

**FIRST-TIME** entrants Burleigh Heads were the big winners as Gold Coast-Tweed clubs dominated the Premier Sevens finals at Mermaid Beach.

Burleigh achieved the coveted Division 1/ Division 1 Over-60s double and in doing so celebrated a \$16,000 prizemoney windfall.

Ipswich prevented a clean sweep by Gold Coast clubs, completing a remarkable hat-trick of wins in Division 3.

Mermaid Beach (Div 4), Tweed Heads (Div 5) and Woongoolba (Div 6) were the other Gold Coast-Tweed winners.

### **Division 1**

Burleigh's winning weekend started with a 2-1 quarter-final upset of titleholders Wellers Hill for whom singles star Kevin Higson was the only winner.

They then eliminated Windsor 2-1 in a semi-final on Sunday morning before downing Southport 2-1 in the final where Steve Coffey led the way 31-23 over Caine Burns in the singles.

In a pairs thriller, Burleigh's Peter Hickman and Steve Miller shaded Bernie Lamberton and Alan Elliott 19-18, while Bob Marty skipped Southport to a 21-16 fours success.

## **Division 1 Over-60s**

**Burleigh** snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in their 2-1 semi-final eclipse of reigning champions Salisbury.

Salisbury were holding game in the singles before Vince Sullivan pulled off a magical bowl to claim multiple shots and a 31-29 win over Barry Ward.

Sullivan continued his good form in the final, beating Robina's Paul Davis 31-25.

Bob Marin skipped a 23-19 fours win in Burleigh's 2-1 victory, but Robina's Terry Marsh and Peter McBrierty claimed the pairs 17-13 over Peter Street and Trevor Crompton.

## **Division 3**

**Ipswich City** were odds-on favourites to win the title for the third time in a row and they were unextended to achieve this outstanding feat, clean-sweeping Robina 3-0 in the final and Salisbury 3-0 in a semi-final.

Danny Knight beat Brian Blakeway 31-20 in the singles, Jeff Levitt and Ron Willis were 25-16 pairs victors, and old pro Charlie McAnany coasted hime 30-7 in the fours.

There's a strong chance the Miners will find themselves in Division 1 next year.

## **Division 4**

Home club Mermaid Beach prevented a country success by dealing with South Toowoomba 2-1 in the final after brushing Helensvale aside 3-0 in the semis.

Mermaid's Lee Burrows and Bernie Rose were handsome 32-10 pairs winners and Hugh McKenzie skipped a dominant 23-11 fours victory, but Russell Nicholson collected the singles for the Tigers 31-28 against Kevin Ross-Johnson

## **Division 5**

Coolangatta looked the favourites on form but bit the dust 2-1 against Southport in the semis and Tweed Heads romped home 3-0 over Sunnybank.

It was Tweed 2-1 over Southport in the all-Coast final, with Jason Neville scraping in 31-30 against Graeme Lendon in the singles and Robert Kaehler combining with John Griffiths for a 24-14 pairs victory.

Southport's Wayne Grandfield could hold his head high after a 29-4 runaway in the fours.

## **Division 6**

Tiny Gold Coast-Tweed club Woongoolba put its name up in lights again by winning the title to go with its Division 7 pennant in 2016.

Woongoolba beat Broadbeach 2-1 in a semi-final and then Russell Island 2-1 in the final.

Josh Zephyr continued his consistent singles form, downing Lyn Morley 31-23, and the Eric Kauppinen/Ken Zipf combination took the pairs 17-14.

The fours was a thriller with Colin Greenwood getting the Russell Sea Eagles home 20-19 over Leon Sherdy.

### **GARY CHAPPELL AWARD**

**This award in memory of former results co-ordinator Gary was first presented in 2016 when the winner was South Toowoomba's John Walkley.**

**This year's winner is Tracie Gilligan, Springwood's Premier Sevens manager, who received the award from Premier League chairman Ron Howden (see pic below)**

**Results co-ordinator Bev Formby said Springwood had gone from being disorganised in 2016 to super efficient under Tracie's guidance.**

**"It was a 1000 per cent turnaround," Bev said. "**



*Tracie Gilligan receives the Gary Chappell Award from PLQ president Ron Howden*



