

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Monday, January 21, 2019*

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## **“All set and ready to go” — Bennett**

It is all systems go for the 114th Taranaki men's open fours when the event gets underway in New Plymouth and surrounding areas this morning, says Bowls Taranaki president, Brien Bennett QSM, pictured.

“Everything is in order. We are all set and ready to go,” said Bennett, who first played in the tournament in 1967 and has been involved in the running of the event since 1995, with the exception of one year.

“While some clubs have battled with the hot, humid conditions of the last few weeks, we are comfortable with the running quality of all surfaces at this time.”

Following the withdrawal of two teams last Monday from section 12 that group has been redrawn into 12 teams.

“While we are disappointed to lose two teams at this late stage, we are delighted with the overall response we have received.”

The 166 teams is 10 more than last year, with 96 visitors, an increase of 15 on 2018, and 70 Taranaki combinations, a reduction of five. Bowls faced many challenges in 2019, as does all traditional sports, Bennett said. “But



clearly there is still a good deal of demand for a tournament like this. Relative to full playing members, participation levels are as high as they have ever been in the Open.”

Bennett said there was no current desire from Bowls Taranaki to change the format of the event.

“However, suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Nothing can stay the same forever and no-one, including Bowls Taranaki, can be immune from criticism and improvements.”

## **Leads and twos on the bank — please**

At the commencement of the 114th Open tournament, Brien Bennett QSM has asked that all players take notice of a directive from the tournament committee: leads and seconds are asked to keep off the head and on the bank when the threes and skips are playing.

“We have had a very hot and dry last month and this has caused some burn-off problems. In consultation with our greenkeepers advisory panel, we have decided to implement a uniform rule that leads and seconds will not crowd the head.”

Rather, in a step back to what used to be the accepted practice, leads and seconds need to be on the bank.

“Supervisors and umpires have our full support on this matter although we expect full co-operation from the players,” Bennett said.

## Plenty of tough sections to intrigue

As has become custom in recent years, with the general downward trend of entries, "vinegar" draws are much less common place in the Taranaki Open. While 2019 entries are up, there are a number of sections very strong. They will present tough qualifying routes for a number of sides.

**Section 1:** Past winning skips Ray Park (Wanganui) and Darren Goodin (Paritutu), who was also runner-up last season, shape as the biggest names. Useful visitors Terry Cullen (Helensville), Steve Critchlow (Naenae) and Warren Hausman (Bulls) could surprise.

**Section 2:** 2017 Dominion singles winner Dean Elgar (West End) headlines the group. Howard Ivory, a quarterfinalist in 2018, should also feature along with Mort Jones (Hillcrest), Kapiti gold star holder Ray Hudson (Central Levin) and past Bowls NZ chairman, John Carter (Hutt).

**Section 3:** Three-time world champion Peter Belliss (Aramoho) is the big name. Kevin Smith (Hinuera), Mark Anderson (Tower) and Grant Pease (Fitzroy) are all past winners, albeit at the front end of sides.

**Section 4:** Two regular visitors, Ian Mahoney (Central Levin) and Ian Porteous (Aramoho), rate strong chances to still be around on Friday morning. After not playing last season, Paul Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA) returns and should be competitive, as will the Lowry family team from Rahotu, although skip Ian could be a bit short on match play. And big Bob Harris (Canterbury) has his best chance since being a semifinalist in 2008 of making the money rounds.

**Section 5:** Peter Berge and his West End side have filled the vacant slot at No 12 in the section. The ageless Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach) looms again, with competition expected from John Sexton (West End) and Kevin Briscoe (Far North RSA).



**Section 6:** Brody Dix (right of frame) and his New Lynn side of Keith Ansell (second), Adam Wishnoski (lead) and Gary Dougherty (third) stormed through post section last year to take out the title. They will be hard to beat again. An interesting game this afternoon will be between Bruce Stewart (Havelock North) and Graham Baxter (Hawera Park). They were opposing thirds in the 2002 final. Grayson McEl-downey (New Plymouth) and Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway) would ordinarily expect to qualify.

**Section 7:** The 2016 champion, Brian Little (Palmerston North), Ross Thorn (Naenae) and Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA) always rate as tough opponents in the Open. But section 7 runs very deep. Roger Neilson (Wanganui East) and Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay) are well-performed, Rhys Hakkens (Waikanae Beach) a prolific competitor, while a side entered under the name of Chris Alldred (Australia) will be tough to crack. And Gerry O'Sullivan's all-but family team from Inglewood will also be competitive.

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**Section 8:** Peter Thompson (Paekakariki) was oh-so-close to the semifinals 12 months ago, while for consistent attendees on the Saturday it is hard to go past Cary Pinker (Wanganui East). Anton Ferrari (Naenae) and Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay) are also familiar with that route.

**Section 9:** The Mangere club in Auckland has already claimed the men's Dominion singles and pairs titles so far this year. It's chance of a three-peat rests with Allan Stewart's side. Stewart was a member of Andrew Kelly's youthful team that lost the final of the 2006 Dominion fours. Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe), Hamish Kape (Okato) and Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke) would all have hopes of qualifying. Kape, who won the Taranaki senior champion-of-champions singles last season, has included in his side Taylor Horn. Horn came from nowhere 13 days ago to win the Dominion singles title.

**Section 10:** Looms as a powerful group to advance from. Dan Delany (Royal Oak), a four-time winner, skips a good team. He is joined by arguably the strongest Taranaki side in the field, West End's Craig De Faria, formerly Johns. Gerard Slattery (Tui Park) and the 2015 runner-up Dean McMurphy (Kensington) will also provide stern opposition.

**Section 11:** John Claydon (Masterton), a semi-finalist in 2016, David Hood (Kerikeri) and Terry Osment (Johnsonville) all should be hard to beat. Three-time champion Gary Lilley (West End) remains very competitive, although he has the added distraction of looking after greens during the week. However, the biggest threat in the section could well be Bruce Phillips (Tower), pictured below.



**Section 12:** Following the withdrawal of two sides, there are now 12 in this group. Dave Selby (Hillcrest) and Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) square off in an interesting opening match this morning at Inglewood that could set the scene for the rest of the week for both sides. Ian Andrews (Paritutu) presents a solid line-up, while Noel Probyn (Fitzroy), another three-time winner, will also be hoping for another Sunday finish. He was third-equal last year.

## Massive field warms up at West End

The biggest field ever to take part in a pre-Open tournament was assembled at West End yesterday.

46 teams took part in the event, which organiser Graeme McDowell said was a great success. The tournament included the eight Australian teams.

"While the wind made it quite difficult at times, the day went off without any major hitches. It was the ideal preparation for many teams for this week's Open. It was great to see so many visitors acclimatising."

The prize winning teams were:

Green 1:

1. Glen Brookes (West End)
2. Cliff Marshall (Bay View)
3. Garry Murfitt (West End)
4. Paul Hassall (Tawa)

Green 2:

1. Ross Thorn (Naenae)
2. Tony Walsh (Fitzroy)
3. Graham Baxter (Hawera Park)
4. Mike Paton (Orewa)

Green 3:

1. Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe)
2. Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA)
3. David Hood (Kerikeri)
4. Jack Philip (Sunshine Coast)





## Familiar faces to be missed as Hill returns

One of the unfortunate aspects of bowls as a sport is that all too frequently, bowlers are often cut down when they still have much to offer the game both on and off the green. Two such familiar faces missing from 2019 are Midge Shaw (Paritutu) and John Delany (Auckland).

Shaw competed in nearly 40 Taranaki Opens as a regular qualifier from the Palmerston North, East End and Paritutu clubs, the latter being his home at bowls for the past 32 years.

A beaten finalist in the pairs two years ago, his favourite playing story was making the last 16 of the Open in 1988. On the Saturday afternoon he was playing mighty Mick Heald, 12 months after meatpack Mick had famously won the Dominion fours.

Shaw trailed by eight shots playing the last end and had them before Heald killed the end and adverted the danger reappearing on the replay.

Shaw, who won three Taranaki centre titles, was an excellent servant, acting as section supervisor for over 20 years, ensuring that visitors were well catered for. Like all supervisors, he was the face of the tournament for the 14 teams each year in his section.



“People like Midge Shaw are what makes the Taranaki Open so special,” Bowls Taranaki president Brien Bennett QSM said. “They effectively put the section first, often at the expense of their own game.”

Shaw passed away just before Christmas and was given a rousing send-off, which included a lengthy address from his long-time work colleague and occasional bowls team mate, John Earles (Wilton).

John Delany, father of the famed Dan, died after a short illness early in the New Year. He had introduced Dan to bowls and took great delight in his son’s achievements, especially in the Taranaki Open.

That pleasure became even more profound in 2012 when Delany senior was a member of Dan’s team that took out the title. Mike

Nasey and Joe Whitelaw were also part of that side and it had been anticipated, until John Delany’s death, that the team would compete again this year.

