

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Monday, January 18, 2021

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## Positive increase in numbers, despite no Aussies

There will be a missing component to the 116th Taranaki men's Open fours that starts in north and central Taranaki today – no Australian teams.

Bowls Taranaki president, Ian Andrews, pictured right, said the non-attendance of the Australians was disappointing, but inevitable because of Covid-19 quarantine requirements.



"Their colour, exuberance and friendliness will certainly be missed. They have added much to the event over the last 15-or-so years and I, like many, yearn for a safer world and their return next season."

Aside from that, Andrews indicated it was all systems go for 2021.

There are 164 teams starting out this morning, a modest increase of four, but not altogether insignificant given that there were 11 Australian teams in 2020.

"The response from other parts of New Zealand is most pleasing."

The traditional format of two games of 25 ends each day remains, with four days of qualifying likely to whittle the field down to about 50 teams.

"That assumes that the weather plays its part," Andrews said.

Forecasters are predicting showers, and some rain, over the first four days. "Ensuring the right balance between enjoyment and comfort, versus getting through the games, is an age-old problem for bowls administrators. But player safety is paramount."

### Changes to the draw

The original draw of 166 teams has been slightly tweaked after the net withdrawal of two sides.

Following the untimely death of Barry Wynks, the Takaro team entered under Mark Noble's name elected to withdraw. Subsequently, another Takaro team, skipped by Brent Mason, also pulled out. Previously, Brent Stubbins (Johnsonville) had also made the unfortunate decision to withdraw.

Stubbins place in section five has been taken by Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier). Section seven has been reduced to 12 teams. Following the exit of Mason, Ivan Heal (West End) has been transferred over to Noble's place in section one.

"It's not ideal," Grant Hassall said. "But the only byes we want in this tournament are in the first round of post section."

### Beware of traffic delays

Roadworks between Inglewood and Stratford could cause traffic delays, the NZTA has warned.

Significant work is being undertaken at the Rugby Road underpass near Tariki and as a result of this, stop-go signs will be operated.

The NZTA has suggested that delays of up to 30 minutes may occur, although media reports in recent days have indicated that the time could in fact be longer.

While there are some alternative routes, these generally involve narrow country roads and one-lane bridges.

Organisers are encouraging all teams that are required to pass through to allow more time for their trip. "It's better to get there half an hour early, as opposed to half an hour late," Hassall suggested.

# Unknown teams pose plenty of risks

Part of the curiosity of a tournament like the Taranaki Open fours is the sense of the unknown. Inevitably, teams will tangle with opponents that they have never heard of. But often those unknowns become well-remembered. Scattered throughout the sections there are a number of big names and also those lesser known but potentially very dangerous. Standby for plenty of upsets during the week.

**Section 1:** The withdrawal of Mark Noble has created a much more even feel to the section, with Taranaki rep Stefan McCartain (Paritutu) — his No 3 is centre president Ian Andrews — one side looking to stamp their mark. Steven Brien (Stokes Valley) is a coming man in the Capital, Geoff Bovey knows how to win centre titles, while Steve Liddington (Hillcrest) — a protégé of the great Robbie Robson — and Peter Doreen (Far North RSA) present capable teams. Interest will also centre on Garry Banks (Ponsonby), who made the last 16 of the pairs in Auckland. His side includes both the current Bowls NZ CEO, Mark Cameron, and the Bowls NZ president, Mark O'Connor.

**Section 2:** The 2018 winner Brody Dix (Papakura), Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) and Ian Lowry (Rahotu) all feature regularly in post section, and the former two have also won the pairs. However, all three sides will meet each other, meaning the path will not be as clear this time. Of the locals, Paddy Deegan (Opunake) is a potential qualifier.

**Section 3:** Defending champion Bruce Phillips (Tower) returns with the same team as last year — Mark Kuklinski, John Roberts and Scott Roberts. They are a well-rounded side that will take some beating. But they don't have it easy. They start this morning with a match against the 2006 Dominion fours winner, Ross Thorn (Naenae), this afternoon comes the under-rated Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay) and tomorrow morning there is a game with Taranaki gold star holder, John Sexton (West End). But potentially Phillips' toughest assignment is in round seven against Dan Dickison (Tauranga).

**Section 4:** A good opening clash to watch will be between Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden) and Mark Anderson (Tower) at West End. Brosnan made the last 16 of the national singles recently, while Anderson is a dual winner of the Open. Also lurking in the section is Bart Robertson, with a similar side to the one which made it through to the money rounds in 2020. Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay) and Noel Probyn (Fitzroy) could surprise the more fancied teams.

**Section 5:** The addition of rising star Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier) will make a number of team's qualifying paths in the section more difficult. Takarua's team comprises Callum Height, a former Middleton Cup player in England; Colin Williams, who last week won the Auckland mixed pairs; and Alex Reed, who won the inaugural Bowls3five TV league with Takarua. Takarua's fourth round clash with fellow Auckland Keith Ansell (New Lynn) will be a keenly contested one. Dean Elgar (West End) remains one of the brightest chances of a local victory in the event, while Bruce Harris (Johnston Park) has a useful side.

**Section 6:** Neville Hill (Royal Oak) and Paul Matheson (Halswell) are both contenders — refer to page four for their match-up this morning. Former Bowls NZ chairman John Carter (Hutt) is a regular qualifier, as are Scotty McGavin (Bulls) and Ray Hudson (Central Levin).

**Section 7:** Picking a side to win the Open is highly challenging. But some pundits have suggested Raymond Martin — the 2020 Dominion pairs winner — could do that this year. After a long absence from his home city, Martin returns with a strong side, which includes Mike Carroll, Rod Leitch and Grant Wakefield. Teo Turua (Royal Oak) should feature strongly, while other competitive teams include Warwick Fredrickson (Blockhouse Bay), Grant Pease (Fitzroy), Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) and Steve Smith (Kensington).



**Section 8:** Over the last 10 years in the Open, Brian Little (Palmerston North) possesses an undeniable record — including a win, three runners-up and two quarterfinals. They are the team to beat in the section. There are teams capable, too. Included in this category are competitive northern teams Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay) and Don Ramsey (Pukekohe), along with Ian Mahoney (Central Levin). Anton Ferrari (Naenae) made the last eight in 2020. The section has in it a number of potentially dangerous Taranaki teams.

**Section 9:** West End's Craig De Faria is searching for his third successive final. Having been the winner in 2019 and runners-up in 2020 (and then only after five extra ends), De Faria is a strong chance again. He has two new players up front this time — Bruce Lilley and Bruce Hall — while Steve Walker remains at No 3. Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) performs consistently, David Hood (Whangarei) has an impressive resume in the north, while Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe) has regularly upset prominent teams.

**Section 10:** There will be very few easy games in this section. It includes two of the most experienced and successful skips in the North Island — three-time runners-up Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach) and the 2005 champion Ray Park (Wanganui). But then

there is also Terry Osment (Johnsonville), Malcolm Moore (Hillcrest) and Jason Hawe (Johnston Park) to content with. Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) and Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth) ordinarily qualify comfortably.

**Section 11:** Peter Belliss (Aramoho) needs no introduction in New Zealand bowls, nor does Darren Goodin (Paritutu) in Taranaki bowls. Both are expected to set the pace in the section. Belliss continues to set a wonderful example of how the game should be played and how it deserves to be treated. There are alternatives elsewhere in the section, including Nigel Drew (Birkenhead). Drew didn't compete in the 2020 event, after making the semi-finals in 2019. Barry Allison (Far North RSA) and Paul Clegg (Hawera Park) head capable sides.

**Section 12:** A host of good visiting teams are going to take some beating in the group. They include the 2014 winner Kevin Smith (Hinuera), the 2019 Dominion singles champion Taylor Horn (Mangere), the 2002 winner Bruce Stewart (Havelock North) and a couple of good sides from the Capital — Naki Nehemia (Johnsonville) and Iain Opray (Hutt). The Stewart-Smith game this morning at Lepperton will be interesting.

## Rain curtails West End pre-Open after one and a half games

Rain soon after lunch saw a premature finish to the West End pre-Open tournament yesterday.

Organiser, Graeme McDowell, said that one full game and then part of the second round were completed before the heavy deluge saw the greens flooded. "The guys have a long week ahead of them and the last thing we want is for them to get wet now."

The prize-winning teams were:

Green 1:

1. Colin Lozell (Northern) 2 wins +12
2. Andrew Bowden (Parklands) 2 wins +11
3. Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay) 2 wins +9
4. Craig De Faria (West End) 2 wins +6

Green 2:

1. Kevin Smith (Hinuera) 2 wins +28
2. Hamish Kape (Okato) 2 wins +26
3. Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) 2 wins +9
4. Sandy Robinson (Omarunui) 2 wins +7

**Two of the competing skips at West End yesterday were former Olympian and rowing legend Tony Popplewell ONZM, the current Bowls North Harbour chairman (left), and well-known Far North identity, Marty Doak.**





## In-form players from the Dominion start in Open

Six of the 16 players that contested the quarterfinals of the New Zealand pairs earlier in the month in Auckland will be involved in this week's Open.

Heading that list are the runners-up from the pairs, Mike Bradshaw and John Carruthers. They lost the final to Lance Pascoe and Jamie Hill.

Bradshaw is listed to play at No 3 for Hill's father, Neville, while Carruthers is playing for Teo Turua.

