

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 24, 2025

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45 sides qualify for post section

Precisely 25% of the sides that commenced on Monday morning have earned their right to take part in post section today in the 120th Midlands Funds Management Taranaki men's Open fours.

That equates to 45 sides and there were the inevitable stories of relief and disappointment as a stronger breeze made accurate bowling much more difficult.

Among the qualifiers was Evan Jones (Fitzroy) who won twice to make it. In the afternoon round, his side made no race of its game against Ross Thorn (Naenae), who had the comfort of having already having claimed six wins.

Aided by a six on the fifth, Jones raced ahead to 15-0 after seven ends. Thorn brought it back to 15-7, but Jones took control. Consecutive fours on the 15th and 16th saw the game conclude at 27-9.

Brendon Walton (Auckland) was untroubled in both games, the last victory being 19-7 over 1988 semifinalist Steve Goater (Wanganui). His side completed the transformation from Monday of six straight wins.

But Chris Waterson (St Johns) and Dennis Turner (Lepperton), after morning wins, missed out in the afternoon. Waterson went down 24-19 to Glen Rich (Blockhouse Bay). Waterson had led 18-14 after 19 ends and the scores were all-square after 23.

Turner lost 35-12 to Dave Walker (Tahunanui). Rich and Walker had the joint distinction of being the only two sides to play and win all eight games. A few generations ago, winning eight gave teams preferential byes. The open draw this time does not see them advance to round two, although 19 have had that luck.

Elsewhere, Neil Clarke (Frankton Junction) advanced with two wins — 21-18 over Phil Morgan (Te Puke), having led by eight points with two ends remaining, and then Marty Doak (Far North RSA) 26-13.

Tupu Campbell (Opononi) came through with two wins, 27-21 over Allan Sandercock (Sunshine Coast) and 21-6 over Tony James (Mairangi Bay). Sandercock used up his last life and sneaked through 24-23 in the last round. His side was pushed all the way by Brian Osmond (Frankton Junction). Osmond led 13-7 and got back in front 22-21 with two to go. But a three on the penultimate was the difference for Sandercock.

Pat Walklin (Oakura) claimed both games to qualify. He sneaked from 20-19 down after 21 ends in the last to beat Graham Down (Plimmerton) 25-21.

In a winner-take-all last round clash, Paul Digby (Stratford-Avon), after an agonising one-point loss in the morning, beat Mark Pene (Whangamata) 28-17. Both sides had five wins at the start of the game. Pene led 14-10 before Digby took over.

Among the more recognisable skips to depart on day four was Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA) and Grant Anderson (Tower). Anderson led for 25-16 after 18 ends, but lost 27-26 to Brent Stubbins (Johnsonville) in round seven.

Dorreen was denied 28-21 by Scott Siffleet (Vogeltown) in round eight. Siffleet led 14-0, but the rugged Dorreen clawed back, hitting the lead at 19-18 after 19. But the locals dominated the scoring after that.

Paddy Deegan (Opunake) won twice to finish with seven wins. The sixth win in the morning was not without incident. Seven down on the head, Deegan threw a wrong bias. But he redeemed himself with his second bowl, drawing second shot. His side beat Bart Robertson 26-15.



MIDLANDS
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Only 12 teams to be left in fours tonight

There will be only 12 teams left standing in the Open fours by the end of play today. The preferred maximum number that could be accommodated onto two greens for post section is 42, and with that exceeded, the projected four greens for post section will be used. With an eye to the weather for the weekend, too, organisers have decided to play as many

bye games as possible. That means that the eight sides in the top of the draw in both sections will play two rounds today, despite already being a round ahead.

The survivors from those parts of the draw will play their quarterfinals on Saturday morning. Meanwhile 92 sides are in the pairs event — compared to 64 last year.

Fours post section and pairs section play for Friday

Post section draw for the 120th Taranaki men's Open fours on January 24 (all 9am start):

Section 1 at Paritutu:

Round 2: Ashley Paul (Darfield) v Logan Amer (Johnsonville), David Ball (Carlton Cornwall) v Garry Petersen (Wanganui East), Frankie Lim (Pukekohe) v Peter Small (Hutt), Evan Jones (Fitzroy) v Allan Peers (Thames), Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay) v Grant Pease (Fitzroy). Geaney/Pease winner has bye until Saturday.

