

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Monday, January 17, 2022*

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## The aim for perfection remains as 158 start

One-hundred-and-fifty-eight teams are set to light up the biggest bowls tournament in New Zealand.

The 117th Taranaki men's Open fours gets underway in the province today, with greens being used as far south as Stratford-Avon, as far east as Lepperton and as far west as Oakura. 164 teams took part in 2021.

Past participants should expect to see more of the same, Bowls Taranaki president, Ian Andrews, said, with no major changes this year. The tried and proven formula remains popular, not that there isn't room for continuous improvement. "The tournament committee is always keen for feedback from players. We strive for perfection but never achieve it," Andrews said.

Bowls Taranaki recognises that there is still a market for the traditional 25-end game of

fours, Andrews said, and while four days of qualifying is too tough for some, at the moment the majority are in favour of the format that is place.

It has been unchanged – except for the weather, "don't mention Cody" – for 70 years.

"But there are no guarantees that the format will be the same even in five years. We have to meet the market – and we will. Hence the request for feedback." After every Open the Bowls Taranaki Board thoroughly review all aspects of the event, Andrews said.

The first four days of the Open sees all the teams play eight games and those winning six will qualify for post section on Friday. The final is scheduled for Sunday afternoon. The associated New Plymouth Club-sponsored pairs, which is for non-qualifiers and non-participants in the fours, starts on Friday and will also be finalised on Sunday.

"We have always endeavoured to cater for all bowlers in the Open – from the legends of the game down to the first years players and those who enter for the spirit of the event and comradeship," Andrews said.



**Far North identity**  
Tupu Campbell, pictured, skipped one of 26 teams that took part in the annual pre-Open event at West End yesterday. Campbell will be performing both on the greens and off them — with the entertainer providing high-quality music each evening during the Open at Paritutu.  
• West End tournament results page 4.

# Plenty of sections present tough paths

**A number of the 12 sections will present a tough qualifying path for sides that have entered the tournament with a strong expectation of featuring in post section.**

**Section 1:** A ticklish draw awaits all of the sides in the first section, with a host of capable teams likely to ensure most will battle for six wins. Mark Anderson (Tower) did well in making the semifinals last season, which included a quarterfinal victory over Anton Ferrari (Naenae). The sides square off again this morning at Vogeltown A. Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) has a consistent side. Kevin Smith, who tasted success in 2014, returns with a Hinuera side that, of course, includes a member of the famed Settle family. Bruce, the brother of John, Stu and Gordon, will make his debut in 2022.

**Section 2:** Both Ray Park (Wanganui), who's side includes the 2006 Dominion singles winner Alan Dickson, and Raymond Martin (Victoria) will be hoping for six successive wins in section play. The two powerhouses of the section meet in round seven. Qualification by that time would be preferred by both teams. Martin returns with the same team that was runner-up 12 months ago. Bruce Harris presents a tidy North End quartet, while a handful of Taranaki teams are capable of qualifying from the group, including last season's centre fours champion, Colin Christie (Fitzroy).

**Section 3:** David Nightingale (Glendowie) caused a stir last year when his largely unknown side made it through to the quarterfinals. The team won't be able to fly through the radar this year, and indeed to advance from a section which contains a number of sides capable of qualifying will be an achievement in itself. Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley), who hails from Southland and was part of the winning Dominion fours side in 2020, presents the most potent-looking team in the group. Joining them is Barry Allison (Far North RSA), who remains a dominant force in the country's northern most centre, Shaun Pennell (Pukekohe) and the Bovey family team from Paekakariki, which will be skipped by Geoff,

last season's Kapiti champion-of-champions singles winner.

**Section 4:** Stratford-Avon has been regarded as one of the best greens in Taranaki for some time. Therefore, it is likely to witness an intriguing opening match between Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) – who along with brother Warrick has been a long-time lover of this tournament and frequent participant when the action heats up on the weekend – and Hamish Kape (Paritutu), one of Taranaki's brightest hopes. On the rink next door Mark Noble (Takaro), now such a big force in Manawatu after carving out a long list of successes in capital, meets Mort Jones (Hillcrest), a quiet, determined competitor, best remembered for making the semifinals in 2012.

**Section 5:** Two of the most consistent skips over the past decade have been Darren Goodin (Paritutu) and Brian Little (Palmerston North). They head the teams in the section. Both have won the Open once and have been runner-up three times each. Keep an eye on Colin Gawith (Coromandel), too. While Gawith had a disappointing time in Christchurch, he has enjoyed a number of high finishes at previous Dominions, including making the final of the pairs in 2019. And a dark horse could be Neville Clark (Ellerslie), who boasts titles in both Waikato and the Queen City. His side includes Tom Heimuli, the impressive skip of last year's pairs winning team.

**Section 6:** Covid-19 has denied the entry of what would have been the only Australian contingent – 1988 winner, Geoff Hawken. However, two of Hawken's sons, who live in New Zealand, including Mark who is rising through the ranks at the Tower club in Hawera, are taking part. The side will now be skipped by the 2020 winner, Bruce Phillips. Elsewhere, Auckland gold star holder Mike Bradshaw (Royal Oak) – with Neville Hill alongside – Wellington gold star holder Ross Thorn (Naenae) and Jeremy Brosnan (Takapuna) also loom large. The Phillips-Brosnan game on the back green at Paritutu this morning could be a long one.

**Section 7:** Dan Dickison (Tauranga) put on one of the best displays seen from a skip in a final last year, as his side took out the title. He returns with NZ gold star holder Lance Tasker, John O'Shea and Steve Hughes. They face a potential banana skin match this afternoon at Lepperton against Steve Smith (Whangarei). Sanjhe Prasad (Riverside) presents an accomplished side that boasts nigh on 100 Marlborough titles between them. No 2, Lloyd Gallop, is a two-time winner of the fours at the Dominion, while lead Craig MacDonnell led in Maurice Symes' winning team last year. Mike Melhopt completes the side. Meanwhile, three members of the 2020 winning team are entered under the Tower banner. The talented Scott Roberts skips the side, with former Taranaki cricket representative Kerry O'Neill the new face.

**Section 8:** Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier) continues to prove the myth is wrong that youngsters don't enjoy the longer format of the game. An Auckland gold star holder and aged just 22, Takarua returns for his third-successive Open with a more than capable side. Garry Petersen (Wanganui East) and Malcolm Moore (Hillcrest) are never easy to bowl, while Gerry O'Sullivan's family side from Inglewood always has a big following.

**Section 9:** Brody Dix (Pt Chevalier) has the youngest team in the tournament. No 3 Raika Gregory, who of course learnt the game in Kapiti, remains youthful in bowls terms, and Dix and he are joined by two teenagers – Liam Hill and David Motu. But they don't have an easy introduction to the Open. They meet Ewen Hope (Rewa), Bart Robertson (New Plymouth), three-time world champion Peter Belliss (Aramoho) and then regular qualifier Terry Osment (Johnsonville) in the first four games. Robertson remains one of the best in the North Harbour centre but skips a New Plymouth side this week that includes his brother, Peter.

**Section 10:** On paper, the most imposing side in the competition is Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley). Lawson, who last appeared in and

won the Open in 2011, has had a glittering career, which includes two world titles and 14 Dominion titles. He now lives in Wellington, as does his No 3, Lance Pascoe, who skipped the winning pair at the Dominion last season. Andrew Curtain, a long-time colleague of Lawson's, boasts seven Dominion crowns, plus the 2000 world triples with Belliss and Rowan Brassey. Curtain, a member of Victoria in Wellington, was third-equal in the singles in Christchurch earlier in the month. Rounding out the side is Robbie Bird, who last July won the national club singles. Lawson was oh so lucky to qualify in 2011. Similar problems are not expected this time, although a couple of experienced Taranaki teams should ensure a reasonable work out in the early rounds. Lawson meets Ian Lowry's Rahotu family side in round two and Russell Hardy (Tower) in the third round.

**Section 11:** Four-time winner Dan Delany (Ellerslie), who was also third-equal last year, and the 2019 champion, Craig De Faria (West End), are the two biggest names in the group, which will cause sides usually expected to qualify some difficulties. Regular Bay of Plenty representative Paul Anderson (Mt Maunganui) has a competitive side. He meets veteran Peter Charteris (Okato) this morning. Frequent qualifier Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay) has the draw for hell today, meeting Delany and then De Faria.

**Section 12:** After an absence of 33 years, Maurice Symes (Renwick) returns to the Open with a Marlborough team. Symes, who successfully skipped his Johnsonville team to victory in the final in 1989, has compiled an impressive career since he commenced the game some 50 years ago in Hawera. Symes meets Wellington gold star holder Alan Child (Upper Hutt) this morning and then this afternoon clashes with Taranaki gold star holder John Garrud (West End), himself a dual Open winner. Symes has one of the toughest draws, with Graham Ricketts (Te Puke) and Chad Nathan (Birkenhead) also lining up to take on the reigning Dominion fours winning skip.

## 100 years ago: Allan Smart wins longest ever Open

The 1922 tournament attracted a then-record of 68 teams (including 16 visitors, the majority from Wanganui), when play got underway on January 23.

The event coincided with the Dominion, held in Dunedin. Thankfully, soon after the clash was averted and players were able to compete in both events.

It was noted in the Taranaki Daily News that "the greens were very hard and free. The wind proved a source of trouble to practically all the bowlers." What has changed?!

