

Bowls Taranaki News

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Revital Fertilisers Taranaki bow out in last eight

Taranaki were defeated in the quarterfinals of the men's New Zealand intercentre bowls contest in Auckland on March 23.

After qualifying in second place in its pool, the Revital Fertilisers Taranaki side were outdone 3-0 by Canterbury.

The mainlanders proceeded to edge past Nelson in the final, with the latter the only other side in the competition that defeated Taranaki.

In the quarterfinals, Dean Elgar's singles clash against Andrew Kelly was called off after Canterbury won the pairs and fours matches. Kelly led at that point 20-18 but it was still anybody's match.

After holding a handy lead early, Gerry O'Sullivan and Craig De Faria fell 16-9 to Nathan Glasson and Gary Lawson, while Scott Roberts' quartet were soundly defeated 19-5 by Lance Pascoe, who skipped the Canterbury four impressively.

Taranaki finished section play comfortably in second place, with Nelson a clear leader.

The men performed well on Friday, winning seven of their opening nine games. Elgar starred there with three wins. On Saturday he finished section play with a 21-all draw against world singles champion, Shannon

McIlroy, the game being cut short because of time limit, and a 25-17 loss to world fours champion, Michael Kernaghan.

O'Sullivan and De Faria had two wins on Friday and a loss to the powerful Nelson duo of Peter Hodson and Richard Collett, both past Dominion singles winners. A win and a draw completed a satisfactory section play.

Roberts' four of Aidan Zittersteijn, Dave Wilson and Jordan Linn started brightly on Friday with two wins and a narrow one-point defeat to Dwayne Cameron (Waikato). But Saturday saw the side suffer a heavy defeat to Bay of Plenty and a close loss to Nelson.

In the final wash-up the Taranaki women were just one match point off qualifying. Rhonda Adams had three wins in the singles, from five games, as did the pair of Sue Winter and Maree Gadsby. The four of Val McEl-downey, Gloria Shaw, Susan Cottam and Cathy Andrews won twice. A disastrous final round on Friday, when all three games were lost, ended the hopes.

Thames Valley won the section with 31 points, followed by Northland and Marlborough (both 25), Taranaki and South Otago (both 24), Wanganui (22) and West Coast (0).

Elgar skips North Island to victory

After an absence of 32 years, the inter-island game was reinstated as a prelude to the intercentre event in Auckland. Each island provided a single, pair and four in each gender, plus a mixed pair, with Dean Elgar Taranaki's sole representative, skipping the four.

His side, which included Tony Grantham and the two past Taranakians, Daryl Read and Raymond Martin defeated the south side skipped by Michael Kernaghan 11-9.

With the scores even playing the last end, Elgar drove off the two south shot bowls and then drew the ace with his last.

The north took the fixture 4.5-2.5, and as captain of the north, Elgar collected the cup.

Elgar continued the excellent record of Taranaki bowlers in the north island side. John Murtagh, Brian Baldwin, Maurice Symes and John Lambert were all part of the last north island side in 1987.



De Faria, Linn do it again as Colgan opens his account

Craig De Faria made it four Taranaki open titles in one season when he combined with Jordan Linn and Bruce Colgan to take out the Clegg's Funeral Services-sponsored Taranaki men's open triples at Hawera Park on Anniversary Day.

The trio triumphed 19-13 over Tower's Mark Kuklinski, John Roberts and skip Scott Roberts in the final.

Playing with greater consistency, the West End side led 7-1 after five ends. After 10 ends, they had maintained the advantage, leading 11-5. Six heads later the score was 16-8 and while a three brought Tower to within striking distance, it was West End who took the next two ends.

There was a brief flicker of hope on the penultimate end for Roberts, when trialling by seven. With the last bowl of the head, he held three. Any jack movement would increase the count, possibly to a maximum six. Roberts hit the shot bowl, which was sitting close to the jack, but it was not his day, the count in fact reducing to two.

