

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Monday, January 20, 2020

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New Executive Officer looks forward to Open

Bowls Taranaki executive officer Peter Scott, pictured right, is confident that all bowlers taking part in this week's Taranaki men's Open fours event should be suitably impressed with the greens and the tournament in general.

Scott took over the executive officer's job in May after stalwart Neville Elliott retired. But the Open fours is not uncommon to Scott who competed in the event for a number of years whilst living in Wellington, Wanganui and Taranaki. His involvement extended when he was a Taranaki executive member and he also acted as a section supervisor on a number of occasions.

"Even with that previous experience, this has still been a big learning curve," Scott said. "But I've been fortunate that Neville Elliott has assisted me greatly, as have the Taranaki Board."

"I don't believe in reinventing the wheel, but at the same time, we must also think outside the square. I'm looking forward to meeting new faces and old friends and gauging their feedback as the week unfolds."

If there was a criticism of last year's event, it was that the standard of some greens was a little below previous seasons.

"There has been a greater emphasis put on that this time around by the greenkeeper's advisory panel and the information we have is that players should be satisfied with the standard that they encounter."

Even though the Open involved long days, for the bowls purist, the event remains an attractive proposition. "We accept that the length of the tournament may not be to everyone's liking, but we take the positivity in the entries as an indication that many do."

This year's event has attracted 160 teams, which is down on six from last year. Visiting numbers are up slightly, with the reduction



coming from Taranaki sides. "We are thrilled to see our Australian numbers increase, and delighted that Graeme Rossiter and his team from Tumut in the Blue Mountains are here, despite their close proximity to the bush fires that have affected Australia."

Those 160 teams are split into 12 sections that will play for the next four days at various locations from Waitara in the north, to Oakura in the west, to Stratford in the south. The format has remained unchanged for the last 70 years, with two games of 25 ends per day. Teams must win six of their eight qualifying games by the end of Thursday to make post section on Friday.

Changes to the draw

Following the withdrawal of two sides from the competition, section four has been redrawn and now is a 12-team section only. A copy of the new draw for this section is available on the Bowls Taranaki website (www.taranakibowls.co.nz) and at headquarters, which is again located at Paritutu. Paritutu's Darren Goodin has been transferred from section four to 12, where he becomes team number seven.

Plenty of teams with dreams in Open

Spread throughout the 12 sections are a number of very strong teams, who in addition to enjoying all the social aspects of the Open, will also harbour hopes of putting together some positive results on the green. Here is a brief summary of the potential leading lights in each section:

Section 1: Ian Andrews (Paritutu) becomes one of the few Presidents of Taranaki to play in the Open whilst in office. He skips a good side, while that most familiar face, Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), returns again. Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Scotty McGavin (Bulls) and Bill Barwood (Claudelands) are regular qualifiers.

Section 2: Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden) skips a more than useful side out the Queen City, while Allan Bowler (Frankton Junction) has given a good account of himself over the years in the PBA series. Mark Cameron (Riverhead) becomes the first Bowls NZ CEO to compete in the Open. He skips a junior side in the event.

Section 3: Expect some casualties from a strong looking group. Neil Candy (West End), who was part of the winning four in the Dominion last season, consistent visitor Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), Neil Clarke (Hillcrest), Keith Ansell (who was part of the winning New Lynn team in 2018) and long-serving Canterbury representative, Paul Matheson (Halswell), are all in the group. And that makes no mention of former Bowls NZ chairman John Carter (Hutt) who regularly qualifies.

Section 4: Craig De Faria (West End), the defending titleholder, appears the most likely side from the group to still be standing on Sunday. Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay) and Terry Cullen (Helensville) are all sides capable of stringing wins together.

Section 5: The most prominent name is Geoff Hawken, who won the event in 1988, three years after winning the Dominion pairs.

Hawken has been living on the Gold Coast now for 25 years and teams up this year with three of his sons. David Hood (Kerikeri), Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) and Mort Jones (Hillcrest) should all be competitive.

Section 6: Dan Delany (Royal Oak) is seeking a fifth Open crown. He is becoming an Open veteran with over 20 Opens under his belt, despite being aged in only his early 40s. Neil Fisher (Howick, but entered under the Sunshine Coast banner this week), Gerrard Slatery (Tui Park) and Steve Liddington (Hillcrest), who was educated in the sport by that Open legend Robbie Robson, are other likely teams in the group.

Section 7: Two former Taranaki players, the 2014 winner Kevin Smith (Hinuera) and the 1983 runner-up John Dick (Marton), meet first up at Vogeltown today. But they will both find plenty of challenges in the qualifying rounds. Ian Lowry's family side that originate in the bowls world from Rahotu have regularly upset higher profile sides, Taylor Horn (Mangere) won the Dominion singles last year, John Claydon (Masterton) was a semifinalist four years ago, while the up-and-coming Bruce Lilley (West End), with father Gary in the team, will ensure the visitors don't get everything their own way.

Section 8: Despite not chasing the big stuff anymore, Peter Belliss (Aramoho), remains a big attraction to every event he enters. Further, many will claim a victory over him in any match as a career highlight, yet he remains a gentleman about it all. He is joined by Dennis Brewster (Whangarei), Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay) and Grant Pease (Fitzroy). Popular visitor, Brent Mason (Takaro), returns again after missing last year.

Section 9: After De Faria in section 4, the next best local hope could well be Bruce Phillips (Tower). His side lost out on the last bowl in the quarterfinals last year. Of the visitors, watch out for Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) and Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay).

Section 10: Ray Park (Wanganui), who represented NZ in the over 60s trans-Tasman in November, remains a high performer. Richie Muir (Wanaka) is an emerging prospect from Otago Central and his opening match against Terry Osment (Johnsonville) at Waitara will set the victor up for the week. On an adjacent rink, John Sexton (West End) will tackle Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe).

Section 11: Dan Dickison (Tauranga) comes from rich bowling stock. The nephew of the last NZ bowls man to win gold at the Commonwealth Games, Ian, he is an established and talented player now based in Bay of Plenty. The section also includes three-time champion Noel Probyn (Fitzroy) and 2006 Dominion fours winner Ross Thorn (Naenae). Those three will all run into two past winners during qualifying, Bruce Stewart (Havelock North) and Brody Dix (Papakura), the 2018 victor pictured right. Unlikely rain is the best chance of all five still being alive on Friday.

Section 12: Brian Little (Palmerston North) has contested four of the last nine finals and should feature again. The addition of Darren Goodin (Paritutu) will add further complications to the group, which also includes North Harbour livewire Garry Banks (Beach Haven), Wellington gold star holder Howard Ivory (Wilton) and Murray Dickson (Pakuranga).



42 get practice in at West End

42 teams took the opportunity to get in some extra practice at West End yesterday, with the vast majority of the sides from outside Taranaki.

"We were delighted, once again, with the response we have had from visitors. The day went off very well," organiser Graeme McDowell said.

Three games were played during the day as a number of teams looked to iron out combinations ahead of the big stuff today.

The prize-winning skips were:

Green 1:

1. Tony Walsh (Fitzroy) 3 wins
2. Ross Thorn (Naenae) 2.5 wins +12

3. Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) 2.5 wins +10
4. Richie Muir (Wanaka) and Paul Darbyshire (Northern) 2 wins +14 (equal)

Green 2:

1. Steve Brien (Stokes Valley) 3 wins
2. Paul Hassall (Tawa) 2 wins +18
3. Ray Williams (Australia) 2 wins +12
4. Wayne Heron (Tui Park) 2 wins +8

Green 3:

1. Neil Candy (West End) 3 wins +18
2. Mike Paton (Orewa) 3 wins +16
3. Greg Oldridge (Johnston Park) 2 wins +12
4. Dennis Layden (Australia) 2 wins +17

De Faria side back to defend title

It took Craig De Faria, pictured right, and his West End side nearly two hours in last year's event to score a point, the 2019 victorious skip recalled over the weekend.

"I thought that 'this is going to be a long week'," De Faria said. His side of Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker lost their first game in section play to Tauranga South's Mike Oldfield on the Fitzroy greens.

"It took us the best part of two hours to even get on the board in that first game," De Faria said.

But after the early hiccup the West End side proceeded through the rest of the event without another loss, defeating Brian Little and his Palmerston North side of Ian Monaghan and the Henn brothers, Brian and Ron, 24-13 in the final.

"It is a very difficult tournament to win, but it is so enjoyable to compete in. I'm looking forward to meeting new players again this year."