A smoke concert, held at the Kawaroa Bungallow, attracted 130 visitors on the Wednesday night.

Seven rounds of 25-end matches constituted section play, with 23 teams gaining the necessary five wins to qualify. The change to 25 ends in section play, from 21, had occurred for a first time in 1921, meaning the 2022 tournament will be the 102nd consecutive Open with the longer format in section play.

Post section commenced after lunch on Thursday – with two rounds of 21 ends. The change to 25 ends in post section, however, didn't occur until the early 1950s. Qualifiers still had the luxury of two lives.

After three rounds on Friday, and one on Saturday morning, the field had been reduced to three teams – Pihama (Pohi, Julian, Lambie, 37 years.

Mason), Wanganui (Hedditch, Crawford, London, Tilley) and New Plymouth (McLeod, Brown, Griffin, Smart), who with two lives, had a bye into the final. That was when the heavens opened.

Play ceased and did not recommence until February 18 on the old Fitzroy green. Father Mason, who was

to win the Open five times, beat Tilley 26-17 in the semi. In the final, Allan Smart, pictured, defeated Mason 16-12. Smart had earlier in January also won the New Year fours with an entirely different side. Smart won the Open three times and would go on to become a legend of the bowls in Taranaki, which included serving on the Taranaki executive for



## Garrud, Stoker take the honours at West End

Teams skipped by John Garrud (West End) and Tony Stoker (Naenae) were the respective winners of the Shifty's Sports Bar and TAB-sponsored pre-Open tournament at West End yesterday.

Garrud's side claimed the honours on green one with three wins from as many games and a plus 22 differential.

Second place went to Kevin Smith (Hinuera) with three wins +20. New Plymouth's Noel Probyn (two wins +15, 23 ends) was third, with Barry Allison (Far North RSA) fourth (two wins +15, 19 ends).

Stoker's quartet triumph on green two with two wins and one draw. Omarunui's Cliff Marshall (two wins +12) was second, Tawa's Paul Hassall (two wins + 11) was third, with Whangarei's David Hood (two wins +6) fourth.



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## Under-rated Garrud makes ideal start to Open

West End's John Garrud gave a timely reminder of just what a consistent performer he is on the opening day's play in the 117th Taranaki men's Open fours at Fitzroy yesterday.

Garrud has often flown below the radar but has compiled a more than useful record in the sport. That includes eight Taranaki titles, two of which came as a member of Gary Lilley-skipped sides that triumph in the Open in 2008 and 2009.

Garrud, who also won the Taranaki open singles last season, was also a member of the victorious Taranaki NZ intercentre side in 2015.

And based on the effort of his side, and especially himself yesterday, he has many good moments still in front of him in bowls.

Garrud is this week skipping Steve Temperton and the Candy brothers, Neil and Bruce. They opened their week with a 27-16 win over a Paritutu team skipped by Allan Batley, in his own right an Open success story with three previous titles.

## Brown and Carter get things underway

New Plymouth District Councillor Gordon Brown, right, and Bowls New Zealand life member John Carter, left, wished participants all the best for 117th Taranaki Open fours at the official opening at Paritutu.

Carter stated that he believed that the event is the best fours tournament in New Zealand and has been for some time. He acknowledged the excellent support that the Open receives from host clubs.

Brown echoed Carter's thoughts and emphasised the importance of the Open to the com-

But it was the second round victory over Maurice Symes (Renwick) which particularly caught the eye. Garrud's side won 24-12.

Symes' side includes Kevan Greenwood, Lawrence Quek and Paul Matheson – who incidentally was runner-up in the prestigious Burnside pairs on Sunday and only arrived in the City later that evening. Symes had begun with a 24-16 win over Allan Child (Upper Hutt).

But Garrud hit Symes from the opening end, claiming four shots, and was never headed thereafter.

Symes took counts of three on both the third and eighth ends, the latter bringing the score to 9-7 in Garrud's favour.

Garrud then cribbed out to 15-9 in front, after 15, before extending it to 21-11 through 20 ends, and rounding out the match.

Three other teams in Garrud's section 12 also completed the day with two wins: Phil Morgan (Te Puke), Chad Nathan (Birkenhead) and Bill Clelland (Levin).

munity. He also highlighted that the 117th editions have been consecutive. "Not even pandemics or wars get in the way."

The colourful Brown, who unlike last year didn't ask for an easy ride from opponents, concluded by saying: "But you came here to play bowls and not listen to me!"



## 44 teams win both games on opening day

In addition to the four unbeaten teams in section 12, a further 40 teams — giving a total of 44 — ended day one with unblemished records.

Dan Dickison is in that group, but the defending champion, playing with his same Tauranga side of Lance Tasker, John O'Shea and Steve Hughes, got one hell of a fright in the afternoon in section seven at Lepperton against Steve Smith (Whangarei).

Dickison had beaten Joe Johanson (Bay View) 25-19 in the morning, while Smith had edged a team of fast-learning juniors headed by Brian Needham (Stratford-Avon) 25-22.

Smith called the tune in the first half of the afternoon clash, leading 13-4 after 13 ends. Dickison clawed back a single on the next before, crucially, taking a seven on end 15. That tightened the game up.

A five to Dickison on the 22nd end gave the BOP side some breathing space, but a four to Smith on the penultimate head saw the deficit reduced to just two shots.

However, Smith's side could only manage a single on the last, leaving Dickison the victor at 25-24.

Elsewhere in the section, Scott Roberts (Tower), Gareth Evans (Johnsonville) and Sanjhe Prasad (Riverside) also won twice.

Playing on the slick Stratford-Avon surface, section four had the longest day.

The morning clash between Mort Jones (Hillcrest) and Mark Noble (Takaro) had completed only 22 ends when the 1.30pm time limit lapsed.

Both teams quickly returned for round two, with Noble clashing with another likely team, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East).

The game took on extra spice, given the uncertainty of the morning round for Noble and as Pinker had been soundly disposed of, 33-18, by Paritutu's Hamish Kape.

Things were looking particularly dicey for Pinker after 15 ends, with Noble in control at 20-7.

But every bowler that has played 25 ends knows how peculiar the contest can be — and so it proved.

Pinker took a four, a two, a four, a four, a three and a single.

Suddenly, after 20 ends, Pinker was in front 25-20. Noble closed it to 25-23 after 22, but two singles and then a four on the last end ensured a 31-23 win for Pinker in the match that finished just after 7pm.

Noble's side, however, regained their composure to re-engage with Jones. Noble took a three on the first end after the resumption, giving the Manawatu side a 29-23 advantage.

Jones could only get three shots on the last two ends, Noble winning 29-26 at 7.40pm.

Kape was arguably the pick of the five unbeaten teams in the section. After defeating Pinker, his side then beat Kelvin Bishop (West End) 26-9.

Marty Doak's Far North RSA side worked hard for two narrow victories, while Bryan Godber (Omarunui) inflicted more difficulties on Jones' campaign when the Hawke's Bay team won its second of the day 26-21.

Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) and Naki Nehemia (Johnsonville) both won with a degree of comfort twice.

There were plenty of other stories of delight and despair during the opening day's play.

Pihama's Terry Mullin, a loyal supporter of the tournament, dropped both games despite being competitive in both outings. His side went down 32-25 to hard-working Oakura administrator, Steve Muller, 32-25, and was then nosed out 26-23 by Deano Hopkins (Kia Toa). Mullin's agony was dropping an eight soon after the afternoon tea adjournment.

Conversely, Muller won twice, after posting a 26-18 win over accomplished Wanganui East draw bowler, Garry Petersen. Petersen had started with a 25-20 win over Malcolm Moore (Hillcrest).

Muller was joined on two wins by clubmate Adam Collins. Oakura's other side in the event, skipped by the wily Allan Bridgeman, had one win and one loss.

The loss came in the morning, 30-15, to the unbeaten Peter Belliss, who was less convincing in seeing off Dennis Gladding (Waimea) 21-14 in the afternoon round.

A number of other familiar names found the winners circle on both occasions.

Dual winner Mark Anderson (Tower), pictured, found his 25-20 victory over Anton Ferrari (Naenae) less comfortable than 12 months ago. But the smiles flowed more freely in the afternoon as the Anderson team beat recent Auckland mixed pairs champion Garry Banks (Takapuna) 30-16.

Ferrari rebounded with a 31-19 victory in the afternoon over former Auckland chairman Michael Feek (Mt Albert), whose side includes Peter Blick.

On the adjacent rink at Vogeltown, Noel Probyn (New Plymouth), despite protesting that he is not a skip, also posted two wins.

The highest score of the day went to Hawera Park's Kearin Pollard. Skipping Dan Pulman, Grant Mudgway and former radio personality Arnold Lloyd, Pollard's side was a 41-25 victor over Naenae's Tony Stoker. It completed a successive day for Pollard, who was so cruelly denied by Ken Murtagh in the quarterfinals of the 1978 Open, after his team had beaten Steve Goater (Wanganui) 24-18 in round one.

But spare a thought for Ray Park (Wanganui), the runner-up in 1982 and the winner in 2005. Park was edged out 28-27 by Bryce Harris (North End) in the afternoon. Park was left to



rue the delivery of a wrong bias earlier in the match when four down on the head.

Thankfully, for Park, all was not lost during the day, with a five late in the morning round enabling his side to overcome Colin Christie (Fitzroy) 31-23.

