

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Monday, January 15, 2018

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113th Open promises much, says Bennett

The 113th Taranaki men's open fours, which commences in New Plymouth and surrounding areas this morning, has all the makings of a top tournament, says Bowls Taranaki chairman, Brien Bennett QSM.

Everything is in order for a brilliant week of bowls, Bennett said. "While the weather forecast at this stage may show some rain on Wednesday, locals will confirm that the forecasters have predicting rain in these parts for three months — but we are in an official drought!"

The greens advisory panel are comfortable with all of the chosen venues, with inspections haven't taken place 10 days ago.

Inglewood will not be used this year, as its only natural surface was re-sown during the winter, but all of the other greens should be familiar with regular competitors.

Neither will the Stratford-Avon greens be used, despite them being as good as any in the province. The Taranaki centre has a long-standing rule that it will play on the best greens available — but within the divisions where the event has been allocated to.

Same format as last time - and some

Today's Taranaki Open repeats the same format that has basically remained unchanged for over 70 years.

All 156 teams will play two games of 25

ends today, tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday, with those sides winning six or more games advancing to Friday's post section rounds.

Friday also sees the

"We would be delighted to use Stratford-Avon, given the high-quality of their greens, but we need to also recognise that it is in a different weather zone to the other clubs selected.

And, unlike last season, when we believed that we didn't have sufficient greens of quality in the north, this year we do."

Bennett said, overall, the Board of Bowls Taranaki are happy with the entry of 156 teams. "Of course, we always want more. But considering that we have had five withdrawals since entries closed, it is satisfactory — and two up on last year.

The only changes to the published programme are Sonny Hokai's Far North side being replaced in section two by a composite team headed by Inglewood's Don Gyde; and the use of the New Plymouth No 1 green as opposed to New Plymouth No 2.

"All is set for a great week."

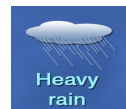


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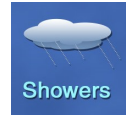
Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



commencement of the pairs event for non-qualifiers and non-participants of the fours.

Both the pairs and fours finals will be held on Sunday.

Plenty of action-packed sections

The field of 156 teams have been divided into 12 sections, some of which promise some real action during the first four days of qualifying.

Section one includes past Bowls NZ chairman John Carter (Hutt), David Hood (Kerikeri), who has been a consistent performer at the NZ Open and has won a bucket-load of titles in the Far North, Tony Holdsworth (Mt Albert), the 1994 Dominion singles runner-up, and Graham Fulford (playing under the Australian banner this week), who was part of John Granger's 2002 winning Open team.

Youthful Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn) leads **section two**, which includes two useful West End sides, Neil Candy and John Sexton, Graham Baxter (Hawera Park) and Ian Lowry (Rahotu), while Cliff Mitchell-Burnard (Te Kuiti) returns.

Brian Little (Palmerston North), the 2016 champion, returns to the skipping role this year and his side appears the most likely in **section three**. The group includes another past winner, Darren Goodin (Paritutu), Wellington gold star holder Brent Stubbins (Johnsonville) and Terry Osment (Te Awamutu).

The O'Sullivan family team from Inglewood are reunited in 2018, with Gerry again taking the skip berth. They feature in **section four**, alongside Ray Hudson (Central Levin), Les Dempster-Rivett (Frankton Junction) and Kevin Coombe (Aramoho).

Barry Wynks (Takaro), a member of the NZ Para team for this year's Commonwealth Games, skips a new-look team in **section five**, where the favoured teams include dual winner Mark Anderson (Alton), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA) and Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay).

Craig Johns (West End), the supervisor of **section six**, presents a strong side, but he won't have it all his own way against Paul Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA), 2006 Dominion fours winner

Ross Thorn (Naenae) and Manawatu rep Scotty McGavin (Bulls).

After a long absence, Howard Ivory (Wilton) returns with the 1989 champion John Earles at No 3. They are in **section seven** along with Gerard Slattery (Hinuera) and Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe).

Stu Settle (Hinuera), the 2014 winner, remains an excellent supporter of the Open. His side will tangle in **section eight** with the likes of Terry Cullen (Helensville), Roger Neilson (Wanganui East), Noel Probyn (Fitzroy) and Garry Murfitt (West End).

Cary Pinker's Wanganui East side were semifinalists in 2016, but they face a tough qualifying draw in **section nine**. They play prominent Hawke's Bay bowler Ian Mason (Havelock North) this afternoon, Dave Selby (Hillcrest) on Tuesday, and then on Wednesday, meet two of the most consistent skips in the Open of this generation, Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach) and Gary Lilley (West End).

Section 10 comprises a number of very solid units, including Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke), Ray Park (Wanganui), Ian Andrews (Paritutu) and Anton Ferrari (Wilton).

Former international Dan Delany (Royal Oak), a four-time winner and the 2017 runner-up, again poses a big threat from **section 11**. He will tangle with Wellington CEO Dave Hewitt (Silverstream), Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth) and the 1987 Dominion pairs champion Peter Clark (Tauranga South).

Kiwi great Peter Belliss (Aramoho) heads **section 12**, alongside Steve Hoeft (Pt Chevalier), Peter Thompson (Paekakariki) and 2003 winner Russell Hardy (Tower).



2017 was Ces Bell's year; but Hawke's Bay team has not returned

Taradale's Ces Bell won his second Taranaki Open fours 12 months ago when he skipped his side of Frank Grantham, Ken Smith and Fred Ellison to the title.

In the final, the Hawke's Bay side defeated Dan Delany and his Auckland team of Mike Nasey, Norman Scott-Morrison and Joe White-law 27-15 at the West End greens.

Unfortunately, Smith died during the winter. The loss of his close bowling mate had a significant impact on Bell, who skipped an Aramoho side to win the title in 1992. He has

in fact not played at all this season. "I would love to come back and attempt to defend the title," Bell said. "But my heart is just not in bowls at the moment."

In last year's semifinals, Bell came from behind to beat Wanganui East's Carey Pinker, while Delany withheld — just — a storming fight-back from Aramoho's Peter Belliss, winning by one shot.



Selby takes the honours in Waimea's pre-Open tournament

Former Hawke's Bay and Wanganui rugby rep Dave Selby and his Hillcrest side of Murray Young, Trevor Harris and Steve Lidington warmed up for this week's Open by winning the pre-Open tournament at Waimea yesterday.

Last season Selby skipped

the winning side in the Mata-mata Open fours.

Second place went to a Waimea team entered under the name of Benny Hill, who impressed in qualifying in last season's Dominion singles, whilst a member of Rakai. Hill's team comprised his son, Mike Hori, Robert

Wolfe and Levi Wilson.

Popular Canterbury visitor Bob Harris and his team of Alan Dannefaerd, Martin Hammond and Murray Foskett were third.

Eight teams took part in the Sporty's-sponsored tournament.

- Barry Stevenson

Open News - your way to stay in touch

Bowls Taranaki Executive Officer, Neville Elliott, said this first edition of Open News is designed to inform players and spectators in a similar way to the brilliant coverage the tournament has previously received from the Taranaki Daily News.

"Fairfax made the decision in December to move away from covering regional sport.

Like all sports codes, we were disappointed with the decision, but we can not sit on our hands," Elliott said.

Bowls needed as much profile and coverage as it could possibly get.

"Our website will be fully updated with results after each round, and progress scores during post section."

Elliott also said that Face-

book will be used more than ever before and that there were prospects of some live streaming — although "we don't really have the technology available to us that was so well used at the Nationals."

Newstalk ZB, on 1053 am, will provide coverage after 2pm and 7pm each day, in association with Hassall Homes.



Johns, Brien and Dorreen victors in West End dress-rehearsal

West End's Craig Johns, Stokes Valley's Steve Brien and Far North RSA's Peter Dorreen were the respective green winners from a pre-Open tournament that was held at West End used.

All three greens were used to accommodate the 36 entries.

On green one, **Johns'** quartet of Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker took out the top prize, in verifying their side as one of the favourites for the Open.

Second place went to the Sunshine Coast (Australian) side of Noel Allison, Heinz Quatember, Alan Young and skip Dennis Layden.

Third place went to a Tawa team skipped by well-known indoor bowls identity, and a past president of the national federation, Trevor Rayner. Rayner's team was Graham Williams, Paul Hassall and Gavin McLeod.

Brien skipped a family team to win the honours on green two. His team included his brother John, his cousin Glen Brookes, and Brookes' father Noel.



Glen Brookes son, Corey, will play during the tournament week, with Noel Brookes continuing to fulfil a Public Relations role with Bowls Taranaki.

In second place was Noel Probyn's Fitzroy side of Tony Walsh, Nigel Newton and Ian Mahoney.

Third position went to the strong Kerikeri team of Trevor Smith, Kevin Briscoe, Barry Allison and former Taranaki junior rep David Hood (skip).

