

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

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## Some upsets in hot, humid conditions

Hot, humid conditions greeted bowlers on the first day of the 113th Taranaki men's Open fours in New Plymouth and surrounding areas yesterday.

By the end of the day, as predicted, most of the big guns had emerged unscathed – but there were exceptions, including past Dominion pairs winners Dan Delany (Royal Oak) and Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), who along with three-time winner Gary Lilley (West End), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), Mark Anderson (Alton) and Stu Settle (Hinuera) all dropped a match during the day. The plight of the 2003 winner Russell Hardy (Tower) was even grimmer, his side losing both games which means that they must win the remaining six matches.

But there were a host of top teams who didn't have too many problems, even though by the end of the day, some greens had begun to show signs of burning.

Heading that list of visitors were Brian Little (Palmerston North), Barry Wynks (Takaro), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA), Howard Ivory (Wilton), Ray Park (Wanganui), Peter Clark (Tauranga South) and Peter Belliss (Aramoho).

A number of Taranaki teams also got off on the right footing with two wins, including Craig Johns (West End), Ian Andrews

(Paritutu), Graham Baxter (Hawera Park) and Fred Hughes (Lepperton).

After sneaking home 18-17 against Mervyn Jackman (Wainuiomata), the Lepperton side had the satisfaction of upsetting Holmes, who has made the Open final on three separate occasions, 23-19.

Delany fell in his first match 24-20 to Evert Kremer, a two-winner from Paraparaumu Beach. But Delany got back on track in beating Ian Busby (Tower) 25-18 in the afternoon.

Lilley dropped his match to Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) 22-18, while Anderson was ousted 25-22 by Alan Sandercock (Australia).

Settle's loss was no complete surprise, being tipped up 28-24 in the feature game of the morning by Noel Probyn (Fitzroy). Settle rebounded to win in the afternoon, whereas Probyn was defeated by another team with a 50% record, Garry Murfitt (West End).

Hardy's opening loss was to Pihama's underrated Terry Mullin 23-20 and his hopes took a further dive to Peter Thomson (Paekakariki) 24-23.

**Peter Thomson (right)**



## It's all Open, bowlers, Mayor says

His worship the mayor of New Plymouth, Neil Holdom (right), officially opened the tournament at the Paritutu greens yesterday morning, and in wishing all players the best, encouraged them to see some of Taranaki's attractions.



## WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



# Wanganui teams excel on opening day

One of the shining features of the opening day's play was the terrific performance by the teams from the Wanganui centre.

Given its proximity, Wanganui has always provided a number of teams to the competition and this year there are seven in the field. Remarkably, five of the seven finished the day with two wins, and the other two sides only just missed out on achieving the same feat.

Kevin Coombe, who won the subsidiary pairs in 2012 with Keith Schultz, posted victories over Jim Rowe (West End) 25-17 and Dennis McEwen (Stratford-Avon) 22-18. Coombe and Schultz are joined this year by Gary Mitchell and John Belliss. The McEwen side, which had defeated Wellington gold star holder Allan Bridger (Johnsonville) 27-22 in the opening round, is skipped by Paul Digby, the grandson of Taranaki's greatest ever women's bowler, Pearl Dymond.

Joining Coombe in the unbeaten position were Aramoho clubmates Peter Belliss and Ian Porteous, Ray Park (Wanganui) and Wanganui East's Roger Neilson.

Naturally, Peter Belliss was expected to feature, and with past NZ rep Keith Slight at No 3, Phil Corney, who skipped the last Wanganui team to skip the Open in 2004, at No 2 and Ray Wilson, formerly of BOP, leading, they didn't disappoint. First off, they beat a very tidy Auckland side skipped by Steve Hoeft (Pt Chevalier) 21-14 and then moved past Peter Sprake (New Plymouth) 33-7.

Park had a close squeak 21-20 over 1991 Dominion fours semifinalist Bill Johnston (Fitzroy) before beating that great South Island supporter of the event, Kerry Bishop (Motueka) 34-15.

Neilson beat Sandy Robinson (Omaranui) 28-23 and Danny Watt (Lepperton) 33-13.

The two Wanganui team's to have one win and one loss were Russell Haddock (Wanganui) and Cary Pinker (Wanganui East). Haddock was edged out 23-21 by Ross Henderson (West End), while Pinker was pipped 20-19 by former NZ roller hockey rep and the holder of 13 Hawke's Bay titles, Ian Mason (Havelock North).

## Two winners from the first day's play

**Section 1:** John Carter (Hutt), Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), David Hood (Kerikeri), Ian Porteous (Aramoho), Graham Frater (Inglewood).

**Section 2:** Graham Baxter (Hawera Park), Neil Candy (West End), Ian Lowry (Rahotu).

**Section 3:** Brian Little (Palmerston North), Darren Scott (West End), Darren Goodin (Paritutu).

**Section 4:** Bruce Mummery (Paritutu), Kevin Hills (Alton), Kevin Coombe (Aramoho).

**Section 5:** Murray Hooper (Rewa), Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Barry Wynks (Takaro), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA).

**Section 6:** Craig Johns (West End), Ken Greeks (Napier), Ross Thorn (Naenae), Rod-

ney Woods (Opunake).

**Section 7:** Howard Ivory (Wilton), Graeme McDowell (West End), Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe), Gerard Slattery (Hinuera).