The Turua side also includes two players who have enjoyed great success in the Open – Joe Whitelaw, a three-time winner, and Dan Delany, a four-time champion.

The other players who did well in the pairs at the Dominion tournament were Dan Dickison, Jerry Belcher, Hamish Kape and Aidean Takarua.

Dickison put on a splendid show in making the semifinals in a bold bid to replicate what his father, Phil, and uncle, Ian, had achieved precisely 40 years ago. But frustratingly he and Nick Tomsett dropped a three on the last end of the semifinal against Bradshaw and Carruthers to lose by one shot.

Dickison, pictured right, gets the opportunity to make amends this week skipping a strong

Tauranga side of John O'Shea, Lance Tasker and Steve Hughes. The same quartet made the quarterfinals of the 2020 Open.

O'Shea and Tasker also featured in Auckland, respectively ousting Shannon McIlroy and Michael Kernaghan from the post section rounds in the singles.

Takarua, of Bowls3five fame, made the quarterfinals of the pairs in Auckland and skips a well-pointed, youthful team here.

Belcher and Kape made the last eight of the pairs together. But they are in different teams this week. Belcher plays for Jeremy Brosnan while Kape is with Taylor Horn.

Rory Soden, the runner-up in the singles in Auckland, was scheduled to play in the Open for Brody Dix. However, he has in fact not made the trip south.



## Match of the morning—Hill v Matheson

Vogeltown A is the place to go this morning if you want to watch an action-packed match.

There you will see Neville Hill (Royal Oak) meet Paul Matheson (Halswell).

Hill is a vastly experienced player and a former New Zealand rep. His side includes Bruce McDermott, Sam Toloke and Mike Bradshaw. Hill and Bradshaw were beaten finalists in the 2014 Open.

Matheson skips a very similar side to the one that made the semifinals last year.

Lawrence Quek and Kevin Greenwood return. The 1998 Dominion singles winner Kelvin Scott is the new face. He comes in for Darryl Hawker, who sadly passed away last July.

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*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

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## Rahotu and Opunake open in style

The Rahotu and Opunake clubs no longer host play in the Taranaki Open fours. But both clubs gave a reminder yesterday that they still know what the game is all about.

Both Rahotu and Opunake have two teams each entered in the 2021 competition and all four of them ended the opening day with the perfect record.

In previous years, Rahotu, and to a lesser extent, Opunake, have hosted play in the Open — especially in the halcyon days, like 1980 when a record 576 teams took part.

The two Opunake sides unbeaten are headed by Rodney Woods and Paddy Deegan, while the Rahotu teams are skipped by Ian Lowry and Peter Charteris.

Opunake's effort was particularly impressive. For a number of years Woods and Deegan have combined together in the Open.

But with an influx of new players and to aid their development, Woods and Deegan elected to spread the talent. It has proved an insightful and successful decision.

Woods skips specialist lead Bob Commane and juniors Daryl MacKenzie and Kewene Ratahi, while Deegan is in charge of Peter Clement, Harry Davy and Kevin Ratahi.

Woods' wins came over George Markie (Vogeltown) 22-17 and 25-22 against Mike Hori, who actually lives in Taranaki but skips a Methven team that includes his father, Allan Hill. Hori had opened with a win.

Deegan defeated Roger Sutton (Epsom) 24-17 and first-round winner, Paul Digby (Stratford-Avon), 25-16.

Both Rahotu teams are skipped by experienced bowlers — in Lowry and Charteris.

Lowry now plays out of the Takaro club in Palmerston North but remains well-known in Taranaki with four centre titles .

His roots are firmly in his native Rahotu. He skips three uncles, Alec, Gil and Des.

Gil is a Wellington gold star holder and was runner-up in the 2009 Open with Mark Noble. Ian, Alec and Des have played together for a number of years. Prior to Gil joining the team, Ian's father, Snow, played, with a semifinal position in 2014 their best effort.

The Lowrys broke free over the closing ends of their morning clash against Jim Cornish (Omarunui) to win 27-20 and then beat Dion Davis (Kaikohe) 32-14 after lunch.

Davis had sneaked past the well-performed Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) by one shot in the morning, although the Wanganui side got back on track in the afternoon with a 30-17 win over Bill Foley (New Plymouth).

Perhaps the greatest tail belonged to the Charteris side. He has Gavyn Horo at No 3, and two highly promising teenagers up front — Horo's son, Camron, and Nathan Goodin.

Camron Horo, pictured right, has been in particularly good touch of late, with the 15-year-old qualifying in the Taranaki open singles earlier in the month.

Charteris' side opened with a 21-16 win over Iain Opray (Hutt), the holder of four centre titles in the Capital.

In round two they beat the 2014 winner, Kevin Smith (Hinuera), 20-9.

Both Smith and Opray finished with one win. Smith's team excludes his long-time teammate, Stu Settle, with Gerard Slattery now included, along with Bruce Milne and Brendon Brill.

\* Hillcrest club also unbeaten — page three.



## Showers cause some delays; 45 unbeaten

Despite heavy rain mid-morning organisers breathed a sigh of relief with all 12 sections getting through two rounds on day one of the 116th Taranaki men's Open fours yesterday.

The showers, which were strong but short, did cause some greens to flood, especially at Fitzroy.

As a result a number of greens were running slower than normal. "We like to have greens running at a minimum of 16 seconds," Grant Hassall said. "But clearly that wasn't the case yesterday, and with more rain coming again today, the pace is unlikely to improve until later in the week."

At Fitzroy, the last of the morning games were finished just before 7pm last evening, after four of the games had been thwarted by the 1.30pm time restriction.

One of the more intriguing ones was between Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach) and Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood). Holmes, a three-time runner-up, prevailed 19-18. Both had previously recorded wins in round two.

Holmes is joined by a further 44 teams who slept the easiest over night after emerging with untarnished records.

Among those leading lights were Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Craig De Faria (West End), defending champion Bruce Phillips (Tower), Ray Park (Wanganui), Brian Little (Palmerston North) and Paul Matheson (Halswell).

Matheson was a 31-14 victor in the feature game of the morning against Royal Oak's Neville Hill. Hill in fact led in the game, with Sam Tolohe skipping.

The Canterbury side held the upper hand for most of the match, with counts of five (13th end) and six (17th end) inflating the score.

Four-time champion Dan Delany (Royal Oak) started the day playing No 3 for Teo Turua. They had a ding-dong battle with Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) which the Bay of Plenty side took 20-19.

Oldfield led 10-0 after six ends, but through 16 heads, the ledger had been levelled at 13-all.

At the start of the last end, Oldfield led by two, but Turua held two shots. However, Old-

field rose to the occasion and rested on the second shot to secure victory.

Delany took over the skipping reins in the afternoon and got home easily 25-8 over Kerry Parker (Bannockburn).

After a tough tussle in the second round, against the well-appointed Victoria (Wellington) side skipped by Raymond Martin, Oldfield went down 30-20.

Martin had beaten Hawera Park's Kearin Polard 31-22 in an interesting opening encounter. Martin led 18-5 after 13 ends before Polard's team roared into life.

They levelled after 20 ends, and were still in touch at the commencement of the scheduled penultimate end, albeit Martin held a two-shot lead. There, however, the issue was finalised with Martin picking up a seven.

In the same section, Grant Pease (Fitzroy), whose team is being skipped by John Gray, opened with two big wins.

Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden), Taylor Horn (Mangere) and Aiden Takarua, three of the more youthful skips in the Open, were emphatic on day one.

Brosnan raised a noteworthy 24-15 opening win over Mark Anderson (Tower) and then ousted Rangi Hiroti (Inglewood) 32-8.

Horn opened 25-10 against Graeme Goss (Thames Coast) but it wasn't quite as comfortable in the afternoon in beating George Margie (Vogeltown) 25-21.

Takarua's side only arrived from Auckland in the early hours of Monday morning. But they conceded just eight shots during the day — with wins over Dennis Gladding (Waimea) 39-5 and Alan Niwa (Okato) 35-3.

Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) had two nail-biting matches. In the morning round, playing former Taranaki rugby rep Bill Read (Paritutu), Pinker ran off Read's shot bowl on the last end to win 24-23. But in the afternoon, Pinker was edged 22-21 by Ian Adams, after the Lepperton lead Don Hodge drew a toucher on the last end.

The turnaround of the day went to Joe Johanson (Bay View). His side fell 30-4 to Leon Wech before beating John Sexton (West End).



## Hillcrest unbeaten after day one

There was a special cheer that went up from the Hillcrest club in Hamilton yesterday. It has three sides entered and all won twice — Malcolm Moore, Steve Liddington (pictured right) and Mort Jones.

Jones is teamed with Tony Gray, and in continuing with the strong association between Hillcrest and Inglewood, two players from Inglewood — Kevin Koch, a second-year player, and Len Spick, a most competent competitor at the indoor code.

Jones fought hard for a 26-24 win over Martin Smithies (Lyall Bay) and then beat Roger Sutton (Epsom) 30-25.

Moore has a solid side with Gary Lambly, Maurice Parker and Neil Clarke. They received a tough examination in round one, edging past Ian Newland (Mt Maunganui) 25-23 before beating Peter Radich (Oakura) 21-16.

Liddington's quartet is Merv Gibbons, Eddie Knox and Phil Morgan.

