



## Gentleman, Sportsman, Legend

The text came through 6.30am Thursday morning, Danny had passed away. The club had lost a valued member and friend to many. Danny joined the club in 2009, he came with a bowls pedigree that many aspire to but few reach. From the moment he joined he fitted in and many members have been fortunate enough to share a beer or three with him and listen to some great bowling stories. Danny pushed Birkenhead's name to the forefront when he won the 2014 National Fours and his tenth National title.

*From BowlsNZ website (27/04/17):*

Blackjack Cap # 65

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge this morning's passing of Danny O'Connor.

Danny was capped in 1982 when selected for the fours to represent New Zealand at the Brisbane Commonwealth Games. With a team of Rowan Brassey, Jim Scott and Morgan Moffat he went on to win the silver medal but it is his incredible record at the National Open Championships that he will long be remembered for.

Danny is one of only three players ever to have received a bar to go with his Gold Star. His bar achieved in winning the fours at the 2014/15 National Heartland Bank Open Championships at Browns Bay.

His National titles were;

- 1975 National Open Fours
- 1979 National Open Fours
- 1981 National Open Fours
- 1982 National Open Pairs
- 1982 National Open Fours
- 1983 National Open Singles
- 1990 National Open Fours
- 1995 National Open Fours
- 2005 National Open Fours
- 2014 National Open Fours

NB; All titles won representing Okahu Bay except 2014 title which was for Birkenhead

Kerry Clark the CEO of Bowls New Zealand said that "it was a very sad day for the sport. On a National level, with a Gold Star and Bar, Danny is one of the very top echelon to have played our game. Not only that he was just a really nice guy. He will be greatly missed on the greens around New Zealand. Being such a great player I'm sure a future Hall of Fame place awaits him. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his family, friends and bowls mates."



Danny O'Connor enjoying a pint at the club with Carole Fredrick



Danny O'Connor, 2014 National Open Fours winner and BowlsNZ Gold Star and Bar (10 National Titles)



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**SUNDAY TRIPLES TOURNAMENT (OACT)**  
**@ Birkenhead 9am Sunday 7th May**  
 \$30 per team, includes buffet lunch  
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### On The Greens

Wednesday 3 May - 10am Club Day (AC)  
 Friday 5 May - 1pm 2-4-2 (OACP)  
 Saturday 6 May - ~~Greens required - Centre Event~~ - not required by Centre  
 Sunday 7 May - 9am **Sunday Tournament (OACT)**  
 Wednesday 10 May - 10am Club Day - **Fish & Chips Day (AC)**  
 Saturday 13 May - 1pm Club Afternoon (AC - mufti)  
 Wednesday 17 May - 10am Club Day  
 Saturday 20 May - **Closing Day & Prize Giving - All Members and Partners welcome.**

### Inside This Weekend

**Friday 5 May – Club Night**  
 Raffles, Happy Hour, Club Membership Draw, Joker 500  
 Racing: Alexandra Park & Addington (Harness), Addington & Wanganui (Greyhounds) and Australia  
 Super Rugby\* - 7.35pm Hurricanes v Stormers  
**Saturday 6 May**  
 Racing: Te Rapa & Riccarton (Thoroughbreds) Gore (Harness) and Australia  
 Super Rugby\* - 7.35pm Chiefs v Reds  
**Sunday 7 May**  
 Racing: Wanganui (Thoroughbreds), Rangiora (Harness), Manukau & Invercargill (Greyhounds) and Australia  
 \* viewing selection is dependent on the members.

### A Dark Finish

Last Wednesday saw the final of the Handicap Pairs played, Jimmy Heath (s) and Gary Beer up against Robbie Henson (s) and Gary Wallace. It all got under way just before 4.30pm with trial ends!. Sunset was 5.41pm and they had fourteen ends to complete. After four ends it was four all. Henson picked up a three on the next end to pull in front, but the following three ends were all Heath's to be ahead (9-7).The next three ends ones were scored with Heath picking up one end and Henson picking up two ends. Heath ahead by one after the twelfth end (10-9) and the light fading fast. A two on the thirteenth to saw Henson pull ahead (10-11). The final end was played in complete darkness with Henson confirmed one shot once a light was shone on the head (10-12). Gary Wallace and Robbie Henson are this season's Handicap Pairs winners. Counting the two trail ends, the fourteen required ends and four killed ends by Heath, the final took twenty ends to get to it's conclusion at 6.15pm.