In the tough second section, where all the wins will be hard to come by, only Collins, last season's runner-up Raymond Martin (Victoria) and Carl Northcott (Miramar) managed perfect records.

Northcott beat Peter Ranford (Tower) 29-20 and then followed it up by defeating Rodney Woods (Opunake) 28-18.

## Teams winning two games on the first day

**Section 1:** Noel Probyn (New Plymouth), Mark Anderson (Tower), Kevin Smith (Hinuera), Kevin Coombe (Aramoho).

**Section 2:** Adam Collins (Oakura), Raymond Martin (Victoria), Carl Northcott (Miramar).

**Section 3:** Shaun Pennell (Pukekohe Cosmopolitan), Paul Hassall (Tawa), Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley), Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay), Mark Dudley (Hawera Park).

**Section 4:** Marty Doak (Far North RSA), Bryan Godber (Omarunui), Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South), Hamish Kape (Paritutu), Naki Nehemia (Johnsonville).

**Section 5:** Darren Goodin (Paritutu), Murray Wood (Paraparaumu Beach), Kearin Pollard (Hawera Park), Brian Little (Palmerston North).

**Section 6:** Steve Liddington (Hillcrest), Jeremy Brosnan (Takapuna).

**Section 7:** Scott Roberts (Tower), Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Gareth Evans (Johnsonville), Sanjhe Prasad (Riverside).

**Section 8:** Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier), Steve Muller (Oakura).

**Section 9:** Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Barry Johnstone (Katikati).

**Section 10:** Russell Hardy (Tower), David Hood (Whangarei), Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley).

**Section 11:** Dan Delany (Ellerslie), Craig De Faria (West End), Steve Rubick (Fitzroy), Tony Hewitt (Upper Hutt), Nathan Arlidge (Mt Maunganui).

**Section 12:** Phil Morgan (Te Puke), Chad Nathan (Birkenhead), John Garrud (West End), Bill Clelland (Levin).

## 75 years ago: Luke MacKay pips Pete in decider

Just as the case is in 2022, one of the key talking points of the opening day of the 1947 Open was of the misfortune encountered by one of the favoured teams. For a short period it is the talk of the tournament, but, except for the players, it's largely forgotten soon after. In 1947 that "honour" went to William Richdale. After his Gonville team had won the 1946 Open, which also doubled as the North Island tournament, Richdale lost both games on day one, and never recovered, failing to qualify. Of course, in the decades since, Richdale's win remains in the memory banks; his failure to qualify the following year does not.

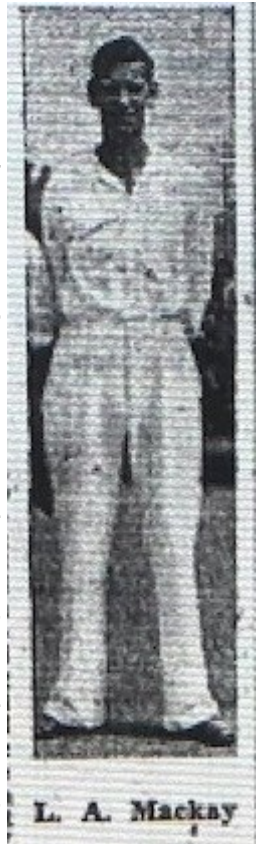
After all eight rounds of section play were completed – *all* being the operative word, as all the round eight games were played in full – 36 of the 138 sides had won the necessary six games.

As those fours went off to dispute the title, under the two-life system, 100 combinations commenced the pairs.

The title was won by Luke MacKay's New

Plymouth four (with F. R. Fairey, A. L. Martin, J. J. Young) with two lives, when they edged out the Otahuhu side skipped by one of the greats, future NZ gold star holder Pete Skoglund (with Albert Murdoch, Link Rule, Arthur Connew) 23-22.

Mackay, a mechanic, led by two shots playing the last end of the final. On the changeover, Skoglund held one, which he made to two by nudging up one of his own team's bowls. Mackay then ran off one of the counters, with Skoglund narrowly failing to add to the count with his last bowl. The pairs title was won by Inglewood's Ernie Spurdle and Bill Ritchie.



## Match of the morning — Lawson versus Hardy

Lepperton will host one of the feature games of day two — with Stokes valley's Gary Lawson meeting Tower's Russell Hardy.

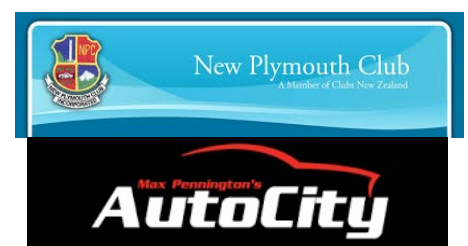
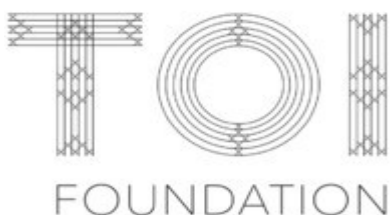
While inevitably Lawson and his team will be at short-odds, Hardy's side is a vastly experienced unit.

His side of Graham Baxter, Grant Pease and John Gray were runners-up in 2002 and won the title in 2003. Hardy is a double gold star holder in the province, both Baxter and Pease also hold the gold star award, while Gray played No 3 in Maurice Symes winning Dominion fours side last February.

On the opening day at Paritutu, Hardy's side was reasonably decisive. It beat Bill Johnston (Fitzroy) 27-6 and Bill Smoothy (Omarunui) 29-13.

Lawson commenced the day skipping, with his side beating John Michael (Waitarere Beach) 27-10.

Lawson led in the afternoon with the other three players moving up one place — Robbie Bird went to two, Andrew Curtain to third and Lance Pascoe to skip. They beat the veteran and first round winner Des Lowry (Rahotu) 38-12.



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## Delany finds form with four straight wins

The long-held belief that Dan Delany (Ellerslie) plays his best bowls in Taranaki is starting to ring true this week.

The four-time champion, pictured, is skipping another strong Auckland side this week and it has posted four straight wins, with the latest two coming at Stratford-Avon yesterday.

Delany's team is the same side that were narrowly defeated in the semifinals last year — Joe Whitelaw, John Carruthers and Teo Turua.

In the morning round, Delany's side were commanding 33-15 victors over a Mt Maunganui being skipped by Nathan Arlidge. The size of the deficit was a surprise. Arlidge presents a very tidy side and they kept their hopes alive in the afternoon with a 24-13 win over Cliff "Fingers" Rona (Waitara). That left Arlidge with three wins. Delany was even more decisive in the afternoon in thrashing Steve Rubick (Fitzroy) 31-5.

But all is not lost for Rubick's team of juniors. They have three wins, after they accounted for Okato's Peter Charteris 27-19 in the morning game.

But unfortunately for Charteris, with an estimated 46 Taranaki Opens under his belt, the dream of claiming the holy grail will have to wait for another year. His side has lost four. The other unbeaten side in section 11, is the 2019 winning combination of Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson, Steve Walker and skip Craig De Faria.

They beat Brian Osmond (Frankton Junction) 35-8 in the morning game and then tri-



umphed 29-17 over Tony Hewitt (Upper Hutt) in the afternoon. Hewitt, a more than able competitor, has three wins but faces Delany this afternoon at Vogeltown A.

Open stalwart, Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), after being soundly beaten by both Delany and De Faria on day one, kept alive his hopes by winning both games.

## Who has won how many after day two

### Standings after day two in the 117th Open:

**Section 1:** four wins, Mark Anderson (Tower); three wins, Michael Feek (Mt Albert), Noel Probyn (New Plymouth), Tom Murfitt (Massey Ave), Wayne Hart (Hawera Park), Kevin Smith (Hinuera); two wins, John Kearns (Omarunui), Gary Russek (Omokoroa), Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Kevin Coombe (Aramoho).

**Section 2:** four wins, Adam Collins (Oakura), Raymond Martin (Victoria); three wins, Colin Christie (Fitzroy), Allan Bowler (Frankton Junction), Ray Park (Wanganui); two wins, John Dowie (Kawerau), Ray Scott (Omarunui), Carl Northcott (Miramar).

**Section 3:** four wins, Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley), Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay); three wins, Shaun Pennell (Pukekohe Cosmopolitan), Paul Hassall (Tawa), Mike Reddy (Far North RSA), Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay), Mark Dudley (Hawera Park); two wins, Paul Howell (Inglewood).

**Section 4:** four wins, Hamish Kape (Paritutu); three wins, Marty Doak (Far North RSA), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), Bryan Godber (Omarunui), Mark Noble (Takaro), Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South), Jim Corric (Riverhead); two wins, Naki Nehemia (Johnsonville).

**Section 5:** four wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu), Kearin Pollard (Hawera Park), Brian Little (Palmerston North); three wins, Murray Wood (Paraparaumu Beach), Colin Gawith (Coromandel); two wins, Gordon Oliver (Lepperton), Vassist Prasad (Tawa), Darren Scott (West End), Neville Clark (Ellerslie).

**Section 6:** four wins, Steve Liddington (Hillcrest); three wins, Ross Thorn (Naenae), Mike Bradshaw (Royal Oak), Chris Hall (Stratford-Avon), John Carter (Hutt); two wins, Bill Foley (New Plymouth), Bruce Phillips (Tower), Jeremy Brosnan (Takapuna), Rangi Hiroti (Inglewood).