Dorreen's side that were victorious on green three comprised John Filmer, Robbie Davidson and Paul Huxtable.

Naenae president Ross Thorn, who made the quarterfinals last season, and his team of Robbie Yemm, Mark Clements and Lou Newman took second place.

The Vogeltown side of Laurence Hori, Conrad Jagusch, Wayne Te Huki and Kevan Sellers (Vogeltown) rounded out the place-getters by taking third.

Like Waimea, the tournament was also sponsored by Sporty's Café and Bar in Fitzroy.

- Graeme McDowell



Match of the morning — Settle v Probyn

One of the most intriguing matches this morning will take place at Fitzroy No 1, where Noel Probyn, a three-time winner of the Open, will meet the 2014 champion **Stu Settle** (Hinuera).

Probyn's side of 1962 Empire Games cycling silver medalist Tony Walsh, Nigel Newton and Ian Mahoney missed out on qualifying last year after making the last 16 the year before.

Settle's side has been a consistent performer for many years, and following their break-through victory were third-equal in 2015. The team again includes Kevin Smith and Bruce Milne, with Stu's brother, John, returning after missing last season.



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Tuesday, January 16, 2018

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Some upsets in hot, humid conditions

Hot, humid conditions greeted bowlers on the first day of the 113th Taranaki men's Open fours in New Plymouth and surrounding areas yesterday.

By the end of the day, as predicted, most of the big guns had emerged unscathed – but there were exceptions, including past Dominion pairs winners Dan Delany (Royal Oak) and Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), who along with three-time winner Gary Lilley (West End), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), Mark Anderson (Alton) and Stu Settle (Hinuera) all dropped a match during the day. The plight of the 2003 winner Russell Hardy (Tower) was even grimmer, his side losing both games which means that they must win the remaining six matches.

But there were a host of top teams who didn't have too many problems, even though by the end of the day, some greens had begun to show signs of burning.

Heading that list of visitors were Brian Little (Palmerston North), Barry Wynks (Takaro), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA), Howard Ivory (Wilton), Ray Park (Wanganui), Peter Clark (Tauranga South) and Peter Belliss (Aramoho).

A number of Taranaki teams also got off on the right footing with two wins, including Craig Johns (West End), Ian Andrews

(Paritutu), Graham Baxter (Hawera Park) and Fred Hughes (Lepperton).

After sneaking home 18-17 against Mervyn Jackman (Wainuiomata), the Lepperton side had the satisfaction of upsetting Holmes, who has made the Open final on three separate occasions, 23-19.

Delany fell in his first match 24-20 to Evert Kremer, a two-winner from Paraparaumu Beach. But Delany got back on track in beating Ian Busby (Tower) 25-18 in the afternoon.

Lilley dropped his match to Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) 22-18, while Anderson was ousted 25-22 by Alan Sandercock (Australia).

Settle's loss was no complete surprise, being tipped up 28-24 in the feature game of the morning by Noel Probyn (Fitzroy). Settle rebounded to win in the afternoon, whereas Probyn was defeated by another team with a 50% record, Garry Murfitt (West End).

Hardy's opening loss was to Pihama's underrated Terry Mullin 23-20 and his hopes took a further dive to Peter Thomson (Paekakariki) 24-23.

Peter Thomson (right)



It's all Open, bowlers, Mayor says

His worship the mayor of New Plymouth, Neil Holdom (right), officially opened the tournament at the Paritutu greens yesterday morning, and in wishing all players the best, encouraged them to see some of Taranaki's attractions.

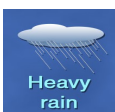


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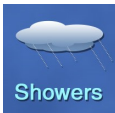
Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Wanganui teams excel on opening day

One of the shining features of the opening day's play was the terrific performance by the teams from the Wanganui centre.

Given its proximity, Wanganui has always provided a number of teams to the competition and this year there are seven in the field. Remarkably, five of the seven finished the day with two wins, and the other two sides only just missed out on achieving the same feat.

Kevin Coombe, who won the subsidiary pairs in 2012 with Keith Schultz, posted victories over Jim Rowe (West End) 25-17 and Dennis McEwen (Stratford-Avon) 22-18. Coombe and Schultz are joined this year by Gary Mitchell and John Belliss. The McEwen side, which had defeated Wellington gold star holder Allan Bridger (Johnsonville) 27-22 in the opening round, is skipped by Paul Digby, the grandson of Taranaki's greatest ever women's bowler, Pearl Dymond.

Joining Coombe in the unbeaten position were Aramoho clubmates Peter Belliss and Ian Porteous, Ray Park (Wanganui) and Wanganui East's Roger Neilson.

Naturally, Peter Belliss was expected to feature, and with past NZ rep Keith Slight at No 3, Phil Corney, who skipped the last Wanganui team to skip the Open in 2004, at No 2 and Ray Wilson, formerly of BOP, leading, they didn't disappoint. First off, they beat a very tidy Auckland side skipped by Steve Hoeft (Pt Chevalier) 21-14 and then moved past Peter Sprake (New Plymouth) 33-7.

Park had a close squeak 21-20 over 1991 Dominion fours semifinalist Bill Johnston (Fitzroy) before beating that great South Island supporter of the event, Kerry Bishop (Motueka) 34-15.

Neilson beat Sandy Robinson (Omaranui) 28-23 and Danny Watt (Lepperton) 33-13.

The two Wanganui team's to have one win and one loss were Russell Haddock (Wanganui) and Cary Pinker (Wanganui East). Haddock was edged out 23-21 by Ross Henderson (West End), while Pinker was pipped 20-19 by former NZ roller hockey rep and the holder of 13 Hawke's Bay titles, Ian Mason (Havelock North).

Two winners from the first day's play

Section 1: John Carter (Hutt), Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), David Hood (Kerikeri), Ian Porteous (Aramoho), Graham Frater (Inglewood).

Section 2: Graham Baxter (Hawera Park), Neil Candy (West End), Ian Lowry (Rahotu).

Section 3: Brian Little (Palmerston North), Darren Scott (West End), Darren Goodin (Paritutu).

Section 4: Bruce Mummery (Paritutu), Kevin Hills (Alton), Kevin Coombe (Aramoho).

Section 5: Murray Hooper (Rewa), Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Barry Wynks (Takaro), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA).

Section 6: Craig Johns (West End), Ken Greeks (Napier), Ross Thorn (Naenae), Rod-

ney Woods (Opunake).

Section 7: Howard Ivory (Wilton), Graeme McDowell (West End), Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe), Gerard Slaterry (Hinuera).

Section 8: Roger Neilson (Wanganui East), Terry Cullen (Helensville), Don Ramsey (Pukekohe).

Section 9: Ian Mason (Havelock North), Dave Selby (Hillcrest), Fred Hughes (Lepperton).

Section 10: Ray Park (Wanganui), Mort Jones (Hillcrest), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).

Section 11: Evert Kremer (Paraparaumu Beach), Peter Clark (Tauranga South).

Section 12: Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Peter Thomson (Paekakariki), Des Brophy (Fitzroy), Gary Russek (Omokoroa).

John Carter produces goods in thrilling win

Long-serving bowls administrator John Carter proved to be the right man for the occasion when he guided his Wellington team to its second-successive victory on the first day of the 2018 Taranaki men's open fours tournament yesterday afternoon at the Paritutu greens.

Carter, who served as both president and chairman of Bowls New Zealand, has been a regular visitor and solid competitor to the Taranaki tournament, with his best placing being a quarterfinal berth in 2001.

His 2018 side remains the same as that of recent memory with Bruce

"Godfather" Woodhouse

(pictured right), Bill Jackson and former Wellington CEO, Don McMurray.

The side opened with a comfortable 29-13 win over Waimea's Ian Schofield, but in the afternoon became locked in an intriguing battle with George Hindi's side from Australia's Sunshine Coast. The two teams

were seldom separated by more than two shots, and when the 25th and final commenced, Carter led by one.

Hindi's side called the tune on the final end, although a valiant attempt by McMurray, where he touched the jack but left it behind, saw the Australians hold one shot on the skip-changeover.

Hindi drew a top shot, giving his side the two it needed to win. But captain Carter had other ideas, pushing into the head and spilling the jack back to one of Jackson's bowls.



Hindi, on the push as well, narrowly missed, leaving Carter's crew the winners at 24-22.

Carter's side was one of five from section one to emerge from the opening day with the perfect record. Joining them were former Taranaki development rep Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), decorated Far North titleholder David Hood (Kerikeri), the consistent Ian Porteous (Aramoho) and Graham Frater (Inglewood).

After the disappointment of missing out on qualifying last year, Hood's side had a close shave in its opening match against New Plymouth's Albie Waitere, who skipped the winning team at last year's Aotearoa Maori bowls championships, Hood sneaking home 24-23.

The men from the far north were emphatic in the afternoon, accounting for a strong side skipped by Graeme Fulford (Australia) 30-7.

