



Eliza Clark, Terry Swartz and Chelsea Schaefer. Front Sophie Sincock, Sophie Sozou and Jess Graham.

Hotel too fast

taking the win from Knights with a final score of 26-20.

Following that game, the grand final between Sportspower and Royal was played.

Sportspower came into the grand final with strong wins under their belt and were early favorites to take out the final.

Both teams started strongly and it was a game that saw some smart play.

The power play quarters were the

determining factors in this game and Royal took the win finishing on top 35- 23.

This was the first year that this pre-season competition was played and was extremely well received from not only players, but by sponsors and the Armidale community.

The organising committee was pleased with how the competition finished and is excited for next year, with growing interest in this form of the game.

"Division one will be a little different this year." Armidale District Netball Association publicity officer Samantha Brady said.

"We have teams from PLC, NEGS and O'Connor Catholic College in division one."

Overall there are 52 teams across six divisions which range from opens right down to primary school.

Brady said it is shaping up to be another successful season for Netball is Armidale.

"Numbers are looking pretty similar to last year, which is great," she said.

Brady said anyone wishing to play netball in 2014 but has not signed up can head down to the netball courts on Saturday and talk to a committee member.

"We are always looking for more numbers," she said.

SPORTING SHOOTERS

LAST weekend the Armidale Sporting Shooters held a field rifle event and benches were available for general shooting.

Several members took the opportunity to sight in their rifles or practice.

Alan Johnston won the field rifle event with a score of 339.03, followed by John Harrison 307.02, Ryan Knox 249.01 and Phil Hardman 206.04.

This weekend shooting will be held at the Armidale Range on Sunday with an IRB event. Benches will also be available for general shooting.

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Leaders jersey for locals

ARMIDALE Para-cycling team Tandem Armidale, have returned home from the second round of the National Para-cycling Series with a second silver medal and the series leaders jersey for the tandem category.

The event, held in Bathurst earlier this month, consisted of a 20km time trial and a 68km road race.

Local blind stoker Andrew Devenish-Meares, with sighted pilot Philip Thomas, took second place on both days, which were plagued with mechanical issues.

"We split the rim of our rear wheel during the Time Trial on Saturday," Devenish-Meares said.

"We were very lucky it held together and we didn't have a nasty accident."

With speeds topping 65kmph, a failure could have been very dangerous.

The pair were lucky to source a replacement, letting them compete in the road race on Sunday.

"After replacing the wheel there wasn't enough time to fine tune the gears, so we had a number of issues through the race on Sunday," Devenish-Meares said.

"Without those issues this would have been a tighter race.

"This underscores our current fundraising campaign to raise funds to purchase a new tandem to make us more competitive."

Tandem Armidale are trying to raise \$10,000 for



IN HOT FORM: Andrew Devenish-Meares and Philip Thomas.

a new racing tandem through grants, sponsorship and donations. The campaign details and progress can be found on the web site tandemarmidale.com.

The pair secured the silver medal behind the ACT pairing of Don Mankewich (stoker) and Ashley Carruthers (pilot) and ahead of bronze medal winners ACT riders Grace West (stoker) and Rosemary Robinson (pilot).

After the second round of the series the pair move into the lead, securing the leaders jersey for the tandem b category.

Junior trial matches at TAS

NEW England under 14s and under 15s rugby squads play Central North and Mid North Coast at TAS Wakefield on Sunday.

The trial games are being played as part of New England's preparation for the NSW Country Junior Rugby Championships to be held for under 14s and under 15s at Newcastle on May 3 and 4.

Manager of the New England 14s and 15s teams, Trevor Thatcher, said the trial matches are a fantastic opportunity to

gauge themselves against very strong opposition, prior to the championships. "Both teams boast skillful line-ups with a number of boys having played in the recent ARU Junior Gold Cup program," he said.

New England is also fortunate to have a good number of Gold Cup players as well as some very experienced coaches.

"The under 14s have Will Mazzei who has coached a number of New England junior teams in the past, as well as Morgan Martin, a powerful Scottish prop

currently playing with Armidale Barbarians," Thatcher said.

"The under 15s have Geordie Marchant, Armidale Blues captain and front rower, as well as David Drain, recent Joey's coach from Sydney and GPS rugby selector."

The trial matches will be played on Wakefield, the eastern playing fields behind the school's gym, with kick-off at 10am.

The public is encouraged to attend in order to see some of northern NSW's most talented young rugby players.

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