**Section 7:** four wins, Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Sanjhe Prasad (Riverside); three wins, Scott Roberts (Tower), Andrew Bowden (Parklands), Steve Smith (Whangarei); two wins, Brian Needham (Stratford-Avon), Gareth Evans (Johnsonville), Joe Johanson (Bay

View).

**Section 8:** four wins, Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier); three wins, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Steve Muller (Oakura); two wins, Clark Norris (North End), Terry Mullin (Pihama), Garry Petersen (Wanganui East), Deno Hopkins (Kia Toa), Malcolm Moore (Hillcrest), Alex Rennie (Silverstream).

**Section 9:** four wins, Peter Belliss (Aramoho); three wins, Ewan Hope (Rewa); two wins, Cliff Marshall (Omarunui), Allan Bridgeman (Oakura), Keith Sargent (Fitzroy), Terry Osment (Johnsonville), Rob Thomson (Palmerston North), Bart Robertson (New Plymouth), Barry Johnstone (Katikati).

**Section 10:** four wins, David Hood (Whangarei, pictured below), Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley); three wins, Phil Carey (Aramoho); two wins, Des Lowry (Rahotu), Russell Hardy (Tower), Terry Pattison (Opononi), Bill Johnston (Fitzroy).

**Section 11:** four wins, Dan Delany (Ellerslie), Craig De Faria (West End); three wins, Steve Rubick (Fitzroy), Tony Hewitt (Upper Hutt), Nathan Arlidge (Mt Maunganui); two wins, Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Jason Hawe (North End).

**Section 12:** four wins, Chad Nathan (Birkenhead), John Garrud (West End); three wins, Maurice Symes (Renwick), Allan Child (Silverstream), Bill Clelland (Levin); two wins, Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), Phil Morgan (Te Puke), Warwick Catchpole (Epsom).



## Many good teams set themselves up to qualify

There are 20 teams that have managed to survive the first two days of the Open without a loss.

Not surprisingly, a number of them are good teams, some would even say great. But as the sun continues to pour down (although rain is predicted tomorrow morning), and the wind seems an inevitable companion, the endurance test that is the Taranaki Open will determine who is the greatest of them all.

Of course, heading the list of the teams feeling the best about life at the moment — in addition to Delany and De Faria — are Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley), and three members of the New Zealand high performance system, Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley), Raymond Martin (Victoria) and Dan Dickison (Tauranga).

Kearin Pollard's wonderful run continued yesterday with two more wins, as did Mr Consistency of the Taranaki Open fours, Brian Little (Palmerston North). In the same section, Darren Goodin (Paritutu) also kept on track for the earliest possible qualification.

Steve Liddington (Hillcrest), who was first introduced to the Open 35 years ago by the doyen of skips, Robbie Robson, also ticked up win number four.

The 2017 pairs winner, Adam Collins (Oakura), has made it clear that he isn't interested in that title this time around. His side has the perfect record, albeit after some anxious moments at Inglewood.

But Brody Dix (Pt Chevalier), who was so impressive in winning the title in 2018, exited after two losses. Dix's young team went down 28-14 to Belliss and 26-19 to Terry Osment (Johnsonville). While Jeremy Brosnan (Takapuna), after two strong wins on Monday, suffered the agony of two one-point defeats.

Maurice Symes' Renwick quartet got things back on track with two wins to sit more comfortably on three. Symes saw off Warwick Catchpole (Epsom) 28-18 and Phil Morgan (Te Puke) 25-13. His clash this afternoon and Vogeltown B with Chad Nathan (Birkenhead) will

be worth watching.

Nathan's side has been impressive in recording its four wins. That included beating Allan Batley (Paritutu) 31-19 and Ross Clark (Manaia) 30-10 yesterday.

After three wins, Kevin Smith (Hinuera), fell in the afternoon to Tom Murfitt (Massey Ave). Murfitt, whose side includes local replacement, former NZ surf lifesaving champion Kevin Wood, also has three wins.

In yesterday morning's feature game, Lawson, with Lance Pascoe skipping, defeated Russell Hardy (Tower) 25-19.

After Lawson had led 10-4 after eight ends, Hardy closed the margin to 12-10 after 12.

But thereafter it was the team from the Capital that called the tune. They won six of the next seven ends to open up a 24-11 advantage. And while Hardy returned with a couple of threes late, the white flag was waved with one end remaining.

After defeating Symes on Monday, John Garrud (West End) showed no signs of the supervisor's responsibilities wearing him down as he skipped his side to two more wins.

But on the flipside, Kevin Gledhill, in his debut year as a supervisor, has had four losses. Frustratingly for the competent sports commentator, his side, skipped by Steve Cottam, has a differential of minus eight, illustrating how close all four losses have been.



**Former Taranaki cricket rep, Alex McKay (West End), was unlucky to lose two games by one at Paritutu yesterday.**

## 50 years ago: Kevin Wing takes out the Open

One of the nice guys of New Zealand bowls, Kevin Wing (Palmerston North), won the 1972 Open from a then-record field of 430 teams.

Wing skipped Ted Everleigh, Colin Griggs and Billy Broughton to the title, when they beat a Paritutu side of Eddie Cameron, Alan Boulton, ACE Crow and Doug Rowlands 27-22 in the Monday morning final at Paritutu.

Wing's side started the final brightly, leading 18-7 after 12 ends. But after 18 ends, Rowlands had taken the lead 21-18.

That's when things got even more tense, and the momentum swung back to the Manawatu team. Wing led by two shots playing the last end. Griggs had a particularly impressive 25th head, both the first attempt — which Rowlands burnt — and the replay.

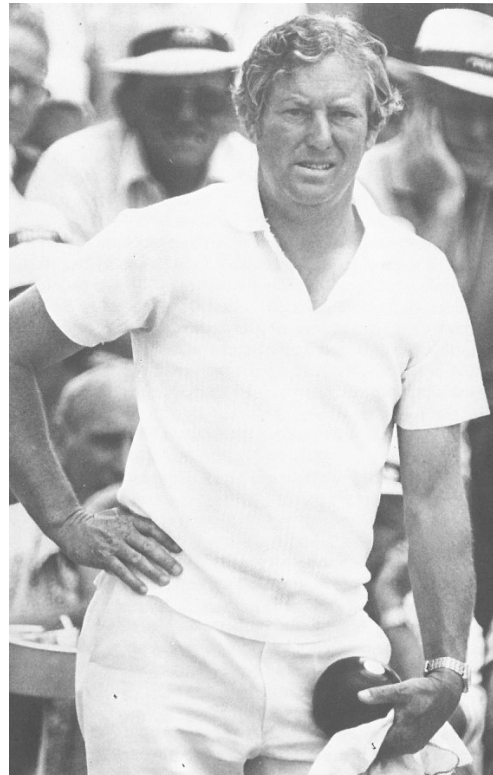
So well was Griggs playing during the match that Boulton tried one of the oldest tactics in the game. "Do you breathe in or out when you deliver your bowl, Colin?" Boulton asked. "I just draw the bloody shot," Griggs retorted.

Rowlands had won the tournament the previous year and in a remarkable case of coincidence, eliminated in the second round of post section the same side he had beaten in the

final by an identical score — West End's Brien Bennett, 31-17.

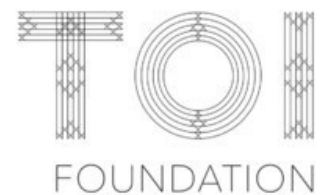
While all eight players from the final are now deceased, Crow's son, Gavin, is taking part again this year.

The pairs competition was won by Colin Simonson and Don Corby (Wanganui).



## Match of the morning — Hope v Reddy

Spectators at the almost matchless surrounds of Fitzroy this morning could be in for a treat if they pay attention to the Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley) versus Mike Reddy (Far North RSA) game. Hope, part of the 2020 Dominion fours winning team, has skipped his side to four comfortable wins so far. He teams with 2015 national club triples winner Ricky Cook, and the Brien brothers, Stephen and John, who were part of the winning Wellington open fours side this season. Reddy's team has three wins. Reddy and his No 3 Barry Allison were runner-up in the now defunct Auckland-based NZ open triples in 2017, incidentally with the unbeaten David Hood. Ross Henderson and Trevor Smith complete the Reddy team.



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Thursday, January 20, 2022*

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## Oakura's Collins qualifies with some style

One of the most popular early qualifiers in the Taranaki men's Open fours yesterday was Oakura's Adam Collins.

Playing on the back green at Paritutu, Collins' team repeated the dose from Monday and Tuesday to sleep easily overnight on six wins.

The side was particularly impressive in its morning win, coming 27-12 over the redoubtable Ray Park, who continues to add to his 71 Wanganui titles. Qualification was then achieved with a 30-19 victory over Rodney Woods (Opunake).

Collins has been identified in recent seasons by Revital Fertilisers Taranaki men's representative selector, Allan Batley, as a player of quality. That has included selection in the Taranaki 10-man side and the quietly spoken Collins has done his chances of being selected for the Octagonal fixture next month no harm so far this week.

Collins is skipping a useful side of Jim Priest, Wayne Robinson and Kurt Smith.

Priest is by far the most experienced player in the quartet, and is more than 45 years deep in the game. That includes two Taranaki centre titles, plus a victory in the New Zealand indoor fours in 1990. After skipping for many years, Priest is taking it more easy this time at lead.

His wise words are valuable to the side, and that matches the sturdiness and composure of Robinson.

Robinson, the greenkeeper at Oakura, is a consistent draw player and provides a calming influence, especially on Smith, an emerging talent, who was introduced to the sport by Collins.