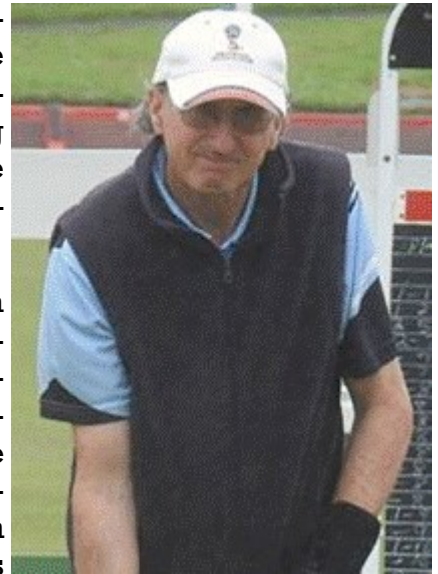
This will be the sixth-straight year that the De Faria side has competed in the event as a unit. Last year was the first time that the team advanced into Saturday's play, having previously being eliminated in Friday's rounds.

"There is a definite advantage of playing together so long as a team. We are compatible."

The De Faria side, which successfully defended its Taranaki centre fours title in November, again shapes up as one of the teams to beat in 2020.

"We will give it another crack. But everything has go your way. I remember in the last 16 last year we were playing Rex Holmes. We had a really good game. Rex would play up and miss by nothing. I guess it was just our turn."

Speaking superstitiously, De Faria said his side is delighted to be returning to Fitzroy again this morning to commence from the same location as they did in 2019. They begin their defence against tidy Inglewood draw bowler Don Gyde.



Match of the morning—Candy v Matheson

One of the more interesting battles will take place at Oakura, which makes a welcome return to hosting the Open this morning.

Neil Candy (West End) and Paul Matheson (Halswell) square off in section three.

Candy skips Steve Temperton, brother Bruce Candy and Taranaki gold star holder John Garrud.

Matheson, who has won two NZ intercentre titles with Canterbury, has a more than useful side with him, comprising regular teammate Darryl Hawker, Lawrence Quek and Kevin Greenwood, the 1998 Dominion fours winner.

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Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

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41 sides unbeaten but still some slip ups

41 teams had extra reason to enjoy yesterday's opening day's play in the perfect weather conditions that prevailed in the Taranaki men's open fours tournament.

Those 41 sides notched up two wins from as many matches to make the perfect start and put themselves in a good position to qualify.

A number of the favoured teams were included in that group, inevitably, but some of the big boys also suffered a slip up.

Dan Delany (Royal Oak) commenced with a 26-17 victory over Steve Cottam (Paritutu), who made the last 16 last time, but was well out-pointed in the afternoon by two-winner Steve Liddington (Hillcrest) 23-7.

Brian Little (Palmerston North), a finalist four times in the previous nine years, scored a strong 30-15 win over former Auckland title-

holder Murray Dickson (Pakuranga). But Little's side were edged out 22-20 by Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) in the afternoon. For Ramsey, who made the last 16 last year, it was a vital win after commencing with a loss.

Bruce Lilley (West End) was beaten 25-17 by John Claydon (Masterton), while in the same section at Vogeltown, the 2019 Dominion singles winner, Taylor Horn (Mangere), went down as well.

Horn's team, which includes Hamish Kape, lost 29-24 to Joe Johanson (Bay View), in the biggest first round surprise.

But Horn got back on track by beating the Lowry family team from Rahotu, skipped by Ian, 28-18. Lilley also made amends after lunch with a 21-13 win over Denis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach).

Cameron the first CEO to take part in the Open

Mark Cameron, pictured Taranaki president, Ian Anright, became the first CEO of draws, thanked everyone Bowls New Zealand to compete in the Taranaki men's Open fours whilst holding the players.

down the top job at Paritutu yesterday.

Competing in a Riverhead, North Harbour, side Cameron was one of three speakers during yesterday's opening ceremony. He reiterated his comments from previous years, when he attended in his official role, the standing of the tournament on the New Zealand bowls calendar.

The crowd also heard how for the first 10 years of the Open, entries were restricted to just local teams. However, the outside influence for the past 105 years had added an extra dimension.

The event has occupied an important position on the local landscape and this was emphasised once again by the positive comments deliv-



ered by the deputy mayor of the New Plymouth District, Richard Jordan.

Jordan officially opened the tournament.

Former Dominion champs battle

There was an intriguing and tense afternoon game at West End yesterday afternoon when Brody Dix (Papakura) and Ross Thorn (Naenae), two prominent visitors, went head-to-head. Both had launched promising starts with decisive wins in the morning and it was the decorated Thorn who took the honours, edging Dix 21-20. Dix's side includes Shane McGonagle, who joined with Thorn in taking out the 2006 Dominion fours.

Terry Osment (Johnsonville) and Richie Muir (Wanaka) had a ding-dong battle at Waitara with the side from the capital prevailing 26-24. Both were afternoon winners.

One of the more talented local teams, skipped by Bruce Phillips (Tower), also notched up two wins. He did receive some cheek from Philip Drought (Paritutu) 23-18 in the morning and then needed an extra end to edge out Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay) 24-23.

Neil Fisher (Sunshine Coast) had a disruption when one of his team members, Kevin Gledhill, was left stranded in Nelson after the Wellington airport was closed on Sunday. Fisher introduced Stephen Stuart into his side, the change having no drastic impact, with Fisher posting a 25-12 win over Bruce Harris (Johnston Park). However, Fisher fell 24-16 in the afternoon to Davey Payne's unbeaten Mairangi Bay side.

Fisher wasn't the only side to encounter travel difficulties. 1998 Dominion fours winner Kevin Greenwood was also grounded in the south island, although his team skipped by Paul Matheson (Halswell) claimed two wins with assistance of accomplished substitute David Bennett.

Two family teams had narrow, tense opening wins in the games at Lepperton. Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) got home 25-24 over Mort Jones (Hillcrest) while Geoff Hawken (Gold Coast), skipping his three sons, won 24-22 over Darren Scott (West End).

Both were much more convincing in their afternoon victories. O'Sullivan beat morning winner Danny Watt (Lepperton) 26-16, where supervisor Ernie Ward ensured the green was entertained by drawing a toucher after a

wrong bias with his previous delivery. Hawken accounted for Maurice Hughes (Karitane) in the afternoon 31-9.

Craig De Faria and his victorious West End side from last year issued an early reminder that they mean business with wins over Don Gyde (Inglewood) 33-6 and Allan Hill (Hinds) 35-13. Gyde sneaked home 24-23 in the afternoon over the unluckiest team on the day, Graeme Rossiter (Tumut). Rossiter also dropped the morning game by one point.

Three-time world champion Peter Belliss (Aramoho) didn't get things all his own way, but still prevailed 29-24 over a gallant Cliff Marshall (Napier) and 22-18 over Bob Harris (Canterbury).

Bowls Taranaki president Ian Andrews (Paritutu) launched his tournament impressively. Andrews posted win number two in the afternoon, 31-17, over Brian Whiteman (Te Puke), who had opened with a win.

Bill Barwood (Claudelands) also won twice, his side being skipped by the tenacious Paul Bartosh.

Rex Holmes (Paraparumu Beach) scrapped through in the morning round 22-21 against Bill Foley (New Plymouth). Foley led by three shots playing the last end. Holmes, pictured below left of frame, scored a three and then won the extra end. The Kapiti side broke free after the interval in the afternoon to beat Mark Skelton (Sunshine Coast, right of frame) 29-15.



Larry Haines — ambassador

Sunshine Coast bowls organiser Larry Haines, right of frame, was officially endorsed as an ambassador of the Open yesterday by Bowls Taranaki Executive Officer, Peter Scott, left of frame.

Haines took over from Barry Sullivan in organising the large contingent in the event from the Sunshine Coast two years ago and it was important to recognise his efforts, Scott said.

“Even though I was not involved during Barry’s years, I can see that he too did a terrific job, and he was suitably recognised two years ago.”

Organising such a large group was a big undertaking. “Larry has been brilliant to deal with, we thank him very much and look forward to more the same.”

Also inducted as ambassadors were Bowls Taranaki Life Members, Patty Symes and Neville Elliott.

Symes continues to act as a recorder for the event and has given freely of her time for a number of years. “This is most certainly not just about the men’s Open, but also the women’s event. We view this as a two week bowls carnival—destination Taranaki,” Scott added.



Despite Elliott retiring last May he has continued to be a huge contributor and was busy working again yesterday. “His connections and knowledge is a huge asset to the Open.”

Tomorrow: Engagement Officers hit 20 years.

Teams winning two games on first day

Section 1: Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Andrew Bowden (Parklands), Bill Barwood (Claudelands), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).

Section 2: Marty Doak (Far North RSA), Peter Charteris (Rahotu), Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden), Trevor Keightley (Paritutu).

Section 3: Doug Winter (Takaro), John Carter (Hutt), Keith Ansell (New Lynn), Paul Matheson (Halswell).

Section 4: Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Shane O’Hara (Mercury Bay), Craig De Faria (West End).

