraldine's run beating her 241 – 223.

By the position round the top three, Clara, Maria and Shannon were far enough ahead to be sure of making the stepladder. Clara and Maria each lost only two games, with Clara hitting the high 8-game total of 1815.

The results meant that Singapore would pick up the trophy for top nation at the award ceremony.

Final results: excluding win bonus

Men			Women		
Francois Louw	South Africa	8835 pinfall	Clara Guerrero	Colombia	8716
Siu Hong Wu	Hong Kong	8834	Maria Bulanova	Russia	8612
Jaris Goh	Singapore	8627	Shannon Pluhowsky	USA	8572
Rafiq Ismail	Malaysia	8526	Sandra Gongoro	Mexico	8437
Tomoyuki Sasaki	Japan	8486	Geraldine Ng Su Yi	Singapore	8467
Paul Stott	Ireland	8509	Sanna Pasanen	Finland	8226
Ryan Leonard Lalisang	Indonesia	8390	Isabelle Hultin	Sweden	8249
Alexei Parshukov	Russia	8408	Siti Safirah Amirah	Malaysia	8274



The players try on their new shirts



Just missing out, finishing in fourth place, were Rafiq Ismail and Sandra Gongoro



Practice before the round robin



Our top eight pose for the camera before the round robin. From left to right, front to back: Ryan Leonard Lalisang (Indonesia), Tomoyuki Sasaki (Japan), Siu Hong Wu (Hong Kong), Francois Louw (South Africa), Geraldine Ng Su Yi (Singapore), Maria Bulanova (Russia), Siti Safirah Amirah (Malaysia), Sandra Gongoro (Mexico), Clara Guerrero, (Colombia), Shannon Pluhowsky (USA), Isabelle Hultin (Sweden), Sanna Pasanen (Finland), Paul Stott (Ireland), Jaris Goh (Singapore), Rafiq Ismail (Malaysia), Alexei Parshukov (Russia)



Isabelle Hultin at registration

The stepladder finals

The semi finals and finals both went ahead at the same time, on adjacent pairs of lanes, and covered by the live streaming on the QubicaAMF web site. Siu Hong Wu of Hong Kong was up against Jaris Goh of Singapore first. Jaris had an open frame and never caught it back in the first game. Hong then started the second game with a turkey and never looked back, winning by two games to zero: 198 to 173 and 223 to 194.

Over with the women, Shannon Pluhowsky of the USA started very strongly and Russian student Maria Bulanova was simply not in the first game, Shannon winning by 219 to 174. But Maria came back with a vengeance and won the second game 242 to 177. So we were into a deciding game.

An open frame from Shannon gave Maria an early lead, but by the seventh frame it was nip and tuck with neither player having the upper hand. But Shannon's experience came through, she got the run of strikes and ran out the winner by 238 to 194. So the women's final was between Clara Guerrero, the defending champion from Colombia, and Shannon who was bidding to become the first woman to win the title three times. And if Hong won, he would be the first player from Hong Kong to pick up the trophy, and in any case will record the best ever result for his country. If pole position player Francois Louw won he would be the first South African man to win. All to play for.

Hong opened the first two frames but started striking in the fifth frame, including a really lucky strike in 9th, to win the first game 233 to 219. And Shannon never found a line so Clara won the first game for the women 202 to 177. A big split in frame three really hurt Francois, while Hong stayed clean, running out the winner by 223 to 180. Clara was just so impressive and won the second game 243 to 238, becoming the sixth woman to win the World Cup two times and the third to defend the title successfully. Hong said afterwards: "At the beginning I was bowling too fast and those two open frames meant a bad start. Then I changed my ball and found my form, just taking it shot by shot.

"I feel fantastic. This is the fourth time I have played in the World Cup and my best position before was 9th, so I finally feel I can do it. It fills me with confidence and it shows Hong Kong people can do it. Now I just want to come back next year!"

Clara who has won everything she can possibly win, was also delighted. "It was a tough final. Shannon is such a tough competitor, and I knew if I could only get in front I would stand a chance. And I made the good shots when I needed to. I really want to come back next year and try to win for the third time and set a record!"



