

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

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Tauranga South too consistent in Open final

By scoring on 15 of the completed 22 ends, the Tauranga South side of Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis, Marilyn McLeod and skip Margaret Reed ran out convincing winners in the final of the 2018 Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday.

The side deservedly beat the Tower side of Hazel Schwartfeger, Frances Busby, Maureen Tamou and skip Patty Symes 30-16 in the finale, which was played in superb conditions, on a green running sweetly.

In a nutshell, the Bay of Plenty side drew far more consistently in the final, putting more bowls on the head and largely controlling the match after the morning tea break. Symes' side had headed into the interlude holding a 12-8 lead after nine ends. That had largely come about because of Reed's side being wayward on ends two

and seven, when Tower pulled a four and a five.

The five gave Tower a 9-8 advantage, and that was backed that up with a two and a single. In fact, they may have wished for the scrumptious scones – some with cream and jam, others with cheese and tomato – could have been a few ends later.

As when the sides returned, it was Tower who were at sea and Tauranga South who were the dominant side.

Their rise started with a three, followed by a four, a two, two singles and then a five. Suddenly, Reed's quartet had moved to 24 and Symes was still stranded on 12.

The Hawera-based side managed to pull back a two and single, but the prior trend returned, with Reed taking the next four ends – with a single, a three, and two further singles. Playing for pride on the 22nd end, Symes took a single, but it was academic by then.

Speaking on behalf of the winning side,

McLeod, a steady, dependable player in the final, said the team had thoroughly enjoyed the tournament. "Patty has been around a long time. We knew it would not be easy."

McLeod was complimentary of the greens played on during the tournament and concluded by saying that the team will be back in 2019.



2018 champions: The victorious Tauranga South side, from left, Marilyn McLeod, Margaret Reed, Karen Clarke and Robyn Davis.

Symes won her last Taranaki title away back in 1984 – although she has won even greater distinction as a Life Member and the current Patron of Bowls Taranaki since. She didn't let her disappointment show afterwards, though. Symes acknowledged and congratulated Reed's side on the quality of their bowls and on their victory. "And I can't thank my team enough. They've given me great bowls all week. We will be back next year and will try for one better."

Curtain comes down on great 2018 bowls carnival

TARANAKI OPEN 4 TOWER					
		LEAD			
		SECOND			
		THIRD			
		SKIP	P. SYMES		
M. REED					
SECTION	ROUND	RINK		1	
SCORE	TOTN	ENDS	SCORE	TOTAL	
1	1	2	—	—	
1	2	3	4	4	
1	3	4	—	4	
3	4	5	—	4	
2	5	6	—	4	
—	6	7	5	9	
—	7	8	2	11	
—	8	9	1	12	
3	11	10	—	12	
4	15	11	—	12	
2	17	12	—	12	
—	18	13	—	12	
1	19	14	—	12	
5	23	15	—	12	
—	24	16	2	14	
—	24	17	1	15	
1	25	18	—	15	
3	28	19	—	15	
1	29	20	—	15	
—	30	21	—	15	
—	30	22	1	16	
		23			
		24			
		25			
		EXTRA			
		TOTAL			

TARANAKI BOWLS
WINNER: M. REED
LOSER (SKIP): P. SYMES



Worthy finalists: The team from Tower that contested the 2018 Taranaki women’s Open fours final — Hazel Schwartfeger, Frances Busby, Maureen Tamou and Patty Symes.

Final count: The official scorecard, left, tells the precise story from the final — Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis, Marilyn McLeod and Margaret Reed (Tauranga South) 30 Hazel Schwartfeger, Frances Busby, Maureen Tamou and Patty Symes (Tower) 16.

Carnival a great success — Bennett

As the curtain came down on the fortnight-long Taranaki bowls carnival yesterday, Bowls Taranaki chairman Brien Bennett QSM hailed it a great success. The carnival, which involved both the Taranaki men’s Open fours and the Taranaki women’s Open fours, had been a great advertisement for the sport in the province.

“Of course, these tournaments can only be held with the co-operation of so many people, and especially all of the clubs that have been utilised,” Bennett said. “I tip my hat to all the umpires, supervisors, greenkeepers, kitchen and bar staff, plus the Taranaki board itself.”

Bennett, pictured right, also acknowledged the financial support received from the TSB Community Trust.

“We always pride ourselves in Taranaki on running a good ship, and aided by the multitude of volunteers I refer to, plus the kind weather (only half a day’s play was lost during the fortnight), this has been a great success.”

Bennett said while it was disappointing the newspaper coverage received was significantly reduced, the “introduction of the daily *Open News* plus live streaming of matches on Facebook has resulted in wide praise.”

“We look forward to 2019,” Bennett concluded.

