

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Sunday, January 25, 2026

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

Northern domination of the Open fours

It's a sure bet that the JJ Goodwin Memorial Cup will be heading back over Mt Messenger tomorrow morning, or perhaps this evening, after two rounds reduced the teams to just four in the 121st Devon Hotel Taranaki Open fours tournament yesterday.

Three of the remaining teams are from Auckland, Adam Blucher and Andy Ellis (both Te Atatu Peninsula) plus Liam Hill (entered under Onehunga & Districts), plus one Bay of Plenty side, skipped by Paul Eaton (Mt Maunganui).

After play was transferred part-way through the morning games from West End to Paritutu, teams had to adapt to the indoor complex.

In the two quarterfinals completed in the morning round, Ellis beat Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) 26-13, while Blucher accounted for Peter Belliss (Aramoho) 26-16.

Ellis and Pinker were relatively even at West End and that trend continued initially at Paritutu, where the sides could not be separated through 15 ends. However, with counts of 4-2-5-2, Ellis and his side of David Windler, Willis Wichman and Wayne Ruka took control of the game.

Those scores made it 24-11 after 19 ends, and Pinker, playing with Colin Wright, Garth Lyne and Warwick Pinker, were effectively done, Ellis winning through 26-13.

Blucher and his team of Richard Coles, Stefan McCartain and Brendon Walton led 10-3 after seven ends against the Aramoho side of Ray Wilson, Keith Slight, Lance Tasker and skip Peter Belliss when the match was transferred to Paritutu. Belliss had the frustration of holding five sides when the umpire's bell rang for wet weather at that time, and never really recovered. Blucher extended the advantage to 21-7 after 18 ends and won 26-16, after the difference was seven shots playing the 25th.

The other two quarterfinals were played in the afternoon.

Hill's side of the 1999 champion Steve Bick-

nell, Darral Gordon and 2014 runner-up Neville Hill beat the Fitzroy quartet of Ian Dawson, Ron Gadsby, Andrew Gadsby and skip Evan Jones 24-20. Hill's side raced out of the blocks, leading 11-1 after eight ends. But Jones' side turned it around, leading 19-13 after 20 ends. However, they loosened on the 21st, a drawn six to Hill tying up the scores. It was a momentum swinger, Hill scoring five shots over the next three ends to lead by five playing the last end.

There was sentiment in the success of Eaton, who commenced his bowls at West End and who's late father, Stan, was a past Paritutu titleholder. Eaton skips Graeme Hill, John Simons and Warren Harford. They beat the Tower side of the three Anderson brothers, Brendan, Grant and skip Mark, with Bruce Phillips at No 3, 30-20. It was a topsy turvy game. Anderson led 9-2 after eight ends. Eaton turned that around to 16-11 in front after 12 ends. Two ends later the scores were tied.

But a four, followed by a two and a further four created the impetus for the ultimate result, with Hill's leading especially impressive.

Eaton was involved in the closest of the four round four matches that were played in the morning.

His side beat Bart Robertson (New Plymouth), a team that contained Eaton's nephew, Warren Bellringer, 20-18. In a nip-and-tuck clash, the sides were locked at 14-all after 19 ends. The next three ends went Eaton's way to give his side the advantage.

Anderson beat Maurice Symes (Fitzroy) 25-12, with 20 ends completed. The edge came out-side with Anderson leading 14-2 after 10 ends.



Symes got a sniff soon after, bringing the score back to 15-9 after 14 ends, before Anderson sealed the outcome with two fours.

Jones beat Frankie Lim (Pukekohe) 40-12. The score was 14-4 at the time they changed locations and Jones' side continued to dominated proceedings after that.

In the remaining last 16 game, Hill beat Nathan Goodin (Rahotu) 28-15. There was little between the two teams initially, but Hill took the score from 11-all after 13 ends to 25-11 after 19 heads to dominate the contest.