Section 5: Ray Keen (Blockhouse Bay), Gerry O’Sullivan (Inglewood), Geoff Hawken (Gold Coast), Aad Schrader (Okato).

Section 6: Davey Payne (Mairangi Bay), Steve

Liddington (Hillcrest).

Section 7: Kevin Smith (Hinuera), John Claydon (Masterton), Paul Hassall (Tawa).

Section 8: Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay), Dennis Brewster (Whangarei), Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South).

Section 9: Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), Bruce Phillips (Tower), Tupu Campbell (Far North RSA), Colin Young (Te Kuiti).

Section 10: Ray Park (Wanganui), Terry Osment (Johnsonville), Peter Bovey (Central Levin).

Section 11: Ross Thorn (Naenae), Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Paul Darbyshire (Northern).

Section 12: Garry Banks (Beach Haven), Darren Goodin (Paritutu).

Takarua enjoys the longer format as well

The traditional 25-end game does not only appeal to the older bowler. On the opening day yesterday on the B green at Paritutu, Aiden Takarua produced a top shelf performance as he skipped his Auckland side to two large wins.

Takarua, aged 20, is in his seventh year of bowls and is one of the most recognisable faces in New Zealand bowls at the moment.

Takarua has played an integral role in the Pt Chevalier Pirates in the televised series of Bowls3five.

The Pirates won the inaugural season in 2018, with Takarua's attacking game playing a huge part in their victory.

He wasn't as dominant this season, but the Pirates avoided relegation and will live to fight another edition later this year.

Takarua is currently part of the Bowls New Zealand identification programme, effectively the second tier, and is seen as a prospective full international.

Takarua first broke onto the national scene when he won the New Zealand secondary school pairs title while a pupil at St Peters College in 2014.

In addition to the Bowls3five success last season, Takarua also won Auckland titles in the open triples, champion-of-champions singles and champion-of-champions fours.

But Takarua is not getting too ahead of himself. He is also involved in coaching in primary and intermediate schools in the Auckland area.

With the schools on holiday, it gives Takarua plenty of time for bowls.

And belying his youthfulness, Takarua said that he was really looking forward to his first Taranaki Open.

"It's a much more traditional format, the 25 ends. You can ease into it and be more conservative. You can be happy to go one down."

Takarua's side for this week comprises Phil Aitken, Steve Hoeft and Jeremy Brosnan. They cruised home 40-10 over Richard Meacle's Sunshine Coast team in the morning and were equally as decisive in beating the Riverhead's Mark Cameron 33-8.



Match of the morning — Winter v Carter

Two of the unbeaten teams that will square off this morning will be Takaro's Doug Winter and Hutt's John Carter.

Winter plays with Pat Edwards, Trevor Butcher and Dave Adams. They had a memorable day at Oakura yesterday, beating two strong sides, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) 25-18 and Neil Clarke (Hillcrest) 29-28.

Carter, with his usual side of Bruce Woodhouse, Don McMurray and Bill Jackson, defeated Terry Mullin (Pihama) 28-12 and Alan Niwa (Okato) 25-18. Carter's side made it into the last 16 in 2019.

The Winter-Carter clash will take place at Paritutu A.

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Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

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Picking a winner only for the brave hearted

Anyone brave enough to pick a winner of the 115th Taranaki men's Open fours has received little assistance from the first two day's play.

A number of the top teams have bowled successfully through the first four rounds, posting convincing wins in all the matches. There has been the odd loss one of the guns have incurred, but on the whole the excellent conditions have generally seen the better performed teams come through.

The biggest casualty to date has been Cary Pinker's Wanganui East team. They have featured regularly in the closing stages of the event, but any hopes of repeating last year's quarterfinal berth evaporated when

they lost both games. After a loss on Monday, it meant good night nurse.



Cary Pinker (bowling) kept his head down, but John Carter (standing) took the win.

20 years service from Reesby and Law

Two of the most familiar faces doing the job.

going around the greens of this year's Open are engagement officers Max Reesby and John Law.

Reesby, of Waimea, and Law, who has previously belonged to Port View and Paritutu, were previously members of the Taranaki executive.

It was during those years that Reesby and Law became PROs, or Public Relations Officers, which involves going around all the greens and meeting all the players.

While the duo admitted that the work can be tiring, it can't have worn them out too much, as this is the 20 consecutive year that the pair have been

There are plenty of tasks that need their assistance and they have heard it all over the years. But overwhelmingly, the feedback about the Open and Taranaki bowls generally has been positive. "It's interesting. The same people recognise you more than you recognise them. It is good to be appreciated," Reesby said.

Law added that the duo have "had a lot of laughs and good times" in the role, but father time is catching up with them. During the week, the pair will visit every section and every location, spreading the good word and ensuring that all is

in order.

"A lot of the credit for the job we do must go to Auto City. They have always provided us with well groomed, modern cars," Reesby said.



FULL wrap on each section

Section 1: Andrew Bowden and his Parklands, Christchurch, side emerged as the only four winner. The morning effort came 24-23 over Ian Andrews (Paritutu) and they then sneaked home 26-25 over Mark Skelton (Sunshine Coast) in the afternoon. Andrews got back on track with an afternoon win, as did the veteran Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), who had fallen 23-22 to Dennis Layden (Sunshine Coast) in the morning. Layden, after two losses on Monday, won twice, but it was the opposite for Bill Barwood (Claudelands).

Section 2: Marty Doak (Far North RSA) has been a long-standing supporter of the Open and that loyalty was rewarded yesterday when his side won both of its game to have four wins. Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden) was untroubled once more in both games. Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast) is doing a reasonable job on behalf of the Australian contingent with three wins.

Section 3: Keith Ansell (New Lynn) and John Carter (Hutt) both maintained their unbeaten records on the Paritutu front green. Ansell had a particularly good morning round win, 26-18, over Paul Matheson (Halswell). Matheson, who welcomed back Kevan Greenwood yesterday, is still handily placed on three wins, but doesn't have an easy road home, including a match against Carter this afternoon. Carter ended the hopes of Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) in the fourth round, the 24-21 result ending the hopes of last year's quarter-finalists.

Section 4: Being completely dominated by three sides all of whom have four wins – Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay) and Craig De Faria (West End). From a points scored perspective, De Faria has been the slightly more impressive, hitting 30 in all four wins. Of the remaining nine teams in the group, four have two wins but still face an uphill task to advance.

Who has won how many after day two

Standings after day two in the 115th Open:

Section 1: four wins, Andrew Bowden (Parklands); three wins, Colin Boyle (Epsom), Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).

Section 2: four wins, Marty Doak (Far North RSA), Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden); three wins, Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast), Allan Bridger (Johnsonville), Kelvin Bishop (West End).

Section 3: four wins, John Carter (Hutt), Keith Ansell (New Lynn); three wins, Neil Candy (West End), Doug Winter (Takaro), Neil Earley (Inglewood), Neil Clarke (Hillcrest), Paul Matheson (Halswell).

Section 4: four wins, Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay), Craig De Faria (West End); three wins, none.

Section 5: four wins, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Geoff Hawken (Gold Coast); three wins, Danny Watt (Lepperton), Darren Scott (West End), Ray Keen (Blockhouse Bay).

Section 6: four wins, Davey Payne (Mairangi Bay), Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway); three wins, Neil Fisher (Sunshine Coast), Gerard Slattery (Tui Park).

Section 7: four wins, Kevin Smith (Hinuera); three wins, Bruce Lilley (West End), Denis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach), John Claydon (Masterton), Paul Hassall (Tawa), Taylor Horn (Mangere).

Section 8: four wins, Dennis Brewster (Whanarei), Peter Belliss (Aramoho); three wins, Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay), Grant Pease (Fitzroy), Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South).

Section 9: four wins, Bruce Phillips (Tower), Colin Young (Te Kuiti); three wins, Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), Bill Johnston (Fitzroy), Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay), Kerry Bishop (Motueka).

Section 10: four wins, Ray Park (Wanganui), Terry Osment (Johnsonville); three wins, Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe).

Section 11: four wins, Ross Thorn (Naenae), Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Paul Darbyshire (Northern); three wins, Bruce Stewart (Havelock North), Brody Dix (Papakura), Frank Pollock (Hawera Park).

Section 12: four wins, Garry Banks (Beach Haven), Darren Goodin (Paritutu); three wins, Don Ramsey (Pukekohe), Brian Little (Palmerston North).

Section 5: The two family teams, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) – who's team includes Steve "O'Sullivan" Sabine – and Geoff Hawken (Gold Coast) were both untroubled on day two. Danny Watt (Lepperton) and came from behind twice to be handily placed on three wins. The morning effort, after trailing 17-2, was 25-22 over Ray Keen (Blockhouse Bay). Keen's side, however, kept in touch with a narrow 30-29 afternoon win.