Round 1: Graeme Crawford (Pohara) v Mark Mathews (Tui Park), Steve Critchlow (Naenae) v Dave Walker (Tahunanui), John Garrud (West End) v Phil Todd (Johnsonville), John Gray (Fitzroy) v Malcolm Moore (Frankton Junction), Gavin Hamlyn (Martinborough) v Neville Hill (Onehunga & Districts), Andy Ellis (Pringle Park) v Darren Goodin (Paritutu).

Section 2 at West End:

Round 2: Brendon Walton (Auckland) v Grant Wakefield (Johnsonville), Joe Hunn (Kia Toa) v Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Gavin Brown (Royal Oak) v Ross Thorn (Naenae), Pat Walklin (Oakura) v Paddy Deegan (Opunake).

To report at 12.30pm: Trevor Johns (Paritutu).

Round 1: David Campbell (Rewa) v Rob Ashton (Carlton Cornwall), John Petelo (Pt Chevalier) v Craig De Faria (West End), Paul Digby (Stratford Avon) v Paul Eaton (Mt Maunganui), Allan Sandercock (Sunshine Coast) v Scott Roberts (Tower), Neil Clarke (Frankton Junction) v Tupu Campbell (Opononi), Gerard Slattery (Hinuera) v Billy Fulton (Henderson), Glen Rich (Blockhouse Bay) v Peter Belliss (Aramoho).

Pairs draw (8.45am start):

Section 1 at Vogeltown A: B Morrison (Omokoroa), J Wright (Plimmerton), D Scott (West End), K Sellers (Vogeltown), P Bartosh (Otaki Railway), W Pinker (Wanganui East), S Lapslie (Parklands), G James (Coromandel), C Metcalfe (Vogeltown), T Ryan (Oakura), C Haw (Inglewood), A Campbell (Composite), R Scott

(Clayton), R Meacle (Sunshine Coast), P Hari (Tawa), B McRoberts (Titahi Bay).

Section 2 at Vogeltown B: W Te Huki (Vogeltown), W Field (Otaki Railway), A Riddock (Paritutu), D Hawken (Raumati), R Sutton (Carlton Cornwall), N Eriwata (Lepperton), S McCormick (Plimmerton), C Pinker (Wanganui East), M Taylor (Clayton), B Clarke (Tawa), B Kell (Plimmerton), S Siffleet (Vogeltown), C Carter (Parklands), P Byres (Titahi Bay), K Hills (Oaks North California), J Dicks (Coromandel).

Section 3 at Oakura: D File (Fitzroy), D Wolland (ParaBowls), B McCallum (Reporoa), P Megaw (Okato), C Murray (Oakura), C Nutt (Waimea), R Aiken (Fairfield), D Turner (Lepperton), P Huwlyler (ParaBowls), J Spawforth (Bulls), W Linney (Bulls), W Place (Reporoa), P Howell (Composite), T Nagle (West End).

Section 4 at Inglewood: J Blyde (Vogeltown), N Earley (Inglewood), G Barber (Composite), R Dyason (Stratford-Avon), G Bannatyne (Upper Hutt), B O'Sullivan (Inglewood), G McLeod (Tawa), A Wall (Upper Hutt), N Goodin (Composite), M Paton (Orewa), I Little (Beach Haven), T Rayner (Tawa), M Hitchings (Orewa), P Lepper (Composite), C Horo (Composite), D West (Fitzroy).

Section 5 at Waitara: B Miller (Johnsonville), C Rona (Waitara), L Abric (Tumut), W Harris (Orewa), C Ash (Kia Toa), H Andrews (Bannockburn), P Vink (Fitzroy), B Hardwidge (New Plymouth), B Lilley (West End), G Rossiter (Tumut), D Peters (West End), M Baldwin (Lepperton), K Bishop (Inglewood), R Duggan (Central Levin), M Andrews (Johnsonville), N Candy (West End).

Section 6 at New Plymouth: K Alexander (Johnsonville), P Pershouse (Gladstone), G Murfitt (West End), N MacGibbon (Johnsonville), G Evans (Johnsonville), B Foley (New Plymouth), B Johnstone (Katikati), A Wisnewski (Inglewood), D Stachurski (Inglewood), K Mahon (Katikati), B Read (Paritutu), A Bare (Kensington), D McMurchy (Kensington), F Gecse (New Plymouth).