

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Saturday, January 25, 2025

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Surprising number of one-sided matches

A surprising number of one-sided matches was the feature of the first two rounds of post section in the 120th Midlands Funds Management Taranaki men's Open fours in New Plymouth yesterday.

Remarkably, just eight of the 33 games played on the day went the full 25 ends, with a number not even hitting the 20 mark.

There are only 12 side now remaining — three from Taranaki and nine from outside the province. There is plenty of talent, although the bottom half of the draw, that played at West End yesterday, has a stronger feel to it.

This morning two of the quarterfinals will be played at Paritutu. Logan Amer (Johnsonville) will meet Frankie Lim (Pukekohe) and Dan Dickison (Tauranga) squares off against Steve Fisher (Royal Oak).

The two winners will get the afternoon off and reappear for the semifinals tomorrow morning.

The other eight teams will need to win twice today in order to feature tomorrow, and some interesting, and potentially even more interesting, games await.

From the West End section, Rob Ashton (Carlton Cornwall) meets Craig De Faria (West End) and Scott Roberts (Tower) plays Peter Belliss (Aramoho). And from the Paritutu group, Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay) meets Dave Walker (Tahunanui) and John Garrud (West End) plays Neville Hill (Onehunga & Districts).

Amer's young team of his brother Brady and the father and son duo of Simon and Marshall Kenny had to work harder than anyone else to survive the day.

Despite leading Ashley Paul (Darfield) 15-11 after 16 ends in the morning game, Amer's side found themselves 22-16 behind with three ends remaining. But a two, a four and a single saw them sneak through 23-22.

In the afternoon, against David Ball (Carlton Cornwall), Amer again trailed for most of the match. His side nosed in front 23-22 with two ends to play. There, Ball drew the shot with his last bowl. But Amer countered it, moving the jack for one with his last bowl.

Young Marshall Kenny, aged 17, drew two good 'uns on the last end, and even though the Aucklanders twice touched the jack, the Capital crew still took a single to win 25-22.

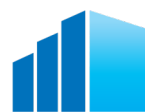
Lim also received a scare in the morning round. His side trailed Peter Small (Hutt) 17-16 after 21 before counts of 4-1-3 saw the Counties side through 24-17. In the afternoon they ended the excellent run of Evan Jones (Fitzroy) 32-15.

A six on the 16th end and a five on the 20th end was the catalyst for Hill's 29-17 afternoon victory over Andy Ellis (Pringle Park). The scores had been 12-all after 15 ends.

Ellis at least had the satisfaction of eliminating Paritutu's Darren Goodin, the defending titleholder, 26-21 in the first. That was after Goodin had led 12-5 earlier.

There were few sides more convincing than Garrud's quartet. While Phil Todd (Johnsonville) contained the West Enders to 7-all through eight ends, it had become 17-7 four heads later, Garrud winning 27-15. Garrud then ousted John Gray (Fitzroy) 30-9 with just 17 ends played. After 12 ends, it was 29-2.

Walker compiled two comfortable wins during the day, which was a continuation of the first four days of the week. Geaney had the luxury of an afternoon bye after beating Grant Pease (Fitzroy) 28-18 in his only outing.



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Plenty of talent emerges from West End

There is certainly plenty of potential winners that emerged from the day at West End, as highlighted by the games in prospect today.

Belliss, after ending the unbeaten run of Glen Rich (Blockhouse Bay) 27-9, got through 26-21 over Gerard Slattery (Hinuera).

Belliss led 12-4 after nine ends, but when Slattery levelled at 15-all after 15 ends, it was anyone's match. Belliss nosed ahead 20-17, before two crucial ends sealed the outcome.

On the 21st, Hinuera drew four shots, including two beauties by No 3 Bruce Milne. Belliss' third, Keith Slight, ran into the counting bowls, pushing the jack into the ditch for two. Slattery drew the shot with his first bowl, but Belliss outdid him to take one. A four to Aramoho on the next end confirmed the result.

Ashton, De Faria and Roberts all went through the day relatively trouble free. Roberts beat

Neil Clark's Frankton Junction four, skipped by Trevor Harris, 22-10. Roberts led 16-10 after 17 ends. After the real estate agent won the next four heads, the game ended.