Section 6: Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway) and David Payne (Mairangi Bay) continued successfully through the day to have four wins. Dan Delany (Royal Oak) suffered his second loss, going down in the third round 26-18 to Gerrard Slattery (Tui Park). Slattery led 24-18 when the 1.30pm siren sounded. After both teams had won in the afternoon round, Slattery then completed win number three over Delany. Neil Fisher, pictured right, and his Sunshine Coast team finished the day with three wins.

Section 7: Kevin Smith (Hinuera) continued to give indications that the Waikato side is in form not dissimilar to that which saw them take the title in 2014. They remain unbeaten. The fourth round saw a 27-21 win over Ian Lowry (Rahotu), a result that ended the hopes of the Coastal team. Bruce Lilley (West End) nabbed two wins, albeit without his father Gary, who injured his leg preparing the greens in the morning. His place in the tournament has been taken by Bryce Koch. Taylor Horn (Mangere) and Denis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach) also won twice to sit comfortably on three wins, the same position as John Claydon (Masterton) who was tripped up by David Stachurski (Inglewood) after lunch.

Section 8: Two very good visiting sides, Peter Belliss (Aramoho) and Dennis Brewster (Whangarei), remain undefeated, with the Northland team especially being decisive during the opening two days. Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay) and Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) both lost their perfect records in the afternoon to stay on three wins.

Section 9: Colin Young (Te Kuiti) and Bruce Phillips (Tower) both continued their success-

ful starts and are now just two wins short of qualifying. Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay) added two wins, after Monday's loss to Phillips, including a morning-round 23-12 effort over Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), who also has had only one loss.



Section 10: Terry Osment (Johnsonville) and Ray Park (Wanganui) have both won the lot but that won't be the case after this morning's game. Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe) is the only three winner, although a host of useful sides are battling on two wins, including Richie Muir (Wanaka), Peter Bovey (Central Levin) and John Sexton (West End).

Section 11: In the bottom half of the section, Ross Thorn (Naenae), Dan Dickison (Tauranga) and Paul Darbyshire (Northern) all have had four wins. The latter two teams meet Brody Dix (Papakura) today, although the 2018 champion kept in touch with two wins to be halfway to qualifying. The fourth round win was a close 20-18 win over Noel Probyn, which ended the hopes of the Fitzroy team.

Section 12: The two unbeaten teams, Garry Banks (Beach Haven) and Darren Goodin (Paritutu), meet this morning at Fitzroy. The duo squared off in the second round of post section last year, with Goodin just sneaking in at the death. Brian Little (Palmerston North) and Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) also notched two wins to sit on three wins.

Wayne Sellars returns to the Taranaki Open

After an absence of 31 years, Wayne Sellars is back playing in the Taranaki men's Open fours.

Sellars was a household name in New Zealand bowls through the 1970s and 1980s. Wayne's late father, Vic, represented New Zealand at the 1976 World Bowls and won the Dominion singles (1973) and pairs (1972).

Wayne emerged from the shadow of his father and became a highly talented and successful player in his own right. He is a Manawatu double gold star holder, was the unbeaten singles player when Manawatu carried off the NZ intercentre title in 1980 and represented the North Island.

"It's great to be back in Taranaki," Sellars said, while leading for a Johnston Park, Feilding, team skipped by Bruce Harris.

"There is not the stress with bowls any more. I'm really enjoying the greens back here."

While being a Manawatu stalwart, Sellars was transferred to New Plymouth, where he managed Briscoes, in the early 1980s. He joined the Paritutu club and managed to win the champion-of-champion pairs with Toby Andrews.

His last moments on the green were also noteworthy. Playing with Bryan Sanger — the now much-adored barman at Paritutu — Wayne Hopson and the late Allen Robson,



Sellars, at No 3, made the final of the 1989 Open. Unfortunately, the side lost to Johnsonville's Maurice Symes, who's team included John Earles, who is also taking part in this year's event.

Shortly after, Sellars, with a young family, gave bowls away, before returning more casually to the game a decade ago, initially with Northern and then with Johnston Park.

Sellars' Johnston Park team, which also includes Greg Oldridge and Greg Taylor, has managed three wins from the opening two days play.

Match of the morning — Park v Osment

In the clash of the unbeaten teams, this morning at Vogeltown A, Wanganui's Ray Park, who won the Open in 2005 and was runner-up in 1982, meets Terry Osment, who hails from Te Awamutu, but skips a Johnsonville side. Both teams have marched swiftly through the first two days and each have four wins.

The Osment side, more of less, have played together for many, many years, and the established unit of Adrian Cronin, Brian Cleaver and Dick Williams — all Wellington titleholders — are united again this year. Park's team includes Michael O'Leary, Bernard Anderson and the 2006 Dominion singles winner, Alan Dickson.

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Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 23, 2020

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Delany bows out as nine qualify without a loss

Dan Delany is the most successful post World War two bowler in the Taranaki men's Open fours.

The former Black Jack — he represented New Zealand at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the same year he won the Dominion pairs — has won the Open four times. The most recent of those victories was in 2012 and in 2017 he was runner-up.

But those lofty heights will not be repeated this time. His Royal Oak side suffered loss number three yesterday morning, 19-17, to Davey Payne (Mairangi Bay) to end all hopes.

Delany's side joined Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), who exited on Tuesday, and Neil Fisher (Sunshine Coast) as the more prominent quartets to miss qualification. Some other big names are still battling, too.

But there are nine sides breathing easy after they made it six straight: Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden), Craig De Faria (West End), Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Geoff Hawken (Gold Coast), Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway), Dennis Brewster (Whangarei), Bruce Phillips (Tower), Ray Park (Wanganui) and Darren Goodin

(Paritutu).

After the last two section rounds are completed today, it is estimated that approximately 40 teams will have secured the necessary six wins.

Section wraps:

Section 1: Significant changes took place on day three, with Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach) and Colin Boyle (Epsom) the two sides to emerge with the brightest chances of qualifying. Both won two more to now sit just one win shy. However, Andrew Bowden (Parklands) dropped both matches and will meet Bill Barwood (Claudelands) this morning at West End in a sudden-death clash. Ian Andrews (Paritutu) was also tripped up in the morning, going down to Bill Foley (New Plymouth) 25-23, meaning his side also needs both games today. Consistent visitor Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), after suffering narrow losses to Holmes and Barwood, exited the event.

Section 2: Somewhat inevitably Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden) continued on without too many difficulties to qualify. Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast) made it five on the trot.

Finals this year to be held at Paritutu

Bowls Taranaki Executive Officer Peter Scott has announced that this year's finals will be held at Paritutu.

"The tournament committee have been around all of the greens and the consensus is that Paritutu provides the best overall greens."

All of the post section play in

both the fours — from Friday to Sunday — and the pairs — Saturday and Sunday — will be at Paritutu.

All three Paritutu greens have been used during section play of the fours and it is anticipated that all three will be used during post section at some time.

"We tip our hats to the greenkeepers at all the clubs who have done an excellent job this year."

Paritutu last hosted the finals in 2018. Specifically, the finals will be played on the A green, which has been in pristine condition all season with good pace.

After a loss in the morning to Allan Bowler (Frankton Junction), Marty Doak (Far North RSA) sneaked through by one point in the afternoon despite the last end being killed five times against Paritutu's Gavin Crow. There was delight for Bowls NZ CEO Mark Cameron when his Riverhead side secured its maiden victory in the sixth round.

Section 3: Not surprisingly the powerful section has no six winners. Keith Ansell (New Lynn) and John Carter (Hutt) both won in the morning to stand on five, but Carter was out-pointed 27-15 by Paul Matheson (Halswell) – the fifth win for the team from the mainland. Ansell also lost, 25-21, to Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), who had exited on Tuesday but illustrated their talent on Wednesday, having taken down Neil Clarke in the morning. Neil Candy (West End) also finished the day on five wins.

Section 4: Craig De Faria (West End) struggled for parts of his afternoon clash against John Niwa (Waitara), receiving the toughest

test of the week to date. But the De Faria crew prevailed 29-23, a result that ended the hopes of the former Manawatu rugby rep. Anton Ferrari (Naenae) lost his unbeaten record in the morning, being beaten 20-18 by Dion Davis (Kaikohe), but made amends after lunch. However, after four wins on the first two day's play, Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay) lost both, the second to Benny Hill's Hinds side, a result that kept that team alive on four wins.

Section 5: The only section to provide two qualifiers to date – with Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) and Geoff Hawken (Gold Coast) both sleeping easily last night. Hawken ended the qualifying hopes of Ray Keen (Blockhouse Bay) in the afternoon, but not before a fight, the family side sneaking through 28-26. There was merit in the afternoon win from O'Sullivan, with the side inflicting the second defeat of the week so far on David Hood (Kerikeri). Darren Scott (West End) has quietly gone about his work, his side now within one game of qualifying.