Smith, like Mark Noble, steps out off the alternate leg, but has a controlled delivery as



**Oakura's Kurt Smith sends away another winner yesterday at Paritutu, as Opunake's Levi Davis looks on.**

illustrated by his victory in the Taranaki junior champion-of-champions singles 15 months ago.

Elsewhere in section two, Raymond Martin's Victoria team continued its strong start to the competition with two more wins to qualify.

The only other potential qualifier from the section is Park, who notched up win No 4 in the afternoon 23-17 over Allan Bowler (Frankton Junction), a result that ended the hopes of the Waikato team.

But Park doesn't have an easy road, with Martin standing in his way this morning at Oakura. Should Park win that game, then his side will need to beat two-winner Ray Scott (Omarunui) in the last.

## Lawson survives scare to advance to post section

Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley) was another six winner.

The 2011 champion beat Waitara's Kevin Ken-ny 30-18 in the morning, after scratching to a 13-10 lead earlier. But Lawson encountered all sorts of problems in his round six clash against Terry Pattison (Opononi) before winning 25-24.

"To be fair," Lawson said, "they deserved to win it. Their skip played some bombs."

There was no indication in the opening stanza that Lawson was to have any problems against Pattison who had previously had two wins and three close losses.

Lawson led 9-3 after eight ends. That's when things started to become topsy-turvy. Pattison took the lead 10-9 after 12, but through 17 ends, Lawson was back in front 17-14.

However, Pattison then took counts of 3-3-1-1-

2 and three ends from home the scoreboard read 24-17 to the Far North boys.

Somehow, Lawson's team found a way to win, with a four, a three and single.

But the other team in section 10 with five wins heading into the sixth round, David Hood (Whangarei), was not so fortunate.

Hood's side went down 26-24 to Tower's Russell Hardy. Hardy's side includes Graham Baxter, who like Hood, commenced his bowls at the now closed Kaponga club.

Hood, therefore still searching for the elusive sixth win, meets Lawson this morning at Vo-geltown B, and then, if required, three-winner Bill Johnston (Fitzroy).

After two losses on Tuesday, Hardy's two wins on day three kept his team's hopes alive. They need to do the double again today to qualify.

## Who has won how many after day three?

**Section 1:** six wins, Mark Anderson (Tower); five wins, Michael Feek (Mt Albert), Kevin Smith (Hinuera); four wins, Wayne Hart (Hawera Park), Kevin Coombe (Aramoho).

**Section 2:** six wins, Adam Collins (Oakura), Raymond Martin (Victoria); five wins, none; four wins, Ray Park (Wanganui).

**Section 3:** six wins, Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley); five wins, Shaun Pennell (Pukekohe Cosmopolitan), Paul Hassall (Tawa), Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay); four wins, Mike Reddy (Far North RSA), Mark Dudley (Hawera Park).

**Section 4:** six wins, Hamish Kape (Paritutu); five wins, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), Mark Noble (Takaro); four wins, none.

**Section 5:** six wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu), Brian Little (Palmerston North); five wins, Kearin Pollard (Hawera Park); four wins, Colin Gawith (Coromandel), Darren Scott (West End).

**Section 6:** six wins, none; five wins, Steve Liddington (Hillcrest), Ross Thorn (Naenae), John Carter (Hutt); four wins, Bill Foley (New Plymouth), Mike Bradshaw (Royal Oak), Jeremy Brosnan (Takapuna).

**Section 7:** six wins, Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Sanjhe Prasad (Riverside); five wins, Steve Smith (Whangarei); four wins, Scott Roberts (Tower), Andrew Bowden (Parklands).

**Section 8:** six wins, Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier); five wins, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood); four wins, Clark Norris (North End), Garry Petersen (Wanganui East), Steve Muller (Oakura).

**Section 9:** six wins, Peter Belliss (Aramoho); five wins, Ewan Hope (Rewa); four wins, Terry Osment (Johnsonville), Bart Robertson (New Plymouth).

**Section 10:** six wins, Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley); five wins, David Hood (Whangarei), Phil Carey (Aramoho); four wins, Russell Hardy (Tower).

**Section 11:** six wins, Dan Delany (Ellerslie); five wins, Craig De Faria (West End), Nathan Arlidge (Mt Maunganui); four wins, Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Steve Rubick (Fitzroy), Tony Hewitt (Upper Hutt).

**Section 12:** six wins, John Garrud (West End); five wins, Maurice Symes (Riverside), Chad Nathan (Birkenhead); four wins, Phil Morgan (Te Puke), Warwick Catchpole (Epsom), Allan Child (Upper Hutt), Bill Clelland (Levin).

## Fourteen are through; approximately 40 expected in total

A total of 14 teams have so far qualified in the 117th Taranaki men's Open fours.

And they are likely to be joined by close to another 30 teams in post section, assuming both rounds are completed today.

Most of the top teams continued the trends from the previous two days. That included Dan Delany (Ellerslie), who didn't suffer the commentator's curse, as his side carried on comfortably.

They beat occasional Manawatu rep Jason Hawe (North End) 28-7 and then Tony Hewitt (Upper Hutt) 28-14.

Delany will get a perfect dress rehearsal for post section this morning when his side clashes with Craig De Faria at New Plymouth. De Faria, after a 24-10 morning win, was undone 25-12 by Nathan Arlidge (Mt Maunganui) in the afternoon to enter the last day of section play on five wins.

Should De Faria lose to Delany, then his last round will be against Peter Charteris (Okato). Another interesting morning clash in the same section will be between four-winner Hewitt and five-winner Arlidge.

In yesterday morning's feature game, Caleb Hope's Stokes Valley side was a step ahead of Mike Reddy (Far North RSA) in winning 28-17. Hope, playing in his first Open, then ensured his team will be playing on Friday with a 31-9 effort in the afternoon. That was at the expense of Mairangi Bay's Leon Wech, a result that ended the hopes of the North Harbour team.

But Reddy's side remained alive when it beat Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay) 22-15. Reddy needs to win twice today, while O'Hara, with five wins, needs one more.

The round eight clash between Darren Goodin (Paritutu) and Brian Little (Palmerston North) seems unlikely to go ahead. Both sides have won six, after comfortable wins twice yesterday.

Section six, playing at West End 1, looms as the most interesting location today. The group currently has no qualifiers. There are three

teams on five wins and a further three teams on four wins. It is mathematically possible, although statistically unlikely, that there could be no six winners at the end of the day's play. That would result in all the five winners going through.

Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier) made it three successive years of six-straight wins — in fact, in both 2020 and 2021 his sides ended up with eight-straight. Takarua beat Brian Pearce (Stratford-Avon) 26-12 and Terry Mullin (Pihama) 24-4 and will be hoping he can advance past Friday morning, having fallen at that stage in the previous two years.

In the same section, Gerry O'Sullivan's Inglewood team has worked well to notch five wins, its only defeat coming against Takarua.

\* There are many veterans in the Taranaki Open fours, with a number of players competing for 40-plus years. Lepperton patron Ernie Ward, pictured, is currently ranking up his 40th. While his side, skipped by Gordon Oliver, won't feature in post section, it has enjoyed its three wins so far. Ward acted as a supervisor for a number of years and is the classic Taranaki bloke who is the backbone of the Open.



## 25 years ago: Brian Baldwin takes second Open

New Zealand representative Brian Baldwin (Paritutu) won his second Taranaki Open when he skipped his side of Allan Batley, Don Christensen and Gary Mounsey to victory in the 1997 event.

Playing on the newly laid Paritutu front green — it had been relocated further to the east of the property to allow for construction of the indoor complex — Baldwin's side made no race of the final.

It defeated a Manaia quartet of Kevin Hills, Murray Gibson, Dennis Hohaia and Ian Budd 34-16 in the Monday morning clash.

After Budd, the 1995 winner, had led 5-2, Baldwin's side climbed ahead 15-5 and then 22-7 after 12 ends.

It was the second Open success for Batley — who was to go on and claim a third in 2015 — Mounsey and Baldwin, after they had combined with Mike Walsh to win in 1993.

The real action from the field of 296 teams came in the two semifinals.

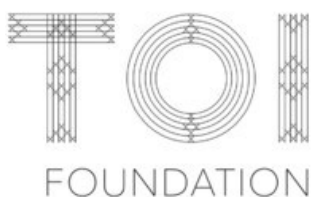
Baldwin drove the jack into the ditch on both the 24th and 25th ends to deny mighty Mick Kennedy (Vogeltown) 28-26. Kennedy's quartet gained consolation when it took out the title the following year.

Budd's semifinal against NZ rep David File (Kahutia) lasted six hours and 50 minutes. Budd led the semi 21-6, before a last-end five drew the game at 24-all. Budd's side took the deciding point on the extra end.

Hills (leading for Mark Anderson) and Christensen (leading for Darren Goodin) have qualified for post section this year.

In the pairs, George Walker and Brian Holdt made it a Paritutu double when a last-end three saw them pip Vogeltown's Michael Walsh and Ken Souto 19-18.

**Pictured left to right below: Allan Batley, Don Christensen, Gary Mounsey and Brian Baldwin — Open champions in 1997.**



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Friday, January 21, 2022*

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## Coombe makes it six in a row to advance

Mairangi Bay's Ian Coombe is a survivor. The hard-working administrator from North Harbour, and a loyal Open participant, has made it through to post section once again. The chances of that happening looked slim when play concluded on Monday after Coombe's team of John Valentine, Brian Rogers and Kevin Cameron had suffered two losses.