Fisher and Dickison both held the upper hands throughout their afternoon victories. Fisher beat Paddy Deegan (Opunake) 32-21, after the coastal side had reduced the deficit to only four points with five ends remaining. Dickison scored a brace on the penultimate head of his clash, a critical count on his way to a 26-21 win over Brendon Walton (Auckland).

* A total of 30 pairs yesterday gained the necessary three wins from four games to qualify in The Devon Hotel Open fours-pairs event. After the first round at West End today, the eight surviving pairs from section two will join section one for the afternoon two rounds on Paritutu B.

Results from day 5

Results from post section play in the 120th Taranaki men's Open fours yesterday:

Section 1, at Paritutu, round 1: Mark Mathews (Tui Park) 25 Graeme Crawford (Pohara) 20, Dave Walker (Tahunanui) 28 Steve Crichlow (Naenae) 17, John Garrud (West End) 27 Phil Todd (Johnsonville) 15, John Gray Fitzroy) 22 Malcolm Moore (Frankton Junction) 20, Neville Hill (Onehunga & Districts) 28 Gavin Hamlyn (Martinborough) 14, Andy Ellis (Pringle Park) 26 Darren Goodin (Paritutu) 21. **Round 2:** Logan Amer (Johnsonville) 23 Ashley Paul (Darfield) 22, David Ball (Carlton Cornwall) 29 Garry Petersen (Wanganui East) 16, Frankie Lim (Pukekohe) 24 Peter Small (Hutt) 17, Evan Jones (Fitzroy) 29 Allan Peers (Thames) 16, Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay) 28 Grant Pease (Fitzroy) 18, Walker 29 Mathews 12, Garrud 30 Gray 9, Hill 29 Ellis 17. **Round 3:** Amer 25 Ball 22, Lim 32 Jones 15.

Section 2, at West End, round 1: Rob Ashton (Carlton Cornwall) 26 David Campbell (Rewa) 9, Craig De Faria (West End) 22 John Petelo (Pt Chevalier) 10, Paul Eaton (Mt Maunganui) 27 Paul Digby (Stratford-Avon) 23, Scott Roberts (Tower) 31 Alland Sandercock (Sunshine Coast) 9, Neil Clarke (Frankton Junction) 35 Tupu Campbell (Opononi) 8, Gerard Slattery (Hinuera) 26 Billy Fulton (Henderson) 9, Peter Belliss (Aramoho) 27 Glen Rich (Blockhouse Bay) 9. **Round 2:** Brendon Walton (Auckland) 20 Grant Wakefield

(Johnsonville) 19, Dan Dickison (Tauranga) 26 Joe Hunn (Kia Toa) 11, Steve Fisher (Royal Oak) 27 Ross Thorn (Naenae) 13, Paddy Deegan (Opunake) 25 Pat Walklin (Oakura) 23, Ashton 28 Trevor Johns (Paritutu) 14, De Faria 27 Eaton 18, Roberts 22 Clarke 10, Belliss 26 Slattery 21. **Round 3:** Dickison 26 Walton 21, Fisher 32 Deegan 21.

Draw for post section play in The Devon Hotel-sponsored Taranaki men's Open fours-pairs event today, commencing at 8.45am:

Section 1, Paritutu B: B Lilley (West End) v R Duggan (Central Levin), D Scott (West End) v W Place (Reporoa), C Ash (Kia Toa) v W Harris (Orewa), K Hills (Oaks North California) v P Howell (Composite), G Bannatyne (Upper Hutt) v K Sellers (Vogeltown), K Alexander (Johnsonville) v N Goodin (Composite), R Scott (Clayton) v H Andrews (Bannockburn). **To report at 11am:** G McLeod (Tawa) who will play the winner of Lilley/Duggan.

Section 2, West End 3: D Peters (West End) v C Horo (Composite), D File (Fitzroy) v M Taylor (Clayton), W Pinker (Wanganui East) v G Evans (Johnsonville), K Mahon (Katikati) v C Carter (Parklands), D McMurchy (Kensington) v B Clarke (Tawa), A Campbell (Composite) v P Huwyler (ParaBowls), N Eriwata (Lepperton) v M Paton (Orewa). **To report at 11am:** R Aiken (Fairfield), who will play the winner of Peters/Horo.