

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 18, 2018

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## Delany, Pinker and Holmes all eliminated

As the water started to fall, albeit only in a soft and unobtrusive way, a number of the pre-tournament favourites were eliminated from the 113th Taranaki Open fours yesterday.

The biggest names to fall were Dan Delany (Royal Oak), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) and Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach).

The other big story of the day was that Peter Belliss (Aramoho) dropped both his games, meaning, if the weather Gods are kind, the Wanganui team will need to win both matches today to qualify.

Delany, the four-time winner, lost in the sixth round 23-22 to Fitzroy's Colin Christie, despite holding a handy early advantage.

Earlier in the day Delany had come from 21-7 down to beat Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth) 26-25, Delany getting the shot with his last bowl. Bellringer's day didn't get any better, either, falling to five-winner Ross Henderson (West End).

Pinker beat Holmes in the morning 30-12. But then he was edged out 22-19 by five-winner Gary Lilley (West End) in the afternoon to also be eliminated.

## Paritutu awarded the finals

Bowls Taranaki chairman Brien Bennett QSM announced yesterday that the final of this year's Open will be held on the Paritutu front green.

Bennett said that both Paritutu and West End

had greens of a very high standard and both would have been suitable.

The locations for Friday will be determined once the number of qualifiers in

the fours and pairs entries are known.

On Saturday, the last 16 of the fours will all be at Paritutu and the pairs post section will be at West End.

The double slip-up from the Belliss side was a real surprise as his team had been tracking very well. In the morning, Russell Hardy's Tower team finally found some form, beating Belliss 27-25, while in the afternoon it was the Fitzroy four headed by Des Brophy that won 27-18. It was Brophy's fourth win.

There were plenty of happy bowlers by the end of the day, nonetheless, with 10 teams having already qualified.

Howard Ivory (Wilton) and Mike Cavanagh (Pukekohe) both emerged with the perfect record from section seven.

Cavanagh, who made the last 16 in both 2015 and 2016, beat Gerard Slattery (Hinuera) 25-12 and Richard Meacle (Australia) 27-7. Ivory beat Alan Melrose (Helensville) 30-13 and then eliminated Slattery 25-20.

There are also two qualifiers already in section six, with Craig Johns (West End) and Rodney Woods (Opunake) both six winners.

Johns looms as the best local hope of victory, beating Scott McGavin (Bulls) 29-15 and Philip Drought (Paritutu) 25-6.

• **Continued page two**

## WEATHER FORECAST

Friday	 Showers
Saturday	 Showers
Sunday	 Showers

## 10 teams already through to post section

### • From page one

Woods and his team of Bob Commane, Paddy Deegan and Kevin Ratahi sneaked past Drought 24-23 and then beat Mark Dudley (Hawera Park) 26-8.

The family team headed by Rahotu's Ian Lowry continued their impressive run to qualify. Yesterday the Lowrys ended the hopes of John Sexton (West End) 29-22 and then beat Don Gyde (Inglewood) 37-21.

Brian Little's champion side from 2016 also took the direct route to post section, winning both games. The Palmerston North side beat Terry Osment (Te Awamutu) 24-14 and Joe Peel (Inglewood) 24-11.

Kevin Coombe (Aramoho) also qualified with

some style. His side beat Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) 26-12 and Garry Banks (Mairangi Bay) 31-18. The results ended the hopes of both O'Sullivan and Banks.

It's been a great week so far for the two Hillcrest teams in the Open, with both Dave Selby and Mort Jones unbeaten. Selby's side had a trouble-free day beating George Markie (Vogeltown) 30-9 and then notched up win No 6 in beating James Carter (Paritutu) 37-3, while Jones beat Ian Andrews (Paritutu) 24-19 and Bill Johnston (Fitzroy) 27-20.

Peter Thomson (Paekakariki) is the other qualifier. Thomson's side edged Brophy 23-20 in the morning and then beat Peter Sprake (New Plymouth) 21-7 in the afternoon.

## Who has won how many after day three?

**Section 1:** five wins, David Hood (Kerikeri), Ian Porteous (Aramoho); four wins, John Carter (Hutt), Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), Neville Sole (West End).

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

**Section 3:** six wins, Brian Little (Palmerston North); five wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu); four wins, David Brunton (Stratford-Avon), Brian Mottram (Waimea).

**Section 4:** six wins, Kevin Coombe (Aramoho); five wins, Ray Hudson (Central Levin), Keiran Pollard (Hawera Park); four wins, Bruce Mummery (Paritutu), Trevor Butcher (Palmerston North).

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

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

Campbell (Far North RSA), Ken Greeks (Napier), Ross Thorn (Naenae).

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

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

**Section 9:** six wins, Dave Selby (Hillcrest); five wins, Ian Mason (Havelock North), Gary Lilley (West End); four wins, Merv Jakeman (Wainuiomata).

**Section 10:** six wins, Mort Jones (Hillcrest); five wins, Ray Park (Wanganui); four wins, Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke), Anton Ferrari (Wilton), Tom Henderson (Paraparaumu Beach).