But Coombe's crew has character. Two wins on Tuesday were supported by a further two on Wednesday. Then Coombe, who has been as far as the quarterfinals in prior years, completed the terrific turnaround with two more victories on Thursday to ensure their place in the last 38 teams — that being the number of qualifiers.

His side beat Brian Osmond (Frankton Junction) 24-17 and then Nathan Arlidge (Mt Maunganui) 24-8. Arlidge had already qualified when he ended the hopes of Tony Hewitt (Upper Hutt) 30-14 in the morning game.

In the same section, Craig De Faria (West End) beat Dan Delany (Ellerslie) 16-3 in a game that last just 14 ends.

Sections six and nine turned into the two remarkable ones of the competition.

Heading into the last round there were no six winners in group six. But by then it was apparent that one must come, with two teams, Steve Liddington (Hillcrest) and Jeremy Brosnan (Takapuna), meeting.

In a titanic struggle, Brosnan got the nod 26-25. Brosnan led 19-11 after 15 ends, but at the commencement of the last head, Liddington led by three. Brosnan got the three required to tie the match up, and then took the extra end. It was a cruel end for Liddington, after opening with five wins, his team lost the last three to bow out.

Mike Bradshaw (Royal Oak) and Ross Thorn (Naenae) — after falling 24-23 to Gavin

Crow (Paritutu) in the morning — both advanced with a degree of comfort in the last round.

Then there was a fourth qualifier when John Carter (Hutt) drove the jack into the ditch on the last end to claim a 23-21 win over Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke).

But there was no rush on the qualification pen in the hand of Open recorder Patty Symes in section nine.

After Peter Belliss (Aramoho) had qualified on Wednesday, there were no further additions yesterday.

In the morning game, Belliss inflicted the third defeat on Bart Robertson (New Plymouth) 17-16. Belliss then eliminated Ewan Hope (Rewa), who had dropped the morning game to Barry Johnstone (Katikati).

Robertson in turn denied Terry Osment (Johnsonville) in the afternoon. That left only Belliss. The Wanganui great in fact was the only team to play and win all eight games.

Elsewhere, there were a number of close encounters. Andrew Bowden (Parklands) and Wayne Hart (Hawera Park) both sneaked through in the last round by just one point.

In the clash of two other five winners, it was Trevor Reader's Whangarei team that triumphed over the 2020 champion Scott Roberts (Tower) 29-24.

Pat Walklin's Oakura team was left to rue dropping a seven on the penultimate end in its eighth round, eventually going down on an extra end to Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier).

There was also frustration for Allan Child (Upper Hutt) after a 24-23 loss in the last round left his side stranded on five wins.

David Hood (Whangarei) narrowly missed out on his sixth win in the morning, losing 23-20 to Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley). But Hood did the business in the afternoon, getting home 31-20 over Bill Johnston (Fitzroy).

Oh, yes, six out of eight remains a tough task!

## Classic clashes on the cards in post section

A number of classic clashes are on the cards when the fours post section gets underway at Paritutu this morning.

In the first section, Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley) and Brian Little (Palmerston North) will play their round two game at 9am. Hope has a big career in front of him while Little is one of the most consistent fours skips in the North Island. In addition to his 2016 Open win, he skipped a four to the semifinals of the Dominion last year.

Section two, on the back Paritutu green, is even more mouth-watering.

Maurice Symes (Renwick) clashes with Raymond Martin (Victoria). Martin was just a boy

following around his father, Marty, in the Capital when Symes was dominating proceedings in that centre. Now he is an accomplished skip in his own right — including the Dominion pairs title from 2020.

Defending champion Dan Dickison (Tauranga) tackles Sanjhe Prasad (Riverside). Both sides are won six straight but the road now becomes much steeper.

The winner of that game then will meet the victor of the Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley) versus John Garrud (West End) match.

By the end of play tonight, 14 teams will remain — six from section one and eight from two.

## Fours post section and pairs section play for Friday

**Post section draw for the 117h Taranaki men's Open fours on January 21:**

**Section 1, at Paritutu A:**

**Round 1 (9am start — 2 rounds):** Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) v Ross Thorn (Naenae), Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier) v Russell Hardy (Tower). **Round 2 (report 12.30pm — 1 round):** Dan Delany (Ellerslie) v Mark Anderson (Tower), Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay) v Paul Hassall (Tawa), Andrew Bowden (Parklands) v Russell Terrey (Aramoho).

**Round 2 (9am start — 2 rounds):** Brian Little (Palmerston North v Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley), Steve Smith (Whangarei) v Adam Collins (Oakura), Jeremy Brosnan (Takapuna) v Kevin Smith (Hinuera), John Carter (Hutt) v Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood).

**Section 2, at Paritutu B:**

**Round 1 (9am start — 2 rounds):** Dan Dickison (Tauranga) v Sanjhe Prasad (Riverside), John Garrud (West End) v Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley), Wayne Hart (Hawera Park) v Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), Darren Goodin (Paritutu) v David Hood (Whangarei). **Round 2 (report 12.30pm — 1 round):** Chad Nathan (Birkenhead) v Peter Belliss (Aramohho), Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay) v Mark Noble (Takaro), Hamish Kape (Paritutu) v Michael Feek (Mt Albert). **Round 2 (9am start — 1 round only):** Nathan Arlidge (Mt Maunganui) v Craig De Faria (West End), Mike Bradshaw (Royal Oak) v Shaun Pennell (Pukekohe Cosmopolitan), Maurice Symes (Renwick) v Raymond Martin (Victoria).

**Section play draw for the New Plymouth Club Open fours-pairs on January 21 (all starting at 8.45am):**

**Section 1, at West End 1:** K Walsh (J/ville), F Klenner (Ing), G Evans (J/ville), T Stoker (Naenae), S Johnson (Tawa), B Davis (Waim), M Fryer (Kia Toa), D Nightingale (Glendowie), S Prinsloo (Haw Pk), P Shea (Omarunui), R Inglis (Motueka), P Bovey (C)entral Levin, M Hawken (Tower), T Poutu (Waim).

**Section 2, at West End 2:** N MacGibbon (J/ville), P Howell (Ing), M Baylis (J/ville), M Bridgeland (Naenae), T Rayner (Tawa), P Christensen (Waim), D Hopkins (Kia Toa), P Wagner (Glendowie), T Englebrecht (Balmoral), B Smoothie (Omarunui), K Bishop (Motueka), N Bovey (Paekakariki).

**Section 3, at Vogeltown A:** M Benton (Takapuna), C Nutt (Waim), J Kearns (Omarunui), B Brunenberg (Naenae), A Rennie (Silverstream), I Barker (Katikati), N Sole (Lepp), G Murfitt (WE), K Gledhill (Pari), R Naera (Opononi), A Paul (Darfield), M Healey (NP).

**Section 4, at Vogeltown B:** N Daysh (Tauranga South), J Sexton (WE), J Leckner (Omarunui), B Miller (Naenae), H Andrews (Bannockburn), B Johnstone (Katikati), S Taylor (Pari), P Darbyshire (WE), I Morris (New Plymouth Club), E Hau (Opononi), D West (Fitz), M Marinovich (NP).

**Section 5, at Oakura:** R Sutton (Epsom), D Welby (WE), W Catchpole (Epsom), T Gray (Hillcrest), M Oldfield (Tauranga South), C Horo (Rah), B Hawken (Cambridge Central), A J Walsh (WE), P Radich (Oak), D Motu (Ellerslie), B Dix (Pt Chev), S Rowe (Fitz).

**Section 6, at Fitzroy:** P Young (Riverhead), D Scott (West End), S Gordon (Riverhead), T Campbell (Far North RSA), G Dougherty (Ing), W Te Huki (NP), R Woods (Opun), N Nelson (WE), W Harris (Fitz), R Gadsby (Fitz), D Stachurski (Ing), B Read (Pari).

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Saturday, January 22, 2022*

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## Big turnarounds in afternoon games

Perhaps it was the strengthening wind. Perhaps it was the tea break. Perhaps it was that old chestnut, a game of two halves.

Whatever the reason, a number of afternoon games witnessed dramatic turnarounds during post section play in the 117th Taranaki men's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday.

Mark Anderson (Tower), Ross Thorn (Naenae), David Payne (Birkenhead), Kevin Smith (Hinuera) and Darren Goodin (Paritutu) all overcame large early deficits to win their matches and book a place in the last 14 today.

Smith was down 12-2 after 10 ends against Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), but the next four scoring plays all went the way of the Hinuera team. That locked it up at 12-all and the game closed right up.

It was all tied up again after 19 ends, at 15 apiece, but consecutive braces to Smith gave his side the edge. They led by three playing the last and held on.

Thorn triumphed 26-23 over Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier). The game had a late start after Takarua had nosed out Russell Hardy (Tower) in a long morning round clash that was resolved on an extra end.

Takarua's side came straight out and was up 8-0 after four ends. But Thorn, part of the 2006 Dominion fours winning side, took the next 10 shots and then led 22-12 after 17. Takarua closed to within two but a three to Thorn on the 24th end, put the game beyond reach.

Anderson, a dual Open winner playing in sides skipped by his brother and No 3, Grant, ousted the four-time champion Dan Delany (Ellerslie) 20-17. Delany led 12-4 at smoko, and two ends later, after 15, it was 14-4. But Anderson replied with a two, a four and a further four to tie the game up and then proceed to close out the match.