Their victories came at the expense of West End's Darren Scott (24-16) and Miramar's Carl Northcott (26-18).



### MATCH OF THE MORNING

There a number of clashes this morning involving two teams with two wins each. But interest at Oakura in section seven will centre on Grant Pease (Fitzroy) and Steve Smith (Kensington).

Pease is teamed with Jason Hazard, Des Brophy and John Gray, while in Smith's team are the 2015 runner-up George Lyddiard, Garry Seddon and David Hooper.

Both teams hit 30 twice on day one.

## Teams winning two games on the first day

Section 1: Stefan McCartain (Paritutu), Steve Liddington (Hillcrest), Peter Doreen (Far North RSA).

Section 2: Mort Jones (Hillcrest), Paddy Deegan (Opunake), Ian Lowry (Rahotu).

Section 3: Bruce Phillips (Tower), Dan Dickison (Tauranga), David Nightingale (Glendowie).

Section 4: Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden), Graham Crawford (Paritutu), Tony Stoker (Naenae), Marty Doak (Far North RSA).

Section 5: Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier), Dean Elgar (West End), Keith Ansell (New Lynn), Gary Rssek (Omokoroa).

Section 6: Peter Lange (Te Kuiti), John Carter (Hutt), Garry Murfitt (West End), Mike Paton (Orewa), Paul Matheson (Halswell), Logan Palmer (Wanganui).

Section 7: Steve Smith (Kensington), Grant Pease (Fitzroy), Raymond Martin (Victoria).

Section 8: Barry Wakely (Omarunui), Anton Ferrari (Wilton), Brian Little (Palmerston North).

Section 9: Craig De Faria (West End), Andrew Bowden (Parklands), Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe).

Section 10: Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth), Wayne Ruka (Pringle Park), Malcolm Moore (Hillcrest), Ray Park (Wanganui).

Section 11: Barry Allison (Far North RSA), Darren Goodin (Paritutu), Paul Hassall (Tawa), Ron Ranford (Fitzroy), Peter Belliss (Aramoho).

Section 12: Peter Charteris (Rahotu), Taylor Horn (Mangere), Rodney Woods (Opunake).



## Bowls NZ president enjoying his first Open

Bowls New Zealand President, Mark O'Connor, pictured right, is loving his first Taranaki Open fours.

O'Connor is playing in a team skipped by Garry Banks. It also includes Bowls NZ CEO Mark Cameron and John Aufai.

"It's great. I'd heard so much about this tournament," O'Connor said. "But this is very impressive."

O'Connor said that the comradeship between the teams was an early feature and clearly one of the main reasons why the tournament is so popular.

"The competition can't be denied but despite that the friendliness is so evident."

"This clearly is a prestigious event on the New Zealand calendar. I'm delighted to be here."

O'Connor is in his second year as New Zealand president and has impressed many with his openness, willingness to travel and general interaction with players.

"I enjoy talking with as many players as possible. We have a great game here and I'm pleased to be spreading the good word."

At the opening ceremony, Bowls Taranaki chairman Grant Hassall indicated that having the Bowls New Zealand president play in the Open was not overly common, but appreciated.

John Carter was the last president to play in the Open during his term, while prior to that Malcolm Kidd had also done so.

"Malcolm made the semifinals of the Open in the year that he was president, so, Mark, you have no pressure!"

O'Connor's team opened the tournament with a 19-17 win over John Ape-Esera (Waitara) but bowed 36-26 to Aad Schrader (Okato) in the afternoon.



**Bowls New Zealand president, Mark O'Connor, gets one away sweetly during the opening rounds at Paritutu yesterday.**

Despite that, O'Connor remained upbeat. "I'd certainly like another couple of wins during the week. But regardless, it's still a buzz to be involved."

Carter, who gave the best part of 30 years to the administration of the sport, including serving on the world body for two years and as chairman of Bowls NZ, made a positive start.

Playing with his regular team of Bruce Woodhouse, Don McMurray and Bill Jackson, Carter started the week with two strong wins. Backing up on a last 16 finish in 2020, the Hutt quartet put on an impressive showing to beat Dennis Leighton (Paritutu) 35-6 and Ray Hudson (Central Levin) 26-4.



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Wednesday, January 20, 2021*

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## Fitzroy remain unbeaten after extra ends

The Fitzroy four of Jason Hazard, Des Brophy, Grant Pease and John Gray earned their beers last night — and, boy, did they taste good.

With Gray skipping, the side have given themselves the best chance of qualifying, after noticing up two further wins on the second day of the 116th Taranaki men's Open fours yesterday.

That brings Gray's count to four — meaning two more wins are required from the remaining four matches to make post section. But it could have looked a lot more difficult for the Fitzroy side.

Both games, at Oakura, were won on extra ends.

In the morning feature game, against Steve Smith (Kensington), Gray got home on the 26th head 22-21.

The same tiebreaker provision was also invoked in the afternoon, with Gray wining 19-18 against Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South). The loss ended Oldfield's hopes, while Smith remained stranded on two wins when he fell 28-18 to Teo Turua (Royal Oak) after lunch.

Turua, after the surprise loss to Oldfield on Monday, sits comfortably enough on three wins, as does fellow Aucklander Warwick Fredrickson (Blockhouse Bay) and Inglewood veteran Nelson West in section seven.

Raymond Martin (Victoria), after two big wins, is the other four-winner in the group.

## Weather Gods mostly smiling — so far

After the weather disrupted All round four games were play on the first day at Fitzroy, completed, just before the the second day was generally heavens opened in New Ply-

Stratford.

Players battled for most of the Fitzroy. For the two incom- morning with showers, and plete games it means an early the occasional heavy down- start at 8am, before — pour. After a lengthy spell off hopefully — rounds five and the green, play resumed as six are played.

the clocked counted quickly With the forecast for Stratford in particular today looking towards 1.30pm.

Two games remained incom- very unsettled, coupled with plete as the players headed to the on-going troubles with the lunch at which time the green road works at Tariki, organis- became completed flooded. ers have transferred section That resulted in the section 10.

(six) transferring to the Pari- They were due to play today tutu C green. Play in the at Stratford-Avon but will now fourth game commenced be located on the Paritutu C there at approximately 3pm. green.

“Our philosophy is to play on the best greens available,” Tina Atkinson-Watt, the Executive Officer of Bowls Taranaki said.

“That is why Stratford-Avon was originally selected. However, in this instance because of the potential time that could be lost, as was evident on Tuesday, we have decided to bring section 10 into New Ply-mouth and the same weather zone for the day. Had there been no road works, then this would not have been necessary.”

No decision has been made yet regarding Thursday's play. “This will depend on how the forecast looks.”

## Who has won how many after day two

### Standings after day two in the 116th Open:

**Section 1:** four wins, Peter Doreen (Far North RSA); three wins, Steven Brien (Stokes Valley), Stefan McCartin (Paritutu), Steve Liddington (Hillcrest), Geoff Bovey (Central Levin); two wins, Ross Clark (Manaia), Darren Scott (West End), John Ape-Esera (Waitara).

**Section 2:** four wins, none; three wins, Mort Jones (Hillcrest), Bill Foley (New Plymouth), Jim Cornish (Omarunui), Paddy Deegan (Opunake); two wins, Dion Davis (Kaikohe), Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay), Ian Lowry (Rahotu), Brody Dix (Papakura), Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), Roger Sutton (Epsom), Mark Sarginson (Ohope).

**Section 3:** four wins, Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Bruce Phillips (Tower), David Nightingale (Glendowie); three wins, Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay); two wins, Dave McNeil (Rewa), Mac Solomon (Okaihau), Joe Johanson (Bay View), Murray Griffin (Levin), John Sexton (West End).

**Section 4:** four wins, Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden), Tony Stoker (Naenae); three wins, Graham Crawford (Paritutu), Rangi Hiroti (Inglewood), Mark Anderson (Tower), Marty Doak (Far North RSA); two wins, Bart Robertson (Hikurangi).

**Section 5:** four wins, Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier), Dean Elgar (West End); three wins, Ian Busby (Tower), Jim Corric (Riverhead), Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn; pictured); two wins, John Forde (Seatoun), Kevin Kenny (Waitara), Steve Cottam (Paritutu), Bruce Harris (Johnston Park), Gary Russek (Omokoroa).

**Section 6:** four wins, Garry Murfitt (West End); three wins, John Carter (Hutt), Neville Hill (Royal Oak), Mike Paton (Orewa), Paul Matheson (Halswell), Logan Palmer (Wanganui); two wins, Peter Lange (Te Kuiti), Frank Pollock (Hawera Park), Scotty McGavin (Bulls).

**Section 7:** four wins, Grant Pease (Fitzroy), Raymond Martin (Victoria); three wins, Nelson West (Inglewood), Warwick Fredrickson (Blockhouse Bay), Teo Turua (Royal Oak); two wins, Steve Smith (Kensington), Allan Bridgeman (Oakura).

**Section 8:** four wins, Barry Wakely (Omarunui), Anton Ferrari (Naenae); three wins, Bruce Mummery (Paritutu), Ian Mahoney (Central Levin), Brian Little (Palmerston North); two wins, Jim Priest (Oakura), Wayne Te Huki (Vogeltown).

