

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 24, 2019

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Eleven teams take the easy path

After the completion of six rounds, 11 teams have already posted the necessary six wins to advance to Friday's post section rounds in the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours.

The teams through so far are Darren Goodin (Paritutu), Nigel Drew (Birkenhead), Ian Lowry (Rahotu), Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Bruce Stewart (Havelock North), Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), Cary Pinker (Wanganui East), Glenn Newton (Mangere), Dan Delany (Royal Oak), John Claydon (Masterton) and Dave Selby (Hillcrest).

Claydon had the most memorable day, beating two five winners — Bruce Phillips (Tower) 29-27 and David Hood (Kerikeri) 28-13.

Section four provides two of the qualifiers—Drew and Lowry. Drew snaked through two tight games 25-22 against Darren Scott (West End) and 21-20 over Don Ramsey (Pukekohe). The Lowry family were emphatic in their two wins over local combinations.

Stewart's Havelock North side has made an excellent transition to the natural surfaces of Taranaki, as illustrated by the 26-10 win over Grayson McEldowney (New Plymouth) yesterday morning.

O'Sullivan's latest two wins came 29-16 over Colin Young (Te Kuiti) and 34-26 against Roger Neilson (Wanganui East).

Pinker has impressed during the opening days. That trend continued yesterday as they secured their qualification 28-17 over Ian Coombe (Mairangi Bay).

Newton didn't have things all his own way — but still got home 27-21 over Dennis Osborne (West End) and 30-25 against Kevin Newson (Seatoun).

Delany inflicted the second defeat on Chris Carter (Parklands) 26-17 and then eliminated Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South) 23-13.

Goodin, Selby and Holmes all continued their positive positions by posting trouble-free victories in both rounds.

Finals this year to be held at West End

Bowls Taranaki president Brien Bennett QSM has announced that this year's finals will be held at West End.

"Once again it has been a tough decision with Paritutu, West End and Vogeltown all providing excellent two green clubs."

Bennett said for the first time

since the 1940s, post section will be held at just one location. "We anticipate around 40 qualifiers, which means that we can comfortably fit all of Friday's matches on to two greens. There will be 16 teams left by the end of Friday."

In previous years, four greens

have been used for post section. But this had meant that all the greens had only one or two afternoon matches.

"We think that the change will create greater atmosphere for all concerned."

Post section of the pairs on Saturday will be held at Paritutu.

Complete section wraps

Section 1: Wanganui's Ray Park continued to provide stories of survival, finishing the day with two more wins, to take the team to within one win of qualifying. After beating Bill Foley (New Plymouth) 21-17, Park came from 17-1 down in the afternoon to beat Steve Critchlow (Naenae) 34-20. Since losing to Park on Monday morning, Murray Hooper (Rewa) has strung together five successive wins, which included the team hitting 35 twice on day three.

Section 2: The main talking point was the two losses by Dean Elgar (West End). He was nosed out 21-20 by Ray Hudson (Central Levin) and then lost 26-19 to Mike Walsh (Paritutu). It left Elgar on four wins. Hudson

kept his hopes alive by beating another four-winner John Carter (Hutt) 22-20. Walsh's team had been upset themselves in the morning, but finished the day as the only five winner in the section.

Section 3: Peter Belliss (Aramoho) posted two encouraging wins — 27-17 over Neville Sole (West End) and 28-8 over Paul Hassall (Tawa), a result that ended the hopes of the Capital club repeating its 1981 triumph. That left Belliss on five wins, the same as Kevin Smith (Hinuera), who won twice yesterday, and Garry Banks (Beach Haven). Banks lost his unbeaten record to Hassall in the morning and only scrapped through by a solitary shot in the later game.

Who has won how many after day three?

Section 1: six wins, Darren Goodin (Paritutu); five wins, Ray Park (Wanganui), Murray Hooper (Rewa); fours wins, Dennis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach), Warren Hausman (Bulls), Garry Murfitt (West End).

Section 2: five wins, Mike Walsh (Paritutu); four wins, Dean Elgar (West End), Ray Hudson (Central Levin), John Carter (Hutt), Paul Clegg (Hawera Park), John Niwa (Waitara).