Porteous didn't have things all his own way against Stratford-Avon's Colin Jones, winning 23-16, but also showed much more in the afternoon in defeating Waitere 28-12.

Frater and Goldsworthy were two of the lesser known Taranaki teams excelling on day one — and both did it with some style.

Goldsworthy beat Paul Darbyshire (Northern) 25-11 and Jones 24-14, while Frater saw off the challenge of Hindi 27-14 before beating Taranaki gold star holder Neville Sole (West End) 25-12.



David Hood - two wins

Wednesday the day for old timers afternoon tea

What has become a regular feature of the Taranaki Open fours, the Jean Sandel Retirement Village-sponsored afternoon tea is on again this year.

Paritutu will host the function

for all past competitors, and associates, tomorrow from 2pm.

"We have seen the event grown in popularity," organiser Barry Stevenson said.

"We want to see as many people there as possible."

As is custom, the afternoon tea will also coincide with the announcement of which club will host the finals.

BNZ CEO Mark Cameron enjoying his first Taranaki Open

Bowls New Zealand CEO Mark Cameron said that he can now understand why the Taranaki men's Open fours tournament is as good as it gets when it comes to provincial tournaments.

Cameron, who has been in the job for six months, is on his second visit to the province, but his first to the Taranaki Open.

"Walking around the greens and talking to a few of the bowlers, the overwhelming message is that the players thoroughly enjoy this format," Cameron said.

"I've been to Paritutu, Vogeltown, New Plymouth and Fitzroy and there seems to be a good vibe at each location."

Cameron is easing into the job, listening and discussing, and is starting to establish some thoughts about the future.

"I will take some of my observations back to Auckland with me as we prepare bowls for the coming years."

Moving forward, Cameron believed that Bowls New Zealand needed to focus on the national championships, the Intercentre and a television product that could take the shape of something similar to the Australian Premier League.

"A few years ago cricket was battling, but they introduced the T20 version. We need to embrace something like this and the Austra-

lian format appears the way to go. It can appeal at all levels of the game."

Cameron also said that the national championships could be in for a makeover in the future, with the fours potentially being split away from the singles and pairs.

"At the moment these are just thoughts and ideas. The full board of Bowls New Zealand need to contemplate, discuss and decide."

In the meantime, Cameron said he would continue to get out and talk with bowlers today in Taranaki and around the rest of the country. And "I'm very convinced of the importance and place the Taranaki Open has on our calendar."

• Last evening, at West End, Cameron (right of frame) presented to Dean Elgar (left of frame) the 2016/17 New Zealand domestic player of the year award. Cameron spoke of Elgar's achievement in winning last season's

national singles, as well as making the final of the world champion-of-champions in Australia.



Match of the morning — Johns v Thorn

Two of the unbeaten teams that will square off this morning will be West End's Craig Johns and Naenae's Ross Thorn.

Johns, playing with Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker were untroubled in their two victories on day one at Lepperton. They defeated Bill Barwood (Morrinsville RSA) 29-15 and Cliff Rona (Waitara) 25-7.

Thorn's side this year comprises Robbie Yemm, Mark Clements and Lou Newman. After making last year's quarter-finals, Thorn started 2018 on the right note in beating Manawatu rep Scotty McGavin (Bulls) 27-24 and Tupu Campbell (Far North RSA) 21-14.

The Johns-Thorn clash will take place at Vogeltown A.

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Delany's team suffers second set-back

Former Blackjack Dan Delany (Royal Oak), a four-time winner of the Taranaki Open fours, suffered his second defeat during section play of the 113th tournament at Fitzroy yesterday afternoon.

Delany is skipping a familiar side with Mike Nasey and Joe Whitelaw, two players who have shared in multiple Open successes, and one newcomer this year, Gary Cotter. Cotter impressed in last year's event leading for a Hamilton side.

After a loss and a win on Monday, Delany appeared in reasonable touch in beating Russell Haddock (Wanganui) 25-17 yesterday morning.

But in the afternoon, the Delany side ran into a wily team from Tauranga South of Robbie Frelan, dual Dominion fours winner Maurice Hickey, John Simons and 1987 Dominion pairs winner Peter Clark.

Clark is now 82, but still one of the best skips going around. His team, after two wins on Monday, were somewhat smarting, having seen a lead in the morning evaporate as they fell 18-15 to three-winner Ross Henderson

(West End).

But the Bay of Plenty team turned things around in the last round of the day, prevailing 30-19 to keep themselves in a solid over-night position. The loss left Delany's team needing to win their last four matches.

This morning they face Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth), who skips the only side in the section with an unblemished record.

Bellringer's team received its sternest test to date when it beat Dave Hewitt (Silverstream) 25-16 in the morning and then accounted for Richard Death (Te Awamutu) 27-6 in the later round.

Delany is not alone in the two-win, two-loss department, with a number of other teams predicted to qualify also in the same boat.

Those teams include Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn), Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) and Steve Hoeft (Pt Chevalier).

The most noted causality is Russell Hardy (Tower), after the 2003 winner dropped his morning game 26-15 to three-winner Trevor Rayner (Tawa).

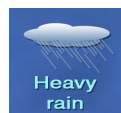


Peter Clark and Ross Henderson, deep in concentration; Joe Whitelaw (below)



WEATHER FORECAST

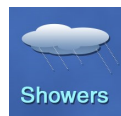
Thursday



Friday



Saturday



A number of teams impress with unbeaten records

There are 17 teams that are still to taste defeat in the Taranaki Open fours and some have already indicated that it will take a team of some quality to inflict that first loss.

Among those teams are Brian Little (Palmerston North), Ray Park (Wanganui), Peter Belliss (Aramoho) and Craig Johns (West End).

Little, after beating Colin Salmon (Taradale) 30-16, ended the day with a convincing 25-11 win over a team of predominantly newer bowlers headed by Darren Scott (West End), which until then had posted three strong wins.

Johns opened the day with a 21-10 win over Naenae's Ross Thorn in a match closer than the score indicated, the greater consistency of the West End side prevailing. Thorn had a further hiccup in the afternoon losing 27-20 to

three-winner Ken Greeks (Napier), with Johns defeating Bob Harris (Canterbury) 25-11.

Park saw off the challenge of Paritutu's Ian Andrews 26-18 and then accounted for Tower's Jeff Ward 30-9.

Belliss was kept honest for parts of his morning match, seeing off Gary Russek (Omokoroa) 23-13 and then cruised home 28-9 over David Mora (Whangarei).

David Hood (Kerikeri) remained unbeaten, although it was a little tight in the morning when his side beat Tony Holdsworth (Central) 20-16.

The last game of the day to finish was between Ian Lowry (Rahotu) and Neil Candy (West End). Both teams headed into the game with three wins and it was the coastal side that came through, winning 26-20.

Who has won how many after day two

Standings after day two:

Section 1: four wins, David Hood (Kerikeri); three wins, John Carter (Hutt), Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), Ian Porteous (Aramoho), Graham Fulford (Australia).

Section 2: four wins, Ian Lowry (Rahotu); three wins, Graham Baxter (Hawera Park), Neil Candy (West End), Gary McKay (Australia), Cliff Mitchell-Burnard (Te Kuiti), Maurice Stieller (Stratford-Avon).

Section 3: four wins, Brian Little (Palmerston North), Darren Goodin (Paritutu); three wins, Darren Scott (West End), David Brunton (Stratford-Avon).

Section 4: four wins, Kevin Coombe (Aramoho); three wins, Ray Hudson (Central Levin), Keiran Pollard (Hawera Park), Kevin Hills (Alton).

Section 5: three wins, Alan Sandercock (Australia), Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Barry Wynks (Takaro), Mark Anderson (Alton), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA).

Section 6: four wins, Craig Johns (West End), Rodney Woods (Opunake); three wins, Scotty

McGavin (Bulls), Ken Day (Hawera Park), Ken Greeks (Napier).

Section 7: four wins, Howard Ivory (Wilton), Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe); three wins, Mike Walsh (Paritutu), Gerard Slattery (Hinuera), Richard Meacle (Australia).

Section 8: four wins, Terry Cullen (Helensville); three wins, Stu Settle (Hinuera), Garry Murfitt (West End), Noel Probyn (Fitzroy), Don Ramsey (Pukekohe).

Section 9: four wins, Ian Mason (Havelock North), Dave Selby (Hillcrest); three wins, Gary Lilley (West End).

Section 10: four wins, Ray Park (Wanganui), Mort Jones (Hillcrest); three wins, Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).

Section 11: four wins, Warren Bellringer; three wins, Ross Henderson (West End), Ian Busby (Tower), Peter Clark (Tauranga South).

Section 12: four wins, Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Peter Thomson (Paekakariki); three wins, Trevor Rayner (Tawa), Terry Mullin (Pihama), Des Brophy (Fitzroy).

