

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

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41 sides unbeaten but still some slip ups

41 teams had extra reason to enjoy yesterday's opening day's play in the perfect weather conditions that prevailed in the Taranaki men's open fours tournament.

Those 41 sides notched up two wins from as many matches to make the perfect start and put themselves in a good position to qualify.

A number of the favoured teams were included in that group, inevitably, but some of the big boys also suffered a slip up.

Dan Delany (Royal Oak) commenced with a 26-17 victory over Steve Cottam (Paritutu), who made the last 16 last time, but was well out-pointed in the afternoon by two-winner Steve Liddington (Hillcrest) 23-7.

Brian Little (Palmerston North), a finalist four times in the previous nine years, scored a strong 30-15 win over former Auckland title-

holder Murray Dickson (Pakuranga). But Little's side were edged out 22-20 by Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) in the afternoon. For Ramsey, who made the last 16 last year, it was a vital win after commencing with a loss.

Bruce Lilley (West End) was beaten 25-17 by John Claydon (Masterton), while in the same section at Vogeltown, the 2019 Dominion singles winner, Taylor Horn (Mangere), went down as well.

Horn's team, which includes Hamish Kape, lost 29-24 to Joe Johanson (Bay View), in the biggest first round surprise.

But Horn got back on track by beating the Lowry family team from Rahotu, skipped by Ian, 28-18. Lilley also made amends after lunch with a 21-13 win over Denis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach).

Cameron the first CEO to take part in the Open

Mark Cameron, pictured Taranaki president, Ian Anright, became the first CEO of draws, thanked everyone Bowls New Zealand to compete in the Taranaki men's Open fours whilst holding the players.

down the top job at Paritutu yesterday.

Competing in a Riverhead, North Harbour, side Cameron local teams. However, the was one of three speakers outside influence for the past during yesterday's opening 105 years had added an extra ceremony. He reiterated his dimension.

comments from previous years, when he attended in his official role, the standing of the tournament on the New Zealand bowls calendar.

The crowd also heard how for the first 10 years of the Open, entries were restricted to just local teams. However, the

The event has occupied an important position on the local landscape and this was emphasised once again by the positive comments deliv-



ered by the deputy mayor of the New Plymouth District, Richard Jordan.

Jordan officially opened the tournament.

Former Dominion champs battle

There was an intriguing and tense afternoon game at West End yesterday afternoon when Brody Dix (Papakura) and Ross Thorn (Naenae), two prominent visitors, went head-to-head. Both had launched promising starts with decisive wins in the morning and it was the decorated Thorn who took the honours, edging Dix 21-20. Dix's side includes Shane McGonagle, who joined with Thorn in taking out the 2006 Dominion fours.

Terry Osment (Johnsonville) and Richie Muir (Wanaka) had a ding-dong battle at Waitara with the side from the capital prevailing 26-24. Both were afternoon winners.

One of the more talented local teams, skipped by Bruce Phillips (Tower), also notched up two wins. He did receive some cheek from Philip Drought (Paritutu) 23-18 in the morning and then needed an extra end to edge out Daniel Geaney (Blockhouse Bay) 24-23.

Neil Fisher (Sunshine Coast) had a disruption when one of his team members, Kevin Gledhill, was left stranded in Nelson after the Wellington airport was closed on Sunday. Fisher introduced Stephen Stuart into his side, the change having no drastic impact, with Fisher posting a 25-12 win over Bruce Harris (Johnston Park). However, Fisher fell 24-16 in the afternoon to Davey Payne's unbeaten Mairangi Bay side.

Fisher wasn't the only side to encounter travel difficulties. 1998 Dominion fours winner Kevin Greenwood was also grounded in the south island, although his team skipped by Paul Matheson (Halswell) claimed two wins with assistance of accomplished substitute David Bennett.

Two family teams had narrow, tense opening wins in the games at Lepperton. Gerry O'Sullivan (Inglewood) got home 25-24 over Mort Jones (Hillcrest) while Geoff Hawken (Gold Coast), skipping his three sons, won 24-22 over Darren Scott (West End).

Both were much more convincing in their afternoon victories. O'Sullivan beat morning winner Danny Watt (Lepperton) 26-16, where supervisor Ernie Ward ensured the green was entertained by drawing a toucher after a

wrong bias with his previous delivery. Hawken accounted for Maurice Hughes (Karitane) in the afternoon 31-9.

Craig De Faria and his victorious West End side from last year issued an early reminder that they mean business with wins over Don Gyde (Inglewood) 33-6 and Allan Hill (Hinds) 35-13. Gyde sneaked home 24-23 in the afternoon over the unluckiest team on the day, Graeme Rossiter (Tumut). Rossiter also dropped the morning game by one point.

Three-time world champion Peter Belliss (Aramoho) didn't get things all his own way, but still prevailed 29-24 over a gallant Cliff Marshall (Napier) and 22-18 over Bob Harris (Canterbury).

Bowls Taranaki president Ian Andrews (Paritutu) launched his tournament impressively. Andrews posted win number two in the afternoon, 31-17, over Brian Whiteman (Te Puke), who had opened with a win.

Bill Barwood (Claudelands) also won twice, his side being skipped by the tenacious Paul Bartosh.