Shannon Pluhowsky



Maria Bulanova



Clara Guerrero



Jaris Goh



Francois Louw



Siu Hong Wu

The trophy presentation

Hundreds of cameras pointed at the podium for the presentation of the trophies. And lots of selfies were taken with the finalists afterwards.



Juan Cabezas and Pat Ciniello with Hong and Carla, our two champions for 2015



Our three finalists with Juan Cabezas of QubicaAMF



The first trophies to be presented were for the top country, Singapore. Jaris Goh and Geraldine Ng Su Yi received individual mementos from the bowling centre manager, Tom Pippenger



Shannon Pluhowsky with Sam's Town general manager, John Sou, after receiving her runner up trophy



Jaris Goh receives his third place trophy from Mike Kaufmann, Director of Operations for Boyd Gaming, operators of Sam's Town casinos and entertainment



Maria Bulanova receives her third place trophy from Cliff Adair



Only one 300 game this year, and that from England's Keira Reay. She received her trophy from Anne-Marie Board, the QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup Manager



Kevin Dornberger presented the runner up trophy to Francois



Keira Reay and Anne-Marie Board then joined Francois Louw and Kamron Doyle, joint winners of the prize for men's high game with 289. Although Ildemaro Ruiz also had a 289, his was in the seventh game while Francois and Kamron bowled theirs in the third game, so – sadly for Ildemaro – they win the trophy. And there was only one trophy so Kamron took it and another will be sent on the Francois.



QubicaAMF Chairman Pat Ciniello with our top three men

Goodbye – for now!

The 2015 Bowling World Cup signed off with the victory banquet.

First off, souvenir pins were presented to Kevin Dornberger, Mike Kaufmann, Tom Pippenger and Marios Nicolaides.

Then came a key presentation – the Barry James award for the sportsman of the tournament, named after a beloved journalist who edited the Review for many years, and the Jacky Felsenstein award for the sportswoman of the tournament, named after a figurehead of the bowling scene in Belgium, Europe and the World. The Barry James award went to Paolo Lopes of Portugal while Narelle Baker of Australia picked up the Jacky Felsenstein award. These awards are highly regarded as they are voted for by the players themselves.

A buffet dinner followed. During desert, the doors opened and in came three dancing Chinese dragons, the forerunners to the announcement of next year's venue. The curtains on the darkened stage opened to reveal the Chinese flag with our host for next year, Mr Shunwei Zhu, owner of the 24-lane Hao centre in Shanghai, with QubicaAMF's distributor in China, David Chiang.

Mr Zhu told all the guests: "Welcome to Shanghai!" and showed a short video about this city on the Yangtze, which has so much to offer visitors.

The evening concluded with a disco and dancing before everyone dispersed to the airport, ready to do it all again next year.



The Chinese dragons



Shunwei Zhu and David Chiang are revealed with the national flag of China



Shunwei Zhu invites all to next year's event



Champions Siu Hong Wu and Clara Guerrero flank our sportspeople of the tournament, Paolo Lopes and Narelle Baker



The stars of the dance floor were not players, but delightful young daughters of former champions: Shannon Pluhowsky's daughter Autumn and Amanda Bradley's daughter Elvie.



