

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

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West End team find the right grove together

Playing superbly as a team, West End's Craig De Faria and his side of Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker ran out comfortable winners of the 114th Taranaki men's Open fours bowls tournament on their home greens on yesterday.

The West End quartet proved too consistent for Brian Little's Palmerston North team winning 24-13 in the final, that was played in occasional light drizzle.

Little's side of Brian Henn, Ron Henn and Ian Monaghan started the decider brightly, leading 7-0 after four ends. Three ends later the score was 8-2. It could have been even greater, except De Faria minimised the damage.

But after that, the West End side found its groove, with Linn being particularly impressive, gaining the advantage in the battle up front.

That domination was shown over the following seven ends, all of which were won by West End, and included a drawn five on head 10.

That gave them a 17-8 lead. A four two ends later extended the margin even further as the West End side gave a fine example of fours team work.

Wilson drew a number of excellent shots and Walker contributed well to support Linn's outstanding foundation.

But De Faria, who won the title leading for John Lambert back in 1987, was the architect of the victory. He skillfully built the heads and when required, converted negative counts into positive ones, as well as adding bonus bowls.

Little, who skipped the same team to win the title in 2016, was forced onto the attack during the final. But often the heads were difficult to penetrate.

Even late in the game, as Palmerston North attempted to rescue the match, De Faria was



West End winners: Craig De Faria, Steve Walker, Dave Wilson and Jordan Linn — 2019 Taranaki Open winners.

not having a bar of it, with his skill and determination winning the day. De Faria did that on both the 20th and 22nd ends, both times when two down. On the second instance, Little put his hand out, conceding the game.

In the semifinals earlier in the day, De Faria overcame a slow 9-1 start against Birkenhead's Nigel Drew, winning 21-17. Drew's side contained Mark Rumble, Lionel Drew and Randall Watkins.

Little ended the hopes of a back-to-back title for the 2018 winners Adam Wishnoski, Keith Ansell, Gary Dougherty and Brody Dix (New Lynn) 25-16.

PALMERSTON NORTH		WEST END		
S. HENN	LEAD	J. D. LINN		
S. HENN	SECOND	D. WILSON		
I. MONAGHAN	THIRD	S. WALKER		
B. LITTLE	SKIP	C. DE FARIA		
SECTION	ROUND	RANK	3	
SCORE	TOTAL	ENDS	SCORE	TOTAL
1	1	1	—	—
1	2	2	—	—
3	5	3	—	—
2	7	4	—	—
—	7	5	1	1
—	7	6	1	2
1	8	7	—	2
—	8	8	3	5
—	8	9	3	7
—	8	10	3	12
—	8	11	1	13
—	8	12	2	15
—	8	13	1	16
—	8	14	1	17
1	9	15	—	17
1	9	16	4	21
1	10	17	—	21
—	10	18	1	23
2	12	19	—	23
—	12	20	1	23
1	13	21	—	23
—	13	22	1	24
		23		
		24		

Another great week comes to an end — Bennett

Bowls Taranaki president, Brien Bennett QSM, labelled the 114th Taranaki Open as a “great week”.

“It has been another successful tournament and we have been delighted with the positive responses that we have received. We will now go into review mode and endeavour to make 2020 even better.”



Beaten semifinalists in the 2019 Taranaki men’s Open fours — Top: Brody Dix, Gary Dougherty, Keith Ansell and Adam Wisnoski (New Lynn). Bottom: Lionel Drew, Mark Rumble, Nigel Drew and Randall Watkins (Birkenhead).



Beaten finalists in the 2019 Taranaki men’s Open fours — Brian Little, Ron Henn, Ian Monaghan and Brian Henn (Palmerston North).



Consolation for Kape and Horn as they take out the pairs

The New Plymouth Club-sponsored open pairs event, for players who did not qualify or take part in the Open fours, resulted in a victory for Hamish Kape (Okato), left, and Taylor Horn (Mangere), right.

The duo, who originally met through Kittyhawk bowls, decided at the start of the season to team up for the 2019 Taranaki Open fours, as Kape was one player short from his Okato club.

Since then, Horn won the Dominion singles title at the beginning of the month. And while he still has a some rough edges to his game — especially when he dropped a six in yesterday’s semifinal — Horn clearly has a huge future in bowls.

In yesterday’s final, the duo beat West End’s Bruce Hall and Bruce Lilley 24-13, after they edged in front in the first half of the game, and then pulled away during the second stage. In the semifinals, Kape and Horn beat Martin Hithcings and Mike Paton (Orewa) 31-17, while Hall and Lilley defeated Bones Burton and Glen Curtis (Takaro) 23-12.