As a replacement, Neville Hill, the father-in-law of Dan Delany, albeit without the legal paperwork, has come in as a replacement. Hill has been a regular visitor to the Open and was a finalist in 2014.



## Match of the morning—Mahoney v Drew

One of the more interesting matches in the first round could be the game between Ian Mahoney (Central Levin) and Nigel Drew (Birkenhead) at Vogeltown A.

Mahoney, who played in Taranaki for a number of years, winning two centre titles and contributing greatly to the increased standard of greens, remains an excellent competitor. He was a semifinalist last season but has an entirely new team this year — Sam Neill, Stacey Thomas and Dereck Taylor.

Drew, along with his lead, North Harbour rep Mark Rumble, played his way into the Birkenhead pairs final yesterday. That decider, though, was put on hold so the team could travel south. Mike Cartwright and Randall Watkins complete the Drew side.

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# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Tuesday, January 22, 2019*

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## Morning “sprinkles” fails to dampen enthusiasm

Two rain “sprinkles” at 7am and at the conclusion of the first round failed to dampen the enthusiasm of competitors as the 114th Taranaki men’s open fours got underway in New Plymouth and surrounding area yesterday.

Blustery winds, especially in the afternoon round, coupled with the showers, meant the temperature was much more kinder to bowlers. But those same conditions also caused some problems for some of the favoured sides who dropped matches during the day.

The most prominent team to slip-up was Brody Dix’s New Lynn side. Dix and his side of Adam Wishnoski, Keith Ansell and Gary Dougherty, the 2018 champions, had to work overtime to dispel the challenge of Motueka’s Kerry Bishop 28-26 first up.

But there was no escape in the afternoon, when Dix’s side was defeated 36-24 by Geoff Cagney (Sunshine Coast). It means the New Lynn side can only afford one more loss in section play. Although, given that they lost two of their opening three games last season, and still marched majestically to

the title, there is no need for any panic in their camp yet.

Another surprise was the opening loss incurred by West End’s Craig De Faria, pictured right. De Faria, formerly Johns, has been in excellent touch this season, having already claimed the Taranaki open singles and centre fours titles, the latter with the same team he has for this week.



But De Faria came unstuck against Tauranga South’s Mike Oldfield 27-24. After taking an hour to get on the board, De Faria turned the game around to lead 19-9. However, Oldfield replied in kind taking a lead of two shots into the final end. There De Faria held two before, with his last delivery, Oldfield landed on the shot bowl to secure the victory. De Faria returned an emphatic 29-8 win over the 1995 winner, Kevin Hills (Tower), in the afternoon, but Oldfield fell 22-17 to two-winner Gerard Slattery (Tui Park).

## Councillor Brown officially opens the Open

In keeping with the best traditions of the Taranaki Open, New Plymouth District Councillor Gordon Brown officially opened the event at Paritutu yesterday.

Brown, who represented the NPDC in the absence of

Mayor Neil Holdom, highlighted the significant contribution the Open continues to make to the district. After the official ceremony was complete, Brown hit the greens, too. Playing for Bill Foley (New Plymouth), he enjoyed

a loss and a win during the day.



## Full section wraps

A number of leading lights went through the first day without too many problems. Here is the full day's review, section-by-section.

**Section 1:** Paritutu's Darren Goodin was one of three teams to emerge with the perfect record, joining Dennis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach) and Garry Murfitt (West End). Playing on his home green, Goodin won both games comfortably. The 2005 winner, Ray Park (Wanganui), found the going tougher, sneaking through in the first match by one-shot after his side had held a three-shot lead on the last end. But Park lost in the afternoon. The only morning game not to be completed, between Naenae's Steve Critchlow and Fitzroy's Maurice Kelly, was concluded after the second round and went the way of Critchlow when he drew a toucher on the extra end.

**Section 2:** West End's Dean Elgar, Hutt's John Carter, Paritutu's Mike Walsh and Bay View's Joe Johansen were the sides to come through unscathed. Elgar won both matches with something to spare, while Walsh, who was in the winning team in 1990 and 1993, skipped his side to two comfortable wins. The second victory was against Wilton's Howard Ivory, which was the second loss of the day for the team for the Capital. However, Carter's long-standing side managed to survive the day, although it needed a four on the last end, which included a measure, to pip Sunshine Coast's Allan Sandercock 22-21.

**Section 3:** There are five teams who slept well in the group after two wins — Garry Banks (Beach Haven), Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri), Mark Anderson (Tower) and the 2014 winner, Kevin Smith (Hinuera). Belliss had a few anxious moments in the morning, before breaking free 24-16 from one-winner Colin Boyle (Epsom), while Banks only had three points to spare when he edged

one-winner Brian Cooper (Levin) in the later round.

**Section 4:** Birkenhead's Nigel Drew won yesterday's match of the morning. Drew's side beat the Central Levin side entered under the name of Ian Mahoney but skipped by Dereck Taylor 34-17. Mahoney, still recovering from a hip replacement seven weeks ago, slotted into the side at No 3. However, things didn't get any better in the afternoon, with the Central Levin side losing 23-16 to Don Ramsey (Pukekohe). Joining Ramsey and Drew as unbeaten teams were Ian Porteous (Aramoho) and Ian Lowry (Rahotu).

**Section 5:** Rex Holmes' favoured Paraparaumu Beach side had to work extra hard for both of its wins — 23-18 over Russell Haddock (Wanganui) and 22-17 over Kevin Briscoe (Far North RSA).



Other two-winners were Ross McGrail (Putaruru), John Sexton (West End), Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast) and the under-rated Fitzroy skip, Colin Christie.

**Section 6:** Frankton Railway's Steve Liddington, a former team mate of the great Robbie Robson, showed that old-fashion drawing bowls still have a place in the game. Playing with Henselite supergrips, Liddington's side posted two wins. Havelock North's Bruce Stewart, after a three year absence from the Open, also notched up two wins. In the morning round, his side overcame a tea-time deficit against West End's Ross Henderson, a semifinalist in 2018, winning 29-22, and then made it a profitable day beating Hawera Park's Graham Baxter 22-16.



**Section 7:** Inglewood's Gerry O'Sullivan, a semifinalist in the recent Dominion pairs in Auckland, emerged from the day with two wins. But it was a close-run thing in both matches. In the morning, his side needed an extra end to edge Waikanae Beach's Rhys Hakkens 29-28 and then posted a nail-biting 26-25 victory over Stratford-Avon's Morrie Stieller in the afternoon. Stieller, who had been a handsome opening winner over Peter Dorreen, led by six with two ends to play. But the O'Sullivan side, edged on by father Jack who is managing and not playing this year, grabbed a six and then took the necessary single on the last end. Palmerston North's Brian Little also won twice, the second by a surprisingly comfortable margin 24-11 over Naenae's Ross Thorn. The Chris Aldred (Sunshine Coast) side, which is in fact being skipped by Neil Fisher, won twice, as did Te Kuiti's Colin Young. Hakkens, Dorreen and Thorn all finished with one win.

**Section 8:** In hitting 30 twice, Wanganui East's Cary Pinker issued a warning that his side means business in this tournament. They were joined on two wins by Anton Ferrari (Naenae) and Kelvin Bishop (West End). Ferrari's second win was 26-20 over Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), who at least kept in touch by securing a win in the first game.

**Section 9:** Orewa's Mike Paton had an excellent opening day with two resounding wins, the first 30-10 over Hamish Kape (Okato). Despite the original skip, Allan Stewart, being a late withdrawal, the Mangere side now being skipped by Glen Newton, managed to win twice. There was merit in both victories, with the second one being 28-26 over Pukekohe's Mike Cavanagh, who has been a regular qualifier. Paritutu's Steve Cottam also notched two wins, the second being a remarkable 29-25 one over Dion Davis (Kaikohe). Davis, the president of the Far North is on debut in the Open and looked on track for his second win

of the day when leading 17-4, before Cottam's crew turned the tide. And Bill Johnston, playing on his home Fitzroy green where he won that club's senior singles on Sunday, also started with two wins.

**Section 10:** Keinsington's Dean McMurchy, Royal Oak's Dan Delany, Tui Park's Gerard Slattery and Parklands' Chris Carter all posted two wins from the tough section. Delany didn't find it easy, though, beating John Tobin (Riverhead) 26-24 and only broke after the afternoon tea break to beat Steve Brien (Stokes Valley) 28-19. And in the Archer family game, which drew a big crowd, the brother-in-laws (Allan Batley) beat the brothers (David Archer) 31-12. Late father, Bob, would have been proud.



**Section 11:** The group produced the most lop-sided results of the day, with six teams unbeaten and six without a win from the 14. Those unbeaten were Gary Lilley (West End), Jim Priest (Oakura), Bruce Phillips (Tower), David Hood (Kerikeri), John Claydon (Masterton) and Merv Whitten (Palmerston North), who's team includes Denis Duffy, a two-time Rothmans intercentre winner. Hood got the nod 27-26 in the last game over Terry Osment (Johnsonville), who had opened with a comfortable win.