The win was a first Taranaki title for Colgan, a third-year player with a big future in the sport. Linn now has seven Taranaki crowns, while De Faria moved to 23. That levelled him with John Roberts at the top of the all-time list.

Lepperton's June Ward has previously won five Taranaki titles in the 2002-03 season, but they were split between open and champion-of-champions events.

Of the five men's open events this season, De Faria has dominated like no-one ever has before. He has won the open singles, centre fours, open

fours and open triples. Ironically, his only miss was in the Christmas pairs, where he failed to qualify.

In the semifinals, De Faria's side ousted clubmates Bruce Candy, John Garrud and Neil Candy 22-12, with Roberts' edging West End's Steve Temper-ton, Bruce Lilley and Dean Elgar 17-16 after the difference had been three shots playing the last end.



Bruce Colgan, Jordan Linn and Craig De Faria are all smiles after their open triples win. They are pictured with Mike Clegg, sponsor and board member, and Frank Pollock, board member.

Pearce, Parker take Moss

Stratford-Avon's Brian Pearce and Iain Parker claimed the Classic Carpets-sponsored Hugh Moss junior pairs at Lepperton when they beat Hawera Park's Nigel Berry and Sean Prinsloo 20-17 in the decider.

The Stratford-Avon pair led by two shots playing the last end. But Berry drew two good shots, effectively tying the game up. However, in an excellent finish, Parker trailed the jack with his second-to-last bowl to snatch victory.

Pearce and Parker had opened the 16-end final with a five and after three ends led 7-0. But befitting a final, Berry and Prinsloo gained a five of their own on the sixth head and with a three on 10 took the lead.

It was then that the game tightened up and led to

the exciting final head.

In the semifinals, Pearce and Parker beat Vini Purcell (Fitzroy) and Mike Hori (Paritutu) 17-11, with Prinsloo and Berry defeating Doug Clark and Peter Clark (Manaia) 17-9.

Earlier results:

Round 1: B Pearce (Stratford-Avon) 14 E Sheather (Inglewood) 13, L Dobson (Hawera Park) 18 C Brookes (West End) 11, M Hori (Paritutu) 17 E Jones (Fitzroy) 12. Round 2: Pearce 26 Dobson 6, Hori 20 H Murray (West End) 15, N Berry (Hawera Park) 15 J Jane (Waitara) 9, D Clark (Manaia) 14 I Wards (Tower) 7.



Hawera Park, Waitara win Shields, while Curtis launches

Waitara (men) and Hawera Park (women) are this season's Taranaki shield winners.

Hawera Park edged out Lepperton in the southern town last week to claim the Martins Fashions-sponsored Egmont Shield. Waitara claimed the men's Radius Healthcare-sponsored shield at Oa-kura. It won five games from six to head off Hawera Park (three wins) and Okato (one win). It was Waitara's first win in the competition since 1949.



Former New Zealand secondary schools rugby rep Todd Curtis illustrated that he has a highly promising bowls career in front of him when he won the Paul Spiers-sponsored Taranaki first year singles at West End on Sunday.

Curtis, who will this Saturday turn out for the Southern premier side in the opening weekend of club rugby, went through the event unbeaten. It is the first Taranaki centre certificate won by the Tower club.

In the final Curtis edged out retired lawyer Trevor Knowsley (Paritutu) 14-13, with the one hour-30 minute time-limit coming into play. Opunake's

Daryl McKenzie and Vogeltown's Nick Payne shared third place, while school pupils Briar Atkinson (Lepperton) and Cameron Horo (Rahotu) also gave good accounts of themselves.



Taranaki board update — experience and excellence to exit

The Board of Bowls Taranaki will have a distinctively different look to it after the annual meeting in June, with three of the current seven board members indicating that they will stand down.