Who has won how many after day three?

Section 1: six wins, nil; five wins, Colin Boyle (Epsom), Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach); four wins, Scotty McGavin (Bulls), Andrew Bowden (Parklands), Bill Barwood (Claudelands), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).

Section 2: six wins, Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden); five wins, Marty Doak (Far North RSA), Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast); four wins, Allan Bridger (Johnsonville), Kelvin Bishop (West End).

Section 3: six wins, nil; five wins, Neil Candy (West End), John Carter (Hutt), Keith Ansell (New Lynn), Paul Matheson (Halswell); four wins, Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri), Neil Earley (Inglewood), Neil Clarke (Hillcrest), Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth).

Section 4: six wins, Craig De Faria (West End); five wins, Anton Ferrari (Naenae); four wins, Allan Hill (Hinds), Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay).

Section 5: six wins, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Geoff Hawken (Gold Coast); five wins, Darren Scott (West End); four wins, Danny Watt (Lepperton), David Hood (Kerikeri), Aad Schrader (Okato).

Section 6: six wins, Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway); five wins, Bruce Harris (Johnston Park), Davey Payne (Mairangi Bay), Gerrard Slattey (Tui Park); four wins, Graham Baxter (Hawera Park).

Section 7: six wins, nil; five wins, Kevin Smith (Hinuera), John Claydon (Masterton), Paul Hassall (Tawa), Taylor Horn (Mangere); four wins, Joe Johanson (Bay View), Bruce Lilley (West End), Denis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach).

Section 8: six wins, Dennis Brewster (Whangarei); five wins, Peter Belliss (Aramoho); four wins, Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay), Paul Clegg (Hawera Park), Garry Murfitt (West End), Grant Pease (Fitzroy).

Section 9: six wins, Bruce Phillips (Tower); five wins, Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay), Colin Young (Te Kuiti); four wins, Kerry Bishop (Motueka), Bill Johnston (Fitzroy).

Section 10: six wins, Ray Park (Wanganui); five wins, Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe), Terry Osment (Johnsonville); four wins, John Sexton (West End), Jim Priest (Oakura).

Section 11: six wins, nil; five wins, Brody Dix (Pukekohe), Ross Thorn (Naenae), Dan Dickison (Tauranga); four wins, Bruce Stewart (Havelock North), Frank Pollock (Hawera Park), Paul Darbyshire (Northern).

Section 12: six wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu); five wins, Brian Little (Palmerston North); four wins, Don Ramsey (Pukekohe), Garry Banks (Beach Haven), Rodney Woods (Opunake).

Section 6: Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway) enjoyed a comfortable day, beating Chris Barrett (Fitzroy) 29-11 and then ousting Neil Fisher (Sunshine Coast) from the event 27-14. However, Davey Payne (Mairangi Bay), after a splendid run, narrowly missed out on win number six, losing 28-23 to Bruce Harris (Johnston Park). It meant both sides finished the day on five wins, the same as Gerrard Slattery (Tui Park).

Section 7: After receiving the commentator's curse, Kevin Smith (Hinuera) lost 24-22 in the morning to Joe Johanson (Bay View), a result that kept the hopes of the Hawke's Bay side alive. However, Smith got win No 5 emphatically in the afternoon. Taylor Horn (Mangere) scored an important 28-23 win over Bruce Lilley (West End) in the morning and also prevailed in the afternoon against dangerous David Stachurski (Inglewood). Horn is joined on five wins by Paul Hassall (Tawa) and John Claydon (Masterton).

Section 8: The major surprise of the day came in the sixth round when Peter Belliss (Aramoho), after five straight wins, lost 32-16 to Brent Mason (Takaro). It was Mason's first win in the event. Dennis Brewster's Whangarei team headed the section with six wins, the last one was 26-20 over Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay). It left Wech, the former North Harbour rep, needing two wins today to qualify. Paul Clegg (Hawera Park) also remains a chance.

Section 9: Bruce Phillips (Tower) came through a hard day with two wins. The first was 23-21 over Colin Young (Te Kuiti), who's side still managed to get its fifth win after lunch, and then 22-20 over Ross Clark (Manaia). There is a tense clash between two four winners in the afternoon, the 25-23 triumph by Daniel Geaney's Blockhouse Bay side giving them a slightly more comfortable night's sleep than that of Kerry Bishop's Motueka team. Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) is on track to qualify after five wins.

Section 10: Tournament veteran Jim Priest (Oakura) picked up a drawn eight on the fourth end of his afternoon clash against Richie Muir (Wanaka). It was crucial in the final analysis, too, with Priest getting win number four 27-24. That spelt the end for Muir's side, which included Barry Sullivan. Ray Park

(Wanganui) notched up the necessary wins, although the sixth was challenging at times against Peter Bovey (Central Levin). The morning feature game, against Terry Osment (Johnsonville) was one-sided, with Park winning 26-7. But Osment put the disappointment behind him to finish on five wins, the same as Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe).

Section 11: All three teams that headed into the day with four wins were undone in the morning round. Ross Thorn (Naenae) lost 20-19 to the 2002 winner Bruce Stewart (Havelock North), pictured below; Dan Dickison (Tauranga) went down 25-17 to the 2018 winner Brody Dix (Papakura); while Paul Darbyshire (Northern) was edged 30-28 by Frank Pollock (Hawera Park). Thorn and Dickison (26-19 over Stewart) both returned to the winners circle in the afternoon and should qualify comfortably. Elsewhere, Dix got the nod over Darbyshire 28-25.



Section 12: Darren Goodin (Paritutu) took the direct route by beating Garry Banks (Beach Haven) 33-16 and Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) 26-18. Both the northern visitors finished the day on four wins, with Banks also succumbing in the afternoon to Brian Little (Palmerston North) 25-7. Little's team, comprising Eric Cairncross, Brian Looker and Ian Monaghan – who won the Wairarapa open singles on Sunday – have recovered from a loss on Monday to be well placed on five wins. The under-rated Opunake side headed by Rodney Woods also gave themselves a chance of qualifying by posting two wins.

John Murtagh recalls the 580 teams from 1980

Even though the Taranaki men's Open fours bowls event isn't the same size that it used to be, it still remains a huge tournament, relative to the changing society, says John Murtagh, the 1978 winner.

Murtagh hasn't played bowls since 2004, but still takes a keen interest in the game and the Open, and yesterday, at the request of the author, shared memories of the 1980 tournament, which was the 75th jubilee. That year a record 580 teams took part and Murtagh played in the final, losing to Seatoun's Murray George.

Back then Murtagh said that "the Ranfurly Shield wasn't any bigger in terms of its impact on local society."

"The whole city basically stopped and embraced the tournament. The public were interested and spoke to strange bowlers – it was the compatibility of it all."

The organisation of tournament, almost flawless, was a huge factor, but the sociability was brilliant. "Everybody was happy. Afterwards, there was standing room only in the clubrooms."

Nowadays, players are more likely to have a couple, and then head home.

"Car parking always became a huge problem around the time of the finals. You had to walk miles and then struggled to view it."

There was plenty of dramas in the 1980 event, when Murtagh's late father, Ken, collapsed and was taken away by ambulance during the early rounds of post section. He was dehydrated and returned to the team, but John took over the skipping.

The Paritutu team was the same side that won in 1978, with Murray Fisher and Dave Baldwin – "I played like a clown in that final" – and they held a slender advantage as the 1980 final neared its conclusion, until a fateful end. After the jack had been trailed to the side of the rink, Murtagh junior found himself four down on the changeover. He drove and missed. George added another. Murtagh then committed "the cardinal sin" of drawing with his last and missing again. George added the sixth and the title swung to the



George's side of Tony Spiller, Bill Lahood and John Lambert, who passed away six months ago.

"It was inexperience from me, I guess," Murtagh said. "This chopping and changing shots – that's only for the good players."

"It was always considered a big thing to win the Open – and it still is. People forget the winners of most things, but not the Open winners."

* Among the players who have taken part this week who also played in 1980 are: Wayne Sellars, John Earles, Ian Jamieson, Alex Rid-dock, Ian Spurdle, Don Gyde, Kearin Pollard, Jim Priest, Des Lowry, Greg Brien, David Ben-nett, Peter Berge, Neil Paterson, John Dick, Nelson West and Rodger Hassall. The latter two have maintained an unbroken attendance since the 75th jubilee.

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Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 24, 2020

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Dreams alive for 41 teams, other hopes dashed

As the first half of the 115th Taranaki men's Open fours came to a conclusion yesterday, 41 teams kept their hopes alive of claiming the biggest prize in provincial New Zealand bowls.

There were some relieved quartets after they made it through, while others were left frustrated after surprising defeats.

But the consensus remains: a criteria of six wins from eight matches — which the Taranaki weather permitted this year — is very tough, but also richly rewarding for those making it through.