**Section 12:** Hillcrest's Dave Selby was the only side to come through with the perfect record. The Waikato side beat Aramoho's Kevin Coombe 24-16 and New Plymouth's Roger Gregory 25-18. Coombe got back on course in the afternoon, beating Ian Andrews (Paritutu) 25-20. Andrews had won comfortably in the morning. After a morning loss, Brent Stubbins (Miramar) beat Noel Probyn (Fitzroy), another one-winner, 23-21.





## Taranaki Open a vital part of the calendar

The Taranaki Open fours is a vital part of the calendar in the sport in this country, so says Bowls New Zealand CEO, Mark Cameron.

Cameron is currently in the province watching the Open, as he also did last season, and continues to be impressed with the competition and comradeship he sees around the greens.

For the current season, Bowls NZ introduced a "Summer of Bowls" calendar, which saw the sport's parent body in this country endorse a number of tournaments. "The Taranaki Open fours was the first on that calendar. That's how important we view the event."

Cameron is now into his second year in the job. He identified early the need for changes in the sport and believed the televised Bowls3five event had been a great success. It showed that the game could be played in a shorter time slot and could be appealing to bowlers and non-bowlers.

"However, there is still very much a need for tournaments like the Taranaki Open. You can not deny the success that the event continues to experience."

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time here last year and am delighted to be back, meeting a number of old faces, along with new ones. I'm tempted to come back as a competitor — one day."

"This year I have detected more interest and enthusiasm about new and junior players. The corporate and casual markets are showing some most encouraging growth, too. These are ideal ways to introduce new members to our game."

Cameron said he is thoroughly enjoying his time at Bowls NZ. He has previously been employed in cricket, netball and basketball and rated his current job as the most pleasurable he had had in any codes.



## Match of the morning — Lilley v Hood

Two of the unbeaten teams that will square off this morning will be West End's Gary Lilley and Kerikeri's David Hood.

Lilley is a three-time winner of the Open. On the first day he beat James Carter (Paritutu) 43-11 and Kearin Pollard (Hawera Park) 27-19.

Hood, who commenced his bowls in Kaponga before moving to the Far North and establishing an excellent record in that centre, beat Ross Henderson (Reporoa) 29-15 and Terry Osment (Johnsonville) 27-26

The Lilley-Hood clash will take place at Paritutu A.

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# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Wednesday, January 23, 2019*

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## Belliss loses and rebounds; Banks marches on

Section three at New Plymouth No 2 produced the most talking points from the second day's play in the 114th Taranaki men's open fours yesterday.

All-time great, Peter Belliss, suffered his first loss of the tournament in the morning, losing 25-23 to Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri). But the Wanganui side returned emphatically in the afternoon, beating Tower's Mark Anderson 29-11.

Anderson had walloped Rahoitu's Peter Charteris 35-3 in the morning to still be in a very strong position to qualify with three wins. Glogoski is also on the same count. After their mighty win in the morning, the team from the north fell 26-17 to two-winner Colin Boyle (Epsom).

At the same time, Kevin Smith's Hinuera side, including Brendan Brill, Bruce Milne and Stu Settle, also had their first loss, 20-19, to another two-winner, Paul Hassall (Tawa).

But while the more prominent names in section three were being tripped up, Garry Banks (Beach Haven), pictured right, managed to keep his side ticking along to end the day as the only unbeaten team in the group.



Banks' team includes Roy Parker, innovative North Harbour chairman Graham Dorreen and Tony Popplewell. After two wins on Monday, Banks, who was a member of the North Harbour side that won the NZ under-eights title in 2016, had to work overtime to beat Graham Goss (Himitangi) 24-23 in the morning and then sneaked past Neville Sole (West End) 22-20 in the afternoon.

Fitzroy's Grant Pease, a member of the 2003 winning team, also posted two further wins to sit comfortably on three wins.

## Aramoho to honour its finest at Easter

This Easter, from April 19-22, at the Aramoho club in Wanganui, and also surrounding clubs, will all be about Peter Belliss.

A tribute tournament is being held in his honour. The triples event, which is limited to the first 72 teams, will be playing for prize money of \$20,000.

Belliss, who played 385 games for New Zealand, won the world singles (1984), world pairs (1988) and world

triples (2000), as well as eight Dominion titles. The tournament will celebrate those and his many other achievements over his 50 years in bowls.

"Tribute tournaments are not common in bowls. But Peter Belliss has always been something special," Bowls Taranaki president, Brien Bennett QSM said.

"Taranaki has had a close association with Peter, including his attendance here this year



and in recent years. We fully endorse the tournament."

For more information go to: [www.peterbelliss.co.nz](http://www.peterbelliss.co.nz)

## Full section wraps

**Section 1:** Darren Goodin (Paritutu), the 2015 winner, continued to stride positively through section play. After brushing aside David Stachurski (Inglewood) 36-6 in the morning, Goodin's side easily accounted for the previously unbeaten Dennis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach) 31-13. Ray Park (Wanganui) had two wins to add to the one from Monday. The last came 25-23 over Moe Kelly (Fitzroy) when Park drove the jack into the on the last end in the 5 hour, 30 minute marathon.

**Section 2:** Dean Elgar (West End) recorded two big wins. In the morning, the team beat Allan Sandercock (Sunshine Coast) 37-9 and then ended the hopes of Mort Jones (Hillcrest), a semifinalist in 2012, 34-14. Mike Walsh's Paritutu team continued to excel, posting two more solid wins, to be in the perfect position. Former Bowls NZ chairman, John Carter (Hutt), lost his unbeaten record in the morning, 23-22 to Paul Clegg (Hawera Park), who was in the last Taranaki team to win the John Flett in 1985. Both teams finished on three wins. However, the hopes of Howard Ivory (Wilton) were extinguished in the morning round.

**Section 4:** Ian Lowry's family team from Rahotu have been consistent competitors for a number of years and they remain right on cue to hit post section again this year. They are joined on four wins by an equally impressive Birkenhead team skipped by Nigel Drew. Drew needed an extra end in the morning game to get past Ian Porteous (Aramoho) 22-20. Porteous finished with three wins, but Ian Mahoney (Central Levin) has only one.

## Who has won how many after day two

Standings after the first four rounds in the 114th Taranaki Open:

**Section 1:** four wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu); three wins, Murray Hooper (Rewa), Dennis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach), Ray Park (Wanganui), Garry Murfitt (West End).

**Section 2:** four wins, Dean Elgar (West End), Mike Walsh (Paritutu); three wins, John Carter (Hutt), Paul Clegg (Hawera Park).

**Section 3:** four wins, Garry Banks (Beach Haven); three wins, Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Grant Pease (Fitzroy), Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri), Mark Anderson (Alton), Kevin Smith (Hinuera).

**Section 4:** four wins, Nigel Drew (Birkenhead), Ian Lowry (Rahotu); three wins, Don Ramsey (Pukekohe), Ian Porteous (Aramoho), Paul Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA).

**Section 5:** four wins, Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast); three wins, Ross McGrail (Putaruru), John Sexton (West End), Colin Christie (Fitzroy).

**Section 6:** four wins, Steve Liddington

(Frankton Railway), Bruce Stewart (Havelock North); three wins, Grayson McEldowney (New Plymouth), Brody Dix (New Lynn).

**Section 7:** four wins, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Brian Little (Palmerston North), Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast); three wins, Ross Thorn (Naenae), Colin Young (Te Kuiti).

**Section 8:** four wins, Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East); three wins, Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Kelvin Bishop (West End).

**Section 9:** four wins, Glenn Newton (Mangere), Steve Cottam (Paritutu); three wins, Mike Paton (Orewa), Hamish Kape (Okato).

**Section 10:** four wins, Gerard Slattery (Tui Park), Dan Delany (Royal Oak); three wins, Craig De Faria (West End), Chris Carter (Parklands), Geoff Bovey (Paekakariki).

**Section 11:** four wins, Bruce Phillips (Tower), David Hood (Kerikeri), John Claydon (Masterton); three wins, none.

**Section 12:** four wins, Dave Selby (Hillcrest); three wins, Tom Murfitt (Massey Ave), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).

**Section 5:** Yesterday was a much more relaxing day for Rex Holmes and his Paraparaumu Beach team. After two close shaves on Monday, the Kapiti side had a little more to spare at Lepperton. Richard Meacle continued to wave the Sunshine Coast flag the longest, two further wins also giving his side four victories. Ross McGrail (Putaruru) scored an important 25-20 win in the afternoon over John Sexton (West End), a result that left both teams on two wins.

