

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

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Belliss loses and rebounds; Banks marches on

Section three at New Plymouth No 2 produced the most talking points from the second day's play in the 114th Taranaki men's open fours yesterday.

All-time great, Peter Belliss, suffered his first loss of the tournament in the morning, losing 25-23 to Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri). But the Wanganui side returned emphatically in the afternoon, beating Tower's Mark Anderson 29-11.

Anderson had walloped Rahotu's Peter Charteris 35-3 in the morning to still be in a very strong position to qualify with three wins. Glogoski is also on the same count. After their mighty win in the morning, the team from the north fell 26-17 to two-winner Colin Boyle (Epsom).

At the same time, Kevin Smith's Hinuera side, including Brendan Brill, Bruce Milne and Stu Settle, also had their first loss, 20-19, to another two-winner, Paul Hassall (Tawa).

But while the more prominent names in section three were being tripped up, Garry Banks (Beach Haven), pictured right, managed to keep his side ticking along to end the day as the only unbeaten team in the group.



Banks' team includes Roy Parker, innovative North Harbour chairman Graham Dorreen and Tony Popplewell. After two wins on Monday, Banks, who was a member of the North Harbour side that won the NZ under-eights title in 2016, had to work overtime to beat Graham Goss (Himitangi) 24-23 in the morning and then sneaked past Neville Sole (West End) 22-20 in the afternoon.

Fitzroy's Grant Pease, a member of the 2003 winning team, also posted two further wins to sit comfortably on three wins.

Aramoho to honour its finest at Easter

This Easter, from April 19-22, at the Aramoho club in Wanganui, and also surrounding clubs, will all be about Peter Belliss.

A tribute tournament is being held in his honour. The triples event, which is limited to the first 72 teams, will be playing for prize money of \$20,000.

Belliss, who played 385 games for New Zealand, won the world singles (1984), world pairs (1988) and world

triples (2000), as well as eight Dominion titles. The tournament will celebrate those and his many other achievements over his 50 years in bowls.

"Tribute tournaments are not common in bowls. But Peter Belliss has always been something special," Bowls Taranaki president, Brien Bennett QSM said.

"Taranaki has had a close association with Peter, including his attendance here this year



and in recent years. We fully endorse the tournament."

For more information go to: www.peterbelliss.co.nz

Full section wraps

Section 1: Darren Goodin (Paritutu), the 2015 winner, continued to stride positively through section play. After brushing aside David Stachurski (Inglewood) 36-6 in the morning, Goodin's side easily accounted for the previously unbeaten Dennis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach) 31-13. Ray Park (Wanganui) had two wins to add to the one from Monday. The last came 25-23 over Moe Kelly (Fitzroy) when Park drove the jack into the on the last end in the 5 hour, 30 minute marathon.

Section 2: Dean Elgar (West End) recorded two big wins. In the morning, the team beat Allan Sandercock (Sunshine Coast) 37-9 and then ended the hopes of Mort Jones (Hillcrest), a semifinalist in 2012, 34-14. Mike Walsh's Paritutu team continued to excel, posting two more solid wins, to be in the per-

fect position. Former Bowls NZ chairman, John Carter (Hutt), lost his unbeaten record in the morning, 23-22 to Paul Clegg (Hawera Park), who was in the last Taranaki team to win the John Flett in 1985. Both teams finished on three wins. However, the hopes of Howard Ivory (Wilton) were extinguished in the morning round.

Section 4: Ian Lowry's family team from Rahotu have been consistent competitors for a number of years and they remain right on cue to hit post section again this year. They are joined on four wins by an equally impressive Birkenhead team skipped by Nigel Drew. Drew needed an extra end in the morning game to get past Ian Porteous (Aramoho) 22-20. Porteous finished with three wins, but Ian Mahoney (Central Levin) has only one.

Who has won how many after day two

Standings after the first four rounds in the 114th Taranaki Open:

Section 1: four wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu); three wins, Murray Hooper (Rewa), Dennis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach), Ray Park (Wanganui), Garry Murfitt (West End).

Section 2: four wins, Dean Elgar (West End), Mike Walsh (Paritutu); three wins, John Carter (Hutt), Paul Clegg (Hawera Park).

Section 3: four wins, Garry Banks (Beach Haven); three wins, Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Grant Pease (Fitzroy), Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri), Mark Anderson (Alton), Kevin Smith (Hinuera).

Section 4: four wins, Nigel Drew (Birkenhead), Ian Lowry (Rahotu); three wins, Don Ramsey (Pukekohe), Ian Porteous (Aramoho), Paul Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA).

Section 5: four wins, Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast); three wins, Ross McGrail (Putaruru), John Sexton (West End), Colin Christie (Fitzroy).

Section 6: four wins, Steve Liddington

(Frankton Railway), Bruce Stewart (Havelock North); three wins, Grayson McEldowney (New Plymouth), Brody Dix (New Lynn).

Section 7: four wins, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Brian Little (Palmerston North), Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast); three wins, Ross Thorn (Naenae), Colin Young (Te Kuiti).

Section 8: four wins, Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East); three wins, Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay), Kelvin Bishop (West End).

Section 9: four wins, Glenn Newton (Mangere), Steve Cottam (Paritutu); three wins, Mike Paton (Orewa), Hamish Kape (Okato).

Section 10: four wins, Gerard Slattery (Tui Park), Dan Delany (Royal Oak); three wins, Craig De Faria (West End), Chris Carter (Parklands), Geoff Bovey (Paekakariki).