Rex Holmes (Paraparumu Beach) scrapped through in the morning round 22-21 against Bill Foley (New Plymouth). Foley led by three shots playing the last end. Holmes, pictured below left of frame, scored a three and then won the extra end. The Kapiti side broke free after the interval in the afternoon to beat Mark Skelton (Sunshine Coast, right of frame) 29-15.



Larry Haines — ambassador

Sunshine Coast bowls organiser Larry Haines, right of frame, was officially endorsed as an ambassador of the Open yesterday by Bowls Taranaki Executive Officer, Peter Scott, left of frame.

Haines took over from Barry Sullivan in organising the large contingent in the event from the Sunshine Coast two years ago and it was important to recognise his efforts, Scott said.

“Even though I was not involved during Barry’s years, I can see that he too did a terrific job, and he was suitably recognised two years ago.”

Organising such a large group was a big undertaking. “Larry has been brilliant to deal with, we thank him very much and look forward to more the same.”

Also inducted as ambassadors were Bowls Taranaki Life Members, Patty Symes and Neville Elliott.

Symes continues to act as a recorder for the event and has given freely of her time for a number of years. “This is most certainly not just about the men’s Open, but also the women’s event. We view this as a two week bowls carnival—destination Taranaki,” Scott added.



Despite Elliott retiring last May he has continued to be a huge contributor and was busy working again yesterday. “His connections and knowledge is a huge asset to the Open.”

Tomorrow: Engagement Officers hit 20 years.

Teams winning two games on first day

Section 1: Neville Goldsworthy (Fitzroy), Rex Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), Andrew Bowden (Parklands), Bill Barwood (Claudelands), Ian Andrews (Paritutu).

Section 2: Marty Doak (Far North RSA), Peter Charteris (Rahotu), Jeremy Brosnan (Glen Eden), Trevor Keightley (Paritutu).

Section 3: Doug Winter (Takaro), John Carter (Hutt), Keith Ansell (New Lynn), Paul Matheson (Halswell).

Section 4: Anton Ferrari (Naenae), Shane O’Hara (Mercury Bay), Craig De Faria (West End).

Section 5: Ray Keen (Blockhouse Bay), Gerry O’Sullivan (Inglewood), Geoff Hawken (Gold Coast), Aad Schrader (Okato).

Section 6: Davey Payne (Mairangi Bay), Steve

Liddington (Hillcrest).

Section 7: Kevin Smith (Hinuera), John Claydon (Masterton), Paul Hassall (Tawa).

Section 8: Leon Wech (Mairangi Bay), Dennis Brewster (Whangarei), Peter Belliss (Aramoho), Mike Oldfield (Tauranga South).

Section 9: Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), Bruce Phillips (Tower), Tupu Campbell (Far North RSA), Colin Young (Te Kuiti).

Section 10: Ray Park (Wanganui), Terry Osment (Johnsonville), Peter Bovey (Central Levin).

Section 11: Ross Thorn (Naenae), Dan Dickison (Tauranga), Paul Darbyshire (Northern).

Section 12: Garry Banks (Beach Haven), Darren Goodin (Paritutu).



Takarua enjoys the longer format as well

The traditional 25-end game does not only appeal to the older bowler. On the opening day yesterday on the B green at Paritutu, Aiden Takarua produced a top shelf performance as he skipped his Auckland side to two large wins.

Takarua, aged 20, is in his seventh year of bowls and is one of the most recognisable faces in New Zealand bowls at the moment.

Takarua has played an integral role in the Pt Chevalier Pirates in the televised series of Bowls3five.

The Pirates won the inaugural season in 2018, with Takarua's attacking game playing a huge part in their victory.

He wasn't as dominant this season, but the Pirates avoided relegation and will live to fight another edition later this year.

Takarua is currently part of the Bowls New Zealand identification programme, effectively the second tier, and is seen as a prospective full international.

Takarua first broke onto the national scene when he won the New Zealand secondary school pairs title while a pupil at St Peters College in 2014.

In addition to the Bowls3five success last season, Takarua also won Auckland titles in the open triples, champion-of-champions singles and champion-of-champions fours.

But Takarua is not getting too ahead of himself. He is also involved in coaching in primary and intermediate schools in the Auckland area.

With the schools on holiday, it gives Takarua plenty of time for bowls.

And belying his youthfulness, Takarua said that he was really looking forward to his first Taranaki Open.

"It's a much more traditional format, the 25 ends. You can ease into it and be more conservative. You can be happy to go one down."

Takarua's side for this week comprises Phil Aitken, Steve Hoeft and Jeremy Brosnan. They cruised home 40-10 over Richard Meacle's Sunshine Coast team in the morning and were equally as decisive in beating the Riverhead's Mark Cameron 33-8.



Match of the morning — Winter v Carter

Two of the unbeaten teams that will square off this morning will be Takaro's Doug Winter and Hutt's John Carter.

Winter plays with Pat Edwards, Trevor Butcher and Dave Adams. They had a memorable day at Oakura yesterday, beating two strong sides, Cary Pinker (Wanganui East) 25-18 and Neil Clarke (Hillcrest) 29-28.

Carter, with his usual side of Bruce Woodhouse, Don McMurray and Bill Jackson, defeated Terry Mullin (Pihama) 28-12 and Alan Niwa (Okato) 25-18. Carter's side made it into the last 16 in 2019.

The Winter-Carter clash will take place at Paritutu A.

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