**Section 9:** four wins, Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe); three wins, David Hood (Whangarei), Craig De Faria (West End), Andrew Bowden (Parklands); two wins, Murray Bayliss (Johnsonville), Ian Adams (Lepperton), Colin Christie (Fitzroy), Cary Pinker (Wanganui), Brian Pearce (Stratford-Avon), Grant Sargison (Omarunui), Richard Death (Te Awamutu).

**Section 10:** four wins, Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth), Ray Park (Wanganui); three wins, Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Wayne Ruka (Pringle Park), Malcolm Moore (Hillcrest); two wins, Terry Osment (Johnsonville), Terry Mullin (Pihama), Kevin Hills (Tower), Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood).

**Section 11:** four wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu), Paul Hassall (Tawa); three wins, Nigel Drew (Birkenhead), Ron Ranford (Fitzroy), Peter Belliss (Aramoho); two wins, Barry Allison (Far North RSA), Paul Clegg (Hawera Park), Brian Cooper (Levin), Malcolm Wright (Pakuranga).

**Section 12:** four wins, Taylor Horn (Mangere); three wins, Mark Hartland (Pukekohe), Peter Charteris (Rahotu), Rodney Woods (Opunake), Kevin Smith (Hinuera); two wins, Bruce Stewart (Havelock North), Kerry Bishop (Motueka), Gordon Oliver (Lepperton), Iain Oprey (Hutt).



## Three teams call the tune in section three

Three teams are well and truly calling the tune in section three at the moment, with Bruce Phillips (Tower), Dan Dickison (Tauranga) and David Nightingale (Glendowie) all unbeaten.

Phillips, the playing through champion, had to work hard in the morning against regular qualifier, John Sexton (West End), but prevailed 24-20. Phillips then defeated a Rewa team skipped by Dave McNeil 27-8.

Dickison's two wins came at the expense of Joe Johanson (Bay View) 25-21 and Hone Niwa (Waitara) 23-16.

Nightingale's impressive opening continued with victories over Ross Thorn (Naenae) 26-24 and Murray Griffin (Levin) 27-15. Thorn, a highly successful performer, was one of the biggest name to exit the tournament on day two.

Thorn's side incurred loss number three by the same scoreline in the afternoon to Johanson, who has two wins.

Bart Robertson (Hikurangi), a semifinalist 12 months ago, finished the day with two wins. Robertson's side lost 22-17 to Noel Probyn (Fitzroy) in the morning but kept its hopes alive in beating John Michael (Waitarere Beach) 26-13.

Robertson is scheduled to meet impressive four winner, Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden), this afternoon. It was Brosnan who inflicted the first defeat on Marty Doak's Far North RSA side in the afternoon game, 25-19.

In the same section, Mark Anderson (Tower), a dual winner of the Open, continued to bounce back from his round one loss to Brosnan and has now recorded three wins.

Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier) only managed to make it into the draw with a late entry, but his side has started well. Win number four came in the afternoon 26-18 over Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn), although the latter remains well in touch on three.

Former long-standing Wilton player, Anton Ferrari, now Naenae, posted a noteworthy 24-

21 win over Brian Little, while Paul Hassall (Tawa) was a 26-15 victor over Peter Belliss (Aramoho). Little and Belliss both have three wins.

\* In the two incomplete games overnight from section six, Peter Lange (Te Kuiti) leads Ray Hudson (Central Levin) 20-11 after 20 ends, while John Carter (Hutt) and Scotty McGavin (Bulls) are entwined in a ding-dong clash. With two ends remaining, Carter has his nose in front 27-26.

Carter remained unbeaten when he beat Paul Matheson (Halswell) 24-20 in the afternoon.

\* Regular visitor Sandy Robinson, pictured below in action at Paritutu yesterday. Robinson, formerly of Wellington, is one of the nice guys in the sport, and, remarkably, he skips one of five teams from the Omarunui club in Hawke's Bay.

"The support we have received from Omarunui this year has been phenomenal," Tina Atkinson-Watt said. "Omarunui is a progressive, growing club, and this is terrific to see."

Barry Wakely's side is currently leading the way for the club after four straight wins. The wins yesterday came 25-23 over Tupu Campbell (Far North RSA) and 24-20 against Don Ramsey (Pukekohe).





## Museum remains a key attraction in bowls

The TSB Bowls New Zealand Museum, located next to the New Plymouth Bowling Club, remains a must-see for visitors.

That's according to the Museum chairman, Basil Newland. And, what's more, a visit to the Museum is even better now. That's following the donation of the famous Rawhiti BC Silver Plate.

The plate was played for from 1966 until 2013 when the famous Rawhiti closed.

Garry Banks, a member of Rawhiti, took over running the Silver Plate, one of the most prestigious events in its day. The Pukekohe indoor complex was used, as was Remuera and New Lynn after Rawhiti closed, but now time has been called on the event.

"It was a sad day when Rawhiti closed," Banks said of the club best remembered for the achievements of Nick Unkovich. Unkovich transferred to Rawhiti after his tenure at Okahu Bay ended.

"I wanted to keep the tournament going as long as I could. However, the time is now for this piece of history to be placed into the Museum where it can be preserved forever."

When the Rawhiti club closed significant sums of money were paid to the clubs where Rawhiti members transferred to and other

sums are still held in trust, pending further developments. A \$20,000 donation was also made to the Museum.

Newland said that the Museum was often called on to assist individuals, clubs and centres with research matters and to become the home of various memorabilia items.

Like any museum, funding remained an ongoing battle, although donations from some closed clubs, like Rawhiti, Otakeho, Tariki, Thorndon and more recently Avondale had kept it afloat.

"But we always need more," Newland said.



## Match of the morning—Brosnan v Stoker

In the clash of the unbeaten teams, this morning at Waimea, Glen Eden's Jeremy Brosnan meets Naenae's Tony Stoker. Both teams have marched swiftly through the first two days and each have four wins.

The Stoker side includes the remarkable Peter Horne, Alan Dixon and Mike Bridgland. Brosnan's team includes Phil Aitken, Jerry Belcher and Steve Hoeft.

Horne won the Wellington champion-of-champion pairs with his father Ron 40 years ago, and despite his physical limitations has been a highly successful player and an excellent example to all.

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# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

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## 12 teams go through the easy way

The achievement of winning six games out of eight and qualifying remains a significant feat in the Taranaki men's Open fours.

But 12 teams have hit the required number in a more special way — with six straight wins.

Those skips already into tomorrow's post section rounds are: Bruce Phillips (Tower), Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden), Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier), Garry Murfitt (West End), John Gray (Fitzroy), Raymond Martin (Victoria), Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe), Kelly Hill (New Plymouth), Darren Goodin (Paritutu) and Taylor Horn (Mangere).

In addition there are 19 sides with five wins and 31 on four. That means even if all of today's play is washed out — which is most unlikely — the total number of qualifiers would still be below 65.

"That means that only six post section rounds will be needed to find the winner," Robert Wolfe of the tournament committee said.

"Had there been 65 or more qualifiers, then the final would have been on Monday."

Horn skips the same side as he has in the previous two seasons. It includes Ben Brophy and the Kapes, father and son — Ken and Hamish. They just missed qualifying in 2019 and were knocked out in the second round of post section last time.

And while they have not had things all their own way during the first three days, they have found a way to win each time.

The win in the morning round yesterday came 24-20 at the expense of Kevin Smith (Hinuera), and after lunch, No 6 was achieved 27-10 over Iain Opray (Hutt). Smith needs both games today to qualify, but Opray's hopes are now dashed.

Horn is currently on the fringe of the national squad, having earlier in the season won the New Zealand under-26 singles. He claimed the Dominion singles in 2019.

Kape junior is also on the rise, having claimed his second Taranaki title when he skipped the winning team in the champion-of-champions triples last October.

With that sort of talent, the side could go deep into this year's Open.

But as to bowls, so much will depend, amongst other factors, on the luck of the draw.

## Paritutu again gets the nod to host finals

The finals of the 116th Open tournament will be held at Paritutu again. Paritutu also hosted the finals in 2020 while West End was the location in 2019.

The main criteria for choosing the club for the finals is the one with the best two greens.

"In reality we would be more

than happy to use Paritutu, West End or Vogeltown — such is the quality of all three," Grant Hassall said.

"We are very fortunate on that count because there have been years — my mind turns back to the mid 1990s — when that same luxury was not so."

However, a decision had to be

made and Paritutu has received the nod.

Providing the number of qualifiers in the fours do not exceed 44, then only two greens will be required for post section tomorrow — both at Paritutu.

Last year there were 41 teams that qualified.

## Brown's plea does not fall on deaf ears

At the official opening on Monday morning, New Plymouth District Councillor Gordon Brown, who was filling in for an otherwise engaged Mayor Neil Holdom, wished all players the best of luck for the week.

That came with his duty of officially opening the tournament.

But just prior to that, with a typical Brown quip — the trademark Taranaki folk have come to expect from the 1994 New Zealand rugby writer of the year — he asked for those teams that were drawn to play against Bill Foley's New Plymouth quartet to go easy on them.

Brown is a member of Foley's side, alongside Frank Gecse and Joe Peel.

The team opened with a 24-22 win over Mark Sarginson (Ohope) on Monday, but were comfortably beaten by Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) in the afternoon.

Tuesday was a day to celebrate. The side beat Ian Lowry's Rahotu family 24-22 and they then staged a brilliant fight back to defeat Mort Jones (Hillcrest) 28-23.