Kevin Coombe unbeaten in Open fours after two days

Aramoho's Kevin Coombe, a three-time New Zealand indoor singles champion, proved that he is a more than useful performer in the outdoor game after he skipped his side to a 27-6 win over the Edward Hau-skipped team from Opononi at Paritutu yesterday. It was the fourth-straight win for his team.

In the morning round, Coombe's side of Keith Schultz, Gary Mitchell and John Belliss were involved in a ding-dong affair with the 1995 winner Kevin Hills (Alton).

Hills, skipping Eamon Hussey, Peter Newell and Neil Reid, raced to a 9-3 lead after nine ends, but a four to Coombe on the next brought the Wanganui side back into contention.

However, Hills remained in front until the 19th head, when a further four to Coombe gave his side the lead for the first time since the second end.

Hills continued to fight, though, grabbing four singles over the next five ends to lead by one point playing the last end.

But it was Coombe that got the nod, a two securing him the match 20-19.

The Aramoho team held three on the change-over before Hills drove, forcing the jack back into the ditch. One of Belliss' bowl, a toucher, became the shot in the ditch.

Coombe drew a brilliant shot to the ditch and Hills, attempting to retrieve, just rolled into the ditch.

"I was missing in action presumed lost for a large chunk of the game," Coombe said afterwards. "Kevin (Hills) only just missed."

Like Coombe, Schultz, the lead and team organiser, said the unbeaten team were, "as always, loving the week."

"You can't beat the 25 ends. You know exactly where you are at. It used to be my annual holiday and its just continued on."

Hills' side rebounded from the narrow loss to Coombe, benefitting from a late scoring spree to beat Bruce Mummery (Paritutu) 32-24 to finish the day in a comfortable position of three wins.

Hills is joined on three wins in section four by Kearin Pollard (Hawera Park) and Kapiti gold star holder Ray Hudson (Central Levin), after both teams won twice on the well-prepared Paritutu front green.

Elsewhere in the section, both Wellington gold star holder Allan Bridger, and the O'Sullivan family team from Inglewood, after two losses on Monday, rebounded with two wins apiece yesterday to keep their hopes alive.

But two losses yesterday ended the chances of the 2012 runner-up Les Dempster-Rivett (Frankton Junction).



Kevin Hills (Alton), left, has three wins, while Bruce Mummery (Paritutu), right, has had two wins.

Get to 30 to win, don't make 20 and lose — usually

An old adage in the 25-end game of bowls is that to have any chance of winning, a team needs to score at least 20 shots and to ensure victory they need at least 30 points. But yesterday threw up some

examples where that was not the case, especially for Mike Hori's Waimea side which is being skipped by his father, Benny Hill. In the morning, they came from 10-0 down to beat Murray Hooper (Rewa)

32-30 but in the afternoon had the same scoreline in reverse in going down to Barry Wynks (Takaro).

At the opposite end of the scale, Ross Henderson beat Peter Clark 18-15.

Mora brothers rekindling their father's memory

One of the great aspects of the Taranaki Open fours has always been the number of family teams that take part.

Most famous of all were the Spurdle brothers from Inglewood who were dominant forces in bowls from the 1950s onwards, following their father Fred who won the 1937 Open.

All of Fred's sons excelled in bowls winning many titles together.

There was a unique situation when Bill, Roy and Ernie, with Ron Ashton, made the 1964 final and met their brother Barney, who was skipping his own team. After a drawn final, Bill's side won the replay to take the title.

In recent year's the O'Sullivan's from Inglewood and Bovey's from Kapiti have featured and there was an even more unique situation yesterday morning at West End when two well-known New Plymouth families squared off — the Bishops and the Moras.

The four Mora brothers, Anton and Graham (both Vogeltown), Paul (Milford, North Harbour) and David (Whangarei) comprised one team.

The Bishops were skipped by Bryan Boulton and his team included his wife's two brothers Peter and Jeff, and their uncle Pat.

The match was a win for the Bishop family, triumphing 26-19.

But for the Mora brothers, all first year play-

ers, except David who is in his fifth year, winning is not what it is all about.

Their late father Cyril — the "Hawk" from his days flying in World War II — was for many years a competitor in the tournament.

This week is about rekindling their father's memory and experiencing some of the fellowship that their father did.

The Bishop family also has a long history in the Open, especially back in the 1990s when Pat used to regularly team up with his brothers Des (father of Peter and Jeff), Basil and Max.

In 1992, when the brothers dispatched Te Puke's Terry Wilson, the champion of the previous year, in post section, the following day's headline beamed "Bishops put in priestly performance."



The Mora brothers: Anton, Graham, Paul and David.

Match of the morning — Pinker v Holmes

While a number of the big names are sailing along just fine, the same can not be said for two of the more favoured teams, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) and Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach). Both sides have won two games and lost two games, meaning this morning's match at Waitara is critical.

Pinker's side includes his brother Warrick, Doug Baty and Lindsay Bourne. After a win and a loss on the opening day, they were edged 22-20 by the unbeaten Dave Selby (Hillcrest) before beating Merv Jackman (Wainuiomata) 26-16.

Holmes' team comprises Alan Bradbury, Riko Rokotakala and Steve Glavas. They, too, had a win and a loss on the first day, before losing to George Markie (Vogeltown) 26-23 and beating Moe Kelly (Fitzroy) 24-16.

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Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 18, 2018

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Delany, Pinker and Holmes all eliminated

As the water started to fall, albeit only in a soft and unobtrusive way, a number of the pre-tournament favourites were eliminated from the 113th Taranaki Open fours yesterday.

The biggest names to fall were Dan Delany (Royal Oak), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) and Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach).

The other big story of the day was that Peter Belliss (Aramoho) dropped both his games, meaning, if the weather Gods are kind, the Wanganui team will need to win both matches today to qualify.

Delany, the four-time winner, lost in the sixth round 23-22 to Fitzroy's Colin Christie, despite holding a handy early advantage.

Earlier in the day Delany had come from 21-7 down to beat Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth) 26-25, Delany getting the shot with his last bowl. Bellringer's day didn't get any better, either, falling to five-winner Ross Henderson (West End).

Pinker beat Holmes in the morning 30-12. But then he was edged out 22-19 by five-winner Gary Lilley (West End) in the afternoon to also be eliminated.

The double slip-up from the Belliss side was a real surprise as his team had been tracking very well. In the morning, Russell Hardy's Tower team finally found some form, beating Belliss 27-25, while in the afternoon it was the Fitzroy four headed by Des Brophy that won 27-18. It was Brophy's fourth win.

There were plenty of happy bowlers by the end of the day, nonetheless, with 10 teams having already qualified.

Howard Ivory (Wilton) and Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe) both emerged with the perfect record from section seven.

Cavanagh, who made the last 16 in both 2015 and 2016, beat Gerard Slattery (Hinuera) 25-12 and Richard Meacle (Australia) 27-7. Ivory beat Alan Melrose (Helensville) 30-13 and then eliminated Slattery 25-20.

There are also two qualifiers already in section six, with Craig Johns (West End) and Rodney Woods (Opunake) both six winners.

Johns looms as the best local hope of victory, beating Scott McGavin (Bulls) 29-15 and Philip Drought (Paritutu) 25-6.

• **Continued page two**

Paritutu awarded the finals

Bowls Taranaki chairman Brien Bennett QSM announced yesterday that the final of this year's Open will be held on the Paritutu front green.

Bennett said that both Paritutu and West End

had greens of a very high standard and both would have been suitable.

The locations for Friday will be determined once the number of qualifiers in

the fours and pairs entries are known.

On Saturday, the last 16 of the fours will all be at Paritutu and the pairs post section will be at West End.

WEATHER FORECAST

Friday



Saturday



Sunday



10 teams already through to post section

• From page one

Woods and his team of Bob Commane, Paddy Deegan and Kevin Ratahi sneaked past Drought 24-23 and then beat Mark Dudley (Hawera Park) 26-8.

The family team headed by Rahotu's Ian Lowry continued their impressive run to qualify. Yesterday the Lowrys ended the hopes of John Sexton (West End) 29-22 and then beat Don Gyde (Inglewood) 37-21.

Brian Little's champion side from 2016 also took the direct route to post section, winning both games. The Palmerston North side beat Terry Osment (Te Awamutu) 24-14 and Joe Peel (Inglewood) 24-11.

Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) also qualified with

some style. His side beat Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) 26-12 and Garry Banks (Mairangi Bay) 31-18. The results ended the hopes of both O'Sullivan and Banks.

It's been a great week so far for the two Hillcrest teams in the Open, with both Dave Selby and Mort Jones unbeaten. Selby's side had a trouble-free day beating George Markie (Vogeltown) 30-9 and then notched up win No 6 in beating James Carter (Paritutu) 37-3, while Jones beat Ian Andrews (Paritutu) 24-19 and Bill Johnston (Fitzroy) 27-20.