Section 3: five wins, Garry Banks (Beach Haven), Peter Belliss (Aramoho); four wins, Grant Pease (Fitzroy), Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri), Mark Anderson (Tower).

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

Section 5: six wins, Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach); five wins, Ross McGrail (Putaruru); four wins, John Sexton (West End), Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast), Peter Berge (West End).

Section 6: six wins, Bruce Stewart (Havelock North); five wins, Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway); four wins, Allan Bridger (Johnsonville), Grayson McEldowney (New

Plymouth), Brody Dix (New Lynn).

Section 7: six wins, Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood); five wins, Brian Little (Palmerston North), Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast); four wins, Ross Thorn (Naenae), Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA).

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

Section 9: six wins, Glenn Newton (Mangere); five wins, Mike Paton (Orewa), Steve Cottam (Paritutu); four wins, Bernie Martelletti (Te Puke), Hamish Kape (Okato).

Section 10: six wins, Dan Delany (Royal Oak); five wins, Gerard Slattery (Tui Park), Craig De Faria (West End); four wins, Dean McMurchy (Kensington), Chris Carter (Parklands).

Section 11: six wins, John Claydon (Masterton); five wins, Bruce Phillips (Tower), David Hood (Kerikeri); four wins, Terry Osment (Johnsonville), Albie Waitere (New Plymouth).

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



Section 4: Paul Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA) picked up both matches to sit on five wins, as did Ian Porteous (Aramoho). Bartosh squeaked past supervisor Frank Pollock (Hawera Park) by one in the morning and then had 10 to spare against Ian Mahoney (Central Levin). Porteous was comfortable in both of his wins, the second one, 27-13, spelt the end for Bob Harris (Canterbury).

Section 5: Ross McGrail (Putaruru) produced an impressive day, two 35 counts and two large wins has the side looking almost certain to qualify on five wins. The morning victory was over Richard Meacle (Sunshine Coast). Meacle, after four wins, then fell to Rex Holmes, leaving the side still needing two more wins. Peter Berge (West End), who came in late into the draw, after two loses, has won four in a row. He is on course for a potential winner-take-all eighth clash against club-mate John Sexton, who also has won four.

Section 6: Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway) produced a brilliant last bowl delivery to deny defending champion Brody Dix (New Lynn) on an extra end 25-24 in the morning. But win No 6 still awaits Liddington after his side went down 27-17 to Barry Davis (Hawera Park) in the afternoon. Dix picked up his fourth win to remain in contention.

Section 7: Brian Little (Palmerston North) took the clash of the two unbeaten teams in the feature game of the morning, prevailing 21-18 over Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast). However, Little was tripped up 24-22 by Rhys Hakens (Waikanae Beach) in the afternoon. Alldred joined Little on five wins when he beat Danny Watt (Lepperton) 30-19. The 2006 Dominion fours winner, Ross Thorn (Naenae), suffered a second slip-up in the afternoon, losing 26-17 to Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay).

Section 8: Peter Thompson (Paekakariki) kept his hopes alive with two wins, moving the Kapiti team up to four victories. In the morn-

ing, they beat Anton Ferrari (Naenae) 26-17. That was the first loss of the week for Ferrari, an afternoon win bringing them to within one of qualifying.

Section 9: Hamish Kape (Okato) put himself in a position to qualify with a 23-22 morning win over Stev Cottam (Paritutu), the latter's first loss. However, that work was undone when Kape lost 25-22 to Denis McEwen, giving the Stratford-Avon side its first win. That left Kape needing both games today. Cottam responded with a good afternoon win, to finish on five victories, alongside Mike Paton (Orewa).

Section 10: Not being able to afford a further loss, Dean McMurchy (Kensington) kept his hopes alive with two wins. The afternoon 22-20 win was a cliffhanger which ended the hopes of Geoff Bovey (Parkakariki). Gerard Slattery is McMurchy's opponent this morning, a match equally important for the Tui Park side after they had their first loss in round six, 24-11 to Craig De Faria (West End). It gave De Faria his fifth win.

