

## **UNBIASED Rd 1**

QUEENSLAND'S biggest and most popular bowls competition, Premier Sevens, continues to break records.

The 2017 season kicked off last weekend with an amazing 206 teams from 72 clubs, up from 152 teams in 2016.

### **Division 1**

Titleholders Wellers Hill opened their defence with a 2-1 away win over Broadbeach despite a rare loss by singles star Kevin Higson. Latis Abdul downed Higson 31-21 but the Wellers Wasps prevailed in the pairs and fours.

Last year's finalists New Farm were beaten 2-1 at Tewantin with a different team following the losses of Brett Merkel and Neil Peach to Premier League for Enoggera. New acquisition Vase Griffith lost the singles to Mark Wrigley and the strong pairing of Pat Campbell and Geoff Jensen also went down, with Steve Cooper skipping a fours win for the Lightning.

Premier League club Enoggera opened their Div 1 campaign with a 2-1 home win over Toowong which featured a 31-16 singles victory by Glen Gallein over Alistair McKay. Doug Pannell and John Arrowsmith were dominant 29-9 pairs winners for the Toowong Terriers.

Tugun overcame a thrilling singles loss to beat Springwood 2-1 at home. It was 29-all in the singles before Kim Millard scored a two for the win over Dave Trevaskes.

Tugun ran away with the fours 27-13 and took a tight pairs clash by four shots.

A last bowl pairs win gave Victoria Point a 2-1 home result against Greenslopes. Wayne Goninan delivered the heroics for the Redbacks whose other Div 1 team fell 2-1 away to Springwood.

A series of Div 1 withdrawals hampered Vic Point but the club was heartened by the way lower division players performed on promotion.

### *Division 1 60-plus*

Reigning champions Salisbury and beaten finalists Broadbeach, drawn in the same section, both opened with 3-0 wins to signal their title ambitions.

Barry Ward was again on song for the Magpies in the singles, winning 32-24.

### *Division 3*

Titleholders Ipswich City continued on their winning roll 2-1 at Coolum Beach with singles ace Danny Knight in hot form (31-7) and Ron Willis combining with old pro Charlie McAnany for an 18-13 pairs win.

### *Division 4*

South Toowoomba made a strong start with a 2-1 away win against Hamilton in Section 5. Russell Nicholson dropped the singles by 10 shots but Mike Troughton and Ted Murray were clear 19-10 pairs winners and Doug Spinks skipped a seven-shot fours margin.

### *Division 5*

Debbie Petersen gave South Toowoomba Tigers a flying start at home against Rosewood, beating Mark McAlister 32-29 in a tough singles encounter.

Doug Heathcote and Phil Began scored a 10-shot pairs win over Marlene Hannant and Russell Gorman.

But the Tigers lost the fours after dropping a six on the second last end with the scores equal and had to be content with a 2-1 result.

Rosewood's Trevor Cook, Steve Sellers, Greg James and Sean Kedge beat Ben Silk, Keith Dawson, Ron Byers and Ros Byers 25-20.

## Division 6

An amazing singles comeback by Stan Peters was the highlight of Tamborine Mountain's 3-0 home sweep of Victoria Point in Section 6.

Peters trailed Brian Jones 14-2 after nine ends but in his inimitable fashion crafted wins on 18 of the next 26 ends to snatch a 31-28 result.

The Taipans sneaked home 22-21 in the fours after leading by nine while John Vance and Jean Ball took the pairs 20-13 for the home side after it was 13-all.

Skip Lance Cordingley's big yellow bombs did not win him any friends in the opposing camp with one Magpie player estimating he had cost them 20 shots with just four bowls. But hopefully Lance's provision of calamari, fish and chips from the Local Godfather helped soothe their frustration with him.

South Toowoomba shared wins with Brighton in home and away clashes against Brighton. It was 2-1 to Brighton at home and 2-1 to the Tigers at home.

At Brighton, Rod Scollen won the singles for the Tigers but Brighton Barracudas bagged the pairs 28-20, winning seven of the last eight ends, and the fours 15-14 in an epic struggle. The Tigers led by two playing the last end and dropped a three.

At South Toowoomba, Brighton's Chris Vickery won 10 of the last 12 ends to down Phil Schultz 32-20 after he had trailed 18-12.

In a tough pairs encounter where the scores see-sawed throughout, Dean Wright and Barry Johnstone sneaked home 18-16.

Bob Stubbs, John Leppala, John Walkley and Ron Smith led the fours 24-8 for the Tigers but got the staggers over the last four ends before getting up 24-17.