

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Monday, February 3, 2025

www.taranakibowls.co.nz www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/

Overall consistency sees Constantine's side win

Displaying greater overall consistency as a However, that hard work was undone on the team, Tauranga's Mary Campbell, Carolyn next when Constantine's scored a six on a Tasker, Mina Paul and Marilyn Constantine loser head.

carried off the 73rd Devon Hotel Taranaki A three on the 21st had Constantine looking women's Open fours final at Paritutu. comfortable at 23-16. However, with Beckett a

The side ran out 28-20 winners over the Omo- little lucky in dislodging the shot bowl, and kororoa side of Karen Pickering, Rachelle Mor- Hodges drawing a bonus, the Omokoroa side rison, Char Beckett and skip Sue Hodges in scored a three to reduce the margin to four .

the final.

Naturally, there were a number of critical moments in the final, none more so than ends 19 and 23.

Hodges started the final the better, especially Beckett, as Omokoroa led 7-1 after five ends. There were, however, already at that stage, signs that the Tauranga side were placing more bowls around the head.

There was reward for this on the sixth end when, after being one-down, Paul put the jack into the ditch. Constantine then removed the closest

Omokoroa bowl for a count of three.

It put Constantine's side on a roll. They strung together five successive ends to lead 9-7.

The scores were level at 10-all after 13, before Constantine went ahead 14-11 after 16.

Hodges, with an excellent weighted shot, put the jack into the ditch for one on the next end.

She was to the fore again on the 18th, drawing two shots to tie the ledger. In doing so, she pointed to her watch, at 11.56am, suggesting it was time she found some form.

It was game on at 14-all; effectively meaning the game had become a seven end contest.



It was then Tauranga's time to get looser. Hodges added to the count twice. Her side held four.

But Constantine, under great pressure, drew into the counting bowls to take second shot. 23-20.

Campbell and Tasker set up the last two ends brilliantly for Tauranga. Campbell was handy with one on the 24th, and Tasker, with a toucher, and one skilfully placed just behind, left Hodges' side with little room to play with.

A two to Constantine was like gold at that stage. 25-20.

Campbell deliberately went long on the last and played two "hunnies". Tasker added a toucher for good measure. Omokoroa failed in their quest to kill the end and so their brave bid of going back-to-back came up just short after winning 10 games in succession.



Carolyn Tasker and her husband, Lance, joined a small group of married couples to have each won both the women's and men's Open fours.

Lance Tasker, who desperately wanted to attend the final yesterday but was committed to his role as a Black Jacks selector in Wellington, won the men's Open in 2021 as part of Dan Dickison's side.

While a number of Taranaki couples have had the dual success, it is believed that the Taskers are the first from outside of the province to achieve the milestone.

Other husbands and wives who have both won the Open include Pauline and Jack Kennedy, Margaret and Dave Baldwin, Margaret and Ken Murtagh, Jean and Bryan Sanger, Barbara and Allan Batley, Pat and Alan Boulton, Ethel and Reg Eves, Nora and Luke MacKay Agnes and Ernie Spurdle.

* For just the fourth time in the 73-year-history of the Taranaki women's Open fours, the same club has captured the title as that which won the men's event completed in January.

Marilyn Constantine and Dan Dickison have skipped their sides to achieve the rare feat

this season, the first time a club from outside Taranaki has done so.

The other times this has occurred were in 1993 (skips Joan Sturmey and Brian Baldwin — Paritutu), 1994 (skips Rose Avison and Murray Feek — Waimea) and 1997 (skips Maureen Riordan and Brian Baldwin — Paritutu).



Sponsor Peter Tennent with the runners-up, Char Beckett, Sue Hodges, Rachelle Morrison and Karen Pickering.

Pairs to Paritutu's Barber and Andrews

Paritutu's Kileigh Barber and Cathy Andrews, pictured with Margaret Cole and The Margaret Cole Trophy, held their composure to run out 20-18 victors in the Midlands Funds Management Taranaki women's Open fours-pairs event that was finalised at Paritutu yesterday. The duo beat Fitzroy's Judy Crawford and Rhonda Adams 20-18 in the final. And while the pair have enjoyed many successes in bowls, especially Andrews as a past NZ rep, they both savoured the moment. It was especially poignant for Andrews following the death of her husband, Ian, in November last year.

Ian was a Taranaki bowls stalwart, President of the centre between 2019-2022, a gold star holder, who twice won the men's pairs event as well.

Early exchanges in the final favoured the Fitzroy pair. They led 10-3 after eight ends and

while Paritutu edged in front 11-10, Fitzroy were back in charge 15-11 through 13 of the 21 ends.

However, Barber and Andrews then collected counts of 1-4-1-2-1 to take a 20-15

lead with three ends remaining. While Crawford and Adams dominated the remaining heads, they were restricted to singles on each occasion.