Last year's runner-up Brian Little (Palmerston North) racked up win number six in the morning, beating Ray Williams (Sunshine Coast) 27-12. Both Ross Thorn (Naenae) and Dan Dickison (Tauranga) also were untroubled in registering their sixth wins as well. It was the same for Peter Belliss (Aramoho) who trounced Dick Winter (Waimea) 38-3.

Regular visitor Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), who won the pairs in 2012, overturned a 17-5 deficit to beat Jim Rowe (West End) 27-18 to ensure qualification for the Wanganui side.

But there was no joy for Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay). After a morning win, he still needed another to get through, but was never really in the hunt against West End's Craig De Faria.

Da Faria's champion side from 2019 completed a perfect eight-from-eight in section play with a 25-9 victory.

There were some surprising last round defeats by teams needing a sixth win. In section 11, two past winners, Bruce Stewart (Havelock North) and Brody Dix (Pukekohe), both exited. Stewart was ousted 24-19 by Michael Feek (Mt Albert), who couldn't qualify, and Dix went down 26-22 to Logan Palmer (Wanganui East), who had

also exited earlier in the week.

At West End, two five winners, Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri) and Neil Earley (Inglewood), went for it. It was Glogoski who repeated his qualification from the previous year, winning 27-17.

After being beaten by Bruce Lilley (West End) 22-18 in the morning, Kevin Smith (Hinuera) got through 20-10 over Allan Batley (Paritutu). Lilley also joined post section when he edged out Ian Lowry (Rahotu) 25-23 in the final game. But Denis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach) missed out 24-4 to John Claydon (Masterton) who had already qualified in the morning.

Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) made it through once again after his side posted two comfortable wins on the last day. But in the same section, on the Paritutu C green, Garry Banks (Beach Haven) and Rodney Woods (Opunake) both lost in the last round and were left stranded on five wins.

Two other local teams also missed out. John Sexton (West End), after an excellent morning win over Ray Park (Wanganui), who had already qualified, was undone 26-21 by Mo Kelly (Fitzroy). While Jim Priest, playing on his home Oakura green, fell just short of Terry Osment (Johnsonville), who had already made it through, 25-20.

Kelvin Bishop (West End), a semifinalist in 2016, needed the last game to get through. Despite a sterling effort, the side came up slightly short against Aiden Takarua (Glen Eden) 28-22. A consolation for Bishop was that his side got the closest to Takarua in section play.

Bill Johnston (Fitzroy) also had the agony of missing out. He missed out 24-23 to Bill Cooper (Levin), who finished on three wins. On an adjacent rink, Colin Young (Te Kuiti) was also ousted, bowing out to Coombe. That had followed a morning loss to 24-22 to Trevor Murtha (Omarunui).

De Faria to meet Takarua in opening round

The feature opening round clash in post section this morning will undoubtedly be the game on the Paritutu A green between two sides who whistled through section play with eight straight wins — Craig De Faria (West End) and Aiden Takarua.

Takarua plays for the Pt Chevalier club, although the composite Auckland side has been entered under the Glen Eden this week.

Glen Eden is the home club of the No 3, Jeremy Brosnan. Completing the Auckland side are Phil Aitken and Steve Hoeft.

De Faria's side is the same one that triumphed in last year's event — Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker.

Two of the favoured teams meeting so early in post section is a common occurrence, with the open nature of the draw.

It means, of course, that one of the teams will be eliminated by lunchtime. Seeding the draws is almost unheard of in bowls in this country. Although in past generations, byes were given to the highest performing teams in qualifying.

Many years ago, post section in the Taranaki Open was operated on a two-life system to be "fairer" to the best section play teams. But the rule was changed after Son Maslin defeated Roy Boulton in the third final (one game was drawn) in 1942.

Fours post section and pairs section play for Friday

Post section draw for the 115th Taranaki men's Open fours on January 24:

Section 1, at Paritutu A:

Round 1 (9am start): R Thorn (Naenae) v R Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), A Takarua (Glen Eden) v C De Faria (West End), R Park (Wanganui) v T Horn (Mangere), M Doak (Far North RSA) v M Cavanagh (Pukekohe).

Round 2 (9am start): A Bridger (Johnsonville) v D Brewster (Whangarei), K Smith (Hinuera) v A Wishnoski (New Lynn), R Meacle (Sunshine Coast) v B Little (Palmerston North).

Round 2 (report 12.30pm): S Liddington (Frankton Railway) v T Osment (Johnsonville), D Goodin (Paritutu) v G Slattery (Tui Park), J Carter (Hutt) v C Boyle (Epsom).

Section 2, at Paritutu B:

Round 1 (9am start): N Candy (West End) v K Coombe (Aramoho), P Belliss (Aramoho) v D Geaney (Blockhouse Bay), P Matheson (Halswell) v R Glogoski (Kerikeri), G O'Sullivan (Inglewood) v D Payne (Mairangi Bay), D Ramsey (Pukekohe) v D Hood (Kerikeri).

Round 2 (9am start): J Claydon (Masterton) v A Ferrari (Naenae), B Harris (Johnston Park) v P Clegg (Hawera Park).

Round 2 (report 12.30pm): G Hawken (Gold Coast) v B Phillips (Tower), B Barwood (Claudelands) v B Lilley (West End), P Hassall (Tawa) v I Andrews (Paritutu), D Dickison (Tauranga) v Candy/Coombe winner.

Round 2 winners will play only one game.

Section play draw for the Open fours-pairs on January 24 (all starting at 8.45am):

Section 1, at West End 1: A Bowden (Parklands), S Alchin (West End), C Carter (Parklands), M Paton (Orewa), B Mason (Takaro), R Higginson (Orewa), C Horo (Rahotu), R Gadsby (Fitzroy), P Digby (Stratford-Avon), J Dick (Marton), M Healey (New Plymouth), M Hori (Paritutu), M Hamlin (Stratford-Avon), P Berge (West End).

Section 2, at West End 2: S Richards (Kaikohe), J Rona (Composite), D Davis (Kaikohe), M Jones (Hillcrest), R Drummond (Fitzroy), T Gray (Hillcrest), M Stieller (Stratford-Avon), S Robinson (Omarunui), G Hodges (Havelock North), J Leckner (Omarunui), B Foley (New Plymouth), G Crow (Paritutu), G Fulford (Havelock North), M Grace (Hinds).

Section 3, at Waimea: L Abric (NSW), B Jackson (Oakura), G Rossiter (NSW), G Nisbett (Seatoun), D Stachurski (Inglewood), R Larson (Seatoun), K Souto (Paritutu), K Bishop (Motueka), N Nelson (West End), J Prior (Motueka), M Peek (Waimea), K Crawford (Paritutu), L Hori (New Plymouth), G Barber (Paritutu).

Section 4, at Vogeltown A: I McMurchy (Kensington), N Hill (Royal Oak), J Taylor (Managatapere), C McKellar (Te Kuiti), M Hughes (Karitane), C Young (Te Kuiti), B Dix (Papakura), S Stuart (West End), T Johns (Paritutu), J Sexton (West End), M Scott (Nelson), C Fleming (Portland), B Read (Paritutu), K Kenny (Wait.).

Section 5, at Vogeltown B: M Bridgeland (Massey Ave), K Sellers (Vogeltown), B Edwards (Massey Ave), G Johnstone (Hokonui), J Roberts (Waitara), R Muir (Wanaka), J Finnigan (Paritutu), E Hau (Far North RSA), J Priest (Oakura), T Campbell (Far North RSA), G Murfitt (West End), J Murray (Sunshine Coast), K Smith (Oakura), C Brookes (West End).

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Saturday, January 25, 2020

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De Faria remains on track to go back-to-back

After two rounds of post section and the reduction of the field to 16 sides on Friday, Craig De Faria and his West End team remain on track to defend their title.

Going back-to-back is an exceedingly difficult task. And if De Faria and his side of Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker are to do it, they have many top bowls still to play.

They received their toughest test of the week to date in the second round, finally beating the 2006 Dominion fours winner, Ross Thorn (Naenae), 27-23, in a game that finished at 8.15pm.

De Faria led throughout the contest, except the 8th end when Thorn squeezed in front 8-7. But De Faria took consecutive fours after that to establish a lead he would not relinquish.

Thorn would close the margin, but De Faria would edge away again. After 22 ends, the game was still wide open, with De Faria leading 24-21.

Linn and Walker crucially drew shots, West End scoring a brace. A single on the next created a six shot deficit on the last end.

It brought down the curtain on a very solid week for Thorn and his side of Robbie Yemm, Peter Ballinger and Lou Newman. They qualified through a strong section and had earlier posted a comfortable 24-13 win over Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach).