**Section 6:** Frankton Railway's Steve Liddington and Havelock North's Bruce Stewart both climbed to four wins in somewhat tricky conditions at Inglewood. Liddington ended the title hopes of Ross Henderson (West End) 25-23 in a close third round encounter. Defending champion Brody Dix (New Lynn) got through both his matches with some points to spare to hold three wins in total

**Section 7:** Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Brian Little (Palmerston North) and Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast) all held on to their perfect records. Ross Thorn (Naenae) also won twice, to sit on three wins, but another likely side, Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA) has only two after being nudged out 24-21 by Little. A number of useful skips fell by the way-side, including Rhys Hakkens (Waikanae Beach).

**Section 8:** Naenae's Anton Ferrari had reason to thank his lucky stars. Twice yesterday Ferrari's side became locked in tense matches. And twice they came out on the right side of the ledger — 19-18 over Cliff Smith (Stratford-Avon) and 21-20 over Marty Doak (Far North RSA). Ferrari has four wins, as does Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), who also had some trouble against Doak, before prevailing. The consistent Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay) climbed to three wins, but Peter Thompson (Paekakariki) had his second loss and now needs the rest to qualify.

**Section 9:** Glenn Newton (Mangere) and Steve Cottam (Paritutu) posted two more wins each, to hold four respectively. Cottam meets three winner Hamish Kape (Okato) this morning. After dropping both matches on the opening day, Mike Cavanagh's Pukekohe team commenced the tough task of winning the rest. They won twice.

**Section 10:** Gerard Slattery (Tui Park) needed everything at the end of the last game to beat Allan Batley (Paritutu) 21-19. That gave Slattery win number four, a feat matched by Dan Delany (Royal Oak). There was a "sit up and take notice" result in the last, with Delany beating a very useful side skipped by Dean McMurchy (Kensington) 30-17. McMurchy had also fallen in the morning to be left on two wins. Craig De Faria (West End) and the 2017 Wellington champion-of-champions singles winner Geoff Bovey (Paekakariki) both enhanced their chances with two further wins.

**Section 11:** Bruce Phillips (Tower), John Claydon (Masterton) and David Hood (Kerikeri) have stolen a march on the group. They all sit on four wins. No sides have three, but seven teams have two wins, including regular qualifiers Gary Lilley (West End), who of course has his own slice of Open history, and Terry Osment (Johnsonville). The three teams in the perfect place were relatively dominant throughout the day.

**Section 12:** Dave Selby's Hillcrest team continued to set the pace after two further wins. Tom Murfitt (Massey Ave), who was desperately unlucky to lose in round one on Monday, also found the Paritutu C green to his team's liking, posting two wins. His side sits on three wins, as does Ian Andrews (Paritutu). He skips a talented, youthful side, where the combined ages of the three in front of him and less than his 67 years.



## McLay returns after 36 years

There are numerous stories that abound this week, as they do every year, of players returning for the umpteenth time to compete in the Taranaki Open.

But occasionally there is a different story to tell and that is exactly the case for Hillcrest open tripresident, Ross McLay. He has returned to the Taranaki Open for the first time in 36 years, having last played in the event away back in 1983. And he's loving every minute of it.

"I was just so busy with work and coaching and selecting bowls that I haven't been able to return until now," McLay said.

"It's great to be back enjoying the greens, the hospitality and the competition—and some Taranaki 'bullshit'," he said, while grinning at his team's lead, Murray Young, who used to live in the province.

"My wife died a few years ago and I was lost. But I've got right back into my bowls now and I am loving it. This tournament was always high on my list of events to play in again."

McLay started bowls in Turangi in 1974, before moving to Johnsonville where he became a Wellington rep.

The representative status continued when he moved in the 1980s to the Waikato and then again when he moved to the Far North in the 1990s.

McLay has won a Waikato centre title, the open triples, with his two o t h e r t e a m m a t e s from this week, Trevor Harris and Dave Selby, as well as "three or four in the Far North."

But he seems to gain even more pleasure from coaching and selecting sides — he was heavily involved in both the Far North and Waikato — and even now, at 83, is still pouring in plenty of energy and effort into his Hillcrest club.

This week's Taranaki Open provides the chance for him to focus on playing and the Hillcrest side, with Selby skipping, has made an excellent start.

After two wins on Monday, the Hillcrest team did another double yesterday to be well on the way to qualifying.



## Match of the morning — Little v Alldred

In the clash of the unbeaten teams, this morning at Vogeltown B, Palmerston North's Brian Little will meet Chris Alldred, whose side is entered under the Sunshine Coast, that being the location where the teammates meet each winter.

Little has the same side that won the tournament in 2016: brothers Brian and Ron Henn and Ian Monaghan. They received a stern test in the fourth round yesterday, prevailing 24-21 over Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA).

The Alldred side comprises Jack Philip, Steve Cox and skip Neil Fisher. They have been relatively untroubled since Monday morning, when in their closest game to date, they beat Gavin Crow (Paritutu) 23-20.

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# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Thursday, January 24, 2019*

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## Eleven teams take the easy path

After the completion of six rounds, 11 teams have already posted the necessary six wins to advance to Friday's post section rounds in the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours.

The teams through so far are Darren Goodin (Paritutu), Nigel Drew (Birkenhead), Ian Lowry (Rahotu), Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Bruce Stewart (Havelock North), Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), Glenn Newton (Mangere), Dan Delany (Royal Oak), John Claydon (Masterton) and Dave Selby (Hillcrest).

Claydon had the most memorable day, beating two five winners — Bruce Phillips (Tower) 29-27 and David Hood (Kerikeri) 28-13.

Section four provides two of the qualifiers—Drew and Lowry. Drew snaked through two tight games 25-22 against Darren Scott (West End) and 21-20 over Don Ramsey (Pukekohe). The Lowry family were emphatic in their two wins over local combinations.

Stewart's Havelock North side has made an excellent transition to the natural surfaces of Taranaki, as illustrated by the 26-10 win over Grayson McEldowney (New Plymouth) yesterday morning.

O'Sullivan's latest two wins came 29-16 over Colin Young (Te Kuiti) and 34-26 against Roger Neilson (Wanganui East).

Pinker has impressed during the opening days. That trend continued yesterday as they secured their qualification 28-17 over Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay).

Newton didn't have things all his own way — but still got home 27-21 over Dennis Osborne (West End) and 30-25 against Kevin Newson (Seatoun).

Delany inflicted the second defeat on Chris Carter (Parklands) 26-17 and then eliminated Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) 23-13.

Goodin, Selby and Holmes all continued their positive positions by posting trouble-free victories in both rounds.

## Finals this year to be held at West End

Bowls Taranaki president Brien Bennett QSM has announced that this year's finals will be held at West End.

"Once again it has been a tough decision with Paritutu, West End and Vogeltown all providing excellent two green clubs."

Bennett said for the first time

since the 1940s, post section will be held at just one location. "We anticipate around 40 qualifiers, which means that we can comfortably fit all of Friday's matches on to two greens. There will be 16 teams left by the end of Friday."

In previous years, four greens

have been used for post section. But this had meant that all the greens had only one or two afternoon matches.

"We think that the change will create greater atmosphere for all concerned."

Post section of the pairs on Saturday will be held at Paritutu.

## Complete section wraps

**Section 1:** Wanganui's Ray Park continued to provide stories of survival, finishing the day with two more wins, to take the team to within one win of qualifying. After beating Bill Foley (New Plymouth) 21-17, Park came from 17-1 down in the afternoon to beat Steve Critchlow (Naenae) 34-20. Since losing to Park on Monday morning, Murray Hooper (Rewa) has strung together five successive wins, which included the team hitting 35 twice on day three.

**Section 2:** The main talking point was the two losses by Dean Elgar (West End). He was nosed out 21-20 by Ray Hudson (Central Levin) and then lost 26-19 to Mike Walsh (Paritutu). It left Elgar on four wins. Hudson

kept his hopes alive by beating another four-winner John Carter (Hutt) 22-20. Walsh's team had been upset themselves in the morning, but finished the day as the only five winner in the section.

**Section 3:** Peter Belliss (Aramoho) posted two encouraging wins — 27-17 over Neville Sole (West End) and 28-8 over Paul Hassall (Tawa), a result that ended the hopes of the Capital club repeating its 1981 triumph. That left Belliss on five wins, the same as Kevin Smith (Hinuera), who won twice yesterday, and Garry Banks (Beach Haven). Banks lost his unbeaten record to Hassall in the morning and only scrapped through by a solitary shot in the later game.

## Who has won how many after day three?

**Section 1:** six wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu); five wins, Ray Park (Wanganui), Murray Hooper (Rewa); fours wins, Dennis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach), Warren Hausman (Bulls), Garry Murfitt (West End).

**Section 2:** five wins, Mike Walsh (Paritutu); four wins, Dean Elgar (West End), Ray Hudson (Central Levin), John Carter (Hutt), Paul Clegg (Hawera Park), John Niwa (Waitara).