Section 11: four wins, Bruce Phillips (Tower), David Hood (Kerikeri), John Claydon (Masterton); three wins, none.

Section 12: four wins, Dave Selby (Hillcrest); three wins, Tom Murfitt (Massey Ave), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).



Section 5: Yesterday was a much more relaxing day for Rex Holmes and his Paraparaumu Beach team. After two close shaves on Monday, the Kapiti side had a little more to spare at Lepperton. Richard Meacle continued to wave the Sunshine Coast flag the longest, two further wins also giving his side four victories. Ross McGrail (Putaruru) scored an important 25-20 win in the afternoon over John Sexton (West End), a result that left both teams on two wins.

Section 6: Frankton Railway's Steve Liddington and Havelock North's Bruce Stewart both climbed to four wins in somewhat tricky conditions at Inglewood. Liddington ended the title hopes of Ross Henderson (West End) 25-23 in a close third round encounter. Defending champion Brody Dix (New Lynn) got through both his matches with some points to spare to hold three wins in total

Section 7: Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Brian Little (Palmerston North) and Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast) all held on to their perfect records. Ross Thorn (Naenae) also won twice, to sit on three wins, but another likely side, Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA) has only two after being nudged out 24-21 by Little. A number of useful skips fell by the way-side, including Rhys Hakkens (Waikanae Beach).

Section 8: Naenae's Anton Ferrari had reason to thank his lucky stars. Twice yesterday Ferrari's side became locked in tense matches. And twice they came out on the right side of the ledger — 19-18 over Cliff Smith (Stratford-Avon) and 21-20 over Marty Doak (Far North RSA). Ferrari has four wins, as does Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), who also had some trouble against Doak, before prevailing. The consistent Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay) climbed to three wins, but Peter Thompson (Paekakariki) had his second loss and now needs the rest to qualify.

Section 9: Glenn Newton (Mangere) and Steve Cottam (Paritutu) posted two more wins each, to hold four respectively. Cottam meets three winner Hamish Kape (Okato) this morning. After dropping both matches on the opening day, Mike Cavanagh's Pukekohe team commenced the tough task of winning the rest. They won twice.

Section 10: Gerard Slattery (Tui Park) needed everything at the end of the last game to beat Allan Batley (Paritutu) 21-19. That gave Slattery win number four, a feat matched by Dan Delany (Royal Oak). There was a "sit up and take notice" result in the last, with Delany beating a very useful side skipped by Dean McMurchy (Kensington) 30-17. McMurchy had also fallen in the morning to be left on two wins. Craig De Faria (West End) and the 2017 Wellington champion-of-champions singles winner Geoff Bovey (Paekakariki) both enhanced their chances with two further wins.

Section 11: Bruce Phillips (Tower), John Claydon (Masterton) and David Hood (Kerikeri) have stolen a march on the group. They all sit on four wins. No sides have three, but seven teams have two wins, including regular qualifiers Gary Lilley (West End), who of course has his own slice of Open history, and Terry Osment (Johnsonville). The three teams in the perfect place were relatively dominant throughout the day.

Section 12: Dave Selby's Hillcrest team continued to set the pace after two further wins. Tom Murfitt (Massey Ave), who was desperately unlucky to lose in round one on Monday, also found the Paritutu C green to his team's liking, posting two wins. His side sits on three wins, as does Ian Andrews (Paritutu). He skips a talented, youthful side, where the combined ages of the three in front of him and less than his 67 years.



McLay returns after 36 years

There are numerous stories that abound this week, as they do every year, of players returning for the umpteenth time to compete in the Taranaki Open.

But occasionally there is a different story to tell and that is exactly the case for Hillcrest president, Ross McLay. He has returned to the Taranaki Open for the first time in 36 years, having last played in the event away back in 1983. And he's loving every minute of it.

"I was just so busy with work and coaching and selecting bowls that I haven't been able to return until now," McLay said.

"It's great to be back enjoying the greens, the hospitality and the competition—and some Taranaki 'bullshit'," he said, while grinning at his team's lead, Murray Young, who used to live in the province.

"My wife died a few years ago and I was lost. But I've got right back into my bowls now and I am loving it. This tournament was always high on my list of events to play in again."

McLay started bowls in Turangi in 1974, before moving to Johnsonville where he became a Wellington rep.

The representative status continued when he moved in the 1980s to the Waikato and then again when he moved to the Far North in the 1990s.

McLay has won a Waikato centre title, the open triples, with his two other teammates from this week, Trevor Harris and

Dave Selby, as well as "three or four in the Far North."

But he seems to gain even more pleasure from coaching and selecting sides — he was heavily involved in both the Far North and Waikato — and even now, at 83, is still pouring in plenty of energy and effort into his Hillcrest club.

This week's Taranaki Open provides the chance for him to focus on playing and the Hillcrest side, with Selby skipping, has made an excellent start.

After two wins on Monday, the Hillcrest team did another double yesterday to be well on the way to qualifying.



Match of the morning — Little v Alldred

In the clash of the unbeaten teams, this morning at Vogeltown B, Palmerston North's Brian Little will meet Chris Alldred, whose side is entered under the Sunshine Coast, that being the location where the teammates meet each winter.

Little has the same side that won the tournament in 2016: brothers Brian and Ron Henn and Ian Monaghan. They received a stern test in the fourth round yesterday, prevailing 24-21 over Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA).

The Alldred side comprises Jack Philip, Steve Cox and skip Neil Fisher. They have been relatively untroubled since Monday morning, when in their closest game to date, they beat Gavin Crow (Paritutu) 23-20.

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