The QubicaAMF team pose for the camera



Guests at the banquet



The logo for 2016

Participants

Aruba	Bryan Helmeyer, Kamilah Dammers
Australia	Michael Little, Narelle Baker
Azores	Tiago Pontes, Lara Jesus
Bahamas	Kenrick Brathwaite, Driskell Rolle
Belarus	Dmitri Chilkine, Inna Kunts
Belgium	Jean-Marc Samain, Catherine Durieux
Bermuda	David Maycock, June Dill
Brazil	Igor Pizzoli, Stephanie Martins
Bulgaria	Kaloyan Ivanov, Marina Stefanova
Canada	Jean-Francois Gorley, Kerrie Ryan-Ciach
Catalonia	Axel Guimo, Cristina Sanz
China	Wei Yang
Colombia	Clara Juliana Guerrero
Costa Rica	Marco Moretti, Viviana Delgado Cruz
Croatia	Mise Mrkonjic, Ivana Krajacic
Curacao	Alan Lorenz, Vanessa Valdez
Czech Republic	Jiri Uhlir, Katerina Bestova
Dominican Republic	Manino Fernandez, Aumi Guerra
Ecuador	Mario Lemos, Dennise Quezada Pena
Egypt	Farid Ghabrial, Samy-Anna Saba
El Salvador	Julio Acosta, Edith Quintanilla
England	Sam Rose, Keira Reay
Eritrea	Zerezhgi O Haile
Estonia	Olari Nebokat, Piia Pearce
Ethiopia	Djene Hailemariam Yimer
Finland	Joonas Jehkinen, Sanna Pasanen
France	Mike Bartaire, Amandine Jacques
French Guiana	Maurice Talane
Germany	Sven Garbotz, Nathalie Kempgens
Gibraltar	Michael Wood
Greece	Konstantinos Xagoraris
Guam	Jay Leon Guerrero
Hong Kong	Siu Hong Wu, Milki Ng
Hungary	Balint Luczek, Maria Toth
Iceland	Hafthor Hardarson, Alda Hardardottir
India	Dhruv Sarda
Indonesia	Ryan Leonard Lalising
Iraq	Shant Panos Tomassian
Ireland	Paul Stott Jr, Aoife Hall
Israel	Oron Cohen, Yifat Tal
Italy	Nicola Pongolini, Helga di Benedetto
Japan	Tomoyuki Sasaki, Misaki Mukotani
Jersey	Nathan Jarvis, Kris Rive
Jordan	Ammar Yamin, Manal Al Hijawi
Kosovo	Mirsad Sejdiu
Latvia	Daniel Vezis
Libya	Redha El Fezzani
Lithuania	Kestutis Gudauskas, Leta Anuziene
Macau	Zoe Dias Ma, Julia Sou Keng Lam
FYRO Macedonia	Zvonko Volchevski
Malaysia	Rafiq Ismail, Siti Safiyah Amirah
Martinique	Elisabeth Relautte
Mauritius	Steeve Thia Song Fat, Nasheeha King
Mexico	Benjamin Martinez, Sandra Gongora
Mongolia	Enkhbayar Enkhkbold, Baatarchuluun Oyuntsetseg
Netherlands	Patrick Meka, Bianca Wiekeraad
New Caledonia	Joseph Cona, Lauren Gervolino
New Zealand	Zane Carlson, Stephanie George
Northern Ireland	William Nimick, Caroline Horan
Norway	Bjorn Einar Rudshagen, Heidi Thorstensen
Pakistan	Ijaz Ur Rehman, Janet Shaikh
Panama	Alexis Moreno, Edisa Andrade
Philippines	Engelberto "Biboy" Rivera, Liza del Rosario
Poland	Tomasz Janicki, Felinda Grzybowska
Portugal	Paulo Lopes, Helena Lourenco
Puerto Rico	Jean Perez, Kristie Lopez
Qatar	Mubarak Al Muraikhi
Reunion	Frederic Barre, Dominique Merlo
Romania	Romeo Gagenoiu, Luminita Farcas Bucin
Russia	Alexei Parshukov, Maria Bulanova
Saudi Arabia	Prince Mohamed Al Saud
Scotland	Mark McQueen, Hazel McQueen
Singapore	Jaris Goh, Geraldine Ng Su Yi
Slovakia	Luboslav Jurinyi, Michaela Blazeková
Slovenia	Jozko Hlede, Tatjana Zalokar
South Africa	Francois Louw, Stacey-Lee Hooper
Spain	Lorenzo Querada Ferre, Monica Jimenez
Sweden	Markus Jansson, Isabelle Hultin
Switzerland	Kwan Harn-Chieh, Tanya Cuva
Thailand	Kim Bolleby
Tunisia	Khaled Meziou, Hela Meziou
UAE	Shaker Ali Al Hassan, Hind Al Hammadi
Ukraine	Vladislav Yalovega, Olena Roshchenko
USA	Kamron Doyle, Shannon Pluhowsky
Uzbekistan	Arifov Bakhodir
Venezuela	Ildemaro Ruiz Jr, Patricia de Faria
Virgin Islands	David Johnson, Theresa Depka
Wales	James Footner, Louise Roberts