Section 11: Both David Hood (Kerikeri) and Bruce Phillips (Tower) managed to win one each to go with their respective losses to John Claydon. It means both sides are on five wins and at short-odds of making post section. Terry Osment (Johnsonville) and Albie Waitere (New Plymouth) both added two more wins to sit on four apiece — although they meet this afternoon.

Section 12: Miramar's Brent Stubbins moved up to four wins and in the process eliminated Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), 26-19, and Trevor Butcher (Palmerston North), 33-19. Tom Murfitt (Massey Ave) also has four wins. He dropped his morning game to Noel Probyn (Fitzroy), but Probyn lost his last chance as Ian Andrews (Paritutu) powered away 27-12. Andrews has four wins, too, having lost in the morning to Butcher 28-17.



Nelson West brings up 40 consecutive Opens

Inglewood stalwart Nelson West is bringing up his 40th consecutive Taranaki men's Open fours this week.

And the 74-year-old seems to have plenty more years left in him.

He started playing bowls in the 1978-79 season, and while he missed the tournament in his first year, he's been a fixture ever since.

He played in the 1980 event, which was the 75th jubilee and drew the biggest ever attendance — 580 teams.

"I led for Jack O'Sullivan for a number of years, then moved to Brian Tarr, followed by Norm Aldridge. After Norm, I took my own team."

It was with Tarr that West had his best moment in the Open, when the team made the last eight which coincided with the famous measuring contest that took place in the Paritutu pavilion. "It was brilliant, I was rolling around the floor laughing."

West said he loved both the competitive and social side of the event. "It's the guys that you meet. I have all of the books from the Opens that I have played in."

This year West is teamed with Barney Haw, Robert Small and supervisor Neil Earley. They have put in a useful performance, winning three of their opening five games, after a loss in the first round to Cary Pinker

(Wanganui East).

However, the hopes of qualifying were extinguished yesterday afternoon when Paekakariki skip Peter Thompson

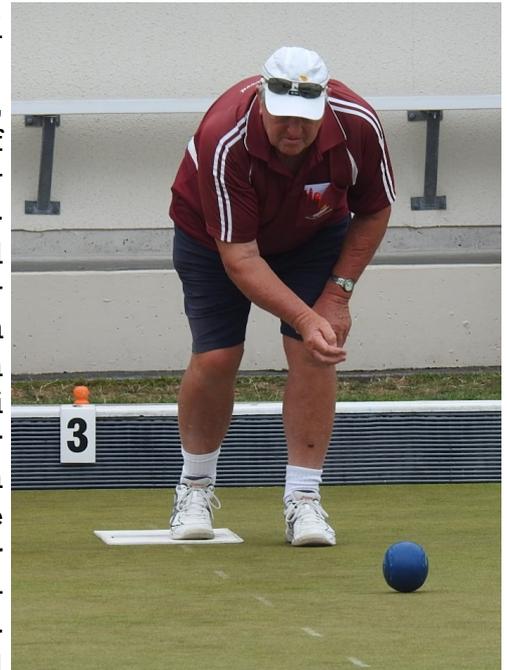
drew the jack for seven —

"and I wasn't good enough to save it."

Earley, a long-time teammate of West's said that West's on-green "performance" had improved over the years. "He has mellowed a lot. We don't get the hand signals that we used to get."

Despite the initial disappointment of missing out on qualifying, a few sips of beer later, that had disappeared.

And West emphatically responded: "I'll be back next year. Absolutely, if I am above ground, I will be back."



Match of the morning — Dix v Stewart

It is crunch time for Brody Dix's and his New Lynn side of Adam Wishnowski, Keith Ansell and Gary Dougherty. After four wins and two losses in the Open, they need both games today to qualify.

But it will not be easy. This morning, Dix's side meets a Havelock North team started to travel very well, and with six wins to boot. It contains Brian Doyle, Greg Hodges, Graham Fulford and skip Bruce Stewart. Both Fulford and Stewart were members of John Grainger's winning 2002 side.

Should Dix when the match, his afternoon opponent will be three-winner Merv Jackman (Wainuiomata).

The match will be played at Fitzroy 1.

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