De Faria's feature morning game, against Aiden Takarua (Glen Eden), was a long, drawn-out affair, that didn't finish until 2.20pm. The scores were locked at 8-all after 12 ends, but De Faria took 14 shots on the next seven heads to take control.

De Faria's opponent this morning is Pukekohe's Mike Cavanagh, who won impressively twice.



In his first Taranaki Open, Lawrence Quek has made it into the last 16 as a member of Paul Matheson's Halswell side.

Cavanagh defeated Marty Doak (Far North RSA) 32-10 in the morning and then backed it up with a 27-18 win over Taylor Horn (Mangere) in the afternoon.

Cavanagh had looked home and hosed when leading 21-9 after 18 ends. But Horn fought back, the score five ends later being 21-18. However, Cavanagh then sewed it up with a three on the penultimate head.

Cavanagh is one of two Pukekohe sides in the last 16, with Don Ramsey making it through for the second-straight year.

Ramsey was also required to play two matches, accounting for David Hood (Kerikeri) 23-14 and Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) 25-20. O'Sullivan led 20-16 after 19 ends, but Ramsey won the rest of the heads to advance.

• To page two.

• **From page one.**

Ramsey's opponent this morning is Canterbury representative, Paul Matheson (Halswell). Matheson ended the hopes of Peter Belliss (Aramoho) in the second round 28-21, after earlier needing an extra end to edge Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri) 19-18.

Against Belliss, Matheson trailed 11-8 after nine ends. But a mid-game scoring spree changed the dynamics completely, with Matheson opening up a 23-12 lead.

Taranaki president Ian Andrews kept his hopes alive after a hard-fought 27-21 victory over Paul Hassall (Tawa), who had squeezed in front by one shot after 19 ends.

Andrews meets the talented Tauranga side skipped by Dan Dickison this morning. Dickison defeated Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) 27-15 in his only match of the day.

The back green witnessed two one-side games in the afternoon. Bruce Lilley (West End), coasted home 27-8 in just 17 ends over Bill Barwood (Claudelands), while Bruce Phillips (Tower) was a 26-1 victor over the Hawken family team, which David took over

skipping on the day. Only 15 ends were played there.

Phillips meets Lilley this morning, and the winner of that clash will square off this afternoon with the victor in the Anton Ferrari (Naenae)-Paul Clegg (Hawera Park) game.

Both teams established good leads in their only game of the day and held on.

On the other side of the draw, besides De Faria and Cavanagh, Paritutu's Darren Goodin will meet Hutt's John Carter, Brian Little (Palmerston North) tackles Terry Osment (Johnsonville) and Dennis Brewster (Whangarei) plays Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn).

Goodin needed consecutive fours, on ends 16 and 17, to take the lead against Gerrard Slattery (Tui Park), eventually prevailing 22-19, while Carter assumed early control against Colin Boyle (Epsom) in his 27-14 triumph.

Wishnoski looked dead and buried when his side trailed Kevin Smith (Hinuera) 21-12 with six ends remaining. But they reverted to full-length heads to win 25-21.

Results from day five

Post section results for the 115th Taranaki men's Open fours on January 24:

Section 1, at Paritutu A:

Round 1: R Thorn (Naenae) 24 R Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach) 13, C De Faria (West End) 24 A Takarua (Glen Eden) 14, T Horn (Mangere) 22 R Park (Wanganui) 21, M Cavanagh (Pukekohe) 32 M Doak (Far North RSA) 10. **Round 2:** D Brewster (Whangarei) 24 A Brider (Johnsonville) 10, A Wishnoski (New Lynn) 25 K Smith (Hinuera) 21, B Little (Palmerston North) 22 R Meacle (Sunshine Coast) 13, T Osment (Johnsonville) 23 S Liddington (Frankton Railway) 15, D Goodin (Paritutu) 22 G Slattery (Tui Park) 19, J Carter (Hutt) 27 C Boyle (Epsom) 14, De Faria 27 Thorn 23, Cavanagh 27 Horn 18.

Section 2, at Paritutu B:

Round 1: K Coombe (Aramoho) 24 N Candy (West End) 23, P Belliss (Aramoho) 36 D Geaney (Blockhouse Bay) 22, P Matheson (Halswell) 19 R Glogoski (Kerikeri) 18, G O'Sullivan (Inglewood) 27 D Payne (Mairangi Bay) 15, D Ramsey (Pukekohe) 23 D Hood (Kerikeri) 14. **Round 2:** A Ferrari (Naenae) 27 J Claydon (Masterton) 20, P Clegg (Hawera Park) 26 B Harris (Johnston Park)

21, B Phillips (Tower) 26 G Hawken (Gold Coast) 1, B Lilley (West End) 27 B Barwood (Claudelands) 8, I Andrews (Paritutu) 27 P Hassall (Tawa) 21, D Dickison (Tauranga) 27 Coombe 15, Matheson 28 Belliss 21, Ramsey 25 O'Sullivan 20.

Draw for Saturday morning: Brewster v Wishnoski, Little v Osment, Goodin v Carter, De Faria v Cavanagh, Ferrari v Clegg, Phillips v Lilley, Andrews v Dickison, Matheson v Ramsey.

Draw for post section play in the Taranaki Open pairs at Paritutu C on January 25:

Round 1 (8.45am start): M Paton (Orewa) v M Hamlin (Stratford-Avon), K Crawford (Paritutu) v R Muir (Wanaka), G Hodges (Havelock North) v K Bishop (Motueka), M Bridgland (Massey Avenue) v G Rossiter (Tumut), B Edwards (Massey Avenue) v G Nisbett (Seatoun), J Priest (Oakura) v T Gray (Hillcrest), B Mason (Takaro) v G Fulford (Havelock North).

Round 2 (report 10.45am): B Dix (Papakura) v Mason/Fulford winner, E Hau (Far North RSA) v M Healey (New Plymouth), C Young (Te Kuiti) v J Sexton (West End), G Barber (Paritutu) v C Brookes (West End), R Higginson (Orewa) v A Bowden (Parklands).

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Sunday, January 26, 2020

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Even split of visitors and locals in semifinals

Two Taranaki sides and two visiting teams will battle it out for honours in the 115th Taranaki men's Open fours at Paritutu today. The two rounds of post section yesterday brought plenty of good bowls, although a somewhat surprising number of games were one-sided.

Only one of the quarterfinals went the full 25 ends, while in the morning round, just three of the eight matches went the distance.

And so this morning it will be Dennis Brewster (Whangarei) squaring off against Craig De Faria (West End) and Bruce Phillips (Tower) playing Paul Matheson (Halswell).

Brewster's side of Donald Cameron, Steven Mitchell and Bart Robertson had to work hard to win both its games during the day.

In the quarterfinals they accounted for Brian Little (Palmerston North) 22-14, thanks to four threes in the second half of the game.

Little led 11-7 after 14 ends. However, two ends later the scores were even. After 20 ends, there was still a deadlock at 14-all. But Brewster with counts of 3-1-3-1, took the match.

Despite the loss, Little continues to compile a remarkable record in the event. In the past 10 years he has won the Open once, been runner-up three times, and on two other occasions has made the quarterfinals.

De Faria was untroubled in beating Paritutu's Darren Goodin 18-6 in a low scoring game.

De Faria led 8-0 after six ends and never looked like being headed, with the Paritutu never settling into its rhythm. Conversely, the West End side continues to exhibit a growing self-belief, as it did in its march to victory last season.

Phillips broke free in the second half of his match against Anton Ferrari (Naenae), winning 30-15.

After 11 ends, Ferrari held a slender 10-9



Scott Roberts (Tower) gets one away smoothly in the quarterfinals.

lead but the next seven ends all went Phillips way. They catapulted his side of Mark Kuklinski, John Roberts and Scott Roberts into an unassailable 28-10 lead, as the confidence levels of the Tower side grew and the bowls around the head increased.

Matheson won through 23-21 over Dan Dickison (Tauranga) in the most interesting of the last eight games.

Matheson and his side of Darryl Hawker, Lawrence Quek and Kevan Greenwood held a 13-6 lead after 10 ends. However, Dickison won the next eight ends. Suddenly, his side had the lead at 17-13.

But in a perfect illustration of how scoring goes in runs, Matheson took the next six ends to carry a 23-17 into the last head.

Hawker threw a long jack, but after the leads and twos had played, Dickison held four. Greenwood managed to reduce the count by one and, after Matheson had got handy with his second, Dickison couldn't find a miracle.

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Brewster, De Faria and Little were involved in the pick of the morning games.

Brewster edged out the 2018 winner, Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn), 25-22. They gained great assistance from a five and a four during the game. The scores were level six times, including at 22-all after 23 ends. The Northland side then cribbed home with a single and a brace.