Peter Thomson (Paekakariki) is the other qualifier. Thomson's side edged Brophy 23-20 in the morning and then beat Peter Sprake (New Plymouth) 21-7 in the afternoon.

Who has won how many after day three?

Section 1: five wins, David Hood (Kerikeri), Ian Porteous (Aramoho); four wins, John Carter (Hutt), Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), Neville Sole (West End).

Section 2: six wins, Ian Lowry (Rahotu); five wins, Neil Candy (West End), Gary McKay (Australia); four wins, Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn), Graham Baxter (Hawera Park), Cliff Mitchell-Burnard (Te Kuiti), Maurice Stieller (Stratford-Avon).

Section 3: six wins, Brian Little (Palmerston North); five wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu); four wins, David Brunton (Stratford-Avon), Brian Mottram (Waimea).

Section 4: six wins, Kevin Coombe (Aramoho); five wins, Ray Hudson (Central Levin), Keiran Pollard (Hawera Park); four wins, Bruce Mummery (Paritutu), Trevor Butcher (Palmerston North).

Section 5: five wins, Alan Sandercock (Australia), Barry Wynks (Takaro); four wins, Warren McDougal (Australia), Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Mark Anderson (Alton), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA).

Section 6: six wins, Craig Johns (West End), Rodney Woods (Opunake); four wins, Tupu

Campbell (Far North RSA), Ken Greeks (Napier), Ross Thorn (Naenae).

Section 7: six wins, Howard Ivory (Wilton), Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe); four wins, Mike Walsh (Paritutu), Richard Meacle (Australia).

Section 8: five wins, Stu Settle (Hinuera), Terry Cullen (Helensville); four wins, Garry Murfitt (West End), Noel Probyn (Fitzroy).

Section 9: six wins, Dave Selby (Hillcrest); five wins, Ian Mason (Havelock North), Gary Lilley (West End); four wins, Merv Jakeman (Wainuiomata).

Section 10: six wins, Mort Jones (Hillcrest); five wins, Ray Park (Wanganui); four wins, Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke), Anton Ferrari (Wilton), Tom Henderson (Paraparaumu Beach).

Section 11: five wins, Ross Henderson (West End), Peter Clark (Tauranga South); four wins, Ian Busby (Tower), Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth).

Section 12: six wins, Peter Thomson (Paekakariki); five wins, Terry Mullin (Pihama); four wins, Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Des Brophy (Fitzroy), Steve Hoeft (Pt Chevalier).

Ian Jamieson brings up 40th Taranaki Open

Veteran Manawatu bowler Ian Jamieson has brought up his 40th consecutive Taranaki Open this week and the 80-year-old says he has plenty more years left in him, too.

Jamieson commenced his bowls as a 21-year-old at the Castlecliff club in Wanganui. But he shortly moved to Manawatu, playing at Northern, Bulls and for the last 20 years, the Palmerston North club, where he has served as President.

Jamieson said he loved playing in the Taranaki Open.

"The greens are well checked here, everything just fits into place," Jamieson said.

"The structure is so good. You can't beat the 25 ends; you are alive one minute but dead the next minute. It's a game of two halves often enough"

Plus there is the companionship and fellowship of the longer game. "Talking with the same guys for 25 ends, you can really get to know them. That's a big part of it."

Jamieson's first open was under the wings of Charlie Batchelor and the second year was as a member of the side skipped by George McKenzie, the 1976 Dominion fours winner.

And since then, Jamieson has always brought his own side to the tournament — until this year, where he has filled in for a Morrinsville RSA.

The side has been skipped by Bill Barwood and includes Dave Campbell and another replacement, Cook Island representative in waiting, Aidan Zittersteijn.

But after losses in the first, second and fourth rounds, Jamieson's hopes of qualifying in his jubilee year have been dashed. Not that that seemed to matter when *Open News* caught up

with Jamieson yesterday at Fitzroy — he was still playing his ring out and offering plenty of advice.

Jamieson has qualified a number of times in the Open and "other years, we've only had one win!"

The tournament holds many memories, one of the more intriguing being a game many years ago against Mike Bishop, who in recent years has become a prominent competitor in Wanganui.

The match was played at Waimea, the club of Bishop, who has been one of the quickest drivers Taranaki has produced.

Jamieson, too, loves the full-blooded shot — and on one occasion broke a woman's leg in a game at Bulls. Jamieson won the match but the most remarkable aspect was that the 11 ends of the match were killed before a point was scored.

As for 2019? "I'll be back with my own team!"



Game of two halves statement rings true

As Ian Jamieson accurately described, the 25-end game is notorious for significant changes in fortune and that happened again yesterday.

Not only did Dan Delany overturn a 21-7 deficit to deny

Warren Bellringer 26-25, but Mike Hori (Waimea), incredibly, for the third-successive game had a 32-30 scoreline in the morning.

Playing Alton's Mark Anderson, Hori was down 20-0 after

seven ends. Things were not looking much better at 29-9 after 15 ends, nor two ends later at 30-13. However, the Waimea side won the last eight ends to take the match 32-30.



Barry Sullivan recognised for sterling service

One of the best supporters of the tournament, Barry Sullivan, from Australia's Sunshine Coast, was formally recognised for his sterling efforts in organising the Australian touring party that takes part in the Open yesterday.

Sullivan was presented with a suitably engraved trophy acknowledging his efforts during the morning tea interval.

Sullivan's section heard from the Taranaki board how appreciative they have been of his efforts in organising the tour party, and even though Kiwis love to roast Australians, they added another dimension to the tournament.

Sullivan first contested the Open in 2005, the centennial year, playing with John Valentine (North Harbour), Trevor Patterson (Hawera Park) and Rex Ansley (Alton). The team qualified, and Sullivan was hooked.

He's returned every year since, loving (nearly) every moment of it, and also actively promoting the Sunshine Coast Carnival, which takes place every winter.

In 2009 he brought over three teams, that increased to six the following year and the increase has continued.

This year, there are eight sides organised by Sullivan in the field.

Taranaki chairman, Brien Bennett QSM, said

history and tradition count in the Open and it was important to recognise Sullivan's efforts. "Barry is very well organised and always easy to deal with."

Sullivan has indicated that this is likely to be his last year organising the tour party, but "I intend coming back and play in the Open for as long as I can."

Like many ex-pat New Zealanders living in Australia, he often sung the praises of his home country and especially the Open. "I just wish that more Australians would come and play in this and appreciate how good it is."

The tour party heads to different parts of the North Island each year and this time that will include a trip to Kaitia.

Unfortunately, for Sullivan, who was playing with Jack Philip, Steve Cox and Graham Fulford, after three wins on the first two days, his side lost its chance to qualify yesterday, dropping both games to be eliminated.



Match of the morning — Belliss v Mullin

Aramoho's Peter Belliss and Pihama's Terry Mullin are both legends in bowls.

Belliss is a three-time world champion and has deservedly won distinctions galore in the game. Calling Mullin a legend will catch most bowlers by surprise — except those from his beloved Pihama, where Mullin started his bowls back in 1981. He is a life member there, having served so diligently for so long.

His side of Chris Oliver, Ian Winter and Graeme Mills also have five wins in the Open, whereas Belliss and his side of Ray Wilson, Phil Corney and Keith Slight have only four wins.

The match will be played at Waimea.

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Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 19, 2018

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Delight for teams as five wins becomes enough

Persistent early morning rain resulted in the cancellation of round eight, with only round seven completed yesterday.

Play was staggered across the greens, as the rains moved across north Taranaki, but the disruption didn't stop a number of teams who had four wins over night qualifying.

Peter Belliss (Aramoho) made no race of his game against Terry Mullin (Pihama), winning 26-5 at Waimea, while there was happiness at the same location for Des Brophy (Fitzroy) and Steve Hoeft (Pt Chevalier) after they respectively beat Gary Russek (Omokoroa) 22-13 and Peter Sprake (New Plymouth) 26-8.

Adam Wishnoski's New Lynn team, which is now being skipped by Brody Dix, beat Gary McKay (Australia), who also needed the win, 28-22. Cliff Mitchell-Burnard (Te Kuiti) advanced too with a 22-13 win over Tom Murfitt (Massey Avenue).

Noel Probyn (Fitzroy) made it through 26-14 over Terry Cullen (Helensville), who had already qualified.

Two local teams went at it with both needing the win to get through. It was Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy) who got the nod 24-22 over Neville Sole (West End).

After a tough start to the week, following a family bereavement, Trevor Butcher (Palmerston North) qualified, win number

five coming 18-8 over Dennis McEwen (Stratford-Avon).

There was also joy for John Carter (Hutt) as his team qualified 28-20 over Tony Holdsworth (Central).

Bruce Mummery (Paritutu) qualified for the first time, getting home 16-14 over Paul Fowlie (Opononi), while Richard Meacle (Australia) got through 23-15 over Barry Pepperell (Waitara).