Taranaki's last hope lies in pairs

Taranaki's last hope of the week rests in the Marbles Restaurant pairs where Tegel work colleagues Daryl Read (Paritutu), the 2023 fours winner, and Corey Brookes (West End), the 2024 fours runner-up, are through to the semifinals. They meet highly promising Wellington youngster Marshall Kenny and his father from the Silverstream club, Simon.

In the other semifinal, entertainer Tupu Campbell and Matiu Kirk (Opononi) play Kapiti rep Nicky Morgan and his lead Dylan Thomas (Paekakariki).

Read and Brookes won a high-quality quarter-final 20-13 over the Motueka father and son duo of Hank and Max Nalder. Nalder junior is in fact a Melbourne-based pennants player.

In the other quarterfinal games, Kirk and Campbell beat Kevin Saunders and Steve Cottam (Paritutu) 21-10, Thomas and Morgan de-

feated David Nightingale and Crawford Blair (Glendowie) 20-4, while the Kenny's edged Tawa's Mike Steele and Paul Hassall 16-14.

Finals transferred to Paritutu

Organisers resolved late yesterday afternoon to transfer today's finals from West End to Paritutu. That followed yesterday's decision to transfer the fours inside to Paritutu at approximately 11am. The pairs, after contending with more persistent rain, followed as rinks became available inside.

"We can understand the frustration of the players, but our original decision to start outside and the resolution to reaffirm that at 10am was based on the belief that the showers were intermittent and the wind was subsiding," Ian Lewis said.

Soon after, two heavy showers changed the tune and play for the fours was moved inside. The intention this morning is to play matches on Paritutu A, which is much less exposed to the westerly. Ordinarily the westerly is not as strong as the conditions that the players encountered yesterday was, especially in the fours which was greatly exposed.

However, if the rain becomes too steady, play will once again be transferred inside.

"The change is no reflection on the high quality of the West End greens. Rather we are endeavouring to give the best conditions to the players."

* For livestreaming of today's action, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGv_17B0C5Y

Fours and pairs results

Results of post section play in The Devon Hotel Taranaki Open fours at yesterday:

Round 4: Liam Hill (Onehunga & Districts) 28 Nathan Goodin (Rahotu) 15, Evan Jones (Fitzroy) 40 Frankie Lim (Pukekohe) 12, Mark Anderson (Tower) 25 Maurice Symes (Fitzroy) 12, Paul Eaton (Mt Maunganui) 20 Bart Robertson (New Plymouth) 18.

Round 5: Adam Blucher (Te Atatu Peninsula) 26 Peter Belliss (Aramoho) 16, Andy Ellis (Te Tatau Peninsula) 26 Cary Pinker (Wanganui Eat) 13, Hill 24 Jones 20, Eaton 30 Anderson 30.

Results of post section play in Marbles Restaurant Taranaki Open fours-pairs event at yesterday:

Round 1: Corey Brooke (Composite) 22 Tony

McGrath (Calliope) 10, Jason Peters (Manaia) 20 Gavin McLeod (Tawa) 15, Max Nalder (Motueka) 26 Jim Kishore (Kaikohe) 15, Roger Manning (Maroochy) 22 Colin Gardner (Waitarere Beach) 6.

Round 2: Tupu Campbell (Opononi) 21 Ted Morris (Glendowie) 11, Nicky Morgan (Paekakariki) 22 Murray Bayliss (Johnsonville) 13, Crawford Blair (Glendowie) 22 Bruce Hall (Composite) 15, Steve Cottam (Paritutu) 23 Joe Rona (Waitara) 16, Marshall Kenny (Silverstream) 24 Gareth Evans (Johnsonville) 20, Paul Hassall (Tawa) 20 Colin McLellan (Paritutu) 7, Brookes 24 Peters 13, Nalder 19 Manning 6.

Round 3: Campbell 21 Cottam 10, Morgan 20 Blair 4, Kenny 16 Hassall 14, Brookes 20 Nalder 13.