

Takapuna Bowling Club

National Title Holders Presentation - Saturday, 11 January 2020

The rare privilege the Takapuna club now enjoys of having two current national champions within its ranks was marked by a special occasion last Saturday night. Club chairman Graham Dorreen made presentations of champagne, wine, framed photographs and commemorative gifts to Selina Goddard and Graham Skellern. At the recent nationals in Christchurch Selina partnered Katelyn Inch to the women's pairs title, making her the first lady at least from Takapuna to be a national champion.

And Graham made it a double by winning the inaugural national singles title for B5-B8 bowlers, which is the highest level for those with a disability.

To further cap Selina's achievement she was named in the Black Jacks team to meet Australia in the Trans-Tasman series on the Gold Coast next month. Wendy Jensen, also from Takapuna, was also named in the side, so as well as two current national champions the club also has two current national representatives.

Wendy had a superb national championship too, finishing third equal in the women's singles and making the last 16 in the pairs. Her deeds were also recognised but she was unable to attend Saturday's presentation.

For Selina, who is about to be married later this month, it was her third national title at the tender age of 25. Her others in fours and singles were won while she was with Auckland's Carlton-Cornwall before she had moved across the Harbour Bridge.

Though only a Takapuna member this season, Selina, with the petite frame of the one-time rhythmic gymnast, has become a familiar sight at the club because of her regular lunch-time practices taken during her break from her day job with a local architectural firm.

She graciously thanked the club for the welcome she had received while a member and was quite clearly affected by the weekend's gesture.

Graham has been bowling for more than 37 years since the early 1980s and has compiled a formidable record as a bowler in Wellington, Auckland, Counties and Bay of Plenty, before joining Takapuna last year. He immediately made an impact and won three championships in the 2018-19 season.

He has played at representative levels in all his past centres, won a host of centre titles as well as many club titles and performed with distinction at many national championships. He suffered polio as an infant which has left him with a permanent limp but has not stopped playing sport at the best competitive levels, golf as well as bowls.

He has always considered himself an able-bodied bowler and it is only in the past couple of seasons he has pursued his option as a para-athlete. He has already appeared in the Parajacks and now has an aim to compete in the world para games in Christchurch later this year and perhaps achieve Commonwealth Games representation.