Winners

YEAR	HOST CITY & COUNTRY	WINNER	COUNTRY
1965	Dublin, Ireland	Lauri Ajanto	Finland
1966	London, England	John Wilcox	USA
1967	Paris, France	Jack Connaughton	USA
1968	Guadalajara, Mexico	Fritz Blum	West Germany
1969	Tokyo, Japan	Graydon Robinson	Canada
1970	Copenhagen, Denmark	Klaus Muller	West Germany
1971	Hong Kong	Roger Dalkin	USA
1972	Hamburg, West Germany	Ray Mitchell	Canada
		Irma Urrea	Mexico
1973	Singapore	Bernie Caterer	Great Britain
		Kesinee Srivises	Thailand
1974	Caracas, Venezuela	Jairo Ocampo	Colombia
		Birgitte Lund	Denmark
1975	Manila, the Philippines	Lorenzo Monti	Italy
		Cathy Townsend	Canada
1976	Teheran, Iran	Paeng Nepomuceno	Philippines
		Lucy Giovenco	USA
1977	London, England	Arne Stroem	Norway
		Rea Rennox	Canada
1978	Bogota, Colombia	Samran Banyan	Thailand
		Lita de la Rosa	Philippines
1979	Bangkok, Thailand	Philippe Dubois	France
		Bon Coe	Philippines
1980	Jakarta, Indonesia	Paeng Nepomuceno	Philippines
		Jean Gordon	Canada
1981	New York, United States	Bob Worrall	USA
		Pauline Smith	Great Britain
1982	Scheveningen, Netherlands	Arne Stroem	Norway
		Jeanette Baker	Australia
1983	Mexico City, Mexico	You Tien-Chu	Chinese Taipei
		Jeanette Baker	Australia
1984	Sydney, Australia	Jack Jurek	USA
		Eliana Rigato	Italy
1985	Seoul, South Korea	Alfonso Rodriguez	Mexico
		Marjorie McEntee	Ireland
1986	Copenhagen, Denmark	Peter Ljung	Sweden
		Annette Hagre	Sweden
1987	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Remo Fornasari	Italy
		Irene Gronert	Netherlands
1988	Guadalajara, Mexico	Mohammed Khalifa al-Qubeisi	UAE
		Linda Kelly	USA
1989	Dublin, Ireland	Salem Al-Monsouri	Qatar
		Patty Ann	USA
1990	Pattaya, Thailand	Tom Hahl	Finland
		Linda Graham	USA
1991	Beijing, China	Jon Juneau	USA
		Asa Larsen	Sweden
1992	Le Mans, France	Paeng Nepomuceno	Philippines
		Martina Beckel	Germany
1993	Johannesburg, South Africa	Rainer Puiis	Germany
		Pauline (Smith) Buck	Great Britain
1994	Hermosillo, Mexico	Tore Torgerson	Norway
		Anne Jacobs	South Africa
1995	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Patrick Healey Jr	USA
		Gemma Burden	Great Britain
1996	Belfast, Northern Ireland	Paeng Nepomuceno	Philippines
		Cara Honeychurch	Australia
1997	Cairo, Egypt	Christian Nokel	Germany
		Su-Fen Tseng	Chinese Taipei
1998	Kobe, Japan	Cheng-Ming Yang	Chinese Taipei
		Maxine Nable	Australia
1999	Las Vegas, USA	Ahmed Shaheen	Qatar
		Amanda Bradley	Australia
2000	Lisbon, Portugal	Tomas Leandersson	Norway
		Mel Isaac	Wales
2001	Pattaya, Thailand	Kim Haugen	Norway
		Nachimi Itakura	Japan
2002	Riga, Latvia	Mika Luoto	Finland
		Shannon Pluhowsky	USA
2003	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	C.J. Suarez	Philippines
		Kerry Ryan-Ciach	Canada
2004	Singapore	Kai Virtanen	Finland
		Shannon Pluhowsky	USA
2005	Ljubljana, Slovenia	Michael Schmidt	Canada
		Lynda Barnes	USA
2006	Caracas, Venezuela	Osku Palermmaa	Finland
		Diandra Asbaty	USA
2007	St. Petersburg, Russia	Bill Hoffman	USA
		Ann Maree Putney	Australia
2008	Hermosillo, Mexico	Derek Eoff	USA
		Jasmine Yeong-Nathan	USA
2009	Melaka, Malaysia	Choi Yong-Kyu	Singapore
		Caroline Lagrange	Korea
2010	Toulon, France	Michael Schmidt	Canada
		Aumi Guerra	Dominican Republic
2011	Johannesburg, South Africa	Jason Belmonte	Australia
		Aumi Guerra	Dominican Republic
2012	Wroclaw, Poland	Syafiq Rihdwan Abdul Malek	Malaysia
		Shayna Ng	Singapore
2013	Krasnoyarsk, Russia	Or Aviram	Israel
		Caroline Lagrange	Canada
2014	Wroclaw, Poland	Chris Barnes	USA
		Carla Guerrero	Colombia
2015	Las Vegas, USA	Siu Hong Wu	Hong Kong
		Carla Guerrero	Colombia