Section six produced six qualifiers with Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay) beating Alan Sandercock (Australia) 26-22, Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA) beating Barry Wynks (Takaro) 15-12, Wayne McDougall (Australia) defeating Frank Pollock (Hawera Park) 26-17 and Mark Anderson (Alton) prevailing 27-11 over Rangi Hiroti (Inglewood). 2006 Dominion fours winner Ross Thorn (Naenae) got home 29-28 over six-winner Rodney Woods (Opunake).

After losing two games on Wednesday, the tide turned for Warren Bellringer's New Plymouth side. It was due to meet Peter Clark (Tauranga South), who had already won five matches.

Unfortunately, Clark's team had a family illness to deal with at home. It meant the team reluctantly decided to withdraw from post section, and in the process default the round seven match to Bellringer, enabling the New Plymouth side to advance.

Section three contains the most heavyweights

The fours post section draw has the teams generally even in the sections, apart from section three which includes a number of heavyweights.

Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA) plays Ian Porteous (Aramoho) and the winner of that match will then meet the victor of the Stu Settle (Hinuera) versus Howard Ivory (Wilton) game. The section also includes past winners Brian Little (Palmerston North) and Darren Goodin (Paritutu), plus NZ great Peter Belliss (Aramoho).

WEATHER FORECAST

Saturday



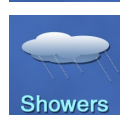
Showers

Sunday



Showers

Monday



Showers

Frustrations with losses in the last match

A number of teams got close to qualifying, but missed their necessary fifth win.

The hopes of 92-year-old Jack Pringle, playing for Mike Walsh (Paritutu), ended when they lost 27-10 to Morris Williams (Omaranui). Stratford-Avon's hopes sunk when David Brunton and Maurie Stieller, both four winners, were defeated. Stieller went down to Ian Lowry (Rahotu) 30-14, while Brunton lost 23-8 to Darren Scott (West End).

Waimea's last chance, Brian Mottram, also dipped out, losing 26-19 to Gavyn Horo (Rahotu).

Hawke's Bay centre president Ken Greeks (Napier) missed out on qualifying, falling 30-22 to big Bob Harris (Canterbury), while the tournament's No 1 entertainer, Tupu Campbell (Far North RSA), needing the win, was

never in the hunt in losing 35-7 to Philip Drought (Paritutu).

Merv Jakeman (Wainuiomata), after posting a tournament-high of 50 points on Wednesday, narrowly failed to advance. His side lost 23-20 to Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach).

Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke) narrowly missed out on qualifying, losing 24-22 to Mort Jones (Hillcrest), a seven-winner, while Tom Henderson (Paraparaumu Beach) lost 30-17 to Bill Johnston (Fitzroy).

Ian Busby, bidding to be the first team from Tower to qualify, missed by two points — 23-21 to Evert Kremer (Paraparaumu Beach).

Graham Baxter (Hawera Park) missed out 25-20 to John Sexton (West End), as did Garry Murfitt (West End) who lost 22-19 to Steve Brien (Stokes Valley).

Fours post section and pairs section play for Friday

Fours post section draw for today, all games commencing at 9am:

Section 1 at Paritutu A, round 1: D Brophy (Fitzroy) v R Thorn (Naenae), G McKay (Australia) v S Hoeft (Pt Chevalier), D Selby (Hillcrest) v I Mason (Havelock North), J Carter (Hutt) v I Coombe (Mirangi Bay), T Butcher (Palmerston North) v A Wishnoski (New Lynn), C Johns (West End) v I Lowry (Rahotu); **round 2 (still at 9am):** R Park (Wanganui) v G Lilley (West End).

Section 2 at Paritutu C, round 2 (still two rounds on Friday): M Anderson (Alton) v N Probyn (Fitzroy), W Bellringer (New Plymouth) v B Wynks (Takaro), R Meacle (Australia) v D Hood (Kerikeri), R Woods (Opunake) v K Pollard (Hawera Park).

Section 3 at West End 1, round 1: P Dorreen (Far North RSA) v I Porteous (Aramoho), S Settle (Hinuera) v H Ivory (Wilton), K Coombe (Aramoho) v T Cullen (Helensville), A Ferrari (Wilton) v B Little (Palmerston North), T Mullin (Pihama) v M Cavanagh (Pukekohe), W McDougall (Australia) v D Goodin (Paritutu); **round 2 (still at 9am):** N Candy (West End) v P Belliss (Aramoho).

Section 4 at West End 2, round 2 (still two rounds on Friday): C Mitchell-Burnard (Te Kuiti) v N Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), P Thomson (Paekakariki) v M Jones (Hillcrest), A Sandercock

(Australia) v B Mummery (Paritutu), R Henderson (West End) v R Hudson (Central Levin).

Pairs section play draw for today, commencing at 8.45am:

Section 1 at Vogeltown A: A Waitere (NP), L Murfitt (WE), A Brider (J/ville), T Campbell (Far Nth), E Kremmer (Para Bch), B Harris (Cant), G Reive (Ing), S Brien (S/Vlly), T Johns (Pari), P Hassall (Tawa), K Bishop (WE), G McLeod (Tawa), K Crawford (Pari), L Bourne (Wang Et).

Section 2 at Vogeltown B: T Hori (NP), E Schuch (J/ville), G Crow (Pari), N Bovey (C Levin), I Little (Para Bch), P Bovey (C Levin), G Blyde (Pari), R Gadsby (Fitz), S Muller (Oak), S Allison (Far Nth), G Murfitt (WE), M Foskett (Tak), C Pinker (Wang Et), A Zittersteijn (Pari).

Section 3 at Lepperton: T Mossip (Tak), P Digby (St/Av), J Osborne (Tak), J Fairhall (Vic), A Hill (Meth), B Stubbins (J/ville), J Finnigan (Pari), K Fleming (Oak), D Weir (NP), B Fouhy (Oma), B Stuart (HP), B Garrett (Oma), D Scott (WE), B Tannell (Rewa).

Section 4 at Waitara: E Hau (Opo), M Bridgeland (MA), P Fowlie (Opo), K Newson (Sea), E Foreman (Ing), R Scott (Sea), I Andrews (Pari), S Roberts (Tow), G Rankine (NP), K Bishop (Mot), T Toupu (Waim), K Dowie (Mot), B Haines (Pari), W Te Huki (Vog).

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Saturday, January 20, 2018

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Close matches as field reduced to only 12

Close games were the order of the day as the 44 qualifiers were reduced to 12 surviving teams in the 113th Taranaki men's Open fours at Paritutu and West End yesterday.

The morning round saw three matches decided on an extra end, while three other games saw teams score sufficient points to overtake their opponents on the 25th end.

Of the 12 teams remaining, four are already into the quarterfinals. Those teams will still play at 9am today, alongside the four remaining last-16 games, on the front green at Paritutu.

Many of the leading teams fell during the day's play and that opportunity has been seized upon by the teams that remain alive.

The two confirmed quarterfinals feature Noel Probyn (Fitzroy) against Richard Meacle (Australia) and Peter Thomson (Paekakariki) playing Ross Henderson (West End).

The other games, at the last 16 stage, see Steve Hoeft (Pt Chevalier) opposing Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn) playing Ray Park (Wanganui), an all-Wilton clash between Howard Ivory and Anton Ferrari, and Darren Goodin (Paritutu) squaring off against Peter Belliss (Aramoho).

Probyn's side, which is in fact being skipped by Ian Mahoney and includes Tony Walsh and Nigel Newton, nudged through both games by a single shot – 24-23 over Mark Anderson (Alton) in the morning and then 22-21 over Barry Wynks (Takaro).

The match with Anderson was close throughout, but things had turned doubtful for Probyn when trailing 22-16 with three ends remaining. But a count of seven on the next end, followed by a single on the penultimate head, gave Probyn a two-shot lead playing the last, which the side protected.

After leading Wynks 8-1, play tightened,

with the Manawatu four hitting the front 12-11. A three on the next end, the 15th, however, gave the lead back to Probyn.

It was a lead that his side did not

relinquish. Needing three to force an extra end, Wynks held one on the changeover. He drew another with his first bowl, but was too heavy with his second.

Meacle's side of Graham Clarke, Hans Van Roy and Al Johnson also had two very close shaves. In the morning, they got the necessary single on the last end to beat David Hood (Kerikeri) 19-18, and held off Rodney Woods' Opunake side 21-19 in the afternoon round. They had led by three playing the last end.

Thomson, a Kapiti rep, advanced into the last eight for the first time, skipping his side of Henry Yee, Kurt Burgess and Ged Ebbrell to two hard-fought victories. In the morning, from 14-11 down after 19 ends against Mort Jones (Hillcrest), Thomson grabbed a single, a three and a five, and then held on to win 21-16. Later, a count of four on the 16th end – the teams had been locked at 12-all – was crucial in the side ending the hopes of the 2010 runner-up Cliff Mitchell-Burnard (Te Kuiti) 21-15.

