

Te Atatu Memorial RSA

Western Districts Invitation Pairs Snooker 2015

This year's tournament, the fifth held in memory of Geoff Makapa, one of our most accomplished indoor sporting figures, was held in mid-July.

Right from day one back in 2011, this has been recognised as one of the West Auckland RSAs most prestigious and enjoyable events. A record entry of twenty teams, forty players, made for a tough weekend of close fought competition. All credit to Bernie Steward for ensuring all the necessary scorecards, draws and relevant information was readily available to all involved throughout the weekend. Not an easy thing to do when you are also trying to concentrate on winning the tournament. A big thank you to Ron Rowland for assisting Bernie by devoting two long days to making sure minimal time was lost between games, and all scores were correctly recorded and entered on the tournament whiteboard.

We also thank Barton McGill for their sponsorship in donating a quality cue for us to raffle to partially offset our expenses. Well done to our President for pushing the button at the right moment to find that cue a good home!

This year Te Atatu RSA was unable to qualify any of our teams for the Championship play off on Sunday, leaving all our players in the group contesting the Plate play off, a sign of the improving quality of the opposition rather than any lack of ability amongst our own representatives.

Bernie and Graham Ford, former Championship winners, restored our honour by winning the Plate in two straight frames over Nick Garforth and Steve Watson from Titirangi RSA.

The Championship was won two frames to one by Koro Taua and Josh Skudder from Manurewa RSA, beating Len Jerard and Joe Pologa from New Lynn RSA. This was the first significant event that Josh had ever won, so we definitely contributed to making his a memorable weekend!

Once again the players were anxious to make sure they receive their invitations for 2016, filling my note paper with names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses to make sure they don't miss out. It gave the impression several of them were leaving behind unfinished business. With other teams wanting to join the mix next year, we can look forward to another close fought contest.

Highest break prizes this year went to Sani Roberts from Manurewa with 37 on Saturday and Nick Garforth with 54 on Sunday.

For the record, previous Championship winners are Dave Tauhore and Glenn Crowther from Birkenhead in 2011, Pika Pakieto & Glen Robust from New Lynn in 2012, Bernie Steward and Graham Ford in 2013, Dave Tauhore and Glenn Crowther again in 2014.

BOB WOOD (Snooker Section Chairman)