Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

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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 looser head. carried off the 73rd Devon Hotel Taranaki A three on the 21st had Constantine looking

women's Open fours final at Paritutu.

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 better. especially the 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.

together five successive ends to lead 9-7.

The scores were level at 10-all after 13, be- their quest to kill the end and so their brave fore Constantine went ahead 14-11 after 16. Hodges, with an excellent weighted shot, put after winning 10 games in succession. 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.

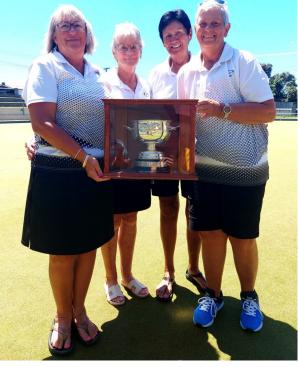
comfortable at 23-16. However, with Beckett a The side ran out 28-20 winners over the Omo-little lucky in dislodging the shot bowl, and koroa side of Karen Pickering, Rachelle Mor- Hodges drawing a bonus, the Omokoroa side rison, Char Beckett and skip Sue Hodges in scored a three to reduce the margin to four .

> 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 It put Constantine's side on a roll. They strung and played two "hunnies". Tasker added a toucher for good measure. Omokoroa failed in bid of going back-to-back came up just short





Carolyn Tasker and her husband, Lance, join this season, the first time a club from outside ed a small group of married couples to have Taranaki has done so. each won both the women's and men's Open The other times this has occurred were in fours.

his role as a Black Jacks selector in Welling-Riordan and Brian Baldwin — Paritutu). ton, 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.

skipped their sides to achieve the rare feat son and Karen Pickering.

1993 (skips Joan Sturmey and Brian Baldwin — Lance Tasker, who desperately wanted to at- Paritutu), 1994 (skips Rose Avison and Murray tend the final yesterday but was committed to Feek — Waimea) and 1997 (skips Maureen



Sponsor Peter Tennent with the runners-up, Marilyn Constantine and Dan Dickison have Char Beckett, Sue Hodges, Rachelle Morri-

Pairs to Paritutu's Barber and Andrews

Paritutu's Kileigh Barber and Cathy Andrews, while Paritupictured with Margaret Cole and The Marga- tu edged in ret Cole Trophy, held their composure to run front 11-10, out 20-18 victors in the Midlands Funds Man- Fitzroy were agement Taranaki women's Open fours-pairs back event that was finalised at Paritutu yesterday. charge The duo beat Fitzroy's Judy Crawford and 11 Rhonda Adams 20-18 in the final. And while 13 of the 21 the pair have enjoyed many successes in ends. bowls, especially Andrews as a past NZ rep, However, they both savoured the moment. It was espe- Barber and cially poignant for Andrews following the Andrews death of her husband, Ian, in November last then collectyear.

Ian was a Taranaki bowls stalwart, President 1-4-1-2-1 of the centre between 2019-2022, a gold star take a 20-15 holder, who twice won the men's pairs event lead with three ends remaining. While Crawas well.

Early exchanges in the final favoured the Fitz- heads, they were restricted to singles on each roy pair. They led 10-3 after eight ends and occasion.

15-

ed counts of



ford and Adams dominated the remaining