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

**Section 12:** six wins, Peter Thomson (Paekakariki); five wins, Terry Mullin (Pihama); four wins, Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Des Brophy (Fitzroy), Steve Hoefl (Pt Chevalier).

# Ian Jamieson brings up 40th Taranaki Open

Veteran Manawatu bowler Ian Jamieson has brought up his 40th consecutive Taranaki Open this week and the 80-year-old says he has plenty more years left in him, too.

Jamieson commenced his bowls as a 21-year-old at the Castlecliff club in Wanganui. But he shortly moved to Manawatu, playing at Northern, Bulls and for the last 20 years, the Palmerston North club, where he has served as President.

Jamieson said he loved playing in the Taranaki Open.

“The greens are well checked here, everything just fits into place,” Jamieson said.

“The structure is so good. You can’t beat the 25 ends; you are alive one minute but dead the next minute. It’s a game of two halves often enough”

Plus there is the companionship and fellowship of the longer game. “Talking with the same guys for 25 ends, you can really get to know them. That’s a big part of it.”

Jamieson’s first open was under the wings of Charlie Batchelor and the second year was as a member of the side skipped by George McKenzie, the 1976 Dominion fours winner.

And since then, Jamieson has always brought his own side to the tournament — until this year, where he has filled in for a Morrinsville RSA.

The side has been skipped by Bill Barwood and includes Dave Campbell and another replacement, Cook Island representative in waiting, Aidan Zittersteijn.

But after losses in the first, second and fourth rounds, Jamieson’s hopes of qualifying in his jubilee year have been dashed. Not that that seemed to matter when *Open News* caught up

with Jamieson yesterday at Fitzroy — he was still playing his ring out and offering plenty of advice.

Jamieson has qualified a number of times in the Open and “other years, we’ve only had one win!”

The tournament holds many memories, one of the more intriguing being a game many years ago against Mike Bishop, who in recent years has become a prominent competitor in Wanganui.

The match was played at Waimea, the club of Bishop, who has been one of the quickest drivers Taranaki has produced.

Jamieson, too, loves the full-blooded shot — and on one occasion broke a woman’s leg in a game at Bulls. Jamieson won the match but the most remarkable aspect was that the 11 ends of the match were killed before a point was scored.

As for 2019? “I’ll be back with my own team!”



## Game of two halves statement rings true

As Ian Jamieson accurately described, the 25-end game is notorious for significant changes in fortune and that happened again yesterday.

Not only did Dan Delany overturn a 21-7 deficit to deny

Warren Bellringer 26-25, but Mike Hori (Waimea), incredibly, for the third-successive game had a 32-30 scoreline in the morning.

Playing Alton’s Mark Anderson, Hori was down 20-0 after

seven ends. Things were not looking much better at 29-9 after 15 ends, nor two ends later at 30-13. However, the Waimea side won the last eight ends to take the match 32-30.



## Barry Sullivan recognised for sterling service

One of the best supporters of the tournament, Barry Sullivan, from Australia's Sunshine Coast, was formally recognised for his sterling efforts in organising the Australian touring party that takes part in the Open yesterday.

Sullivan was presented with a suitably engraved trophy acknowledging his efforts during the morning tea interval.

Sullivan's section heard from the Taranaki board how appreciative they have been of his efforts in organising the tour party, and even though Kiwis love to roast Australians, they added another dimension to the tournament.

Sullivan first contested the Open in 2005, the centennial year, playing with John Valentine (North Harbour), Trevor Patterson (Hawera Park) and Rex Ansley (Alton). The team qualified, and Sullivan was hooked.

He's returned every year since, loving (nearly) every moment of it, and also actively promoting the Sunshine Coast Carnival, which takes place every winter.

In 2009 he brought over three teams, that increased to six the following year and the increase has continued.

This year, there are eight sides organised by Sullivan in the field.

Taranaki chairman, Brien Bennett QSM, said

history and tradition count in the Open and it was important to recognise Sullivan's efforts. "Barry is very well organised and always easy to deal with."

Sullivan has indicated that this is likely to be his last year organising the tour party, but "I intend coming back and play in the Open for as long as I can."

Like many ex-pat New Zealanders living in Australia, he often sung the praises of his home country and especially the Open. "I just wish that more Australians would come and play in this and appreciate how good it is."

The tour party heads to different parts of the North Island each year and this time that will include a trip to Kaitia.

Unfortunately, for Sullivan, who was playing with Jack Philip, Steve Cox and Graham Fulford, after three wins on the first two days, his side lost its chance to qualify yesterday, dropping both games to be eliminated.



## Match of the morning — Belliss v Mullin

Aramoho's Peter Belliss and Pihama's Terry Mullin are both legends in bowls.

Belliss is a three-time world champion and has deservedly won distinctions galore in the game. Calling Mullin a legend will catch most bowlers by surprise — except those from his beloved Pihama, where Mullin started his bowls back in 1981. He is a life member there, having served so diligently for so long.

His side of Chris Oliver, Ian Winter and Graeme Mills also have five wins in the Open, whereas Belliss and his side of Ray Wilson, Phil Corney and Keith Slight have only four wins.

The match will be played at Waimea.

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