

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 19, 2024

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Dickison bows out in two frustrating losses

Bowls can be a great game and a cruel game. Just ask Tauranga's Dan Dickison.

The accomplished player experienced the best of the Midlands Funds Management Taranaki men's Open fours when he won the event in 2021.

But yesterday his more than useful team felt the despair of defeat when they missed qualification by the narrowest of margins.

They entered the day with four wins and a one-point loss. In their first attempt to gain win No 5, Dickison led fellow four-winner Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) 23-20 playing the last end. But the Inglewood boys plonked them around the jack to snatch a four and a one-point win.

In the afternoon, playing another four-winner, Colin Boyle (Carlton Cornwall), Dickison's side went to an extra end. There Boyle rolled up one of his own team's bowls to take the match 19-18.

There was plenty of heartbreak elsewhere, too, with just 52 team qualifying.

Rewa's Dave McNeal needed his last match to also qualify. Playing Barrie Johnstone (Katikati), who had lost the lot until then, McNeal's team toiled valiantly.

But Johnstone had one of those games where whatever he did, he got a result, denying McNeal 19-17.

Pt Chevalier's John Petelo, needing his last game, surged ahead 23-17 after 20 ends against Takapuna's Simon Poppleton. But Poppleton, despite losing his qualifying chances in the morning, battled on, forcing and then winning the extra end to eliminate Petelo.

The 2005 champion, Ray Park (Wanganui), won twice to advance. He looked safe leading Gavin Crow (Vogeltown) 23-9 after 17 ends. Crow then produced eight unanswered points, before a four sealed Park's 27-17 victory.

Dan Delany (Royal Oak) needed the full quota

of rounds to qualify, after his side was belted 22-6 by Phill Chisholm (Mairangi Bay) in the morning.

That forced Delany into a must-win seventh round against six-winner Peter Nixon (Sunshine Coast). Delany appeared to be cruising after 16 ends, with a 19-7 lead. But then Nixon commenced his run, levelling the scores and forcing an extra end. But Delany took a two to qualify 22-20.

After only one win from the first two days, Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) completed the transformation, winning the next four to qualify. The last effort was a good one, 21-14 over Graeme Fulford (Havelock North).

Maurice Symes (Fitzroy) had a similar story, winning five in succession after he lost the opening two games. The 77-year-old former New Zealand rep remains a determined competitor.

Section three became the group of death, with just two teams surviving — Mike Reddy (Kaitaia) and Anton Ferrari (Naenae). In the morning's feature game, Reddy took the safest path by beating Ferrari 26-21.

Heading into the last round, five teams sat on four wins. Only Ferrari managed to win, beating fellow four-winner Bob Shorter (Darfield) 25-20. Eric Foreman (Fitzroy) and David Ball (Carlton Cornwall) both fell one point short and Steve Cottam (Paritutu) was just four shots adrift of Reddy at the end.

Even though the qualification criteria this year was reduced by one game, due to Monday's rain, the elation and frustration remain just as pronounced.



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Champion teammates to square off

The feature opening game in post section this morning will occur on the back green at Paritutu where two members of the 2020 Dominion-winning fours team, Gary Lawson (Elmwood Park) and Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley) will meet.

Lawson, teaming with Shayne Sincock, Paul Matheson and Kelvin Scott, has been unbeaten throughout the week.

Hope's side has suffered a defeat in the third round but have been comfortable victors since. John Brien, Corey Brookes and Robbie

Bird comprise Hope's side.

Despite 12 of the 52 teams receiving "byes" into round two, these teams will still play at 9am today. The winners will then have the afternoon off and resume in the last 16 tomorrow, where all the action will be at Paritutu.

"It is a long-standing tradition in Taranaki that we endeavour to play as many bye games in advance as possible," Bowls Taranaki Chairman Robert Wolfe said.

"We think that the players much prefer to have an afternoon off instead of a morning."

Fours post section and pairs section play for Friday

Post section draw for the 119th Taranaki men's Open fours on January 19 (all 9am start):

Section 1, Paritutu A, round 1: Kevin Deegan (South Johnstone) v Wayne Parker (Bay Veiw), Darren Scott (West End) v Cliff Rona (Waitara), Maurice Symes (Fitzroy) v Neville Clark (Carlton Cornwall), Evan Thomas (Birkenhead) v Gary Johnstone (Arrowtown). **Round 2:** Nigel Musgrave (Naenae) v Colin Boyle (Carlton Cornwall), Steve Ramsay (Mt Albert) v Peter Belliss (Aramoho).

