

Sorrento over-60s forge clean sweep

CLIVE ADAMS

BOWLS has traditionally been the domain of the older generation but over the past three decades more young players have discovered the sport, so much so that the Australian Jackaroos are dominated by younger players.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s there were specific competitions for under-40 players, but nothing specific for the older generation. In recent times, over-60s competitions have emerged and there is now a dedicated Australian Sides Championship for over-60s.

In late November Sorrento



Bruce Eagles. Picture: Bowls WA

celebrated as their over-60s trio of Bruce Eagles, Greg Taylor and Ian Linford won the over-60s men's triples. It was a last-end thriller with Eagles

producing an amazing final bowl to snatch the title.

Fast forward a month and Eagles and Taylor found themselves in the final of the Open Men's State Pairs against Chris Lander and Ross Cunningham, also from Sorrento.

The State Pairs has become somewhat of an endurance event. Held between Christmas and New Year, this year's final day was played in 39C.

Eagles and Taylor advanced to the final with a solid win over Cambridge's Blake Nairn and Bunbury's Darren Wilkinson. Eagles and Taylor established a lead early in that match and with Nairn chasing shots, a

result went against him to leave Eagles and Taylor 22-9 winners.

Lander and Cunningham battled against Doubleview's Charlie Slavich and Mount Lawley recruit Corey Bessant.

With shots split early, it was the Sorrento pair that made the breakthrough. Slavich and Bessant challenged late, but Lander and Cunningham steadied to take the match and ensure an all-Sorrento final.

The final came down to one team collecting multiple shots each time they won an end. It was Eagles and Taylor collecting the multiples and at the end of a final played in stifling con-

ditions, it was Eagles and Taylor who grabbed the title—the first Open State title for either player.

All four players that featured in the final will be chasing a place in the over-60s State squad which will be formed from trials held against other representative sides in the coming months. On January 31, over-60s men's and women's sides will play against the Open State squad to press claims for selection.

Sorrento, which regained Premier League status this season, are third on the table and are a chance to contend for top place.