

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 25, 2019

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Old fashion rule not needed but only just

An old fashion rule, that was last required, it is believed, in the 1950s, was almost used as the 166 original entries were reduced to the last 39 in the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours yesterday.

In order to qualify for today's post section rounds, teams needed to win six matches from eight. But there was an over-rider. If a section did not have any side with six or more wins, then the winner(s) of the most games in the section would advance.

Heading into the final round of section two, there were no qualifiers. Three teams sat on five wins, all of whom had to play sides with four wins.

A further two sides also sat on four wins and because their chances were still alive, they too played.

Eventually, two teams — 2017 Dominion singles winner Dean Elgar (West End) and former Bowls NZ chairman John Carter (Hutt) — gained their sixth wins.

Carter was all-square playing the last end and held shot. Opposing skip, Kevin Ratahi (Opunake), rattled the head, dislodging the jack to the back of the head. But the jack went to Carter's team, leaving his side the winner 24-22, and remarkably, the only qualifier from Wellington.

Elgar didn't get things all his way, either, but got home 22-18 over Joe Johansen (Bay View).

The elimination of all of the other teams from the Capital was a major surprise. There were a number of hard luck stories in the eighth round.

Allan Brider (Johnsonville) lost 26-25 to Grayson McEldowney (New Plymouth), in a match both teams needed to qualify.

Ross Thorn (Naenae), playing Inglewood's Gerry O'Sullivan, who had already qualified, was pipped 24-23.

Anton Ferrari (Naenae) missed out 27-24 to

five-winner Nelson West (Inglewood).

And Brent Stubbins (Miramar) also fell one game short when his side went down 22-12 to the tournament's No 1 entertainer, Tupu Campbell (Far North RSA).

On the flip-side, there were some very close, positive shaves. Steve Liddington (Frankton Railway), after losses in rounds six and seven, sneaked past Lindsay Laing (Manaia) 21-20, and Peter Dorreen (Far North RSA) edged another team who had already qualified, Chris Alldred (Sunshine Coast), 25-24.

Similarly, Kelvin Bishop (West End), a semi-finalist in 2016, advanced after beating one-winner Dave Adams (Takaro) 22-21.

In the match between the two teams that needed an eighth round win to qualify, Dean McMurchy (Kensington) powered away from Chris Carter (Parklands) 30-11. It meant that McMurchy replicated the same qualifying route he had when he made the 2015 final — two wins on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and two loses on Tuesday.

In Thursday's match of the day, defending champion Brody Dix (New Lynn) inflicted the first defeat of the tournament on Bruce Stewart (Havelock North), 25-15. Dix's side then cemented win No 6 24-13 over Merv Jackman (Wainuiomata).

Bowls Taranaki vice president, Ian Andrews (Paritutu), showed his team are still a force to be reckoned with. They beat six-winner Dave Selby (Hillcrest) 26-11 in the morning and then defeated Graeme McDowell (West End) 24-14 in the afternoon.

In the battle of the two West End teams needing the eighth round to secure the sixth win, John Sexton ran out a comfortable 23-7 victor over Peter Berge.

No side completed the perfect eight-from-eight in section play. Of course, a number of last round matches were not played, and a few seventh round games abridged.

Plenty of mouth-watering contests await

There are plenty of intriguing clashes set out for post section play today.

And it's hard to go past Dominion pairs semi-finalists, Dean Elgar (West End) and Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood), as the feature game. It will certainly attract a large gallery.

Despite being teammates less than three weeks ago during their excellent run in Auckland, they skip their own sides this week.

O'Sullivan's team comprises his brothers, Danny and former Taranaki lock, Bernard, along with Steve Sabine.

Elgar has Steve Temperton, John Garrud and Neil Candy.

Elgar and O'Sullivan clashed in section play

two seasons ago, Elgar winning the match in what featured one of the best extra ends the Open has ever witnessed.

Kevin Smith (Hinuera) and Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) also meet first off. Both present very solid sides and are vastly experienced in this event.

