

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Sunday, January 27, 2019

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One Taranaki team and three visitors in semis

There will be one team each from Taranaki, Manawatu, North Harbour and Auckland that will contest the semifinals of the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours at West End this morning.

The semifinals will feature defending champion Brody Dix (New Lynn) against the 2016 winner Brian Little (Palmerston North) while Craig De Faria (West End) plays Nigel Drew (Birkenhead). De Faria, formerly Johns, won the title leading for John Lambert in 1987.

Inevitably, there were a number of significant moments during yesterday's rounds, as the field was reduced from 16 to four.

The most spectacular conclusion occurred in Drew's 19-17 quarterfinal win over Tower's Bruce Phillips.

Playing with Mark Rumble, Lionel Drew — father of Nigel — and Randall Watkins, the Birkenhead side was locked in a tight contest throughout against Phillips. However, when they took the lead at 11-10 after 14 ends, they never relinquished it.

Commencing the 25th end, Drew led by one. At the first attempt, Phillips killed the head with his last bowl.

On the replay, Phillips' No 3, Scott Roberts, drew two beauties. Watkins reduced the count to one. But Phillips, with his last delivery, drew another fine shot. Nigel Drew, playing positively on the narrow hand, pushed one of his team's bowls in for shot to snatch victory.

It was a tough end for what had been a glorious week for the Phillips side, which contained Mark Kuklinski and John Roberts up front. But even in defeat the Hawera-based side agreed that they had been beaten by a brilliant bowl.

Drew's semifinal opponent, De Faria, had a relatively trouble-free day. The side completely blew away Cary Pinker's Wanganui East team of brother Warwick, Peter Head

and Les Smith 25-7 in the quarterfinals, with just 16 ends played.

After opening up a 9-0 lead after three ends, De Faria picked up a six on the fifth end to lead 15-1. One down on the head, De Faria, on the drive, hit a short bowl into the head, dislodging the only Pinker bowl. De Faria then added the bonus to take the six.

Little's team, which is the same that won in 2016, — brothers Brian and Ron Henn and Ian Monaghan — prevailed 25-23 over West End's Dean Elgar in a close quarterfinal.

Elgar's team of Steve Temperton, John Garrud and Neil Candy dropped three fours during the match, which proved costly in the end.

Despite those numbers, Elgar remained in touch, with the scores locked at 19-all after 19 ends.

But Little then grabbed a three, a single and a two, the mini break giving the Manawatu centre secretary a big enough advantage to hold on.

Dix and his side of Adam Wishnowski, Keith Ansell and Gary Dougherty ended Dan Delany's hopes of a fifth Open with a 22-15 win.

But the match was much closer than that, even though Dix's side proved to be the more consistent unit.

From 12-11 in front after 14 ends, Dix improved his position to 17-11 ahead. With three ends remaining, the score had become 18-15.

Dix then took a three to extend the margin. However, Delany and his side of Neville Hill, Mike Nasey and Joe Whitelaw held a three on the next, before Dix, with his last bowl, drew a magic shot. Delany, after missing his drive, conceded.

Elgar and Pinker both produced superb final deliveries in the morning round to ensure their sides made it through to the quarterfinals.

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Elgar led John Carter (Hutt) 21-19 playing the last end, but when he played his last bowl, he was two down. On the draw, he moved the jack a small margin to take two shots. With Carter unable to retrieve the shots back, leaving Elgar the victor 23-19.

Pinker picked up a loose four on the penultimate end to level the score at 22-all with Paritutu's Darren Goodin.

On the final head, Goodin held four, but a Pinker runner moved the jack out to the side of the rink, leaving his side with shot. Goodin was short with his last bowl.

Delany beat Ian Lowry (Rahotu) 28-27, after leading by five shots playing the last end. On the skip changeover, Lowry held four but he couldn't improve the count.

The Coastal Taranaki side was left wondering what could have been. They forewent their trial ends. And after seven ends, Delany had opened up a 14-1 lead.