The belief that qualifying — and then, who knows — increased further yesterday, with two more wins — 27-18 over Jim Cornish (Omarunui) and 25-3 against Bruce Low (Waimea).

It means that Brown and co have two bites at the cherry today to get through to post section.

The side is drawn to meet Paul Digby (Stratford-Avon) and Roger Sutton (Epsom). Having the mayor open the Open is a long-standing tradition, which in fact had its origins laid well before the first event in 1906.

James Paul was both the mayor of New Plymouth and also the man who introduced bowls to the province.



## Who has won how many after day three?

**Section 1:** six wins, nil; five wins, Steven Brien (Stokes Valley), Peter Doreen (Far North RSA); four wins, Darren Scott (West End), Stefan McCartain (Paritutu), Steve Liddington (Hillcrest).

**Section 2:** six wins, nil; five wins, Bill Foley (New Plymouth); four wins, Mort Jones (Hillcrest), Jim Cornish (Omarunui), Paddy Deegan (Opunake), Ian Lowry (Rahotu), Kevin Coombe (Aramoho).

**Section 3:** six wins, Bruce Phillips (Tower), Dan Dickison (Tauranga); five wins, David Nightingale (Glendowie); four wins, Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay).

**Section 4:** six wins, Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden); five wins, Marty Doak (Far North RSA); four wins, Graham Crawford (Paritutu), Rangi Hiroti (Inglewood), Mark Anderson (Tower), Tony Stoker (Naenae).

**Section 5:** six wins, Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier); five wins, Dean Elgar (West End); four wins, Ian Busby (Tower), Jim Corric (Riverhead), Bruce Harris (Johnston Park), Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn), Gary Russek (Omokoroa).

**Section 6:** six wins, Garry Murfitt (West End); five wins, Neville Hill (Royal Oak), Paul Matheson (Halswell); four wins, John Carter (Hutt), Logan

Palmer (Wanganui).

**Section 7:** six wins, John Gray (Fitzroy), Raymond Martin (Victoria); five wins, Nelson West (Inglewood), Warwick Fredrickson (Blockhouse Bay), Teo Turua (Royal Oak); four wins, Allan Bridgeman (Oakura).

**Section 8:** six wins, Anton Ferrari (Naenae); five wins, Ian Mahoney (Central Levin), Brian Little (Palmerston North); four wins, Jim Priest (Oakura), Barry Wakely (Omarunui), Bruce Mummery (Paritutu).

**Section 9:** six wins, Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe); five wins, David Hood (Whangarei), Andrew Bowden (Parklands); four wins, Craig De Faria (West End).

**Section 10:** six wins, Kelly Hill (New Plymouth); five wins, Ray Park (Wanganui); four wins, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Wayne Ruka (Pringle Park), Malcolm Moore (Hillcrest).

**Section 11:** six wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu); five wins, Nigel Drew (Birkenhead), Paul Hassall (Tawa), Peter Belliss (Aramoho); four wins, nil.

**Section 12:** six wins, Taylor Horn (Mangere); five wins, nil; four wins, Mark Hartland (Pukekohe), Peter Charteris (Rahotu), Kevin Smith (Hinuera).





## Big guns still odds-on to qualify on five wins

Among the big names sitting on five wins are Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Brian Little (Palmerston North) and Dan Delany (Royal Oak). They remain odds-on to qualify.

All three teams won twice on day three to be handily placed.

Belliss defeated Ron Gadsby (Fitzroy) 27-16 and Brian Cooper (Levin) 27-23; Little's victories were over Moe Kelly (Fitzroy) 26-10 and Tupu Campbell (Far North RSA) 26-16; while Delany beat Kearin Pollard (Hawera Park) 30-17 and Murray Wood (Kapiti) 24-21

Elsewhere, a number of good sides suffered set backs, with some of the results spelling the end of hopes in 2021.

Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn) suffered his second loss in the morning, falling 27-17 to Bruce Harris (Johnston Park) but came through the afternoon game to remain a chance.

In the same section, Dean Elgar (West End) lost his unbeaten record to Sandy Robinson (Omarunui) 29-27 but was a resounding victor in the afternoon. Elgar has five wins.

Craig De Faria (West End) also needs both games today. De Faria lost 25-19 to Andrew Bowden (Parklands, Christchurch) in the afternoon and needs to get past both Richard Death (Te Awamutu) and Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) on his home green. Death and Pinker have 50% records.

Ray Park (Wanganui) was edged 22-21 by Kevin Hills (Tower) in the morning game, but secured win number five in the afternoon. That was only just, though, 25-23 against Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), after the scores had been even playing the 25th head.

The loss summed up Holmes' day. His side had earlier lost 23-22 to Malcolm Moore (Hillcrest), meaning there is no chance of qualifying.

But in the same section Gerry O'Sullivan's Inglewood side — with sister Maree in town again to manage the family for the week — posted two wins. They need a repeat today to qualify.

There were a few anxious moments in the afternoon win, with O'Sullivan claiming singles on the last two ends to win 19-18 against Ron Crimlis (Papamoa).

Bart Robertson (Hikurangi) lost both games to bow out.

Neville Hill (Royal Oak) and Paul Matheson (Halswell) both won twice to sit on five wins, but John Carter lost twice and needs both today in the tough sixth section.

\* A heavy downpour just after 6pm last night, which included hail, flooded greens across the city and left four games spread over the Paritutu, West End and Vogeltown clubs incomplete — and some on a knife edge. Those games will be finalised prior to 9am today.

\* In a repeat of the decision made on Tuesday, organisers have again decided to transfer the section that was due to play at Stratford-Avon today to the Paritutu C green. "We have heard the comments of some players and their disappointment of not being able to play on the immaculate Stratford-Avon green. However, these are countered by the previously discussed variable weather and traffic delays. We have time pressures on Thursday evening in doing the draws, and so on the balance, it was decided to make the change," Grant Hassall said.



**Tauranga's Lance Tasker on his way to win No 6 yesterday playing for Dan Dickison. Paritutu's Neil Watson looks on.**

## Neville Elliott missed and remembered

There is a familiar face missing from this year's Taranaki men's Open fours – Neville Elliott.

Elliott served on the Taranaki executive and board for 25 years, holding various roles, including president, chairman and executive officer. But after a long battle with illness, Elliott passed away in November.

"He was a brilliant man for bowls," said current Taranaki president Ian Andrews, who dealt with Elliott both as a teammate and a fellow administrator.

"He could come across as a little strong headed, but every decision that he made in bowls was with the intention of what was in the best interests of the sport."

Elliott retired as executive officer in May 2019, but the life member still continued to work – including on the 2020 Open.

Elliott was in the chart room, moving around the greens and talking to the many people he had come into contact with.

Elliott has in fact even contributed to this year's event, too. He schooled up new executive officer, Tina Atkinson-Watt, and had arranged various items, such as posters and trophies.

His computerised diary system, which he had based off the manual system implemented by

the previous executive officer, Brien Bennett QSM, remains a hugely valuable item.

"There is no doubt that Neville was great for bowls and the Open, but the same also applied in reverse; bowls and the Open brought a lot of enjoyment to his life."

Even when he was told that his condition was terminal, Elliott was still working on ways to make Taranaki bowls successful. "That was the true mark of the man; it wasn't about his ego, it was about something he loved — exemplary."

The warmth in which Elliott was held was evident by the strong number of bowlers that attended his funeral, which included Open visitors from outside the province.

"While Neville was quite comfortable addressing a crowd, he didn't seek the limelight. But based off the number of times Neville's name has come up this week, he certainly is missed by a number of people."

In addition to being an outstanding administrator, Elliott was also a proficient competitor. He won a gold star and in total collected seven Taranaki titles.

And while he didn't compete in the Open that often — for obvious reasons — he did make the semifinals in 2013, as a member of John Reid's team.



**Neville Elliott hard at work during the 2019 Open.**

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# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Friday, January 22, 2021*

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## Miracle bowl keeps the O'Sullivan's alive

Inglewood's Gerry O'Sullivan has never been a man to be taken lightly on the bowling green. A previous winner of both the Taranaki open and champion-of-champions singles, the regular Taranaki rep has also featured in the Dominion as a runner-up in the fours (2017) and third-equal in the pairs (2019).

But it's doubtful that he has ever played a shot as thrilling as the one yesterday.

Needing to win both games on day four to qualify, O'Sullivan, skipping brothers Bernard and Danny, plus Steve Sabine, trailed Oakura's Peter Radich 23-22 on the 25th head in the morning match.

Radich's side put the jack into the ditch and sat within a few centimetres. O'Sullivan then skilfully hit into the ditch — on the right angle — one of his own team's touchers. It gained the point and forced the extra end.

