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# Classic pairs win for



A shaky run of results did little to disparage the gallant determination of former New Zealand representatives Dwayne Cameron and Kerry Chapman, as they moved up a gear to gallop home with the prestigious Ryman Healthcare Birkenhead Men's Open Pairs title last month.

In a tournament that has grown in stature year after year, open to all bowlers and supported by Ryman Healthcare, is continually gaining

popularity among the elite and attracting some of the country's finest bowlers to the North Harbour province.

Though it hasn't always been plain sailing.

A myopic disagreement in the early stages of the tournament's

inception temporarily threatened the future of such a promising vision, with poor planning and execution resulting in the event disappearing from the calendar in 2011

However, a spirited and collective effort from motivated club members ensured this was simply an unfortunate hiccup – and nothing more. The club now proudly part of the Bowls New Zealand Clubcheck Gold awards



# former Blackjacks

country's elite.

Event co-ordinator Terry Moverley passionately championed the event's future and overall value, proposing a regimented and structured way to operate the competition - and within months the event not only re-emerged, but further re-invented itself in a bigger and better way.

More sponsorship, more club support and in turn, more nationwide prestige.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

In fact, this year marks the fifth anniversary of the revised tournament, a milestone cherished by Moverley and his fellow supporters, as with every year that ticks by, the event continually proves a drawcard for high performers, hosting no less than a dozen current and former internationals, among a fruitful mix of talented and rapidly rising stars of the sport from around the regions and representative squad members.

Held over the NZ-observed Waitangi Weekend (February 7-8),

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- (above): Kerry Chapman gave a vintage display in the lead position.
- (above left): Newly-crowned Birkenhead open pairs champions Kerry Chapman and Dwayne Cameron.



• A stellar field featuring many of New Zealand's best turned out for the Ryman Health



• Former Melbourne Commonwealth Games athlete Justin Goodwin was just one of a dozen former and current New Zealand stars in action.

the completion of a gruelling day of qualifying uncovered the top 16 combinations from an impressive field of 32.

Coming in as the fifteenth qualifiers, both Cameron and Chapman were undoubtedly up against it from the start – matched against second qualifiers and former winners Vladimir Marsic and Tony Garelja, as knockout bowls got in to full swing.

However, a solid display of bowls saw the duo progress, moving on to defeat Dusty Reader and Steve Smith, before enduring an extra end showdown against the



*Ryman Healthcare sponsored pairs classic at Birkenhead.*

formidable pairing of Peter Thorne and 10-times New Zealand titleholder Danny O'Connor in a gripping semi-final exhibition.

Meanwhile, top qualifiers and pre-tournament favourites Justin Goodwin and Tony Grantham – both former New Zealand Blackjacks stars - had their run cut short at the hands of the tenacious composite pairing of Steve Cox and Grant Goodwin,



with Goodwin (Sr) prevailing 16-13 to earn a spot in the semi-final opposite quiet achievers Brian Wilson and Brad Reichert, of the Browns Bay Bowling Club.

A one-sided fixture saw Goodwin and Cox prevail in convincing fashion, setting up a mouth-watering clash with Cameron and Chapman on the Birkenhead greens, the final of which Chapman and Cameron emerged as tournament Cup Champions.

Cameron, speaking shortly after the final, was elated with the victory, signalling the win as special and indicating it was their



## Birkenhead Men's Open Pairs Classic North Harbour, NZ

**Champions Cup:** Winner: Kerry Chapman (Browns Bay, North Harbour), Dwayne Cameron (s), (Hinuera, Waikato). Runner-up: Steve Cox (Riverhead, North Harbour), Grant Goodwin, (s) (Hillsboro, Auckland). Equal third: Brian Wilson (Browns Bay, North Harbour), Brad Reichert (s) and (Browns Bay, North Harbour), Peter Thorne (Hillsboro, Auckland), Danny O'Connor (s) (Birkenhead, North Harbour).

**'A' Flight:** Winner: Dusty Reader (Whangarei, Northland), Steve Smith (s) (Whangarei, Northland). Runner-up: Justin Goodwin (Eastbourne, Wellington), Tony Grantham (Birkenhead, North Harbour) (s).

first time competing in the event. 'I've played in many prestigious tournaments in my time, and this one is right up there with the best of them in the way it was professionally run,' Cameron said.

'Terry (Moverley) and his team have done a fantastic job and we

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• *Winning skipper Kerry Chapman in full concentration as he continues his sublime form to set up a strong win in the Birkenhead Men's Pairs final last month.*

were all well and truly looked after the whole time.

'The final was a great battle for us both, with Kerry setting up the win with some great lead bowls and overall it was just a great tournament to be involved in.

'Kerry and I would like to thank our personal sponsors (Emmie Swart Ltd) for kitting us out in the latest gears too, they did a mighty fine job,' the former international beamed.

The win saw Cameron and Chapman presented with the Champions Cup and a \$1500

winner's cheque, along with their name etched alongside previous winners including; Jamie Hill (2012), Vladimir Marsic (2013), Danny Delany (2014) and Tony Grantham (2015).

In other results, Reader and Smith took out the A Flight, defeating the powerful combination of Goodwin and Grantham 14-7, following their previous victory against O'Connor and Thorne in

the first round elimination match-up.

Meanwhile, all eyes will be at Birkenhead a little longer as the prestigious \$6,500 Birkenhead Open Women's Pairs unfolds this month (March 5-6), showcasing a star-studded field from around the country, in what is expected to be the biggest prize pool for a women's pair's tournament.

It must be true what they say - no rest for the wicked, right?

-Sam Morton