Those board members are Joy Clouston, who has been on the board since 2013; Paul Spiers, who will return to Australia at the end of the year for work purposes; and Brien Bennett QSM, who became secretary of the men's centre, as it was, away back in 1995, and will now exit having served one year as president but 25 years in total. "All three will be missed terribly," chairman Grant Hassall said. "I'm a believer that a board needs to be representative of its members and stakeholders and between the three of them they cover off a wide cross-section of bowlers and our community."

In addition, Neville Elliott will retire from his role on May 1, once more creating a huge hole.

"Neville's involvement extends as far back as Brien's and he has been an unwavering servant and supporter of the game in this province," Hassall said. A recruitment process is currently underway.

"The old euphemism is that experience is worth a lot, but new blood is worth twice as much," Hassall said. "Now is the time for those genuine lovers of bowls to stop the talking and start the doing."

The loss of Clouston will be keenly felt as she is the only women currently on the board. Hassall said an approach had been made to some women to stand for the board but to date no candidates had agreed.

"It would be a very sad day for Taranaki bowls if there are no women on the board. My mind flicks back to all those great women administrators of yesterday — who is next?"

Board and president nominations close on May 1.

Thrill of a life time for Elgar, Hall and Candy

“This tops it off,” was Dean Elgar’s reaction to winning the New Zealand men’s bowls fours title in Wellington on Monday.

Elgar won the New Zealand singles two seasons ago, but thought the buzz from “doing it with your mates” was something even more special.

A member of the West End club in New Plymouth, Elgar pulled off a number of scintillating shots during the four-day event, skipping his side to 11 victories from as many games – an impressive statistic.

The rest of the side included Gavin Scrivener (Aramoho), Neil Candy and Bruce Hall (both West End). The final against Michael Kernaghan (North East Valley) was a memorable one which Elgar’s side won 23-22.

“We just had to hang tough and make a game of it,” Elgar said. His side trailed 19-13 after 16 of the 21 ends in the final and 22-17 after 19 ends.

“For the team to win it, was the thrill of a lifetime.” Elgar’s latest success continues a rich vein of form that must have caught the attention of the New Zealand selectors. In addition to the singles win two seasons ago he was runner-up in the fours. Last year he won the national club singles, while earlier this year was third-equal in the pairs.

For the other three members of the winning team, this was their biggest moment in bowls by some distance.

Candy, who started his bowls at Paritutu before transferring to Inglewood and then on to West End, is of a noted Taranaki bowling family. His late father Chas and brother Bruce have both won Taranaki titles, with Neil Candy having won three himself.

Hall, a gentleman of the game locally, has played for Vogeltown for 25 years, the last three as a dual member of West End. A great team man who provided the perfect match for Elgar at No 3, Hall has one Taranaki title.



Neil Candy, Dean Elgar, Gavin Scrivener and Bruce Hall savour the moment of winning the 2019 Dominion fours.

Scrivener is a Wanganui gold star holder and led expertly throughout the event.

It is the fifth time in the 105-year history of the Dominion tournament that a Taranaki-skipped side has won the fours. Strath Ewing (Stratford) won in 1952 when he drove the jack into the ditch with his last bowl; Mort Squire (West End) claimed his national gold star with his 1961 win; Ken Tompkins (Paritutu) succeeded in 1972; and Ken Murtagh (Paritutu) was triumphant in 1974.

Key dates coming up in April and May

March 31: Entries close champion-of-champions fours and pairs.

April 13: Champion-of-champions fours — men’s and women’s both at Paritutu.

April 14: Champion-of-champions pairs — men’s at Manaia, women’s at Lepperton.

April 14: Entries close champion-of-champions triples and singles.

April 27: Champion-of-champions triples — men’s at Rahotu, women’s at Hawera Park.

April 28: Champion-of-champions singles (senior and junior) — all at West End.

May 1: Nominations close for Taranaki Board and President positions.

May 4: Champion-of-champions finals day all events — at Paritutu.