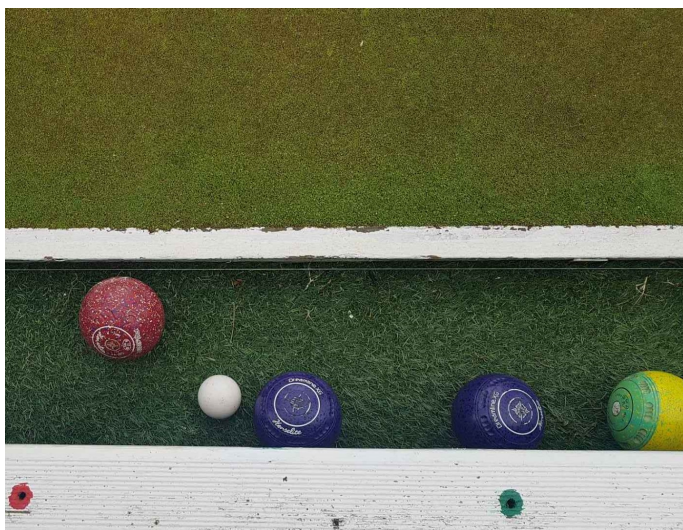
The O'Sullivan's took that to win 24-23 and then they booked their place in post section by beating Terry Osment (Johnsonville) 30-23.

The reward for the Inglewood side is a place amongst 38 other qualifiers. But the celebrations will be put on hold when the first bowls roll down this morning — for O'Sullivan meets one of the favoured teams in the opening post section game, Dan Dickison (Tauranga).

The biggest casualty on day four was West End's Craig De Faria. De Faria, hunting for a third successive finals appearance, kept his hopes alive with a win in the morning.

His West End side led for most of their afternoon game against Cary Pinker (Wanganui East). But the game was forced into overtime and on a dramatic end, with the jack in the ditch, Pinker pushed the counting West End bowl into the ditch to deny De Faria.

Graham Crawford (Paritutu) was another unlucky side. Needing to win the last game



to qualify, Crawford's side was nosed out 23-22 by Tony Stoker (Naenae), who also missed qualification by just one game.

There were other joys of pleasure, though.

Mike Bradshaw, skipping Neville Hill's Royal Oak team produced a brilliant delivery on the last end to enable his team to beat Garry Murfitt (West End) 25-24 and qualify.

Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier) was the only side to play all eight games and win the lot. Takarua also achieved the same feat last year before exiting in round one of post section. This year he has received a bye into the second round and will play Mark Anderson (Tower) at 9am this morning.

Anderson went through after beating Stoker 30-24 and the already-qualified Marty Doak (Far North RSA) 24-13 on the fourth day.

Dan Delany (Royal Oak) suffered a second loss in the morning, this time 26-21 to Raymond Martin (Victoria). But the side rebounded after lunch to beat John Gray (Fitzroy) 25-13 and advance.

And there was great reward for the perseverance of two Open stalwarts Jim Priest (Oakura) and Nelson West (Inglewood). After a long absence, both return to post section play this year after qualifying yesterday.



## Fourteen to remain at end of Friday

The draw for post section in the fours might seem a little confusing for some. However, organisers have assured everyone that all is in order.

The 39 qualifiers have been drawn into two sections, one of 19 (section one) and one of 20 (section two).

As has been a Taranaki tradition for a number of years, some round two matches will be played at 9am today. "It's termed player-friendly," Grant Hassall said.

But a slight change this year will see the top half of section one play round three matches this afternoon. That will mean that six teams will survive the day in section one.

While some round two matches in section two are being played this morning, no round three matches will be played today. That will mean that eight teams will survive the day in section two.

In total that equates to 14 sides that will remain for tomorrow. "This allows all of Saturday's play to occur on just one green."

Those surviving teams at the top of section one will play their round four match (quarterfinal) on Saturday morning. The victor will then have Saturday afternoon off ahead of Sunday morning's semifinals.

"It might come across as a little confusing, but it's as plain as a pikestaff on the master chart."

## Fours post section and pairs section play for Friday

**Post section draw for the 116th Taranaki men's Open fours on January 22:**

**Section 1, at Paritutu A:**

**Round 1 (9am start — 2 rounds):** G Murfitt (West End) v M Doak (Far North RSA), G O'Sullivan (Inglewood) v D Dickison (Tauranga), S Brien (Stokes Valley) v D Elgar (West End).

**Round 2 (report 1.15pm — 1 round):** Brien/Elgar winner v B Harris (Johnston Park), P Matheson (Halswell) v D Nightingale (Glendowie), K Coombe (Aramoho) v B Phillips (Tower).

**Round 2 (9am start — 2 rounds):** K Hill (New Plymouth) v N West (Inglewood), T Horn (Mangere) v A Ferrari (Naenae), M Anderson (Tower) v A Takarua (Pt Chevalier), A Bowden (Parklands) v I Mahoney (Central Levin).

**Section 2, at Paritutu B:**

**Round 1 (9am start — 2 rounds):** R Park (Wanganui) v D Hood (Whangarei), N Hill (Royal Oak) v D Goodin (Paritutu), K Ansell (New Lynn) v M Jones (Hillcrest), S McCartain (Paritutu) v J Brosnan (Glen Eden).

**Round 2 (report 1.15pm — 1 round):** J Cornish (Omarunui) v W Fredrickson (Blockhouse Bay), K Smith (Hinuera) v T Turua (Royal Oak), J Gray (Fitzroy) v R Martin (Victoria).

**Round 2 (9am start — 1 round only):** J Priest (Oakura) v P Belliss (Aramoho), M Cavanagh (Pukekohe) v D Scott (West End), B Foley (New Plymouth) v B Little (Palmerston North).

**Section play draw for the Open fours-pairs on January 22 (all starting at 8.45am):**

**Section 1, at West End 1:** N Atkinson (Methven), B Robertson (Hikurangi), M Hori (Methven), N Bovey (Central Levin), P Digby (Stratford-Avon), T Kortergas (Central Levin), M Dew (New Plymouth), R Davidson (Far North RSA), P Deegan (Opunake), P Huxtable (Far North RSA), W Smith (Papamoa), M Dudley (Hawera Park), G Tahan (Seatoun), G Crawford (Paritutu).

**Section 2, at West End 2:** D Hopkins (Kia Toa), D George (Ponsonby), E Chilton (Kia Toa), M Griffin (Levin), D West (Fitzroy), J Read (Reefton), L Dobson (Hawera Park), T Heimuli (Papatoetoe), P Shea (Omarunui), K Fe'ao (Papatoetoe), G McLeod (Tawa), J Rona (West Coast), P Hassall (Tawa), J Forde (Seatoun).

**Section 3, at Vogeltown A:** B Lilley (West End), P Clegg (Hawera Park), M Cameron (Ponsonby), I Franklin (Johnsonville), R Gadsby (Fitzroy), N Nehemia (Johnsonville), D Stachurski (Inglewood), K Bishop (Motueka), M Hartland (Pukekohe), R Inglis (Motueka), T Fabling (Hillcrest), M Watson (New Plymouth), S Robinson (Omarunui), T Johns (Paritutu).

**Section 4, at Vogeltown B:** L Bourne (Wanganui East), G Rankin (New Plymouth), C Pinker (Wanganui East), M Bridgland (Naenae), P Fergusson (Tui Park), T Stoker (Naenae), G Crow (Paritutu), T Campbell (Far North RSA), M Kelly (Fitzroy), D Amosa (Far North RSA), N Payne (Vogeltown), M Wesley (New Plymouth), B Fouhy (Omarunui), M Whittle (Fitzroy).

**Section 5, at Oakura:** T Pattison (Naenae), B Mummery (Paritutu), D Davis (Kaikohe), J Ross (Epsom), I Morris (West End), G Kingi (Epsom), B Read (Paritutu), G Evans (Johnsonville), J Quay (Okato), K Alexander (Johnsonville), T Simonson (West End), C Horo (Rahotu).

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Saturday, January 23, 2021*

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## Five local sides to battle with nine visitors

Five Taranaki teams, being two each from Paritutu and Tower, plus one from West End, will compete against nine visiting teams for the ultimate prize in the 116th Taranaki men's Open fours tournament.

That follows two rounds of post section at Paritutu yesterday, where for the first full day of the week the players did not have to contend with any rain. But, be warned — Sunday is not forecasting so well.

While the rain kept away, a strong breeze in the afternoon kept bowlers concentration levels high.

Of the nine visitors that remain, three are from Auckland — David Nightingale (Glendowie), Warwick Fredrickson (Blockhouse Bay) and Dan Delany (Royal). The latter two meet this morning.

In addition, there are two teams from the capital, one from Manawatu, one from Bay of Plenty, one from Counties and one from Wanganui.

Six teams won two games on the day — Dean Elgar (West End), Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Mark Anderson (Tower), Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Darren Goodin (Paritutu) and Stefan McCartain (Paritutu).

Elgar had to work hard in both of his victories — 19-13 over Stokes Valley's Steven Brien and his family side, and 25-20 against Johnston Park's Bruce Harris. Harris led the latter match 20-18 with two ends remaining. But Elgar's side drew the better on the penultimate end, a five giving them the lead back. A further two on the last sealed the result.

The Dickison side of Lance Tasker, John O'Shea and Steve Hughes has appealed throughout the week as one of the most likely. They were relatively untroubled throughout the day to set up a potentially

high-quality clash with Elgar this morning. In the second round, Dickison collected one six and three fours on the way to a 32-17 triumph over Garry Murfitt (West End).

Raymond Martin's side from Wellington is another, like Dickison's quartet, which has plenty of talent and previous success.

Martin held the upper hand for most of the match with John Gray (Fitzroy). Gray's side kept in touch, trailing 12-9 through 10 ends, and 20-15 after 18 ends. But Martin cribbed away to a 26-17 victory.

Martin's team includes Mike Carroll, Rod Leitch and Grant Wakefield. They face a big match this morning, Peter Belliss (Aramoho).