**Section 3:** five wins, Garry Banks (Beach Haven), Peter Belliss (Aramoho); four wins, Grant Pease (Fitzroy), Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri), Mark Anderson (Tower).

**Section 4:** six wins, Nigel Drew (Birkenhead), Ian Lowry (Rahotu); five wins, Ian Porteous (Aramoho), Paul Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA); four wins, Paul Darbyshire (Northern), Don Ramsey (Pukekohe).

**Section 5:** six wins, Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach); five wins, Ross McGrail (Putaruru); four wins, John Sexton (West End), Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast), Peter Berge (West End).

**Section 6:** six wins, Bruce Stewart (Havelock North); five wins, Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway); four wins, Allan Brider (Johnsonville), Grayson McEldowney (New

Plymouth), Brody Dix (New Lynn).

**Section 7:** six wins, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood); five wins, Brian Little (Palmerston North), Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast); four wins, Ross Thorn (Naenae), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA).

**Section 8:** six wins, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East); five wins, Anton Ferrari (Naenae); four wins, Peter Thompson (Paekakariki), Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Kelvin Bishop (West End).

**Section 9:** six wins, Glenn Newton (Mangere); five wins, Mike Paton (Orewa), Steve Cottam (Paritutu); four wins, Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke), Hamish Kape (Okato).

**Section 10:** six wins, Dan Delany (Royal Oak); five wins, Gerard Slattery (Tui Park), Craig De Faria (West End); four wins, Dean McMurchy (Kensington), Chris Carter (Parklands).

**Section 11:** six wins, John Claydon (Masterton); five wins, Bruce Phillips (Tower), David Hood (Kerikeri); four wins, Terry Osment (Johnsonville), Albie Waitere (New Plymouth).

**Section 12:** six wins, Dave Selby (Hillcrest); four wins, Tom Murfitt (Massey Ave), Brent Stubbins (Miramar), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).



**Section 4:** Paul Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA) picked up both matches to sit on five wins, as did Ian Porteous (Aramoho). Bartosh squeaked past supervisor Frank Pollock (Hawera Park) by one in the morning and then had 10 to spare against Ian Mahoney (Central Levin). Porteous was comfortable in both of his wins, the second one, 27-13, spelt the end for Bob Harris (Canterbury).

**Section 5:** Ross McGrail (Putaruru) produced an impressive day, two 35 counts and two large wins has the side looking almost certain to qualify on five wins. The morning victory was over Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast). Meacle, after four wins, then fell to Rex Holmes, leaving the side still needing two more wins. Peter Berge (West End), who came in late into the draw, after two loses, has won four in a row. He is on course for a potential winner-take-all eighth clash against club-mate John Sexton, who also has won four.

**Section 6:** Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway) produced a brilliant last bowl delivery to deny defending champion Brody Dix (New Lynn) on an extra end 25-24 in the morning. But win No 6 still awaits Liddington after his side went down 27-17 to Barry Davis (Hawera Park) in the afternoon. Dix picked up his fourth win to remain in contention.

**Section 7:** Brian Little (Palmerston North) took the clash of the two unbeaten teams in the feature game of the morning, prevailing 21-18 over Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast). However, Little was tripped up 24-22 by Rhys Hakens (Waikanae Beach) in the afternoon. Alldred joined Little on five wins when he beat Danny Watt (Lepperton) 30-19. The 2006 Dominion fours winner, Ross Thorn (Naenae), suffered a second slip-up in the afternoon, losing 26-17 to Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay).

**Section 8:** Peter Thompson (Paekakariki) kept his hopes alive with two wins, moving the Kapiti team up to four victories. In the morn-

ing, they beat Anton Ferrari (Naenae) 26-17. That was the first loss of the week for Ferrari, an afternoon win bringing them to within one of qualifying.

**Section 9:** Hamish Kape (Okato) put himself in a position to qualify with a 23-22 morning win over Stev Cottam (Paritutu), the latter's first loss. However, that work was undone when Kape lost 25-22 to Denis McEwen, giving the Stratford-Avon side its first win. That left Kape needing both games today. Cottam responded with a good afternoon win, to finish on five victories, alongside Mike Paton (Orewa).

**Section 10:** Not being able to afford a further loss, Dean McMurchy (Kensington) kept his hopes alive with two wins. The afternoon 22-20 win was a cliffhanger which ended the hopes of Geoff Bovey (Parkakariki). Gerard Slattery is McMurchy's opponent this morning, a match equally important for the Tui Park side after they had their first loss in round six, 24-11 to Craig De Faria (West End). It gave De Faria his fifth win.

**Section 11:** Both David Hood (Kerikeri) and Bruce Phillips (Tower) managed to win one each to go with their respective losses to John Claydon. It means both sides are on five wins and at short-odds of making post section. Terry Osment (Johnsonville) and Albie Waitere (New Plymouth) both added two more wins to sit on four apiece — although they meet this afternoon.

**Section 12:** Miramar's Brent Stubbins moved up to four wins and in the process eliminated Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), 26-19, and Trevor Butcher (Palmerston North), 33-19. Tom Murfitt (Massey Ave) also has four wins. He dropped his morning game to Noel Probyn (Fitzroy), but Probyn lost his last chance as Ian Andrews (Paritutu) powered away 27-12. Andrews has four wins, too, having lost in the morning to Butcher 28-17.

## Nelson West brings up 40 consecutive Opens

Inglewood stalwart Nelson West is bringing up his 40th consecutive Taranaki men's Open fours this week.

And the 74-year-old seems to have plenty more years left in him.

He started playing bowls in the 1978-79 season, and while he missed the tournament in his first year, he's been a fixture ever since.

He played in the 1980 event, which was the 75th jubilee and drew the biggest ever attendance — 580 teams.

"I led for Jack O'Sullivan for a number of years, then moved to Brian Tarr, followed by Norm Aldridge. After Norm, I took my own team."

It was with Tarr that West had his best moment in the Open, when the team made the last eight which coincided with the famous measuring contest that took place in the Paritutu pavilion. "It was brilliant, I was rolling around the floor laughing."

West said he loved both the competitive and social side of the event. "It's the guys that you meet. I have all of the books from the Opens that I have played in."

This year West is teamed with Barney Haw, Robert Small and supervisor Neil Earley.

They have put in a useful performance, winning three of their opening five games, after a loss in the first round to Cary Pinker

(Wanganui East).

However, the hopes of qualifying were extin-

guished yesterday

afternoon when

Paekakariki

skip Peter

Thompson drew the

jack for

seven —

"and I wasn't

good enough to save it."

Earley, a long-time teammate of West's said that West's on-green "performance" had improved over the years. "He has mellowed a lot. We don't get the hand signals that we used to get."

Despite the initial disappointment of missing out on qualifying, a few sips of beer later, that had disappeared.

And West emphatically responded: "I'll be back next year. Absolutely, if I am above ground, I will be back."



## Match of the morning — Dix v Stewart

It is crunch time for Brody Dix's and his New Lynn side of Adam Wishnowski, Keith Ansell and Gary Dougherty. After four wins and two losses in the Open, they need both games today to qualify.

But it will not be easy. This morning, Dix's side meets a Havelock North team started to travel very well, and with six wins to boot. It contains Brian Doyle, Greg Hodges, Graham Fulford and skip Bruce Stewart. Both Fulford and Stewart were members of John Grainger's winning 2002 side.

Should Dix when the match, his afternoon opponent will be three-winner Merv Jackman (Wainuiomata).

The match will be played at Fitzroy 1.

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# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Friday, January 25, 2019*

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## Old fashion rule not needed but only just

An old fashion rule, that was last required, it is believed, in the 1950s, was almost used as the 166 original entries were reduced to the last 39 in the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours yesterday.

In order to qualify for today's post section rounds, teams needed to win six matches from eight. But there was an over-rider. If a section did not have any side with six or more wins, then the winner(s) of the most games in the section would advance.

Heading into the final round of section two, there were no qualifiers. Three teams sat on five wins, all of whom had to play sides with four wins.

A further two sides also sat on four wins and because their chances were still alive, they too played.

Eventually, two teams — 2017 Dominion singles winner Dean Elgar (West End) and former Bowls NZ chairman John Carter (Hutt) — gained their sixth wins.

Carter was all-square playing the last end and held shot. Opposing skip, Kevin Ratahi (Opunake), rattled the head, dislodging the jack to the back of the head. But the jack went to Carter's team, leaving his side the winner 24-22, and remarkably, the only qualifier from Wellington.

Elgar didn't get things all his way, either, but got home 22-18 over Joe Johansen (Bay View).

The elimination of all of the other teams from the Capital was a major surprise. There were a number of hard luck stories in the eighth round.

Allan Brider (Johnsonville) lost 26-25 to Grayson McEldowney (New Plymouth), in a match both teams needed to qualify.

Ross Thorn (Naenae), playing Inglewood's Gerry O'Sullivan, who had already qualified, was pipped 24-23.