Section 2, Paritutu B, round 1: Mark Anderson (Tower) v Mike Reddy (Kaitaia Church Road), Brendon Gibson (Johnsonville) v Bill Foley (New Plymouth), Gary Lawson (Elmwood) v Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley), Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) v Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood). **Round 2:** Tupu Campbell (Opononi) v Garry Muriwai (Martinborough), Craig De Faria (West End) v Garry Banks (Takapuna).

Section 3, Oakura, round 1: Ross Clark (Manaia) v Peter Nixon (Sunshine Coast), Stephen Liddington (Hillcrest) v Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Bruce Phillips (Tumut) v Scotty McGavin (Bulls), Steve Muller (Oakura) v Trevor Harris (Hillcrest), Ray Park (Wanganui) v Nigel Drew (Birkenhead), Wayne Harris (Orewa) v Blake Signal (Stokes Valley). **Round 2:** Darren Goodin (Paritutu) v Owen Sutton (Putaruru).

Section 4, Inglewood, round 1: Murray Dickson (Pakuranga) v Andy Ellis (Pringle Park), Mike Bradshaw (Onehunga & Districts) v Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay), Frankie Lim (Pukekohe) v Grant Pease (Fitzroy), Neil Bovey (Paekakariki) v Danny Delany (Royal Oak), Scott Roberts (Tower) v Laurie Guy (Victoria), Aidan Zittersteijn (Paritutu) v Ross Thorn (Naenae). **Round 2:** John Garrud (West End) v Phil Morgan (Te Puke).

Pairs draw (8.45am start):

Section 1 – Vogeltown A: Gareth Evans (J/ville), Tobyn Hori (NP), Ted Walker (Carl-Corn), Craig Metcalfe (Vog), Kevan Sellers (Vog), Bruce Milne (Hin), Kevin Smith (Hin), Murray Baylis (J/ville), Michael O'Leary (Ara), Marc Wingrove (Wait), Mark Benton (Tak), Gary Barber (Pari).

Section 2 – Vogeltown B: Cary Pinker (Wang Et), Gavin Crow (Vog), Martin Hitchings (Orewa), Mike Paton (Orewa), Warrick Pinker (Wang Et), Steve Cottam (Vog), Ryan King (NP), Craig Nutt (Waim), Peter Lange (TK), Nairn McGibbon (J/ville), Shae Fleming (Rah), Lindsay McCaughan (Wak).

Section 3 – West End 3: Bill Morrison (Omo), Bill Read (Pari), Paul Hassall (Tawa), Wayne Te Huki (NP), Rodney Woods (Okato), Paul Darbyshire (WE), Bob Edwards (Mass/Av), Mario Marinovich (NP), Cliff Webber (Omo), Adam Blucher (Te Atatu), David Stachurski (Ing), Tim Clarkson (Masse/Av), Peter Vink (Fitz), Gavin McLeod (Tawa).

Section 4 – West End 2: Terry Hancock (WE), Gavin Bannatyne (Upper Hutt), Paul Eaton (Mt Maung), Darryl Fale (Mt Maung), Wally Johnson (Katikati), Stephen Hunter (Upper Hutt), Ash Paul (Darfield), Gary Watson (Titahi Bay), Perry Byres (Titahi Bay), Paul Megaw (Okato), Willy Parker (Darfield), Barrie Johnstone (Katikati).

Section 5 – Lepperton: John Zittersteijn (Paritutu), Barney Haw (Inglewood), Nigel Berry (Hawera Park), Mike Baldwin (Paritutu), Gary Dougherty (New Lynn), Steve Lapslie (Parklands), Hugh Andrews (Bannockburn), Ross Sinclair (Opunake), Ken Thomas (Kaikohe), Chris Carter (Parklands), Trevor Howell (Otaki Railway), Kevin Seaver (Fitzroy), Roger Sutton (Carlton-Cornwall), Dion Davis (Kaikohe).