De Faria beat Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe) 19-15. De Faria edged ahead in the second half of the game after the teams had been inseparable for the first 13 ends. A three on the penultimate head gave De Faria a five-shot lead playing the last. Cavanagh had a sniff on the last, but De Faria knocked out two counters.

Little ended the hopes of Terry Osment (Johnsonville) 25-20, finishing with two singles and a two on the last three ends.

In the other morning games, Phillips accounted for Bruce Lilley (West End) 25-14, Dickison beat Ian Andrews (Paritutu) 30-17, Matheson overcame Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) 25-11, Ferrari was a 27-7 victor over Mark Dudley (Hawera Park), while Goodin outclassed John Carter (Hutt) 29-7.

Results from day six

Results of post section play in the 115th Taranaki men's Open fours at Paritutu on January 25:

Round 3: Dennis Brewster (Whangarei) 25 Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn) 22, Brian Little (Palmerston North) 25 Terry Osment (Johnsonville) 20, Darren Goodin (Paritutu) 29 John Carter (Hutt) 7, Craig De Faria (West End) 19 Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe) 15, Anton Ferrari (Wilton) 27 Mark Dudley (Hawera Park) 7, Bruce Phillips (Tower) 25 Bruce Lilley (West End) 14, Dan Dickison (Tauranga) 30 Ian Andrews (Paritutu) 17, Paul Matheson (Halswell) 25 Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) 11.

Quarterfinals: Brewster 22 Little 14, De Faria 18 Goodin 6, Phillips 30 Ferrari 15, Matheson 23 Dickison 21.

Semifinal draw for January 26 at Paritutu: Donald Cameron, Steven Mitchell, Bart Robertson, Dennis Brewster (Whangarei) v Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson, Steve Walker, Craig De Faria (West End), Mark Kuklinski, John Roberts, Scott Roberts, Bruce Phillips (Tower) v Darryl Hawker, Lawrence Quek, Kevan Greenwood, Paul Matheson (Halswell).

Visitors dominate pairs

Three visiting combinations are through to the semifinals of this morning's Open pairs event, which is open for non-qualifiers and non-participants in the fours to take part in.

The semifinals see Tom Malcolm and Richie Muir (Wanaka) play Glenn Newton and Brody Dix (Papakura), while Mark Tulip and Colin Young (Te Kuiti) meet a composite Taranaki duo of Gary Barber (Paritutu) and Paddy Deegan (Opunake).

Like the fours, the quarterfinal games tended to be one-sided.

Newton and Dix, who skipped the winning four in 2018, ousted Tony Gray (Hillcrest) 20-7.

Malcolm and Muir ended the last of the Australian hopes, Graeme Rossiter (Tumut, NSW), 21-9.

Barber and Deegan defeated Ross Higginson (Orewa) 27-10.

A mid-game six helped Tulip and Young to a 24-12 triumph over Michael Healey (New Plymouth).

Results of post section play in the Taranaki Open pairs at Paritutu C on January 25:

Round 1: M Paton (Orewa) 20 M Hamlin (Stratford-Avon) 9, R Muir (Wanaka) 25 K Crawford (Paritutu) 18, K Bishop (Motueka) 19 G Hodges (Havelock North) 13, G Rossiter (Tumut) 21 M Bridgland (Massey Avenue) 10, G Nisbett (Seatoun) 24 B Edwards (Massey Avenue) 10, T Gray (Hillcrest) 22 J Priest (Oakura) 16, G Fulford (Havelock North) 24 B Mason (Takaro) 15.

Round 2: Muir 23 Paton 16, Rossiter 23 Bishop 10, Gray 27 Nisbett 7, B Dix (Papakura) 19 Fulford 6, M Healey (New Plymouth) 22 E Hau (Far North RSA) 15, C Young (Te Kuiti) 18 J Sexton (West End) 7, G Barber (Paritutu) 22 C Brookes (West End) 5, R Higginson (Orewa) 21 A Bowden (Parklands) 15.

Round 3: Muir 21 Rossiter 9, Dix 20 Gray 7, Young 24 Healey 12, Barber 27 Higginson 10.

Semifinal draw for January 26 at Paritutu: Tom Malcolm/Richie Muir (Wanaka) v Glenn Newton/Brody Dix (Papakura), Mark Tulip/Colin Young (Te Kuiti) v Gary Barber (Paritutu)/Paddy Deegan (Opunake).

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Monday, January 27, 2020

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

Tower's title after thrilling final goes to overtime

Bruce Phillips has skipped his Tower side to victory in an enthralling final of the Taranaki men's Open fours at Paritutu on Sunday evening.

Phillips and his team of Mark Kuklinski, John Roberts and Scott Roberts took the overall honours in the week-long tournament when they beat a West End side skipped by Craig De Faria 22-20 in the decider, that didn't finish until 7.30pm.

The first all-Taranaki final since 2006 could not have been closer, with the two teams inseparable after the regulation 25 ends at 17-all.

But the Phillips side took the game 5-3 on the five extra ends that were required to find the winner. It was a valiant attempt by De Faria and his quartet of Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker who, after winning in 2019, were endeavouring to become just the fifth side in the 115 year history of the event to win it back-to-back.

In the final, all eight players had some good shot and some mediocre ones, with an inconsistent cross wind making play scrappy at times.

Although De Faria led for the majority of the game, the largest margin was only five shots after 10 ends.

Tower gradually narrowed the deficit, squaring the ledger after 15 ends.

A two on the next gave De Faria a slight advantage which West End looked to add to on the 17th head. They held three, but Phillips drew the shot. For the remainder of the regulation ends, only one shot separated the teams.

De Faria led by one playing the 25th end. John Roberts drew a beauty, and with Wilson close by, Tower took one to force the game into overtime.

On the first extra end, Phillips drew the shot when two down. The second extra end was a



Tower's John Roberts, Mark Kuklinski, Scott Roberts and Bruce Phillips — 2020 champions.

tie, with umpire David Brunton unable to separate the two closest bowls after excellent deliveries from both skips.

But the third extra end, which was nearly full length, was the clincher. Tower took a four with West End astray. West End replied with a single and, after two kills, a brace, but it was Tower's title.

There were extra celebrations for John Roberts, who became the second player in history to win 25 Taranaki titles. Phillips also brought up a milestone with 20, while Scott Roberts now has four and Kuklinski three.

It is the first Open fours title won by the Tower club, which was initially an amalgamation of the Hawera and Nolandown clubs. Alton joined the fold 18 months ago.

Alton last won the Open in 2013 — a side that included both John Roberts and Phillips — Nolandown triumphed in 2003, but the original Hawera club last won the holy grail in 1950.

Contrasting semifinals saw last visitors exit

The morning semifinals were contrasting affairs.

Bruce Phillips prevailed 27-15 over the Halswell side of Darryl Hawker, Lawrence Quek, Kevan Greenwood and skip Paul Matheson.

Matheson quickly found his weight in the game and after four ends the mainlanders led 7-0. However, assisted by a three and a four, Phillips' side trailed just 9-10 after 10 ends at the interval.

While they were a little fortunate to be so close, the Tower side lifted the performance over the next few ends, leading 16-11.

Matheson offered some retort, closing to 16-15 behind after 18 ends. However a four and a three on the next two ends put Phillips back in control, with Matheson not adding to his score.

In the other semi, Craig De Faria was in complete control throughout his match with Dennis Brewster's Whangarei quartet of Donald Cameron, Steve Mitchell and Bart Robertson. Brewster started with a two, but his next scor-

ing end was the 12th, by which time De Faria had raced to 19 shots. A four on the next end made it 23-3 to De Faria, with the official scorecard reading 25-6 at the conclusion.



Dave Wilson, Jordan Linn, Steve Walker and Craig De Faria, gallant and gracious in defeat, with Taranaki president, Ian Andrews.

Pairs title to Papakura's Newton and Dix

The New Plymouth Club-sponsored Open pairs event was won by Papakura's Glenn Newton and Brody Dix when they defeated Te Kuiti's Mark Tulip and Colin Young 19-12 in the final at Paritutu on Sunday.

The Te Kuiti pair held the advantage for the first half of the final, but the Papakura pair called the tune in the second half to win.

In the semifinals, Tulip and Young beat Gary Barber (Paritutu) and Paddy Deegan (Opunake) 24-16. The composite duo led 7-0 after five ends, but five ends later Te Kuiti were in front 12-7. They extended that to 18-9 after 14, but Barber and Deegan closed again to 18-16. However, Tulip and Young won the remaining ends to ensure victory.

In the other semi, Newton and Dix defeated Wanaka's Tom Malcolm and Richie Muir 20-15. Newton and Dix went on a mid-game scoring spree, going from 7-6 behind after nine ends to 16-8 in front. The Otago Central pair

fought back to 18-15 behind after 19 ends. However, the Papakura pair took singles on the last two ends.



Papakura's Brody Dix and Glenn Newton.