Winners: Robbie Henson, Gary Wallace.  
 Runners-up: Jimmy Heath, Gary Beer

**Birko Bingo**



**Thursday 11 May**  
**7pm first game**  
**Caller: Kevin "Scratchy" George**  
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# Closing Day & Prize Giving Saturday 20 May - Details soon

## Champ of Champ & 1-5 Triples

Saturday was wet and the Centre had carded natural greens for the four Centre events to be played on. After the first round the Champion of Champion Women's and Men's Triples and 1-5 Year Women's and Men's Triples were all postponed to the next day. Sunday came and the remaining teams rolled out onto the carpet greens of Hobsonville and Browns Bay. Birkenhead's Adele Ineson Mavis Smith and Colleen Sexton (s) won through to the Champion of Champion Women's Triples final but went down to Browns Bay. While in the Champion of Champion Men's Triples semi Birkenhead's Mark Rumble, Peter Nathan and Nigel Drew went down to Riverhead on an extra end.

The 1-5 Year Women's and Men's Triples, two new events on the calendar, saw Birkenhead's Christine Wafer and Jacqui Belcher, in a composite team, win the 1-5 Year Women's Triples on count back over Mairangi after a round robin. The 1-5 Year Men's Triples and Jerry Belcher, Barry Reyland, Jerome Rusk (s) made it to the semis but that's where their tournament ended.

## That Day at Browns Bay

### Birkenhead's Danny O'Connor a Perfect 10 with another NZ Title

*Grant Hassall, January 9 2015*

Birkenhead's Danny O'Connor became just the third man in the 100-year history of the New Zealand bowls championships to claim his 10th title at Browns Bay earlier today.

O'Connor was a member of a composite side skipped by Aramoho's Peter Belliss and including Richard Girvan (Onehunga) and Lance Tasker (Tauranga) that withstood a spirited late comeback in the final from Raymond Martin (Victoria) to win 17-13. Martin's team included Monte Pawa and Rory Soden (both Glen Eden) and Richard Corry (Victoria).

After the frustration of losing the pairs final on an extra end on Sunday with Girvan, O'Connor was not to be denied this time. He equals Nick Unkovich and Gary Lawson with 10 titles on the all-time list. O'Connor has now won the singles and pairs one each and the fours on eight occasions, the first being with Unkovich way back in 1975.

With some telling shots in the first two-thirds of the final from Girvan and Belliss – twice he converted two down to two up – the game had a sense of inevitability about it at 16-4.

But Martin's young side showed plenty of character. They took the next four ends, which was highlighted by a five on the penultimate end, to bring the score to 16-13 playing the last.

With Martin's front stuff growing in confidence, they held two fine shots, before Tasker drew an absolute beauty to arrest the decline. Pawa and Martin were unable to take find the necessary three and a relieved O'Connor was able to reflect on a momentous achievement, even if he did admit to being "a little bit numb".

The victory was the seventh national title for Belliss, a second for Girvan and a fourth for Tasker.



PERFECT 10: Danny O'Connor on his way to becoming the third man in the 100-year history of the NZ bowls championships to claim his 10th title.



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## Today's Club Membership Draws \$400 & \$50 Joker 500 only 18 cards left!!



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### Updated BNH Centre Dates

The latest list of BNH Centre dates received, note that some differ from those previously published by the Centre.

- BNH Champion of Champion Singles** - 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017
- BNH Champion of Champion Fours** - 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017
- BNH Men's 1-8 Years Fours, BNH Women's 1-8 Years Fours** - 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017
- BNH Men's 5 Years & Under Singles, BNH Women's 5 Years & Under Singles** - 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Entries close with Birkenhead Club Secretary 5pm Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**BNH Junior Champion of Champion Singles** - 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**BNH Open 2-4-2 Pairs** - 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Entries close with Birkenhead Club Secretary 5pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### Spotlight on Sponsors

This week we put the spotlight on long time sponsor Dil's Funeral Services.

*By Stephen Dil*

Since 1960 Dil's Funeral Services has been meeting the needs of families as they cope with loss and sadness after a death. We provide funeral services based on the wishes of the families we serve. They are personalised, meaningful and memorable.

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This deeply personal approach formed the unique heart of our service when it was originally founded by Wilfred T Dil - and it remains in place today as our business continues into the third generation of family ownership. Today the company is owned by Wilf's grandson Stephen Dil.

Equally important to remaining true to these original values has been our ability to evolve along with the times, to innovate and embrace new ideas and continue to meet the needs of changing generations.

We carry out our work as a 'family', with integrity, honesty and with the highest respect for you and your family. In line with the very best philosophy based on familial care and empathy - 'nothing is too much trouble'.

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- We will listen to your needs and find out exactly what you want
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- Traditions and special requirements important to your family will be followed
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