

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

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## Delany's team suffers second set-back

Former Blackjack Dan Delany (Royal Oak), a four-time winner of the Taranaki Open fours, suffered his second defeat during section play of the 113th tournament at Fitzroy yesterday afternoon.

Delany is skipping a familiar side with Mike Nasey and Joe Whitelaw, two players who have shared in multiple Open successes, and one newcomer this year, Gary Cotter. Cotter impressed in last year's event leading for a Hamilton side.

After a loss and a win on Monday, Delany appeared in reasonable touch in beating Russell Haddock (Wanganui) 25-17 yesterday morning.

But in the afternoon, the Delany side ran into a wily team from Tauranga South of Robbie Frelan, dual Dominion fours winner Maurice Hickey, John Simons and 1987 Dominion pairs winner Peter Clark.

Clark is now 82, but still one of the best skips going around. His team, after two wins on Monday, were somewhat smarting, having seen a lead in the morning evaporate as they fell 18-15 to three-winner Ross Hender-

son (West End).

But the Bay of Plenty team turned things around in the last round of the day, prevailing 30-19 to keep themselves in a solid over-night position. The loss left Delany's team needing to win their last four matches.

This morning they face Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth), who skips the only side in the section with an unblemished record.

Bellringer's team received its sternest test to date when it beat Dave Hewitt (Silverstream) 25-16 in the morning and then accounted for Richard Death (Te Awamutu) 27-6 in the later round.

Delany is not alone in the two-win, two-loss department, with a number of other teams predicted to qualify also in the same boat.

Those teams include Adam Wishnoski (New Lynn), Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) and Steve Hoefft (Pt Chevalier).

The most noted causality is Russell Hardy (Tower), after the 2003 winner dropped his morning game 26-15 to three-winner Trevor Rayner (Tawa).



**Peter Clark and Ross Henderson, deep in concentration; Joe Whitelaw (below)**



### WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday



Friday



Saturday



## A number of teams impress with unbeaten records

There are 17 teams that are still to taste defeat in the Taranaki Open fours and some have already indicated that it will take a team of some quality to inflict that first loss.

Among those teams are Brian Little (Palmerston North), Ray Park (Wangannui), Peter Belliss (Aramoho) and Craig Johns (West End).

Little, after beating Colin Salmon (Taradale) 30-16, ended the day with a convincing 25-11 win over a team of predominantly newer bowlers headed by Darren Scott (West End), which until then had posted three strong wins.

Johns opened the day with a 21-10 win over Naenae's Ross Thorn in a match closer than the score indicated, the greater consistency of the West End side prevailing. Thorn had a further hiccup in the afternoon losing 27-20 to

three-winner Ken Greeks (Napier), with Johns defeating Bob Harris (Canterbury) 25-11.

Park saw off the challenge of Paritutu's Ian Andrews 26-18 and then accounted for Tower's Jeff Ward 30-9.

Belliss was kept honest for parts of his morning match, seeing off Gary Russek (Omokoroa) 23-13 and then cruised home 28-9 over David Mora (Whangarei).

David Hood (Kerikeri) remained unbeaten, although it was a little tight in the morning when his side beat Tony Holdsworth (Central) 20-16.

The last game of the day to finish was between Ian Lowry (Rahotu) and Neil Candy (West End). Both teams headed into the game with three wins and it was the coastal side that came through, winning 26-20.

## Who has won how many after day two

Standings after day two:

**Section 1:** four wins, David Hood (Kerikeri); three wins, John Carter (Hutt), Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), Ian Porteous (Aramoho), Graham Fulford (Australia).

**Section 2:** four wins, Ian Lowry (Rahotu); three wins, Graham Baxter (Hawera Park), Neil Candy (West End), Gary McKay (Australia), Cliff Mitchell-Burnard (Te Kuiti), Maurice Stieller (Stratford-Avon).

**Section 3:** four wins, Brian Little (Palmerston North), Darren Goodin (Paritutu); three wins, Darren Scott (West End), David Brunton (Stratford-Avon).

**Section 4:** four wins, Kevin Coombe (Aramoho); three wins, Ray Hudson (Central Levin), Keiran Pollard (Hawera Park), Kevin Hills (Alton).

**Section 5:** three wins, Alan Sandercock (Australia), Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Barry Wynks (Takaro), Mark Anderson (Alton), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA).

**Section 6:** four wins, Craig Johns (West End), Rodney Woods (Opunake); three wins, Scotty

McGavin (Bulls), Ken Day (Hawera Park), Ken Greeks (Napier).

**Section 7:** four wins, Howard Ivory (Wilton), Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe); three wins, Mike Walsh (Paritutu), Gerard Slattery (Hinuera), Richard Meacle (Australia).

**Section 8:** four wins, Terry Cullen (Helensville); three wins, Stu Settle (Hinuera), Garry Murfitt (West End), Noel Probyn (Fitzroy), Don Ramsey (Pukekohe).

**Section 9:** four wins, Ian Mason (Havelock North), Dave Selby (Hillcrest); three wins, Gary Lilley (West End).

**Section 10:** four wins, Ray Park (Wanganui), Mort Jones (Hillcrest); three wins, Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).

**Section 11:** four wins, Warren Bellringer; three wins, Ross Henderson (West End), Ian Busby (Tower), Peter Clark (Tauranga South).

**Section 12:** four wins, Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Peter Thomson (Paekakariki); three wins, Trevor Rayner (Tawa), Terry Mullin (Pihama), Des Brophy (Fitzroy).