However, two other favoured visitors fell by the wayside — Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier) and Paul Matheson (Halswell).

Takarua was never in the hunt against Anderson. After trailing 13-2 after eight ends, Takarua never recovered and shook hands after 22 ends, 30-13 in arrears.

Matheson went down 24-17 to Nightingale, whose side is emerging as one of the surprise packages of the week. A five to Nightingale on the 16th paved the way for the win.

Nightingale, however, doesn't get an easy run. His opponent this morning is the Tower side headed by Bruce Phillips. The defending champions overcame mid-game troubles to beat Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) 32-26.

Anderson and Ferrari are the two teams through to the quarterfinals. The winner of that game this morning gets the afternoon off ahead of the semifinals tomorrow.

Anderson defeated Parklands' Andrew Bowden in a last-16 game, while at the same time, Ferrari won 25-9 over Kelly Hill (New Plymouth). In the prior round, Ferrari held off Taylor Horn (Mangere) 25-23, despite dropping a seven on the eighth end.

The closest match of the morning saw Goodin edge Mike Bradshaw (Onehunga and Districts) 23-20.

Goodin led by two shots playing the last end, but was two down playing his last bowl. Playing through the head, Goodin hit one of his own team's bowls in for shot.

Goodin then beat David Hood (Whangarei) 26-17, after Hood had eliminated Ray Park (Wanganui) 22-10.

McCartain, whose team includes Taranaki president Ian Andrews, had a memorable day. First off they accounted for Jeremy Brosnan's well-pointed Glen Eden side 26-17 — it had been 19-17 after 21 — and then denied the 2018 victor Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn) 25-14.

This morning's all Paritutu-affair is likely to draw plenty of local interest.

It was all one-way traffic for Delany in the second half of his match against Kevin Smith (Hinuera). After the scores had been locked at 8-all after 10, Delany, the four-time champion, powered to a 23-9 win.

Fredrickson, after being well-beaten in the

opening qualifying game, has flown below the radar all week. But his side did enough to beat Jim Cornish (Omarunui) 25-18 after they had led by four shots starting the last end. With three senior Auckland titles, Fredrickson is a more than useful competitor.

The remaining match this morning is between Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe) and Brian Little (Palmerston North).

Little had control throughout his match against Bill Foley (New Plymouth), cruising home 31-5.

Cavanagh had a much tougher ride, beating Darren Scott (West End), 26-21, having trailed 21-15 with just four ends remaining. A five on the 23rd end was crucial. Scott drove the jack, but it came back up the green to deflate the West Enders.

Belliss was required to play only one match on the day. And his side of Ray Wilson, Ron Hutchinson and Keith Slight did it comfortably, winning 26-9 over Kurt Smith (Oakura).

In the pairs event, 24 of the 68 duos made it through with three wins from four games. Like the fours, the last four will be known today.

## Results from day five

### Post section results for the 116th Taranaki men's Open fours on January 22:

#### Section 1, at Paritutu A:

**Round 1:** G Murfitt (West End) 27 M Doak (Far North RSA) 16, D Dickison (Tauranga) 28 G O'Sullivan (Inglewood) 9, D Elgar (West End) 19 S Brien (Stokes Valley) 13.

**Round 2:** Dickison 32 Murfitt 17, Elgar 25 B Harris (Johnston Park) 20, D Nightingale (Glendowie) 24 P Matheson (Halswell) 17, B Phillips (Tower) 32 K Coombe (Aramoho) 16, K Hill (New Plymouth) 26 N West (Inglewood) 14, A Ferrari (Naenae) 25 T Horn (Mangere) 23, M Anderson (Tower) 30 A Takarua (Pt Chevalier) 13, A Bowden (Parklands) 25 I Mahoney (Central Levin) 15.

**Round 3:** Ferrari 25 Hill 9, Anderson 21 Bowden 12.

#### Section 2, at Paritutu B:

**Round 1:** D Hood (Whangarei) 22 R Park (Wanganui) 10, D Goodin (Paritutu) 25 N Hill (Royal Oak) 22, A Wishnoski (New Lynn) 23 M Jones (Hillcrest) 17, S McCartain (Paritutu) 26 J Brosnan (Glen Eden) 17.

**Round 2:** Goodin 26 Hood 17, McCartain 25 Wishnoski 14, W Fredrickson (Blockhouse Bay) 25 J

Cornish (Omarunui) 18, D Delany (Royal Oak) 23 K Smith (Hinuera) 9, R Martin (Victoria) 26 J Gray (Fitzroy) 17, P Belliss (Aramoho) 26 K Smith (Oakura) 9, M Cavanagh (Pukekohe) 26 D Scott (West End) 21, B Little (Palmerston North) 31 B Foley (New Plymouth) 5.

**Draw for Saturday morning:** Anderson v Ferrari (quarterfinal), Phillips v Nightingale, Elgar v Dickison, Goodin v McCartain, Fredrickson v Delany, Martin v Belliss, Cavanagh v Little.

#### Draw for post section play in the Taranaki Open pairs at Paritutu B on January 23:

**Round 1 (8.45am start):** R Gadsby (Fitzroy) v P Hassall (Tawa), M Bridgland (Naenae) v T Heimuli (Papatoetoe), C Pinker (Wanganui East) v P Ferguson (Tui Park), K Bishop (Motueka) v J Quay (Okato), C Horo (Rahotu) v P Deegan (Opunake), B Lilley (West End) v G Crow (Paritutu), P Huxtable (Far North RSA) v L Bourne (Wanganui East), M Whittle (Fitzroy) v M Griffin (Levin). **Round 2 (report 11.15am):** S Robinson (Omarunui) v E Chilton (Kia Toa), M Dudley (Hawera Park) v T Fabling (Hillcrest), B Mummery (Paritutu) v N Bovey (Central Levin), B Read (Paritutu) v W Smith (Papamoa).



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Sunday, January 24, 2021*

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## Martin produces big bowls to win quarterfinal

Victoria's Raymond Martin has long been earmarked for big things in bowls. He has represented New Zealand at age-grade level.

And while Covid-19 denied him full international honours last season, Martin did claim the biggest win of his career — the Dominion pairs.

Based off his performance yesterday, Martin still has plenty of places to go in bowls. It was the best display locals have seen from Martin in his old home City, as he skipped his side of Mike Carroll, Rod Leitch and Grant Wakefield into this morning's semifinals.

Martin's side defeated Palmerston North's Brian Looker, Eric Cairncross, Ian Monaghan and Brian Little 32-25 in the closest and most interesting of the quarterfinal games.

Martin produced a couple of mighty moments in the match, as the two sides sparred and swapped the lead numerous times.

With Little leading 16-13 and the jack in the ditch, Martin removed the closest Palmerston North bowl to score a five. On the 21st end, and behind 25-22, Martin drew the jack with his last bowl for four shots. It swung the game back in Martin's favour and a noticeable lift in confidence occurred.

In the semifinals, Martin's team will meet the Royal Oak side of Joe Whitelaw, John Carruthers, Teo Turua and skip Dan Delany.

Delany's side dominated its clash after the break to defeat Paritutu's Glen Fale, Ryan Vincent, Ian Andrews and Stefan McCartain 28-12. McCartain's men were in touch at 11-8 after 12 ends, and still had a slight sniff at 17-12 after 19 ends.

However, Paritutu were astray on the 21st, a softer six confirming the outcome.

There is a strong belief amongst locals that Delany plays his best bowls in Taranaki. While he has been anonymous on the national scene of late, there was enough yesterday on display to prove that he still has what it takes. His skipping dual with Martin this morning should be a real feature.

In the remaining quarterfinals, Dan Dickison (Tauranga) beat David Nightingale (Glendowie) 29-16, while Mark Anderson (Tower) overcame Anton Ferrari (Naenae) 31-15.

Nightingale and his side of Errol Lee, Ted Morris and Peter Wagner opened strongly, leading Dickison 10-2 after eight ends.

However, a brace of fours on the next two heads saw Dickison's side of Lance Tasker, John O'Shea and Steve Hughes back on level pegging.

Thereafter, the Tauranga team, beaten quarterfinalists last year, edged away. They led 22-16 after 20 ends before the clincher came on the next head. Already two down, Nightingale drove. While in the general vicinity, he removed his team's closest bowl and conceded a five.

It was a cruel end, especially for Nightingale, who despite playing bowls only about once every three weeks and having no centre titles to his credit, was in brilliant touch throughout the week.

The remaining quarterfinal saw Ferrari's four of Bill Brunenberg, John Gray and Steve Critchlow exit at the same stage as last year. Ferrari led 5-0 early and 7-4, before Anderson's side, which includes his brothers Brendan and Grant, plus No 2 Phil Kuklinski, took the lead. Counts of four and six mid-match assisted, although at 20-15 after 17, the match still was alive. But then it was all Tower.

In the earlier round three matches in the morning, Nightingale ended the run of last year's champion, Bruce Phillips (Tower), 20-14.

Nightingale dominated the opening exchanges, racing away to lead 14-1 after 11 ends. Phillips reduced the margin, but the damage had been done.

McCartain upset his clubmate Darren Goodin 27-19. While Goodin clawed back from 23-10 to 23-19 playing the last end, it was still not enough.

