

Ra'anana men, Ramat Gan women split annual honors

By *Norman Spiro*

The Ra'anana threesome of Raymond Sher, Alan Saitowitz and Denis Phillips won the men's annual national triples championship this past weekend in Ramat Gan, while the Ramat Gan trio of Tami Kamzel, Edna Zomberg and Tzila Gavish claimed the women's crown.

Raymond Sher faced up against his namesake, Ramat Gan's younger Itzik Sher - no relation. After trailing 11-5 at the 12th end, the elder Sher took control of the game, allowing his opponents only two more points in the very last end for an outstanding 16-13 win.

Itzik Sher skipped for Arie Kremer and Alex Harpaz, playing a major role in establishing the early lead. In the 11th end, with his counterpart holding 5 shots, Itzik drew his last bowl right onto the jack, and in the very next end with Ra'anana again in the count his changed-pace, full-out drive was dead on to burn the end.

But this was to be the turning point in the game. With Raymond Sher getting excellent support from Saitowitz and Phillips, the pressure increased against the Ramat Gan trio, and it was in this stage that Raymond took off to deliver championship bowls.

In two successive ends with shots against him, he was dead on with last bowl drives to collect a four and a three and go into the lead for the first time at 12-11, an



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(L to R): Winners Alan Saitowitz, Denis Phillips and Raymond Sher.

edge his team never relinquished.

Raymond Sher had already shown his form in his earlier semifinal against his clubmates Colin Silberstein, Roy Ben Ari and Yair Bekier. The final score card read 14-2 after 13 ends, including 10 singles and a four, and while Silberstein's team had combined with good bowling, it was no more than a frustrating effort against Sher, who yielded his opponents not an inch of leeway, unfailingly using his last bowls for dead-on conversion shots.

Itzik Sher's trio had won their semifinal 23-5 against Ra'anana's Micha Farkash,

David Kontete and Micki Kupfersmidt.

The women's final paled in comparison. Ramat Gan's powerful international trio of Tami Kamzel, Edna Zomberg and Tzila Gavish were too much for their clubmates Yael Bar-Ner, Suzanna Wagensberg and Ricki Ovadiya, winning 22-5.

In similar style, Kamzel dominated their semifinal 18-5 against Ra'anana's Hadassah Fisher, Isobel Myers and Shirley Kantor. In a surprise result for the other semi, Yael Bar-Ner's trio had beaten Kiryat Ono's champion Ruthie Gilor with Miri Golfarb and Leah Salto.