Anton Ferrari (Naenae) missed out 27-24 to

five-winner Nelson West (Inglewood).

And Brent Stubbins (Miramar) also fell one game short when his side went down 22-12 to the tournament's No 1 entertainer, Tupu Campbell (Far North RSA).

On the flip-side, there were some very close, positive shaves. Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway), after losses in rounds six and seven, sneaked past Lindsay Laing (Manaia) 21-20, and Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA) edged another team who had already qualified, Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast), 25-24.

Similarly, Kelvin Bishop (West End), a semi-finalist in 2016, advanced after beating one-winner Dave Adams (Takaro) 22-21.

In the match between the two teams that needed an eighth round win to qualify, Dean McMurchy (Kensington) powered away from Chris Carter (Parklands) 30-11. It meant that McMurchy replicated the same qualifying route he had when he made the 2015 final — two wins on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and two loses on Tuesday.

In Thursday's match of the day, defending champion Brody Dix (New Lynn) inflicted the first defeat of the tournament on Bruce Stewart (Havelock North), 25-15. Dix's side then cemented win No 6 24-13 over Merv Jackman (Wainuiomata).

Bowls Taranaki vice president, Ian Andrews (Paritutu), showed his team are still a force to be reckoned with. They beat six-winner Dave Selby (Hillcrest) 26-11 in the morning and then defeated Graeme McDowell (West End) 24-14 in the afternoon.

In the battle of the two West End teams needing the eighth round to secure the sixth win, John Sexton ran out a comfortable 23-7 victor over Peter Berge.

No side completed the perfect eight-from-eight in section play. Of course, a number of last round matches were not played, and a few seventh round games abridged.



## Plenty of mouth-watering contests await

There are plenty of intriguing clashes set out for post section play today.

And it's hard to go past Dominion pairs semi-finalists, Dean Elgar (West End) and Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), as the feature game. It will certainly attract a large gallery.

Despite being teammates less than three weeks ago during their excellent run in Auckland, they skip their own sides this week.

O'Sullivan's team comprises his brothers, Danny and former Taranaki lock, Bernard, along with Steve Sabine.

Elgar has Steve Temperton, John Garrud and Neil Candy.

Elgar and O'Sullivan clashed in section play two seasons ago, Elgar winning the match in what featured one of the best extra ends the Open has ever witnessed.

Kevin Smith (Hinuera) and Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) also meet first off. Both present very solid sides and are vastly experienced in this event.

If driving is your thing, then the Bruce Phillips (Tower) versus Ray Park (Wanganui) match will be worth viewing. The respective skips are two of the best drivers in the central districts. That has a delayed start of 1.30pm.

And Peter Belliss (Aramoho) faces a side improving and growing in confidence, Dean McMurchy (Kensington).

## Fours post section and pairs section play for Friday

### Fours post section draw for today:

**Section 1 at West End 1, round 1 (9am start):** R Glogoski (Kerikeri) v G Slattery (Tui Park), I Lowry (Rahotu) v S Liddington (Frankton Railway), P Dorreen (Far North RSA) v I Andrews (Paritutu); **round 2 (1.30pm start):** D Delany (Royal Oaky) v Dorreen/Andrews winner, R McGrail (Putaruru) v B Dix (New Lynn), D Ramsey (Pukekohe) v D Selby (Hillcrest); **round 2 (still at 9am):** B Little (Palmerston North) v G McEldowney (New Plymouth), C Alldred (Sunshine Coast) v S Cottam (Paritutu), J Carter (Hutt) v K Bishop (West End), G O'Sullivan (Inglewood) v D Elgar (West End).

**Section 2 at West End 2, round 1 (9am start):** I Coombe (Mairangi Bay) v G Banks (Beach Haven), D Goodin (Paritutu) v G Newton (Mangere), K Smith (Hinuera) v C Pinker (Wanganui East), I Porteous (Aramoho) v B Stewart (Havelock North); **round 2 (1.30pm start):** P Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA) v C De Faria (West End), M Hooper (Rewa) v R Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), B Phillips (Tower) v R Park (Wanganui); **round 2 (9am start):** J Sexton (West End) v D Hood (Kerikeri), P Belliss (Aramoho) v D McMurchy (Kensington), J Claydon (Masterton) v N Drew (Birkenhead).

### Pairs section play draw for today (8.45am start):

**Section 1 at Paritutu A:** G Goss (Himitangi Beach), P Deegan (Opunake), D Watt (Lepperton), K Michelsen (Pukekohe), P Warner (Hawera Park), T McAlevey (Fitzroy), A Bridgeman (Oakura), K

Bishop (Motueka), C Brookes (West End), B Foley (New Plymouth), A Riddock (Paritutu), B Harris (Canterbury), G Murfitt (West End), T Horn (Okato).

**Section 2 at Paritutu C:** K Williams (Paritutu), A Bryant (Bay View), R Inglis (Motueka), J Ballard (Pukekohe), K Sprott (Himitangi Beach), M Scott (Nelson), B Mummery (Paritutu), J Rona (West End), J Carter (Paritutu), P Hassall (Tawa), B Crawford (West End), G McLeod (Tawa), K Kape (Okato), T Campbell (Far North RSA).

**Section 3 at Vogeltown A:** G Crow (Paritutu), S Park (New Plymouth), D Adams (Takaro), K Newson (Seatoun), C Boyle (Epsom), K Coombe (Aramoho), R Henderson (West End), K Smith (Oakura), J Roberts (Waitara), B Tatnell (Orewa), G Barber (Paritutu), M Paton (Orewa), D Davis (Kaikohe), B Edwards (Massey Ave).

**Section 4 at Vogeltown B:** A Burton (Takaro), Q SL Reeves (West End), R Scott (Seatoun), J Belliss (Aramoho), A McMillan (Epsom), W Te Huki (Vogeltown), B Haines (Paritutu), A Collins (Oakura), B Lilley (West End), J Ape-esra (Waitara), J Forde (Paritutu), M Bridgland (Massey Ave), B Johnstone (Kaikohe), P Clark (Vogeltown).

**Section 5 at New Plymouth 2:** A Brider (Johnsonville), M Dudley (Hawera Park), G Heald (Johnsonville), P Bovey (Paekakariki), G Baxter (Hawera Park), G Bovey (Paekakariki), W Hawkes (West End), D Stachurski (Inglewood), B Patu (Inglewood), N Katae (Parklands), T Hori (New Plymouth), A Bayley (Parklands).

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Saturday, January 26, 2019*

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## Six locals and 10 visitors to decide 2019 Open

Six local teams and 10 visiting quartets remain in the battle to see which side will be crowned 2019 Taranaki Open fours champions after most of the powerful sides survived the first day of post section at West End yesterday.

Of the 16 teams still in contention, six of the skips are past winners.

As the greens began to sweat and the afternoon breeze gathered momentum, play became more scrappy. But the leading lights generally did enough to get through.

West End's Dean Elgar won the feature game of the morning.

Elgar and his side of Steve Temperton, John Garrud and Neil Candy booked their position in the last 16 by scoring a comfortable 26-18 win over Inglewood's Gerry O'Sullivan.

Elgar and his side jumped out to an 8-0 lead, extending it to 15-5. But a brace of twos on ends 16 and 17 brought O'Sullivan and his team of his brothers, Bernie and Danny, plus Steve Sabine, back to 17-12 behind.

On the next, O'Sullivan held three but Elgar killed the end. On the replay, Elgar drew the shot and the West End side regained the momentum to win.

Elgar will meet former Bowls NZ chairman, John Carter (Hutt) in the last 16. Carter posted an easy 32-17 win over West End's Kelvin Bishop.

The 2016 champion Brian Little (Palmerston North) managed to survive, but it was close. His side edged past New Plymouth's Grayson McEldowney 23-22. Little led 23-18 with two ends remaining. McEldowney responded with two braces, his final bowl just missing out on making the last count three to force the game to an extra end.

Little plays Steve Cottam (Paritutu) on Saturday morning, after the latter upset Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast) 23-10.



**Phil Aitken, leading in Dean McMurphy's team, is through to the last 16 for the second-straight year.**

Peter Belliss (Aramoho), a three-time world champion, exited. His side lost 22-14 to Dean McMurphy (Kensington) 22-14. McMurphy's side is now being skipped by 24-year-old Jeremy Brosnan, and the Auckland rep produced a number of telling bowls to deny the Wanganui team.

Nigel Drew (Birkenhead) also made it through, but what a close shave it was. Drew led Masterton's John Claydon 16-15 with one end remaining. Claydon held two shots on the final end, but, frustratingly for him, he trailed the jack back to three of Drew's bowls to give Birkenhead the win 19-15.

Paritutu's Darren Goodin, after a comfortable 32-15 win over Glenn Newton (Mangere) in the morning, defeated Garry Banks (Beach Haven) 26-22 in the afternoon. But he needed 11 shots on the last four ends to do it, overturning a seven shot deficit in the process.