The 300 Club

Year	Venue	Name	Country
1994	Hermosillo, Mexico	Jack Guay	Canada
1995	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Jack Guay	Canada
		Patrick Healey Jr	USA
1997	Cairo, Egypt	Ahmed Shaheen	Qatar
1998	Kobe, Japan	Paul Boyle	England
1999	Las Vegas, USA	Kenny Ang	Malaysia
		Mohammed Khalifa al-Qubeisi	UAE
		Shigeo Saito	Japan
2000	Lisbon, Portugal	Tomas Leandersson	Sweden
		Tore Torgerson	Norway
2001	Pattaya, Thailand	Scott Norton	USA
2002	Riga, Latvia	Wayne Greenall	England
		Kai Guenther	Germany
		Paul Trotter	Australia
2003	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Bill Hoffman	USA
2004	Singapore	Matthew Berges	Switzerland
		Pawel Bielski	Poland
		Petter Hansen	Norway
		Chester King	Philippines
		Andrejus Puskariovas	Lithuania
		Yahav Rabin	Israel
		Kai Virtanen	Finland
2005	Ljubljana, Slovenia	Anders Ohman	Sweden
		Steve Thornton	England
		Badr al Sheikh	Saudi Arabia
		Tamas Szabo	Hungary
2006	Caracas, Venezuela	Osku Palerm (twice)	Finland
		Ryan Lalising	Philippines
2007	St. Petersburg, Russia	Jason Belmonte	Australia
		Avgyrios Ketsetzis	Greece
		Ildemaro Ruiz	Venezuela
2008	Hermosillo, Mexico	Nikita Kosheliev	Russia
		Zulmazran Zukifli	Malaysia
2009	Melaka, Malaysia	Choi Yong-Kyu	Korea
2011	Johannesburg, South Africa	Lucas Legnani	Argentina
		Jason Belmonte (twice)	Australia
		Bilboy Rivera	Philippines
		Tommy Jones	USA
2012	Wroclaw, Poland	Mykhaylo Kalika	Ukraine
2013	Krasnoyarsk, Russia	Or Aviram (twice)	Israel
		Kestutis Gudauskas	Lithuania
		Mykhaylo Kalika	Ukraine
		Derek Lee	Macau
		Mats Maggi	Belgium
		Chris Sloan (twice)	Ireland
		Nino Stenko	Slovenia
		Joel Tan	Singapore
		Tore Torgersen (twice)	Norway
		Alex de Vries	Netherlands
2014	Wroclaw, Poland	Neil Ellul Sullivan	Malta
		Artur Colomer	Catalonia
		Juhani Tonteri	Finland
		Chris Barnes	USA

Year	Venue	Name	Country
1997	Cairo, Egypt	Shalin Zulkifli	Malaysia
1999	Las Vegas, USA	Jill Friis	Canada
2000	Lisbon, Portugal	Diane Buchanan	Canada
2002	Riga, Latvia	Lisa Paluzzi	South Africa
2004	Singapore	Wendy Bergen	Belgium
2006	Caracas, Venezuela	Laura Rhoney	Scotland
2008	Hermosillo, Mexico	Sara Vargas	Colombia
		Jasmine Yeong-Nathan	Singapore
		Cookie Lee	Hong Kong
2012	Wroclaw, Poland	Danielle McEwan	USA
2013	Krasnoyarsk, Russia	Marie Lourdes Arles	Philippines
		Caroline Lagrange	Canada
		Roosa Lunden	Finland
2015	Las Vegas, USA	Keira Reay	England



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