Goodin was in even both difficulty, trailing Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) 14-1 through 11 ends. But from the first four ends after the adjournment, Goodin took a four, a five and a six. The game had changed completely, with Goodin taking the contest 26-19.

Payne skips a side originally entered under Chad Nathan, who is in fact leading. He scored one of the biggest victories of his career in beating Peter Belliss (Aramoho) 28-20. Belliss had led 17-10 after 13 ends. But Payne took a five on the next end to close the game up, with Belliss managing just two scoring ends from the last 11.

The Smith side, after beating Jeremy Brosnan (Takapuna) in the morning, finds itself in the last eight, where it will clash with Dusty Reader (Whangarei), the long-serving Northland president and triple gold star holder in that centre. The winner of that game will have this afternoon off before returning for the semifinal on Sunday morning. The other six games this morning, all third round fixtures, will provide the teams to contest the remaining three quarterfinals this afternoon.

Reader won a ding-dong of a clash with Brian Little (Palmerston North) 24-23, with a seven on the third end certainly helping the cause. Reader led 17-10 after 10 ends, before it started to get tense. The second half of the match saw the scores level on four different occasions with Little leading by one after 24. Reader took a two to claim the match.

Andrew Bowden (Parklands) and Russell Terrey (Aramoho) shared a cliffhanger, with the last remaining South Island side taking a single on the 25th end to prevail 26-25.

• Twenty-six duos were successful in qualifying in the pairs yesterday. First round games will take place at West End and Paritutu B this morning, before the last 16 and quarterfinal matches occur at Paritutu B this afternoon.

## Lawson four return impressive performance

There could be no denying that one of the most impressive teams on display yesterday was Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley).

In the morning round, Lawson's side ran away from the previously unbeaten John Garrud (West End), winning 28-11.

Lawson then turned away Sanjhe Prasad (Riverside) 24-8, with time called after 18 ends. After seven ends, Prasad led 5-4. But Lawson accumulated 15 points over the next six ends to blow the game apart.

It was a disappointing end to the week for Prasad, as his side had shown plenty in its 29-24 first round win over the defending champion, Dan Dickison (Tauranga). Dickison twice held good leads in the game — 10-1 and 16-9 — but Prasad fought back both times.

Prasad's Marlborough colleague, Maurice Symes (Renwick), also exited by a surprisingly high differential. Symes had led Raymond Martin (Victoria) 8-6 after seven ends, but the 2021 runner-up dominated proceedings after that, winning 26-14.

Craig De Faria (West End), in his only game of the day, came from 10-0 down to beat Nathan Arlidge (Mt Maunganui) 27-23. It reversed a result from the sixth round of section play, when Arlidge had beaten De Faria.

De Faria meets Mike Bradshaw (Royal Oak), with Neville Hill now skipping the latter team. Hill squeaked past the Pukekohe Cosmopolitan skipped by Mike Cavanagh 24-21. Hill cribbed out with singles on each of the last two ends.

### Results from day five

#### Post section results for the 117th Taranaki men's Open fours on January 21:

##### Section 1, at Paritutu A:

**Round 1:** Ross Thorn (Naenae) 23 Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) 19, Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier) 24 Russell Hardy (Tower) 22. **Round 2:** Brian Little (Palmerston North) 22 Caleb Hope (Stokes Valley) 20, Dusty Reader (Whangarei) 32 Adam Collins (Oakura) 10, Kevin Smith (Hinuera) 27 Jeremy Brosnan (Takapuna) 14, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) 21 John Carter (Hutt) 19, Andrew Bowden (Parklands) 26 Russell Terrey (Aramoho) 25, Paul Hassall (Tawa) 29 Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay) 27, Mark Anderson (Tower) 20 Dan Delany (Ellerslie) 17, Thorn 26 Takarua 23. **Round 3:** Reader 24 Little 23, Smith 21 O'Sullivan 17.

##### Section 2, at Paritutu B:

**Round 1:** Sanjhe Prasad (Riverside) 29 Dan Dickison (Tauranga) 24, Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley) 28 John Garrud (West End) 11, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) 34 Wayne Hart (Hawera Park) 7, Darren Goodin (Paritutu) 28 David Hood (Whangarei) 7. **Round 2:** Craig De Faria (West End) 27 Nathan Arlidge (Mt Maunganui) 23, Mike Bradshaw (Royal Oak) 24 Shaun Pennell (Pukekohe Cosmopolitan) 21, Raymond Martin (Victoria) 26 Maurice Symes (Renwick) 14, Hamish Kape (Paritutu) 27 Michael Feek (Mt Albert) 11,

Mark Noble (Takaro) 27 Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay) 16, David Payne (Birkenhead) 28 Peter Belliss (Aramoho) 20, Lawson 24 Prasad 8, Goodin 26 Pinker 19.

**Draw for Saturday morning:** Reader v Smith (quarterfinal), Bowden v Hassall, Anderson v Thorn, De Faria v Bradshaw, Martin v Kape, Noble v Payne, Lawson v Goodin.

##### Draw for post section play in the Taranaki Open pairs on January 22:

**Round 1, at West End (transferring to Paritutu B at lunch):** B Miller (Naenae) v S Rowe (Fitzroy), M Benton (Raumati) v P Young (Riverhead), P Shea (Omarunui) v N MacGibbon (Johnsonville), S Prinsloo (Hawera Park) v P Darbyshire (West End).

##### Round 1, at Paritutu B:

H Andrews (Bannockburn) v S Gordon (Riverhead), B Dix (Pt Chevalier) v B Brunenberg (Naenae), B Hawken (Cambridge Central) v B Allen (Cambridge Central), P Radich (Oakura) v D Nightingale (Glendowie), R Naera (Opononi) v D West (Fitzroy), D Scott (West End) v M Baylis (Johnsonville).

**Round 2, at Paritutu B (report 11.15am):** K Walsh (Johnsonville) v J Sexton (West End), R Gadsby (Fitzroy) v N Bovey (Paekakariki), P Howell (Inglewood) v D Motu (Ellerslie).

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Sunday, January 23, 2022*

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## A Noble effort sees Manawatu four make semis

The Manawatu team skipped by Mark Noble turned on a splendid second stanza to deny tournament favourite Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley) in the quarterfinals of the 117th Taranaki men's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday. Noble and his team of Phil Gausel, Grant Pratt and Steve Toms won 10 of the last 11 ends of the match to win 26-18, as they built better heads. When it was advantage Lawson, Toms and Noble were able to convert.

That had seemed an unlikely outcome when Lawson and his side of Robbie Bird, Andrew Curtain and Lance Pascoe had led 16-6 after 13 ends. But Lawson's quarterfinal curse, like 1995, struck again.

Gausel and Pratt are from Shannon, best remembered in the bowls world for Museum creator Bob Vinsen, while Toms and Noble are from Takaro.

Noble clashes in the semifinal this morning with the 2019 winner, Craig De Faria (West End). The other semi is between Trevor Reader (Whangarei) and Mark Anderson (Tower).

De Faria and his side of Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker posted the most comprehensive of the quarterfinal victories, 26-8, over Raymond Martin (Victoria). It was easily the best performance from the De Faria side so far this week.

In fact, Martin's side of Grant Wakefield, Rod Leitch and Mike Carroll were never really in the hunt. De Faria led 12-1 after seven ends. That became 20-5 after 15, with Martin waving the white flag after 19 heads.

An extra end was required to find the first semifinalist, with Reader edging Kevin Smith (Hinuera) 20-19 in the morning match.

Smith and his side of Bruce Settle, Brendon Brill and Bruce Milne led 10-1 after six ends and 14-8 after 14. But Reader's side of Steve

Smith, George Lyddiard and Paul Wightman clawed back into the match, levelling at 15-all after 19 ends. It was 17-all after 22, before the Northland side took two singles.

The 25th was played to a 2m jack, albeit with the mat up. Steve Smith drew a toucher, but Milne brilliantly ran the jack into the ditch to leave Hinuera lying three. But by drawing to within 1m of the ditch, Reader reduced the count to two.

In contrast, the extra end was scrappy, with Lyddiard — who was runner-up in 2015 — drawing the best bowl which wasn't beaten.

Two fours were the difference between Anderson and Paul Hassall (Tawa) in the fourth quarterfinal, which finished at 7.35pm. Anderson and his side of brothers Brendan (lead) and Grant (third) and Kevin Hills won 23-17.

But there was little between the teams.

Hassall and his quartet of Tani Tumoana, Graham Williams and Gavin McLeod in fact won 14 of the 25 ends, but the two big counts really hurt them.

Hassall led 6-0, but by the mid-point Anderson had hit the front 13-8. With two ends remaining, Anderson led by four. Hassall removed Grant Anderson's shot bowl to lie two. However, Mark Anderson put it back.

Noble was involved in the closest of the remaining round three matches played in the morning. His side beat David Payne (Birkenhead) 22-21. Payne led 9-1 after six ends, but after 15, it was 13-all. Noble then went ahead 21-14 after 19, but Payne in turn took the next five heads to make it 21-all with one end remaining.

Pratt calmly drew two shots on the last end. Noble removed much of the target with an excellent first bowl that drew the jack, and while Payne dislodged that bowl, Pratt's bowl remained to give the Manawatu team victory.