Henderson, who skipped a team to the last 16 of the Dominion fours last season, claimed his morning match against Ray Hudson (Central Levin) with his last bowl, when he pushed Hudson's shot into the ditch. That gave Henderson's side of Norm Broughton, Martin Dravitzki and John Garrud a 20-18 win and in the afternoon they cruised home 29-8 over Alan Sandercock (Australia).

• To page two



Blake Lints, leading for Anton Ferrari

• From page one

Peter Belliss survived his only game of the day, just, 23-22 over Neil Candy (West End). Candy had led 22-15 with four ends remaining, but the Wanganui team did enough to get across the line. So, too, did their River City colleague, Ray Park, but again, only just.

Park was taken to an extra end by West End's Gary Lilley and Park found his weight at the right time, drawing the winning shot to clinch the contest 20-19.

Ivory is making his return to the Taranaki Open a memorable trip, after missing the tournament for a number of years. John Earles, the "Sherriff", is No 3 this time, which is the reverse of previous trips to the Open. In 1999 they were runner-up and finished third-equal in the following two seasons. On Friday, a good run on the home straight (ends numbered 20 onwards) saw Ivory eliminate Stu Settle (Hinuera) 23-18. In the afternoon, a mid-game scoring spree that netted 11 shots was the difference in beating Ian Porteous (Aramoho) 24-15.

Clubmate Ferrari also had day to saviour, upsetting the 2016 winner Brian Little (Palmerston North) 25-15 and his side re-

peated that scoreline in the afternoon in concluding the fine week of Terry Cullen's Helensville side.

Goodin posted his second win of the day 32-10 over Terry Mullin's Pihama team that had punched above its weight all week.

Wishnoski, who is leading in the New Lynn side, with Brody Dix skipping, defeated Ian Lowry (Rahotu) 26-19 in the second game, having roared away to 19-4 after 10 ends. It was a disappointing end for the Lowry side, which had been unbeaten until that time and turned in a brilliant morning round in tipping out the most favoured Taranaki team, Craig Johns (West End), 22-17.

Hoelt advanced in his round two match 26-17 over Ross Thorn (Naenae), threes on ends 24 and 25 inflating the margin.

Coombe sneaked through in the last completed game of the day, grabbing a single on the last end to beat Ian Mason (Havelock North) 22-21. Mason opened with a six and on another end held seven, before Coombe, pushing through the head, sprung the jack to score four. "It's always a great feeling to be playing on Saturday," Coombe said.

Results from day five

Fours post section results:

Section 1 at Paritutu A, round 1: R Thorn (Naenae) 27 D Brophy (Fitzroy) 19, S Hoelt (Pt Chevalier) 24 G McKay (Australia) 23, I Mason (Havelock North) 30 D Selby (Hillcrest) 15, I Coombe (Mirangi Bay) 27 J Carter (Hutt) 16, A Wishnoski (New Lynn) 41 T Butcher (Palmerston North) 13, I Lowry (Rahotu) 22 C Johns (West End) 17. **Round 2:** Hoelt 26 Thorn 17, Coombe 22 Mason 21, Wishnoski 26 Lowry 19, R Park (Wanganui) 20 G Lilley (West End) 19.

Section 2 at Paritutu C, round 2: N Probyn (Fitzroy) 24 M Anderson (Alton) 23, B Wynks (Takaro) 25 W Bellringer (New Plymouth) 23, R Meacle (Australia) 19 D Hood (Kerikeri) 18, R Woods (Opunake) 24 K Pollard (Hawera Park) 22. **Round 3:** Probyn 22 Wynks 21, Meacle 21 Wood 19.

Section 3 at West End 1, round 1: I Porteous (Aramoho) 27 P Dorreen (Far North RSA) 21, H Ivory (Wilton) 23 S Settle (Hinuera) 18, T Cullen (Helensville) 25 K Coombe (Aramoho) 23, A Ferrari (Wilton) 25 B Little (Palmerston North) 13, T Mullin (Pihama) 27 M Cavanagh (Pukekohe) 17, D Goodin (Paritutu) 25 W McDougall (Australia) 17.

Round 2: Ivory 24 Porteous 15, Ferrari 25 Cullen 15, Goodin 32 Mullin 10, P Belliss (Aramoho) 23 N Candy (West End) 22.

Section 4 at West End 2, round 2: C Mitchell-Burnard (Te Kuiti) 23 N Goldsworthy (Fitzroy) 17, P Thomson (Paekakariki) 21 M Jones (Hillcrest) 16, A Sandercock (Australia) 28 B Mummery (Paritutu) 14, R Henderson (West End) 20 R Hudson (Central Levin) 18. **Round 3:** Thomson 21 Mitchell-Burnard 15, Henderson 29 Sandercock 8.

Pairs post section play draw for today, at West End:

Round 1 (9am start): T Campbell (Far North RSA) v E Foreman (Inglewood), M Foscett (Takaka) v T Poutu (Waimea), W Te Huki (Vogeltown) v T Johns (West End).

Round 2 (11.30am start): P Digby (Stratford-Avon) v Te Huki/Johns winner, K Bishop (Motueka) v A Hill (Waimea), K Bishop (West End) v A Zittersteijn (Paritutu).

Round 2 (9am start): B Stubbins (Johnsonville) v J Fairhall (Victoria), I Andrews (Paritutu) v L Bourne (Aramoho), T Mossop (Takaro) v P Hassall (Tawa), G Murfitt (West End) v R Gadsby (Fitzroy).

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Sunday, January 21, 2018

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Three Taranaki teams and one visitor in semis

There will be three teams from Taranaki and one side from Auckland that will contest the semifinals of the 113th Taranaki men's Open fours at Paritutu this morning.

The semifinals will feature Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn) against Noel Probyn (Fitzroy) and Darren Goodin (Paritutu) against Ross Henderson (West End).

Wishnoski moved to lead after his side incurred losses in rounds two and three in section play, but since then the team has won eight on the trot. The New Lynn team also includes Gary Dougherty, Keith Ansell and skip Brody Dix.

Probyn's side is skipped by Ian Mahoney, with Tony Walsh and Nigel Newton up front, while Goodin's team comprises Don Christensen, Allan Batley and Rodger Hassall.

Henderson, carrying the hopes of West End, has Norm Broughton, Martin Dravitzki and two-time champion John Garrud in his quartet.

Henderson's quarterfinal effort was a real nail-biting affair. For the second time in post section, the West End skip eliminated a Kapiti side with his last bowl.

Playing Peter Thomson's Paekakariki team of Henry Yee, Kurt Burgess and Ged Ebbrell, Henderson's side prevailed 24-23 in a topsy-turvy contest.

A five on the 12th end gave Henderson a 16-10 lead, but with the next five ends going Thomson's way, the Paekakariki side was back in front 18-16. The tide turned once more and Henderson led 24-20 with two ends remaining. Thomson claimed a two on head 24, and also dominated the last end.

His side held two on the changeover and Thomson, with his second delivery, turned out the closest West End bowl to lie the game. Henderson, with the last bowl of the match, pushed into the head, hitting some non-counting bowls, and walking through to

grab second-shot.

Probyn's side posted a relatively comfortable 30-25 win over Richard Meacle's Australian team of Graham Clarke, Hans Van Roy and Al Johnson. The Fitzroy team dominated the opening exchanges, leading 18-4 after 10 ends. Four ends later it was 21-8.

And even though Meacle posted three fours over the closing ends, they still dropped a three and a four as well. The closest that they got was with two ends remaining, the margin was down to six shots, but a single on the next to Probyn sealed the result.

• To page two

Players from the four remaining teams (from top): Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn), Ross Henderson (West End), Tony Walsh (Fitzroy) and Don Christensen (Paritutu).



• From page one

The Wishnoski side made no race of its quarterfinal, powering away from Ian Coombe and his Mairangi Bay line-up of John Valentine, Arthur Beale and Brian Rogers 20-5.

The Mairangi Bay unit had competed diligently all week, with Coombe in particular playing some telling shots, but they ran out of puff in the last round.

Goodin only broke free over the latter stages of his quarterfinal against the Wilton team of Lou Cancian, Peter Batchelor, John Earles and skip Howard Ivory, winning 23-14. Goodin took the last six completed ends, after the score had been 14-all.

Ivory and clubmate Anton Ferrari were involved in the tightest of the round three matches played in the morning, the former getting home 21-20.

Ferrari edged ahead 18-14 with four ends remaining, but a single and a five gave the initiative back to Ivory. Ferrari replied with a two to make the game even playing the last end. Ferrari's side called the tune, until Earles turned in Batchelor's bowl for shot, which Fer-

rari was unable to retrieve.

Goodin, playing especially well and being well-supported, came from 8-3 down to beat Peter Belliss (Aramoho) 28-14. Belliss had a late chance to fight back, holding four, but a weighted Goodin bowl secured the shot and in reply, Belliss narrowly missed.

