

PENNANTS MEN'S PREMIER FINAL

BY GERARD HULST



The final day of the Men's Premier Pennants could not have been scripted better, as the top teams were all pitted against each other.

In the first round of the day, the results went to form, with the more favoured teams winning. In the second round, Auckland Bowling Club (ABC) took on Pringle Park. Whilst Teams B & C played traditional draw bowls, Teams A decided to take a more direct / drive approach with each other. There were at least seven kills before Pringle Park took out the game, but their differential was insufficient to prevent ABC winning the match.

In the third round, ABC took on Royal Oak. Royal Oak needed to win or at least draw the match to secure the title. Though this was not a mountainous task, they would need to deal with four Hills in the ABC teams. With Teams A being four ends behind the others because of the extended game 2, the calculators came out and the fingers began tapping. The maths showed Teams B & C had shared the honours 27-27, so the glory would be decided by Team A.

Looking back on the card it shows that the scores were level at ends 9 and 11. After end 14 Royal Oak led 13-12. ABC then scored one & two, then dropped a two; so with the final-end to play, Royal Oak led 15-14. During the final-end both teams played quality bowls, and both were well supported by a vocal and partisan crowd. When ABC skip, Adam Hayward, stood on the mat with the last bowl in his hand, ABC held the shot with Royal Oak holding second and third. As Adam went to play his bowl, the crowd went silent... the bowl then snaked its way down the green... weaving behind bowls... and in front of bowls that seemed to act as a guide. The bowl even went through an improbable gap.

The crowd oohed, aaahed and gasped at the bowl in motion. The bowl stopped right beside the jack... and the crowd went wild.

ABC had secured a dramatic 16-15 win, [43-42 on aggregate] and were worthy Men's Premier Champions. The result saw Pringle Park secure second spot and Royal Oak third.