

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 24, 2020

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## Dreams alive for 41 teams, other hopes dashed

As the first half of the 115th Taranaki men's Open fours came to a conclusion yesterday, 41 teams kept their hopes alive of claiming the biggest prize in provincial New Zealand bowls.

There were some relieved quartets after they made it through, while others were left frustrated after surprising defeats.

But the consensus remains: a criteria of six wins from eight matches — which the Taranaki weather permitted this year — is very tough, but also richly rewarding for those making it through.

Last year's runner-up Brian Little (Palmerston North) racked up win number six in the morning, beating Ray Williams (Sunshine Coast) 27-12. Both Ross Thorn (Naenae) and Dan Dickison (Tauranga) also were untroubled in registering their sixth wins as well. It was the same for Peter Belliss (Aramoho) who trounced Dick Winter (Waimea) 38-3.

Regular visitor Kevin Coombe (Aramoho), who won the pairs in 2012, overturned a 17-5 deficit to beat Jim Rowe (West End) 27-18 to ensure qualification for the Wanganui side.

But there was no joy for Shane O'Hara (Mercury Bay). After a morning win, he still needed another to get through, but was never really in the hunt against West End's Craig De Faria.

Da Faria's champion side from 2019 completed a perfect eight-from-eight in section play with a 25-9 victory.

There were some surprising last round defeats by teams needing a sixth win. In section 11, two past winners, Bruce Stewart (Havelock North) and Brody Dix (Pukekohe), both exited. Stewart was ousted 24-19 by Michael Feek (Mt Albert), who couldn't qualify, and Dix went down 26-22 to Logan Palmer (Wanganui East), who had

also exited earlier in the week.

At West End, two five winners, Ray Glogoski (Kerikeri) and Neil Earley (Inglewood), went for it. It was Glogoski who repeated his qualification from the previous year, winning 27-17.

After being beaten by Bruce Lilley (West End) 22-18 in the morning, Kevin Smith (Hinuera) got through 20-10 over Allan Batley (Paritutu). Lilley also joined post section when he edged out Ian Lowry (Rahotu) 25-23 in the final game. But Denis Ryan (Paraparaumu Beach) missed out 24-4 to John Claydon (Masterton) who had already qualified in the morning.

Don Ramsey (Pukekohe) made it through once again after his side posted two comfortable wins on the last day. But in the same section, on the Paritutu C green, Garry Banks (Beach Haven) and Rodney Woods (Opunake) both lost in the last round and were left stranded on five wins.

Two other local teams also missed out. John Sexton (West End), after an excellent morning win over Ray Park (Wanganui), who had already qualified, was undone 26-21 by Mo Kelly (Fitzroy). While Jim Priest, playing on his home Oakura green, fell just short of Terry Osment (Johnsonville), who had already made it through, 25-20.

Kelvin Bishop (West End), a semifinalist in 2016, needed the last game to get through. Despite a sterling effort, the side came up slightly short against Aiden Takarua (Glen Eden) 28-22. A consolation for Bishop was that his side got the closest to Takarua in section play.

Bill Johnston (Fitzroy) also had the agony of missing out. He missed out 24-23 to Bill Cooper (Levin), who finished on three wins. On an adjacent rink, Colin Young (Te Kuiti) was also ousted, bowing out to Coombe. That had followed a morning loss to 24-22 to Trevor Murtha (Omarunui).

## De Faria to meet Takarua in opening round

The feature opening round clash in post section this morning will undoubtedly be the game on the Paritutu A green between two sides who whistled through section play with eight straight wins — Craig De Faria (West End) and Aiden Takarua.

Takarua plays for the Pt Chevalier club, although the composite Auckland side has been entered under the Glen Eden this week.

Glen Eden is the home club of the No 3, Jeremy Brosnan. Completing the Auckland side are Phil Aitken and Steve Hoeft.

De Faria's side is the same one that triumphed in last year's event — Jordan Linn, Dave Wilson and Steve Walker.

Two of the favoured teams meeting so early in post section is a common occurrence, with the open nature of the draw.

It means, of course, that one of the teams will be eliminated by lunchtime. Seeding the draws is almost unheard of in bowls in this country. Although in past generations, byes were given to the highest performing teams in qualifying.