• **Continued from page one**

Lawson's side was dominant in beating Darren Goodin (Paritutu) 27-12, which included a six on the 13th.

Hassall beat Andrew Bowden (Parklands) 28-16, after leading 20-5 after 15 ends. Bowden brought the score back to 20-16 after 21 ends, but Hassall then took the next three ends to sew it up.

De Faria beat Neville Hill (Royal Oak) 26-16, hitting back from an early 9-3 deficit.

Martin ended the run of Hamish Kape (Paritutu) 25-16, after his side took a game-defining 18-7 lead after 14 ends.

Anderson beat Ross Thorn (Naenae) 32-24. Anderson got in front 20-12 after 12 ends. Thorn twice within three, and still had a sniff with a difference of four shots after 23 ends. But the Tower side drew four more on the next to settle the issue.

• The semifinals of the pairs event will be contested by four visiting duos, including two combinations who had originally teamed up in the fours.

The Johnsonville pairs of Kerry Walsh and Ian

Franklin, who had played lead and second in the fours, and Nairn MacGibbon and Naki Nehemia, who had played third and skip in the fours, remain in contention.

Franklin and MacGibbon are the respective pairs skips. In the fours, the team managed four wins from seven games.

In this morning's semifinals, Walsh and Franklin will play Bannockburn's Allan Rickard and Hugh Andrews, while MacGibbon and Nehemia will square off against Glendowie's Ted Morris and David Nightingale.

In the quarterfinals, Walsh and Franklin comfortably beat Paekakariki's Geoff and Neil Bovey 22-12.

Despite dropping a six, Rickard and Andrews still prevailed 27-15 over Inglewood's Len Spick and Paul Howell.

After trailing West End's Bruce Colgan and Darren Scott 9-2, Morris and Nightingale won 25-14.

Only 16 ends were played in the remaining quarterfinal, with Nehemia and MacGibbon beating Fitzroy's Anton Mora and Simon Rowe 23-7.

## 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:** Paul Hassall (Tawa) 28 Andrew Bowden (Parklands) 16, Mark Anderson (Tower) 32 Ross Thorn (Naenae) 24, Craig De Faria (West End) 26 Neville Hill (Royal Oak) 16, Raymond Martin (Victoria) 25 Hamish Kape (Paritutu) 16, Mark Noble (Takaro) 22 David Payne (Birkenhead) 21, Gary Lawson (Stokes Valley) 27 Darren Goodin (Paritutu) 12.

**Quarterfinals:** Trevor Reader (Whangarei) 20 Kevin Smith (Hinuera) 19, Anderson 23 Hassall 17, De Faria 26 Martin 8, Noble 26 Lawson 18.

**Semifinal draw for January 23 at Paritutu:** Steve Smith, George Lyddiard, Paul Wightman, Trevor Reader (Whangarei) v Brendan Anderson, Kevin Hills, Grant Anderson, Mark Anderson (Tower); Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson, Steve Walker, Craig De Faria (West End) v Phil Gausel, Grant Pratt, Steve Toms, Mark Noble (Takaro).

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

**Round 1:** H Andrews (Bannockburn) 22 S Gordon (Riverhead) 5, B Brunenberg (Naenae) 19 B Dix (Pt Chevalier) 17, M Hawken (Tower) 25 G Cotter

(Central Cambridge) 21, D Nightingale (Glendowie) 23 S Muller (Oakura) 10, T Patterson (Opononi) 23 D West (Fitzroy) 11, D Scott (West End) 20 M Baylis (Johnsonville) 9, S Rowe (Fitzroy) 23 B Miller (Naenae) 14, M Benton (Raumati) 21 P Young (Riverhead) 10, N MacGibbon (Johnsonville) 22 P Shea (Omarunui) 9, P Darbyshire (West End) 25 S Prinsloo (Hawera Park) 10.

**Round 2:** I Franklin (Johnsonville) 16 J Sexton (West End) 15, N Bovey (Paekakariki) 20 R Gadsby (Fitzroy) 14, P Howell (Inglewood) 25 D Motu (Ellerslie) 10, Andrews 17 Brunenberg 15, Nightingale 26 Hawken 22, Scott 22 Patterson 15, Rowe 23 Benton 18, MacGibbon 17 Darbyshire 16.

**Round 3:** Franklin 22 Bovey 12, Andrews 27 Howell 15, Nightingale 25 Scott 14, MacGibbon 23 Rowe 7.

**Semifinal draw for January 23 at Paritutu:** Kerry Walsh, Ian Franklin (Johnsonville) v Allan Rickard, Hugh Andrews (Bannockburn); Ted Morris, David Nightingale (Glendowie) v Naki Nehemia, Nairn MacGibbon (Johnsonville).

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Monday, January 24, 2022*

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## West End winners in 117th Open fours

The West End quartet of Jordan Dallas Linn, Dave Wilson, Steve Walker and Craig De Faria have taken out the 117th Taranaki men's Open fours title.

The side put on a virtuoso performance in the final at Paritutu yesterday, needing just 18 ends to beat the Whangarei side of Steve Smith, George Lyddiard, Paul Wightman and Trevor Reader 28-6.

The De Faria-skipped side dominated from the outset, with his three front all in excellent touch, while the vastly experienced De Faria, who claimed his third Open title with the win, guided them superbly.

De Faria's side built better heads and it was a test for Reader's team to see if they could keep close enough for long enough. They didn't. The Northlander's in fact would have preferred an earlier tea break, as the last end before the break, De Faria took a five, which made the score 18-10 after 10 heads.

Throughout the week there have been many occasions where the tide has turned in games. But the five gave a sense to the dwindling crowd, that the outcome was somewhat inevitable.

After the resumption, Reader's side managed four singles. Simply, there were no numbers in the offering. West End clogged the head up end after and end. And when Whangarei got close, either Walker or De Faria were able to peel them off.

Walker did that with his two deliveries on one memorable head, while when De Faria took off Reader's well-drawn shot on end 17 to claim a four, the result was put well and truly beyond doubt. Just one more end was played.

The De Faria team as a foursome won the title in 2019, they lost the final in 2020 on five extra ends and did not compete in 2021

as a unit. That is an impressive record in any event. But to do it in the Taranaki Open — the biggest fours competition in the land — highlights the strength and compatibility of the group.

While there had to be a degree of disappointment for Reader's side, they had ended a splendid week, with the skip in particular impressing. All four Northlanders have gold stars, with Reader holding the most titles on 18. It was easy to understand why.

In the preceding three rounds they had eliminated three different sides with past winners in them, including Mark Anderson (Tower) in yesterday morning's semifinal.

While Anderson did lead 10-5 after 10 ends, it was largely a tense contest. Indeed, with the scores locked at 16-all after 20 ends, it was any team's game. Three down on the head, Reader, on the attack, hit one of his own team's bowls onto the jack to lie one. He then drew the bonus with his last bowl.

On the next, after Mark Anderson had got lucky, Reader, pushed through the shot bowl to gain three. Two further braces meant that the last end was not played, Reader winning 25-16.

In the other semifinal, De Faria ended the hopes of Mark Noble (Takaro) 22-20. De Faria held a slender edge for the half of the game. But after 17 ends, Noble had got in front 14-11. However, De Faria took the next four ends, including a five on the 21st when he twice turned out the closest Manawatu bowl. Needing seven from the last two ends, Noble put the jack into the ditch on the 24th for three. On the last end, Noble trailed the jack for four, possibly five, for a split second, before his own bowl, on the second strike of the jack, pushed it further back, leaving his side short and De Faria the game, 22-20.



Whangarei	V.	W/E/D
	LEAD	
	SECOND	
S Smith	THIRD	
	SKIP	C DEFARIA
SECTION	ROUND	RINK
SCORE	TOTAL	ENDS
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5
6	6	6
7	7	7
8	8	8
9	9	9
10	10	10
11	11	11
12	12	12
13	13	13
14	14	14
15	15	15
16	16	16
17	17	17
18	18	18
19	19	19
20	20	20
21	21	21
22	22	22
23	23	23
24	24	24
25	25	25
EXTRA		
TOTAL		

The winner of the game is: W/E

WINNER..... W/E (Use Block Letters)

RUNNER UP (Signed)..... W/E

**Fours semifinals:** Steve Smith, George Lyddiard, Paul Wightman, Trevor Reader (Whangarei) 25 Brendan Anderson, Kevin Hills, Grant Anderson, Mark Anderson (Tower) 16; Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson, Steve Walker, Craig De Faria (West End) 22 Phil Gausel, Grant Pratt, Steve Toms, Mark Noble (Takaro) 20. **Final:** De Faria 28 Reader 6.

Johnsonville's Naki Nehemia (left) and Nairn MacGibbon (right) held off a mid-game comeback from Allan Rickard and Hugh Andrews (Bannockburn) to win the pairs event at Paritutu yesterday.

The men from the Capital took out the contest 24-11, having led 10-2 after nine ends.

But Rickard and Andrews took two shots on each of the next two ends and on the 13th claimed a four. After 15 ends, Nehemia and MacGibbon led just 12-11.

But consecutive threes, two singles and a four, inflated the final margin.

In the semifinals, Rickard and Andrews scored two shots on each of the last two ends to pip Kerry Walsh and Ian Franklin (Johnsonville) 17-16. Nehemia and MacGibbon also withstood a fightback in the their

semi, before prevailing 20-17 over Ted Morris and David Nightingale (Glendowie).