## Kevin Coombe unbeaten in Open fours after two days

Aramoho's Kevin Coombe, a three-time New Zealand indoor singles champion, proved that he is a more than useful performer in the outdoor game after he skipped his side to a 27-6 win over the Edward Hau-skipped team from Opononi at Paritutu yesterday. It was the fourth-straight win for his team.

In the morning round, Coombe's side of Keith Schultz, Gary Mitchell and John Belliss were involved in a ding-dong affair with the 1995 winner Kevin Hills (Alton).

Hills, skipping Eamon Hussey, Peter Newell and Neil Reid, raced to a 9-3 lead after nine ends, but a four to Coombe on the next brought the Wanganui side back into contention.

However, Hills remained in front until the 19th head, when a further four to Coombe gave his side the lead for the first time since the second end.

Hills continued to fight, though, grabbing four singles over the next five ends to lead by one point playing the last end.

But it was Coombe that got the nod, a two securing him the match 20-19.

The Aramoho team held three on the change-over before Hills drove, forcing the jack back into the ditch. One of Belliss' bowl, a toucher, became the shot in the ditch.

Coombe drew a brilliant shot to the ditch and Hills, attempting to retrieve, just rolled into the ditch.

"I was missing in action presumed lost for a large chunk of the game," Coombe said afterwards. "Kevin (Hills) only just missed."

Like Coombe, Schultz, the lead and team organiser, said the unbeaten team were, "as always, loving the week."

"You can't beat the 25 ends. You know exactly where you are at. It used to be my annual holiday and its just continued on."

Hills' side rebounded from the narrow loss to Coombe, benefitting from a late scoring spree to beat Bruce Mummery (Paritutu) 32-24 to finish the day in a comfortable position of three wins.

Hills is joined on three wins in section four by Kearin Pollard (Hawera Park) and Kapiti gold star holder Ray Hudson (Central Levin), after both teams won twice on the well-prepared Paritutu front green.

Elsewhere in the section, both Wellington gold star holder Allan Brider, and the O'Sullivan family team from Inglewood, after two losses on Monday, rebounded with two wins apiece yesterday to keep their hopes alive.

But two losses yesterday ended the chances of the 2012 runner-up Les Dempster-Rivett (Frankton Junction).



**Kevin Hills (Alton), left, has three wins, while Bruce Mummery (Paritutu), right, has had two wins.**

## Get to 30 to win, don't make 20 and lose — usually

An old adage in the 25-end game of bowls is that to have any chance of winning, a team needs to score at least 20 shots and to ensure victory they need at least 30 points. But yesterday threw up some

examples where that was not the case, especially for Mike Hori's Waimea side which is being skipped by his father, Benny Hill. In the morning, they came from 10-0 down to beat Murray Hooper (Rewa)

32-30 but in the afternoon had the same scoreline in reverse in going down to Barry Wynks (Takaro).

At the opposite end of the scale, Ross Henderson beat Peter Clark 18-15.



## Mora brothers rekindling their father's memory

One of the great aspects of the Taranaki Open fours has always been the number of family teams that take part.

Most famous of all were the Spurdle brothers from Inglewood who were dominant forces in bowls from the 1950s onwards, following their father Fred who won the 1937 Open.

All of Fred's sons excelled in bowls winning many titles together.

There was a unique situation when Bill, Roy and Ernie, with Ron Ashton, made the 1964 final and met their brother Barney, who was skipping his own team. After a drawn final, Bill's side won the replay to take the title.

In recent year's the O'Sullivan's from Inglewood and Bovey's from Kapiti have featured and there was an even more unique situation yesterday morning at West End when two well-known New Plymouth families squared off — the Bishops and the Moras.

The four Mora brothers, Anton and Graham (both Vogeltown), Paul (Milford, North Harbour) and David (Whangarei) comprised one team.

The Bishops were skipped by Bryan Boulton and his team included his wife's two brothers Peter and Jeff, and their uncle Pat.

The match was a win for the Bishop family, triumphing 26-19.

But for the Mora brothers, all first year play-

ers, except David who is in his fifth year, winning is not what it is all about.

Their late father Cyril — the "Hawk" from his days flying in World War II — was for many years a competitor in the tournament.

This week is about rekindling their father's memory and experiencing some of the fellowship that their father did.

The Bishop family also has a long history in the Open, especially back in the 1990s when Pat used to regularly team up with his brothers Des (father of Peter and Jeff), Basil and Max.

In 1992, when the brothers dispatched Te Puke's Terry Wilson, the champion of the previous year, in post section, the following day's headline beamed "Bishops put in priestly performance."



**The Mora brothers: Anton, Graham, Paul and David.**

## Match of the morning — Pinker v Holmes

While a number of the big names are sailing along just fine, the same can not be said for two of the more favoured teams, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) and Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach). Both sides have won two games and lost two games, meaning this morning's match at Waitara is critical.

Pinker's side includes his brother Warrick, Doug Baty and Lindsay Bourne. After a win and a loss on the opening day, they were edged 22-20 by the unbeaten Dave Selby (Hillcrest) before beating Merv Jackman (Wainuiomata) 26-16.

Holmes' team comprises Alan Bradbury, Riko Rokotakala and Steve Glavas. They, too, had a win and a loss on the first day, before losing to George Markie (Vogeltown) 26-23 and beating Moe Kelly (Fitzroy) 24-16.

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