Wishnoski's side controlled the scoring against Ray Park (Wanganui) and looked comfortable leading 19-9 with four ends remaining. The Wanganui side came home late, taking a single, a three and a two to reduce the deficit to four shots with one end remaining.

They held three on the last end, but the fourth could not be found. In a desperate attempt, Park attacked, but only resulted in reducing the count to two, leaving Wishnoski's team the winners 19-17.

Coombe's side, after being 5-2 down, were in charge for most of the match against Steve Hoeft (Pt Chevalier), winning 24-16. The biggest advantage was 19-8, after 15, before Hoeft's side clawed back to 21-16 with three remaining. But Coombe remained cool, collecting three singles to win.

Results from day six

Fours post section results:

Round 3: I Coombe (Mairangi Bay) 24 S Hoeft (Pt Chevalier) 16, A Wishnoski (New Lynn) 19 R Park (Wanganui) 17, H Ivory (Wilton) 21 A Ferrari (Wilton) 20, D Goodin (Paritutu) 28 P Belliss (Aramoho) 14.

Round 4: Wishnoski 20 Coombe 5, N Probyn (Fitzroy) 30 R Meacle (Australia) 25, Goodin 23 Ivory 14, R Henderson (West End) 24 P Thomson (Paekakariki) 23.

Pairs post section results:

Round 1: E Foreman (Inglewood) 22 T Campbell (Far North RSA) 14, T Johns (Paritutu) 21 W Te Huki (Vogeltown) 19.

Round 2: Foreman 19 M Foskett (Takaka) 5, P Digby (Stratford-Avon) 23 Johns 8, A Hill (Waimea) 21 K Bishop (Motueka) 11, A Zittersteijn (Paritutu) 22 K Bishop (West End) 13, J Fairhall (Victoria) 21 B Stubbins (Johnsonville) 17, I Andrews (Paritutu) 23 L Bourne (Aramoho) 15, T Mossip (Takaro) 26 P Hassall (Tawa) 7, R Gadsby (Fitzroy) 16 G Murfitt (West End) 15.

Round 3: Digby 15 Foreman 14, Zittersteijn 23 Hill 15, Andrews 20 Fairhall 19, Gadsby 21 Mossip 14.

All Taranaki semifinalists in pairs event

The semifinals in the pairs competition this morning at Paritutu, commencing at 9am, involves all Taranaki teams.

John Forde and Paul Digby (Stratford-Avon) meet Jim Priest (Oakura), who also won the title last year with Adam Collins, and Aidan Zittersteijn (Paritutu) in one semifinal, while Steve Cottam and Ian Andrews (Paritutu), who won the title two seasons ago, play Evan Jones and Ron Gadsby (Fitzroy) in the other.

In the quarterfinals yesterday, Forde and Digby beat Danny O'Sullivan and past Taranaki president Eric Foreman (Inglewood) 15-14 on an extra end.

Priest and Zittersteijn defeated Mike Hori and Benny Hill (Waimea) 23-15, while Jones, who impressed despite being only a second-year player, and Gadsby accounted for Terry Curtis and Tony Mossip (Takaro) 21-14.

Cottam and Andrews defeated Mike Andrews and James Fairhall (Victoria) 20-19. Paritutu trailed 19-14 with two ends remaining, but picked up a four and a single to force the extra end, where Cottam drew the winning shot.

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Monday, January 22, 2018

www.taranakibowls.co.nz www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/

Dix the star turn as title heads to Auckland

Playing superb bowls 30-year-old Brody Dix was the star turn as he skipped his New Lynn side to victory in the 113th Taranaki men's Open fours at the Paritutu greens in New Plymouth on last evening.

Dix turned on a brilliant display of bowls in the final as his side of Adam Wishnoski, Keith Ansell and Gary Dougherty overcame Paritutu's Don Christensen, Allan Batley, Rodger Hassall and skip Darren Goodin 29-16.

Dix converted four of the opening ends from negatives into positives and that gave the New Lynn side the confidence that it could win the match. They edged ahead to 7-4 after seven ends when an early tea break was called.

On the return, Dix rode his luck. Three down on the head and attacking, he came off a wing bowl and spliced the jack back into the ditch. It left New Lynn with three shots and it retained those when Goodin's final bowl tittered on the ditch before flopping in. Goodin added two fine shots on the next end to give Paritutu four, meaning at 10-8 the game was still alive. But Dix magically trailed the jack, when one down, on the next end to net a count of four.

It became a game changer, with the New Lynn team playing more confidently and building better heads.

With No 2 Ansell in particular playing great bowls, Dix moved further in front, extending the lead to 20-9. Goodin pulled it back to 22-15 with five ends remaining.

But New Lynn finished the stronger.

On the 21st end, when one down, Goodin, attacked the head but ended up three down. Two ends later, when trailing by 12, Paritutu held a five, but Dix expertly reduced it to one with his final bowl when playing with two metres of weight he rested on the shot



New Lynn's finest: Keith Ansell, Adam Wishnoski, Gary Dougherty and Brody Dix — 2018 Taranaki Open winners.

bowl. Goodin drove, attempting to remove Dix's bowl but missed.

That left the Paritutu side chasing what was an improbable 11 of the last two ends and when the jack finished up in the ditch, that became an impossible task as first Dougherty and then Dix, appropriately, drew to within centimetres of the board.

The two points rounded off the scoring at 29-16.

Dix rated the victory as his biggest in bowls, having previously won four centre titles in Counties as well as one in Nelson.

Wishnoski, Ansell and Dougherty all previously combined to win the 2014 Auckland fours.

All four Paritutu players have tasted success before in the Open and they were again deserving finalists, but they too agreed that one team was clearly superior in the decider.

Semifinals recap: New Lynn win easily as Paritutu defeat West End

In the semifinals yesterday morning, the Brody Dix-skipped New Lynn side ran away from Noel Probyn's Fitzroy team 24-6 in one semifinal, with only 18 of the scheduled 25 ends completed.

In the other semi, Darren Goodin's Paritutu team defeated West End's Ross Henderson 25-19

Adam Wishnoski set New Lynn up against the Probyn side, with Tony Walsh leading, Nigel Newton at two and Ian Mahoney skipping. And on the rare occasions that Dix was down on the head early in the game, he converted. After five ends, New Lynn led 9-0 before the Fitzroy side opened its account. However, it didn't change the dynamics of the game as by the conclusion of the 11th end, New Lynn had surged in front 19-1.

It didn't matter what the Fitzroy side attempted, the jack always seemed to move the other way and they could only find holes when looking for rests.

Goodin was again in fine touch in his game

against Henderson's side of Norm Broughton, Martin Dravitzki and John Garrud.

A two and a three on the two ends prior to morning tea gave Goodin a 17-9 buffer and he appeared comfortable in leading 22-11 after 17 ends.

However, a mini fight-back from Henderson had the score back to 23-17 with three ends remaining.

Goodin then secured a single before the vital penultimate head was delivered.

Broughton drew two wonderful shots, completing an excellent tournament for the left-hander, and when Garrud added another, things started to get interesting.

Goodin drove, dislodging the jack to the side. Henderson still had two and added a third with his first bowl. However, Goodin drew the shot back and Henderson was unable to remove it.

Attempting to kill the 25th and final end, when chasing eight, Henderson put the jack into the ditch which extinguished any hope.

Cottam and Andrews overcome mid-game blues to claim second pairs title

Paritutu's Steve Cottam and Ian Andrews overcame some mid-game blues to claim their second pairs title in three years on their home greens yesterday.

The duo withstood a spirited fight from Jim Priest (Oakura) and Aidan Zittersteijn (Paritutu), taking the title 22-19.

A maximum count of six one-third of the way through the game, when Priest and Zittersteijn were both wayward with all of their bowls, propelled Cottam and Andrews to a 12-4 lead. But then the composite pair responded, with Zittersteijn, the Cook Island representative in waiting, showing maturity beyond his years in the skipping berth.

They leveled the scores at 12-all after 12 ends and then moved ahead. Priest, gunning for back-to-back titles — he won the same event last year with Adam Collins — led 19-16 with four ends remaining.

But it was Cottam and Andrews who drew better on the closing ends. They edged closer with a single, before grabbing a three and then another single on the penultimate end, to

create a two-shot advantage playing the last end.

Cottam drew the shot with his last bowl and despite a excellent attempt with his last runner, Zittersteijn was unable to wrestle the shot off his clubmates.

"We're thrilled to win it," Andrews said afterwards. "It was a tough match. I think Jim still has beaten me more than I have beaten him, and Aidan showed why he has such a big future."

In the semifinals, Cottam and Andrews beat Evan Jones and Ron Gadsby (Fitzroy) 21-13, while Priest and Zittersteijn edged John Forde and Paul Digby (Stratford-Avon) 19-17, after the scores had been even playing the last.



Steve Cottam and Ian Andrews