Goodin meets Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) this morning after Pinker wore down two past winners yesterday.

• To page two.

• **From page one.**

Playing with brother Warwick, Peter Head and Les Smith, Pinker beat Kevin Smith (Hinuera) 22-19 and Bruce Stewart (Havelock North) 21-18 after leading by six shots playing the last end.

On the adjacent rink this morning, Craig De Faria (West End) plays Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach).

De Faria hit the front from the mid-point of his match against Paul Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA), prevailing 26-22. Holmes' side was completely dominant, winning 29-6 over Murray Hooper (Rewa), having led 15-0 after eight ends.

Bruce Phillips (Tower), the only south Taranaki qualifier, meets David Hood (Kerikeri) this morning. Phillips scored on five ends in a row in the middle of his match against Ray Park (Wanganui). That changed the scoreline from 9-6 to Park to 16-9 to Phillips. And with the Tower side getting more bowls around the head, they pulled away to win 27-14.

A five-end scoring spree also propelled Hood

into the last 16. He trailed West End's John Sexton 19-14 after 18 ends. But 14 shots on the next five heads, gave Hood the win 28-21.

Ian Lowry's Rahout side, which includes three of his uncles — Alec, Gil and Des — had moments of concern in both of their wins. They had to come from 20-12 in the morning to beat Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway) 23-22 and then accounted for Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri) 27-15.

Lowry led by eight shots with three ends remaining. However, when he delivered his final bowl on the 23rd end, he was seven down. He calmly drew the shot. Glogoski, attempting to remove it, dislodged the jack back, giving four to Lowry, the match concluding there at 27-15.

Lowry meets four-time champion Dan Delany (Royal Oak), who ran away from Ian Andrews (Paritutu) 30-10.

The remaining match this morning is between defending champion Brody Dix (New Lynn) and Don Ramsey (Pukekohe). From 6-all, Dix beat Ross McGrail (Putaruru) 20-9, while Ramsey held off Dave Selby (Hillcrest) 23-20.

## Results from day five

### Fours post section results:

**Section 1 at West End 1, round 1:** R Glogoski (Kerikeri) 23 G Slattery (Tui Park) 21, I Lowry (Rahotu) 23 S Liddington (Frankton Railway) 22, I Andrews (Paritutu) 24 P Dorreen (Far North RSA) 14; **round 2:** Lowry 27 Glogoski 15, D Delany (Royal Oak) 30 Andrews 10, B Dix (New Lynn) 20 R McGrail (Putaruru) 9, D Ramsey (Pukekohe) 23 D Selby (Hillcrest) 20, B Little (Palmerston North) 23 G McEldowney (New Plymouth) 22, S Cottam (Paritutu) 23 C Alldred (Sunshine Coast) 10, J Carter (Hutt) 32 K Bishop (West End) 17, D Elgar (West End) 26 G O'Sullivan (Inglewood) 18.

**Section 2 at West End 2, round 1:** G Banks (Beach Haven) 27 I Coombe (Mairangi Bay) 23, D Goodin (Paritutu) 32 G Newton (Mangere) 15, C Pinker (Wanganui East) 22 K Smith (Hinuera) 19, B Stewart (Havelock North) 22 I Porteous (Aramoho) 20; **round 2:** Goodin 26 Banks 22, Pinker 21 Stewart 18, C De Faria (West End) 26 P Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA) 22, R Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach) 29 M Hooper (Rewa) 6, B Phillips (Tower) 27 R Park (Wanganui) 14, D Hood (Kerikeri) 28 J Sexton (West End) 21, D McMurchy (Kensington) 22 P Belliss (Aramoho) 14, N Drew (Birkenhead)

19 J Claydon (Masterton) 15.

**Draw for today at West End:** Lowry v Delany, Dix v Ramsey, Little v Cottam, Carter v Elgar, Goodin v Pinker, De Faria v Holmes, Phillips v Hood, McMurchy v Drew.

### Pairs post section play draw for today:

**Section 1, Paritutu A, round 1 (9am start):** K Smith (Oakura) v B Lilley (West End), K Coombe (Aramoho) v A Bridgeman (Oakura), G Barber (Paritutu) v B Foley (New Plymouth), A Collins (Oakura) v B Tatnell (Orewa), A Brider (Johnsonville) v D Davis (Kaikohe); **round 2 (9am start):** G McLeod (Tawa) v A Burton (Takaro); **round 2 (11.30am):** J Rona (West End) v Brider/Davis winner.

**Section 2, Paritutu C, round 1 (9am start):** B Johnstone (Kaikohe) v A Bailey (Parklands), W Te Huki (Vogeltown) v J Roberts (Waitara), G Heald (Johnsonville) v K Bishop (Motueka), D Stachurski (Inglewood) v T Horn (Okato), C Brookes (West End) v J Ballard (Pukekohe); **round 2 (9am start):** M Paton (Orewa) v J Ape-Esara (Waitara); **round 2 (11.30am):** G Baxter (Hawera Park) v Brookes/ Ballard winner.



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Sunday, January 27, 2019*

[www.taranakibowls.co.nz](http://www.taranakibowls.co.nz) [www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/](https://www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/)

## One Taranaki team and three visitors in semis

There will be one team each from Taranaki, Manawatu, North Harbour and Auckland that will contest the semifinals of the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours at West End this morning.

The semifinals will feature defending champion Brody Dix (New Lynn) against the 2016 winner Brian Little (Palmerston North) while Craig De Faria (West End) plays Nigel Drew (Birkenhead). De Faria, formerly Johns, won the title leading for John Lambert in 1987.

Inevitably, there were a number of significant moments during yesterday's rounds, as the field was reduced from 16 to four.

The most spectacular conclusion occurred in Drew's 19-17 quarterfinal win over Tower's Bruce Phillips.

Playing with Mark Rumble, Lionel Drew — father of Nigel — and Randall Watkins, the Birkenhead side was locked in a tight contest throughout against Phillips. However, when they took the lead at 11-10 after 14 ends, they never relinquished it.

Commencing the 25th end, Drew led by one. At the first attempt, Phillips killed the head with his last bowl.

On the replay, Phillips' No 3, Scott Roberts, drew two beauties. Watkins reduced the count to one. But Phillips, with his last delivery, drew another fine shot. Nigel Drew, playing positively on the narrow hand, pushed one of his team's bowls in for shot to snatch victory.

It was a tough end for what had been a glorious week for the Phillips side, which contained Mark Kuklinski and John Roberts up front. But even in defeat the Hawera-based side agreed that they had been beaten by a brilliant bowl.

Drew's semifinal opponent, De Faria, had a relatively trouble-free day. The side completely blew away Cary Pinker's Wanganui East team of brother Warwick, Peter Head

and Les Smith 25-7 in the quarterfinals, with just 16 ends played.

After opening up a 9-0 lead after three ends, De Faria picked up a six on the fifth end to lead 15-1. One down on the head, De Faria, on the drive, hit a short bowl into the head, dislodging the only Pinker bowl. De Faria then added the bonus to take the six.

Little's team, which is the same that won in 2016, — brothers Brian and Ron Henn and Ian Monaghan — prevailed 25-23 over West End's Dean Elgar in a close quarterfinal.

Elgar's team of Steve Temperton, John Garrud and Neil Candy dropped three fours during the match, which proved costly in the end.

Despite those numbers, Elgar remained in touch, with the scores locked at 19-all after 19 ends.

But Little then grabbed a three, a single and a two, the mini break giving the Manawatu centre secretary a big enough advantage to hold on.

Dix and his side of Adam Wishnowski, Keith Ansell and Gary Dougherty ended Dan Delany's hopes of a fifth Open with a 22-15 win.

But the match was much closer than that, even though Dix's side proved to be the more consistent unit.

From 12-11 in front after 14 ends, Dix improved his position to 17-11 ahead. With three ends remaining, the score had become 18-15. Dix then took a three to extend the margin. However, Delany and his side of Neville Hill, Mike Nasey and Joe Whitelaw held a three on the next, before Dix, with his last bowl, drew a magic shot. Delany, after missing his drive, conceded.

Elgar and Pinker both produced superb final deliveries in the morning round to ensure their sides made it through to the quarterfinals.

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### • From page one

Elgar led John Carter (Hutt) 21-19 playing the last end, but when he played his last bowl, he was two down. On the draw, he moved the jack a small margin to take two shots. With Carter unable to retrieve the shots back, leaving Elgar the victor 23-19.

Pinker picked up a loose four on the penultimate end to level the score at 22-all with Paritutu's Darren Goodin.

On the final head, Goodin held four, but a Pinker runner moved the jack out to the side of the rink, leaving his side with shot. Goodin was short with his last bowl.

Delany beat Ian Lowry (Rahotu) 28-27, after leading by five shots playing the last end. On the skip changeover, Lowry held four but he couldn't improve the count.

