



Scott Evans admires the Men's Championship trophy.



Championship Winner Mandy Boyd (left) with runner-up and friend, Misty Arnold.



Jacqui Whitburn demonstrates her plate winning style.



Plate quarter-finalist Toni Edwards.



Bevan Beckham (Counties-Manukau) is stoked with his shot.



Scott Evans and Raymond Martin after the Championship final.

Images: Crispin Anderlini - www.crispinanderlini.com

KITTYHAWKS NATIONAL UNDER 20 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SINGLES

YOUNG CHAMPIONS CROWNED IN KITTYHAWKS FINALS

Bowls ain't just for nana's and over the Easter weekend, 48 young athletes (32 men and 16 women) proved this by coming together on the greens of the Pakuranga Bowling Club (Auckland) to compete for New Zealand's premier under-20 singles title.

Mandy Boyd (Hawkes Bay) eventually came out on top in a tense showdown for the Women's Championship title with four-year finals veteran of the event, Misty Arnold (Nelson). Both players (team mates from the successful Under-25 Junior Trans-Tasman team this year) were in top form, playing at a level that their rivals found hard to match. In the final game, after losing the first set 5-14 and turning it around in the second 12-5, it came down to a tie-breaker that Boyd won by bowling a series of beautifully weighted draw shots Arnold just couldn't respond to. The recent news that Boyd has been named on the Commonwealth Games "long list", just makes the victory that much sweeter.

It was a much quicker and altogether clearer cut in the Men's Championship between the very vocal Scott Evans (Auckland) and Raymond Martin (Wellington). Evans won

the title 11-4, 13-2, in what Martin admitted was a "schooling," and which was definitely a lesson in exceptionally skillful bowls placement. Whether the wild calls, shouts and commands that Evans directed at his attentive bowls had anything to do with the victory is another matter; many of his commands were obeyed after all.

Robbie Reed (Canterbury) followed Evans' example by overwhelming Auckland's Devang Patel in straight set wins 12-2, 14-4 for the Men's Plate Event trophy. While in the adjacent rink, Jacqui Whitburn (Auckland) bested a smiling Letitia Patten (Taranaki) in a tie-breaker for the Women's Plate Event title (12-6, 7-8, 5-1) that brought the three days to a close.

As for last year's titleholders Kirsten Griffin (Wellington) and Sam Morton (Dunedin), they never really hit their stride. Morton took losses early on, and then was beaten in the first round of the Men's Plate Event by Nelson's Paul Watts (7-14, 9-12). Griffin fared somewhat better, being outplayed by Julia Hodgson (Nelson) in the first round of the Women's Championship 14-6, 8-10, 0-6.

Kittyhawks National Under 20 Singles Winners

CHAMPIONSHIP	PLATE EVENT
Women's: Mandy Boyd (Hawkes Bay)	Women's: Jacqui Whitburn (Auckland)
Men's: Scott Evans (Auckland)	Men's: Robbie Reed (Canterbury)