Both the Martin and Dickison sides put in excellent team efforts to record comfortable wins. Dickison, after leading 19-6, ousted Dean Elgar (West End) 29-13.

A mid-game five helped Martin pull away from Peter Belliss (Aramoho) to win 28-12.

Little had a tense encounter with Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe), winning 23-17, although the teams could not be separated through 18 ends.

Delany's game against Warwick Fredrickson (Blockhouse Bay) drew a large Auckland audience. Delany got a five on the first head and led throughout, including 15-6 after nine. Fredrickson was chasing hard at the end, but Delany took it 23-21, after leading by three shots starting the last head.

### Visitors dominate pairs

Four visiting sides will contest the money rounds of the pairs event today.

Warrick Pinker won the event leading for brother Cary in 2014, is through to the last four. This time he leads for the experienced Lindsay Bourne, a past Wanganui pairs winner.

They meet the Papatoetoe duo of Patrick Stanaway and Tom Heimuli in one semifinal. Stanaway earlier in the season won the Counties singles, while Heimuli has previously won two Auckland centre titles.

The other semi is between Hillcrest's Kerry Margan and Tony Fabling against Central Levin brothers Geoff and Neil Bovey. Geoff has previously won the pairs with their father, Peter, in 2011. All four players hold centre titles and Fabling was runner-up in the Dominion singles two seasons ago.

In the quarterfinals, Pinker and Bourne beat West End's Bruce Hall and Bruce Lilley 18-12, while Stanaway and Heimuli ousted Okato's Jimmy Quay and Aidan Zittersteijn 21-15.

Elsewhere, Margan and Fabling beat Kia Toa's Kevin Bayliss and Erik Chilton 27-6 and the Boveys defeated Papamoa's Ron Crimlis and Wayne Smith 25-11.

## Results from day six

Refer to [www.taranakibowls.co.nz](http://www.taranakibowls.co.nz) for livestreaming of today's action.

### Results of post section play in the Open fours:

**Round 3:** David Nightingale (Glendowie) 20 Bruce Phillips (Tower) 14, Dan Dickison (Tauranga) 29 Dean Elgar (West End) 13, Brian Little (Palmerston North) 23 Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe) 17, Raymond Martin (Victoria) 28 Peter Belliss (Aramoho) 12, Dan Delany (Royal Oak) 23 Warwick Fredrickson (Blockhouse Bay) 21, Stefan McCartain (Paritutu) 27 Darren Goodin (Paritutu) 19.

**Quarterfinals:** Mark Anderson (Tower) 31 Anton Ferrari (Naenae) 15, Dickison 29 Nightingale 16, Martin 32 Little 25, Delany 28 McCartain 12.

**Semifinal draw for January 24 at Paritutu:** Brendan Anderson, Phil Kuklinski, Grant Anderson, Mark Anderson (Tower) v Lance Tasker, John O'Shea, Steve Hughes, Dan Dickison (Tauranga); Mike Carroll, Rod Leitch, Grant Wakefield, Raymond Martin (Victoria) v Joe Whitelaw, John Carruthers, Teo Turua, Dan Delany (Royal Oak).

### Results of post section play in the Open pairs:

**Round 1:** P Hassall (Tawa) 23 R Gadsby (Fitzroy)

19, T Heimuli (Papatoetoe) 21 M Bridgland (Naenae) 14, P Fergusson (Tui Park) 19 C Pinker (Wanganui East) 17, J Quay (Okato) 25 K Bishop (Motueka) 12, P Deegan (Opunake) 19 C Horo (Rahotu) 17, B Lilley (West End) 21 G Crow (Paritutu) 11, L Bourne (Wanganui East) 20 P Huxtable (Far North RSA) 15, M Griffin (Levin) 25 M Whittle (Fitzroy) 19.

**Round 2:** Heimuli 21 Hassall 14, Quay 19 Fergusson 12, Lilley 23 Deegan 15, Bourne 20 Griffin 15, E Chilton (Kia Toa) 27 S Robinson (Omarunui) 11, T Fabling (Hillcrest) 19 M Dudley (Hawera Park) 13, N Bovey (Central Levin) 22 B Mummery (Paritutu) 19, W Smith (Papamoa) 26 B Read (Paritutu) 6.

**Round 3:** Heimuli 21 Quay 15, Bourne 18 Lilley 12, Fabling 27 Chilton 6, Bovey 25 Smith 11.

**Semifinal draw for January 24 at Paritutu:** Patrick Stanaway and Tom Heimuli (Papatoetoe) v Warrick Pinker and Lindsay Bourne (Wanganui East); Kerry Margan and Tony Fabling (Hillcrest) v Geoff Bovey and Neil Bovey (Central Levin).

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Monday, January 25, 2021*

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## Dickison inspires Tauranga four to title

An inspired skipping performance from Dan Dickison saw his Tauranga side win the 116th Taranaki men's Open fours title at Paritutu yesterday.

Dickison's side of Lance Tasker, John O'Shea and Steve Hughes won the final 28-16 over Victoria's Raymond Martin, with Dickison very much at the heart of the performance. He clearly was the outstanding player of the final.

Martin's side of Mike Carroll, Rod Leitch and Grant Wakefield had looked comfortable when leading 16-9 after 13 ends in the final. At that point, Dickison's front men had been outplayed by the men from the Capital. In fact, the margin could have been even greater had it not been for three big bowls from Dickison on ends eight, 10 and 12, where cumulatively those three bowls had an impact of 13 shots.

However, the Tauranga side pulled a point back on the 14th head and with Martin's team astray on the next, it was game on when Dickison claimed a four.

Two further singles levelled the ledger and then on a particularly loose 18th end Dickison drew the shot with his last bowl to give his quartet the lead for the first time.

Then came the biggest end on the final – the 19th. Tasker threw a long jack, but the front three for Tauranga were not close, with Martin holding five on the change-over.

Dickison drove and killed the head. On the replay, Tasker threw a short jack, got close with his first, Dickison added two more and a final count of four showed how far the momentum had swung.

Three further singles followed — Dickison drawing the latter two — before a four on end 23 confirmed the result. The shot on the



**Tauranga's Dan Dickison, John O'Shea, Lance Tasker and Steve Hughes — 2021 champions.**

22nd end was particularly impressive, with Leitch's shot bowl only millimetres away.

As the runners-up conceded afterwards this was clearly Dickison's day as he collected his 21st centre title, spread across five different provinces.

Tasker, with a particularly impressive resume already, wrote himself into the history books as he became the first player to win all three big fours events in New Zealand men's bowls — the Dominion (2015 and 2017), the Open (2021) and the Clubs NZ event (2017).

Bowls Taranaki president described the week as a roaring success, despite the adverse weather that was encountered during section play. "We have been blown away with the positive comments that we have received and I can't thank the volunteers enough — there are hundreds of them — for all their efforts. The success of the Open rests entirely with their cumulative endeavours."



## Contrasting semifinals saw Martin sneak home and Dickison win easily

After a couple of heavy rain bursts had disappeared, the morning semifinals turned into contrasting affairs.

Martin's side got home 22-20 over Dan Delany (Royal Oak). Delany's side comprised Joe Whitelaw, John Carruthers and Teo Turua. Martin walked on water on the opening heads, his side leading 7-1 after five ends. However, Delany pulled a four on the 10th end which made it 10-all. It was all on. The teams were equal again on three further occasions. Delany hit the front 19-18 after 21 ends. But Martin replied with a two and two singles to open up a three shot lead playing the last end. Delany could only manage a single on the last head.

In the other semi, Dickison's side dominated from the outset in beating the Tower team of Brendan Anderson, Phil Kuklinski, Grant Anderson and skip Mark Anderson 29-7.

Tauranga led 10-0 after four ends, and when Dickison turned out the Tower shot bowl on end nine for a four, the score became 17-4. Anderson conceded after just 19 ends.



**Runners-up: Raymond Martin, Rod Leitch, Mike Carroll and Grant Wakefield.**

## Stanaway and Heimuli take out pairs title

The New Plymouth Club-sponsored Open pairs event was won by Aucklanders' Patrick Stanaway and Tom Heimuli.

They defeated Hillcrest's Kerry Margan and Tony Fabling 22-16 in the final.

Stanaway, a member of both Homai and Ellerslie, led well throughout the final to give Heimuli, of Papatoetoe, the edge.

The first two-thirds of the final was an even encounter. Fabling led 14-13 after 14 of the 21 ends. But the Aucklanders claimed two singles, a brace and a further single to lead 18-14 with three ends remaining. Margan and Fabling took two singles to have a two shot margin on the last end. But Stanaway — son of 2008 fours runner-up Mike — set up the last head well and Hillcrest's upshots resulted in removing only their own bowls.

In the semifinals, Stanaway and Heimuli beat Wanganui East's Lindsay Bourne and Warrick Pinker 24-18. A five and a four mid-game provided the impetus for the Papatoetoe pair. After 16 ends, the score was 20-8. The Wanganui pair roared home, closing to 20-18 behind playing the last end. But Papatoetoe held on.

Margan and Fabling beat Central Levin brothers Geoff and Neil Bovey 22-14. The Boveys led 9-7 after 10 ends, but the experience of Margan and Fabling shone through, collecting the next five ends to open up a 19-9 advantage.



**Patrick Stanaway and Tom Heimuli with the Pete Skoglund trophies and Ian Andrews.**