Many years ago, post section in the Taranaki Open was operated on a two-life system to be "fairer" to the best section play teams. But the rule was changed after Son Maslin defeated Roy Boulton in the third final (one game was drawn) in 1942.

## Fours post section and pairs section play for Friday

**Post section draw for the 115th Taranaki men's Open fours on January 24:**

**Section 1, at Paritutu A:**

**Round 1 (9am start):** R Thorn (Naenae) v R Holmes (Paraparaumu Beach), A Takarua (Glen Eden) v C De Faria (West End), R Park (Wanganui) v T Horn (Mangere), M Doak (Far North RSA) v M Cavanagh (Pukekohe).

**Round 2 (9am start):** A Bridger (Johnsonville) v D Brewster (Whangarei), K Smith (Hinuera) v A Wishnoski (New Lynn), R Meacle (Sunshine Coast) v B Little (Palmerston North).

**Round 2 (report 12.30pm):** S Liddington (Frankton Railway) v T Osment (Johnsonville), D Goodin (Paritutu) v G Slattery (Tui Park), J Carter (Hutt) v C Boyle (Epsom).

**Section 2, at Paritutu B:**

**Round 1 (9am start):** N Candy (West End) v K Coombe (Aramoho), P Belliss (Aramoho) v D Geaney (Blockhouse Bay), P Matheson (Halswell) v R Glogoski (Kerikeri), G O'Sullivan (Inglewood) v D Payne (Mairangi Bay), D Ramsey (Pukekohe) v D Hood (Kerikeri).

**Round 2 (9am start):** J Claydon (Masterton) v A Ferrari (Naenae), B Harris (Johnston Park) v P Clegg (Hawera Park).

**Round 2 (report 12.30pm):** G Hawken (Gold Coast) v B Phillips (Tower), B Barwood (Claudelands) v B Lilley (West End), P Hassall (Tawa) v I Andrews (Paritutu), D Dickison (Tauranga) v Candy/Coombe winner.

Round 2 winners will play only one game.

**Section play draw for the Open fours-pairs on January 24 (all starting at 8.45am):**

**Section 1, at West End 1:** A Bowden (Parklands), S Alchin (West End), C Carter (Parklands), M Paton (Orewa), B Mason (Takaro), R Higginson (Orewa), C Horo (Rahotu), R Gadsby (Fitzroy), P Digby (Stratford-Avon), J Dick (Marton), M Healey (New Plymouth), M Hori (Paritutu), M Hamlin (Stratford-Avon), P Berge (West End).

**Section 2, at West End 2:** S Richards (Kaikohe), J Rona (Composite), D Davis (Kaikohe), M Jones (Hillcrest), R Drummond (Fitzroy), T Gray (Hillcrest), M Stieller (Stratford-Avon), S Robinson (Omarunui), G Hodges (Havelock North), J Leckner (Omarunui), B Foley (New Plymouth), G Crow (Paritutu), G Fulford (Havelock North), M Grace (Hinds).

**Section 3, at Waimea:** L Abric (NSW), B Jackson (Oakura), G Rossiter (NSW), G Nisbett (Seatoun), D Stachurski (Inglewood), R Larson (Seatoun), K Souto (Paritutu), K Bishop (Motueka), N Nelson (West End), J Prior (Moueka), M Feek (Waimea), K Crawford (Paritutu), L Hori (New Plymouth), G Barber (Paritutu).

**Section 4, at Vogeltown A:** I McMurchy (Kensington), N Hill (Royal Oak), J Taylor (Managatapere), C McKellar (Te Kuiti), M Hughes (Karitane), C Young (Te Kuiti), B Dix (Papakura), S Stuart (West End), T Johns (Paritutu), J Sexton (West End), M Scott (Nelson), C Fleming (Portland), B Read (Paritutu), K Kenny (Wait.).

**Section 5, at Vogeltown B:** M Bridgeland (Massey Ave), K Sellers (Vogeltown), B Edwards (Massey Ave), G Johnstone (Hokonui), J Roberts (Waitara), R Muir (Wanaka), J Finnigan (Paritutu), E Hau (Far North RSA), J Priest (Oakura), T Campbell (Far North RSA), G Murfitt (West End), J Murray (Sunshine Coast), K Smith (Oakura), C Brookes (West End).