Dix beat Pukekohe's Don Ramsey 27-24, Ramsey grabbing a single, a four and a two on the last three ends to reduce the deficit. The Counties chairman in fact had a chance of taking the necessary five on the last to force the game to an extra end, before a Dix drive removed the opportunity.

Results from day six

Fours post section results:

Round 3: Dan Delany (Royal Oak) 28 Ian Lowry (Rahotu) 27, Brody Dix (New Lynn) 27 Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) 24, Dean Elgar (West End) 23 John Carter (Hutt) 19, Brian Little (Palmerston North) 23 Steve Cottam (Paritutu) 16, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) 23 Darren Goodin (Paritutu) 22, Craig De Faria (West End) 22 Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach) 13, Bruce Phillips (Tower) 23 David Hood (Kerikeri) 17, Nigel Drew (Birkenhead) 23 Dean McMurchy (Kensington) 21. **Round 4:** Dix 22 Delany 15, Little 25 Elgar 23, De Faria 25 Pinker 7, Drew 19 Phillips 17.

Semifinals draw for the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours at West End today, starting at 9am: Adam Wishnoski/Keith Ansell/Gary Dougherty/Brody Dix (New Lynn) v Brian Henn/Ron Henn/Ian Monaghan/Brian Little (Palmerston North), Jordan Linn/Dave Wilson/Steve Walker/Craig De Faria (West End) v Mark Rumble/Lionel Drew/Randall Watkins/Nigel Drew (Birkenhead).

Little had a six to thank on the 22nd end in his side's 23-16 win over Paritutu's Steve Cottam. Until that time, Cottam had played a number of excellent bowls to assist his side in holding the lead until the 19th end.

Phillips opened up a 10-2 lead after seven ends in his morning match against Kerikeri's David Hood. The Far North side, though, tightened, but the Tower team held on to win 23-17.

De Faria won his match 22-13 over Paraparaumu Beach's Rex Holmes, after the Kapiti side had started strongly.

With Rumble leading exceptionally well, Drew accounted for Kensington's Dean McMurchy 23-21, despite dropping a four on the last end.

* The voice of New Zealand bowls, Kevin Hickland, live streamed both of yesterday's two rounds on Facebook and will be back at West End this morning to do the same.

Hickland played in the tournament in 1984 as a member of Rowan Brassey's side that drew the final with Barry Drabble. Because of the weather conditions, and no indoor complex being available, the sides were declared joint winners.

To access the live streaming, viewers should go onto the Bowls Taranaki Facebook page.

Pairs post section results:

Round 1: B Lilley (West End) 22 K Smith (Oakura) 17, K Coombe (Aramoho) 24 A Bridgeman (Oakura) 13, B Foley (New Plymouth) 29 G Barber (Paritutu) 10, B Tatnell (Orewa) 21 A Collins (Oakura) 15, A Brider (Johnsonville) 25 D Davis (Kaikohe) 12, B Johnstone (Kaikohe) 19 A Bailey (Parklands) 15, W Te Huki (Vogeltown) 25 J Roberts (Waitara) 17, K Bishop (Motueka) 24 G Heald (Johnsonville) 14, T Horn (Okato) 30 D Stachurski (Inglewood) 5, J Bollard (Pukekohe) 23 C Brookes (West End) 14. **Round 2:** Lilley 21 Coombe 4, Foley 22 Tatnell 21, Brider 18 J Rona (West End) 17, A Burton (Takaro) 20 G McLeod (Tawa) 16, Te Huki 26 Johnstone 7, Horn 20 Bishop 10, G Baxter (Hawera Park) 23 Bollard 21, M Paton (Orewa) 22 J Ape-esera (Waitara) 10. **Round 3:** Lilley 22 Foley 20, Burton 26 Brider 17, Horn 24 Te Huki 7, Paton 22 Baxter 16.

Semifinals for today at West End: Lilley v Burton, Horn v Paton.