If driving is your thing, then the Bruce Phillips (Tower) versus Ray Park (Wanganui) match will be worth viewing. The respective skips are two of the best drivers in the central districts. That has a delayed start of 1.30pm.

And Peter Belliss (Aramoho) faces a side improving and growing in confidence, Dean McMurchy (Kensington).

Fours post section and pairs section play for Friday

Fours post section draw for today:

Section 1 at West End 1, round 1 (9am start): R Glogoski (Kerikeri) v G Slattery (Tui Park), I Lowry (Rahotu) v S Liddington (Frankton Railway), P Dorreen (Far North RSA) v I Andrews (Paritutu); **round 2 (1.30pm start):** D Delany (Royal Oaky) v Dorreen/Andrews winner, R McGrail (Putaruru) v B Dix (New Lynn), D Ramsey (Pukekohe) v D Selby (Hillcrest); **round 2 (still at 9am):** B Little (Palmerston North) v G McEldowney (New Plymouth), C Alldred (Sunshine Coast) v S Cottam (Paritutu), J Carter (Hutt) v K Bishop (West End), G O'Sullivan (Inglewood) v D Elgar (West End).

Section 2 at West End 2, round 1 (9am start): I Coombe (Mairangi Bay) v G Banks (Beach Haven), D Goodin (Paritutu) v G Newton (Mangere), K Smith (Hinuera) v C Pinker (Wanganui East), I Porteous (Aramoho) v B Stewart (Havelock North); **round 2 (1.30pm start):** P Bartosh (Morrinsville RSA) v C De Faria (West End), M Hooper (Rewa) v R Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), B Phillips (Tower) v R Park (Wanganui); **round 2 (9am start):** J Sexton (West End) v D Hood (Kerikeri), P Belliss (Aramoho) v D McMurchy (Kensington), J Claydon (Masterton) v N Drew (Birkenhead).

Pairs section play draw for today (8.45am start):

Section 1 at Paritutu A: G Goss (Himitangi Beach), P Deegan (Opunake), D Watt (Lepperton), K Michelsen (Pukekohe), P Warner (Hawera Park), T McAlevey (Fitzroy), A Bridgeman (Oakura), K

Bishop (Motueka), C Brookes (West End), B Foley (New Plymouth), A Riddock (Paritutu), B Harris (Canterbury), G Murfitt (West End), T Horn (Okato).

Section 2 at Paritutu C: K Williams (Paritutu), A Bryant (Bay View), R Inglis (Motueka), J Ballard (Pukekohe), K Sprott (Himitangi Beach), M Scott (Nelson), B Mummery (Paritutu), J Rona (West End), J Carter (Paritutu), P Hassall (Tawa), B Crawford (West End), G McLeod (Tawa), K Kape (Okato), T Campbell (Far North RSA).

Section 3 at Vogeltown A: G Crow (Paritutu), S Park (New Plymouth), D Adams (Takaro), K Newson (Seatoun), C Boyle (Epsom), K Coombe (Aramoho), R Henderson (West End), K Smith (Oakura), J Roberts (Waitara), B Tatnell (Orewa), G Barber (Paritutu), M Paton (Orewa), D Davis (Kaikohe), B Edwards (Massey Ave).

Section 4 at Vogeltown B: A Burton (Takaro), Q SL Reeves (West End), R Scott (Seatoun), J Belliss (Aramoho), A McMillan (Epsom), W Te Huki (Vogeltown), B Haines (Paritutu), A Collins (Oakura), B Lilley (West End), J Ape-esra (Waitara), J Forde (Paritutu), M Bridgland (Massey Ave), B Johnstone (Kaikohe), P Clark (Vogeltown).

Section 5 at New Plymouth 2: A Brider (Johnsonville), M Dudley (Hawera Park), G Heald (Johnsonville), P Bovey (Paekakariki), G Baxter (Hawera Park), G Bovey (Paekakariki), W Hawkes (West End), D Stachurski (Inglewood), B Patu (Inglewood), N Katae (Parklands), T Hori (New Plymouth), A Bayley (Parklands).