The Coastal Taranaki side was left wondering what could have been. They forewent their trial ends. And after seven ends, Delany had opened up a 14-1 lead.

Dix beat Pukekohe's Don Ramsey 27-24, Ramsey grabbing a single, a four and a two on the last three ends to reduce the deficit. The Counties chairman in fact had a chance of taking the necessary five on the last to force the game to an extra end, before a Dix drive removed the opportunity.

Little had a six to thank on the 22nd end in his side's 23-16 win over Paritutu's Steve Cottam. Until that time, Cottam had played a number of excellent bowls to assist his side in holding the lead until the 19th end.

Phillips opened up a 10-2 lead after seven ends in his morning match against Kerikeri's David Hood. The Far North side, though, tightened, but the Tower team held on to win 23-17.

De Faria won his match 22-13 over Paraparaumu Beach's Rex Holmes, after the Kapiti side had started strongly.

With Rumble leading exceptionally well, Drew accounted for Kensington's Dean McMurphy 23-21, despite dropping a four on the last end.

\* The voice of New Zealand bowls, Kevin Hickland, live streamed both of yesterday's two rounds on Facebook and will be back at West End this morning to do the same.

Hickland played in the tournament in 1984 as a member of Rowan Brassey's side that drew the final with Barry Drabble. Because of the weather conditions, and no indoor complex being available, the sides were declared joint winners.

To access the live streaming, viewers should go onto the Bowls Taranaki Facebook page.

## Results from day six

### Fours post section results:

**Round 3:** Dan Delany (Royal Oak) 28 Ian Lowry (Rahotu) 27, Brody Dix (New Lynn) 27 Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) 24, Dean Elgar (West End) 23 John Carter (Hutt) 19, Brian Little (Palmerston North) 23 Steve Cottam (Paritutu) 16, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) 23 Darren Goodin (Paritutu) 22, Craig De Faria (West End) 22 Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach) 13, Bruce Phillips (Tower) 23 David Hood (Kerikeri) 17, Nigel Drew (Birkenhead) 23 Dean McMurphy (Kensington) 21. **Round 4:** Dix 22 Delany 15, Little 25 Elgar 23, De Faria 25 Pinker 7, Drew 19 Phillips 17.

**Semifinals draw for the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours at West End today, starting at 9am:** Adam Wishnoski/Keith Ansell/Gary Dougherty/Brody Dix (New Lynn) v Brian Henn/Ron Henn/Ian Monaghan/Brian Little (Palmerston North), Jordan Linn/Dave Wilson/Steve Walker/Craig De Faria (West End) v Mark Rumble/Lionel Drew/Randall Watkins/Nigel Drew (Birkenhead).

### Pairs post section results:

**Round 1:** B Lilley (West End) 22 K Smith (Oakura) 17, K Coombe (Aramoho) 24 A Bridgeman (Oakura) 13, B Foley (New Plymouth) 29 G Barber (Paritutu) 10, B Tatnell (Orewa) 21 A Collins (Oakura) 15, A Brider (Johnsonville) 25 D Davis (Kaikohe) 12, B Johnstone (Kaikohe) 19 A Bailey (Parklands) 15, W Te Huki (Vogeltown) 25 J Roberts (Waitara) 17, K Bishop (Motueka) 24 G Heald (Johnsonville) 14, T Horn (Okato) 30 D Stachurski (Inglewood) 5, J Bollard (Pukekohe) 23 C Brookes (West End) 14. **Round 2:** Lilley 21 Coombe 4, Foley 22 Tatnell 21, Brider 18 J Rona (West End) 17, A Burton (Takaro) 20 G McLeod (Tawa) 16, Te Huki 26 Johnstone 7, Horn 20 Bishop 10, G Baxter (Hawera Park) 23 Bollard 21, M Paton (Orewa) 22 J Ape-esera (Waitara) 10. **Round 3:** Lilley 22 Foley 20, Burton 26 Brider 17, Horn 24 Te Huki 7, Paton 22 Baxter 16.

**Semifinals for today at West End:** Lilley v Burton, Horn v Paton.

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Monday, January 28, 2019

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

## West End team find the right grove together

Playing superbly as a team, West End's Craig De Faria and his side of Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker ran out comfortable winners of the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours bowls tournament on their home greens on yesterday.

The West End quartet proved too consistent for Brian Little's Palmerston North team winning 24-13 in the final, that was played in occasional light drizzle.

Little's side of Brian Henn, Ron Henn and Ian Monaghan started the decider brightly, leading 7-0 after four ends. Three ends later the score was 8-2. It could have been even greater, except De Faria minimised the damage.

But after that, the West End side found its grove, with Linn being particularly impressive, gaining the advantage in the battle up front.

That domination was shown over the following seven ends, all of which were won by West End, and included a drawn five on head 10.

That gave them a 17-8 lead. A four two ends later extended the margin even further as the West End side gave a fine example of fours team work.

Wilson drew a number of excellent shots and Walker contributed well to support Linn's outstanding foundation.

But De Faria, who won the title leading for John Lambert back in 1987, was the architect of the victory. He skillfully built the heads and when required, converted negative counts into positive ones, as well as adding bonus bowls.

Little, who skipped the same team to win the title in 2016, was forced onto the attack during the final. But often the heads were difficult to penetrate.

Even late in the game, as Palmerston North attempted to rescue the match, De Faria was



**West End winners: Craig De Faria, Steve Walker, Dave Wilson and Jordan Linn — 2019 Taranaki Open winners.**

not having a bar of it, with his skill and determination winning the day. De Faria did that on both the 20th and 22nd ends, both times when two down. On the second instance, Little put his hand out, conceding the game.

In the semifinals earlier in the day, De Faria overcame a slow 9-1 start against Birkenhead's Nigel Drew, winning 21-17. Drew's side contained Mark Rumble, Lionel Drew and Randall Watkins.

Little ended the hopes of a back-to-back title for the 2018 winners Adam Wishnoski, Keith Ansell, Gary Dougherty and Brody Dix (New Lynn) 25-16.

PALMERSTON NORTH				WEST END			
LEAD		J. D. LINN		LEAD		J. D. LINN	
SECOND		D. WILSON		SECOND		D. WILSON	
THIRD		S. WALKER		THIRD		S. WALKER	
SKIP		C. DE FARIA		SKIP		C. DE FARIA	
SECTION		ROUND		RANK		3	
SCORE	TOTAL	ENDS	SCORE	TOTAL	SCORE	TOTAL	SCORE
1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
5	5	5	1	1	—	—	—
6	6	6	1	2	—	—	—
7	7	7	—	—	—	—	—
8	8	8	3	3	—	—	—
9	9	9	3	7	—	—	—
10	10	10	3	12	—	—	—
11	11	11	1	13	—	—	—
12	12	12	2	15	—	—	—
13	13	13	1	16	—	—	—
14	14	14	1	17	—	—	—
15	15	15	—	—	—	—	—
16	16	16	4	21	—	—	—
17	17	17	—	—	—	—	—
18	18	18	1	22	—	—	—
19	19	19	—	—	—	—	—
20	20	20	1	23	—	—	—
21	21	21	—	—	—	—	—
22	22	22	1	24	—	—	—
23	23	23	—	—	—	—	—
24	24	24	—	—	—	—	—



## Another great week comes to an end — Bennett

Bowls Taranaki president, Brien Bennett QSM, labelled the 114th Taranaki Open as a “great week”.

“It has been another successful tournament and we have been delighted with the positive responses that we have received. We will now go into review mode and endeavour to make 2020 even better.”



**Beaten finalists in the 2019 Taranaki men's Open fours — Brian Little, Ron Henn, Ian Monaghan and Brian Henn (Palmerston North).**



**Beaten semifinalists in the 2019 Taranaki men's Open fours — Top: Brody Dix, Gary Dougherty, Keith Ansell and Adam Wisnoski (New Lynn). Bottom: Lionel Drew, Mark Rumble, Nigel Drew and Randall Watkins (Birkenhead).**



## Consolation for Kape and Horn as they take out the pairs

The New Plymouth Club-sponsored open pairs event, for players who did not qualify or take part in the Open fours, resulted in a victory for Hamish Kape (Okato), left, and Taylor Horn (Mangere), right.

The duo, who originally met through Kittyhawk bowls, decided at the start of the season to team up for the 2019 Taranaki Open fours, as Kape was one player short from his Okato club.

Since then, Horn won the Dominion singles title at the beginning of the month. And while he still has a some rough edges to his game — especially when he dropped a six in yesterday's semifinal — Horn clearly has a huge future in bowls.

In yesterday's final, the duo beat West End's Bruce Hall and Bruce Lilley 24-13, after they edged in front in the first half of the game, and then pulled away during the second stage. In the semifinals, Kape and Horn beat Martin Hithcings and Mike Paton (Orewa) 31-17, while Hall and Lilley defeated Bones Burton and Glen Curtis (Takaro) 23-12.