**Section 8:** Roger Neilson (Wanganui East), Terry Cullen (Helensville), Don Ramsey (Pukekohe).

**Section 9:** Ian Mason (Havelock North), Dave Selby (Hillcrest), Fred Hughes (Lepperton).

**Section 10:** Ray Park (Wanganui), Mort Jones (Hillcrest), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).

**Section 11:** Evert Kremer (Paraparaumu Beach), Peter Clark (Tauranga South).

**Section 12:** Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Peter Thomson (Paekakariki), Des Brophy (Fitzroy), Gary Russek (Omokoroa).

## John Carter produces goods in thrilling win

Long-serving bowls administrator John Carter proved to be the right man for the occasion when he guided his Wellington team to its second-successive victory on the first day of the 2018 Taranaki men's open fours tournament yesterday afternoon at the Paritutu greens.

Carter, who served as both president and chairman of Bowls New Zealand, has been a regular visitor and solid competitor to the Taranaki tournament, with his best placing being a quarterfinal berth in 2001.

His 2018 side remains the same as that of recent memory with Bruce "Godfather" Woodhouse (pictured right), Bill Jackson and former Wellington CEO, Don McMurray. The side opened with a comfortable 29-13 win over Waimea's Ian Schofield, but in the afternoon became locked in an intriguing battle with George Hindi's side from Australia's Sunshine Coast. The two teams were seldom separated by more than two shots, and when the 25th and final commenced, Carter led by one.



Hindi's side called the tune on the final end, although a valiant attempt by McMurray, where he touched the jack but left it behind, saw the Australians hold one shot on the skip-changeover.

Hindi drew a top shot, giving his side the two it needed to win. But captain Carter had other ideas, pushing into the head and spilling the jack back to one of Jackson's bowls.

Hindi, on the push as well, narrowly missed, leaving Carter's crew the winners at 24-22.

Carter's side was one of five from section one to emerge from the opening day with the perfect record. Joining them were former Taranaki development rep Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), decorated Far North titleholder David Hood (Kerikeri), the consistent Ian Porteous (Aramoho) and Graham Frater (Inglewood).

After the disappointment of missing out on qualifying last year, Hood's side had a close shave in its opening match against New Plymouth's Albie Waitere, who skipped the winning team at last year's Aotearoa Maori bowls championships, Hood sneaking home 24-23.

The men from the far north were emphatic in the afternoon, accounting for a strong side skipped by Graeme Fulford (Australia) 30-7.



**David Hood - two wins**

Porteous didn't have things all his own way against Stratford-Avon's Colin Jones, winning 23-16, but also showed much more in the afternoon in defeating Waitere 28-12.

Frater and Goldsworthy were two of the lesser known Taranaki teams excelling on day one — and both did it with some style.

Goldsworthy beat Paul Darbyshire (Northern) 25-11 and Jones 24-14, while Frater saw off the challenge of Hindi 27-14 before beating Taranaki gold star holder Neville Sole (West End) 25-12.

## Wednesday the day for old timers afternoon tea

What has become a regular feature of the Taranaki Open fours, the Jean Sandel Retirement Village-sponsored afternoon tea is on again this year.

Paritutu will host the function

for all past competitors, and associates, tomorrow from 2pm.

"We have seen the event grown in popularity," organiser Barry Stevenson said.

"We want to see as many people there as possible."

As is custom, the afternoon tea will also coincide with the announcement of which club will host the finals.



## BNZ CEO Mark Cameron enjoying his first Taranaki Open

Bowls New Zealand CEO Mark Cameron said that he can now understand why the Taranaki men's Open fours tournament is as good as it gets when it comes to provincial tournaments.

Cameron, who has been in the job for six months, is on his second visit to the province, but his first to the Taranaki Open.

"Walking around the greens and talking to a few of the bowlers, the overwhelming message is that the players thoroughly enjoy this format," Cameron said.

"I've been to Paritutu, Vogeltown, New Plymouth and Fitzroy and there seems to be a good vibe at each location."

Cameron is easing into the job, listening and discussing, and is starting to establish some thoughts about the future.

"I will take some of my observations back to Auckland with me as we prepare bowls for the coming years."

Moving forward, Cameron believed that Bowls New Zealand needed to focus on the national championships, the Intercentre and a television product that could take the shape of something similar to the Australian Premier League.

"A few years ago cricket was battling, but they introduced the T20 version. We need to embrace something like this and the Australian format appears the way to go. It can appeal at all levels of the game."

Cameron also said that the national championships could be in for a makeover in the future, with the fours potentially being split away from the singles and pairs.

"At the moment these are just thoughts and ideas. The full board of Bowls New Zealand need to contemplate, discuss and decide."

In the meantime, Cameron said he would continue to get out and talk with bowlers today in Taranaki and around the rest of the country. And "I'm very convinced of the importance and place the Taranaki Open has on our calendar."

• Last evening, at West End, Cameron (right of frame) presented to Dean Elgar (left of frame) the 2016/17 New Zealand domestic player of the year award. Cameron spoke of Elgar's achievement in winning last season's national singles, as well as making the final of the world champion-of-champions in Australia.



## Match of the morning — Johns v Thorn

Two of the unbeaten teams that will square off this morning will be West End's Craig Johns and Naenae's Ross Thorn.

Johns, playing with Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker were untroubled in their two victories on day one at Lepperton. They defeated Bill Barwood (Morrinsville RSA) 29-15 and Cliff Rona (Waitara) 25-7.

Thorn's side this year comprises Robbie Yemm, Mark Clements and Lou Newman. After making last year's quarter-finals, Thorn started 2018 on the right note in beating Manawatu rep Scotty McGavin (Bulls) 27-24 and Tupu Campbell (Far North RSA) 21-14.

The Johns-Thorn clash will take place at Vogeltown A.

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