

HEFFER HOLDS OUT MERRILEES; CLARK DENIES MOTU A SECOND WIN

Qualifier action has been coming thick and fast around the country as the New Zealand Professional Bowls Association circuit works its way towards Finals Weekend in Invercargill next month.

At the Waverley Club which will host the Finals, 28-year old Kerry Heffer held off current New Zealand provisional number one Craig Merrilees 7-8, 10-8, 2-1 in the final of their World Indoor Singles qualifier. Merrilees held match three times only for Heffer to wrestle the shot back each time and win the game with her last bowl on the third tiebreak end. This will be Heffer's second appearance at Finals Weekend previously featuring in 2018.

And a Southland rookie pair of Mark Smith and Jason Wheal took out the Invercargill World Indoor Pairs qualifier from a visiting Dunedin pair of Grant Simpson and Andrew Smaill 11-4, 8-3. This was their first final for any of the four players with both teams knocking out experienced campaigners in the semifinals.

Counties' Logan Clark was too strong in the Auckland final of their UK Singles qualifier beating David Motu 7-1, 8-5. Motu had already won a Finals Weekend berth in the Scottish Singles earlier in the year, while it was second time lucky for Clark after losing the local World Indoor Pairs final.

This weekend Wellington holds its local finals day on Saturday in all events. Wairarapa's Gavin Hamlyn is defending his World Indoor Singles win from last year but will face steady opposition with all three of the other semifinalists currently sitting in the top 60 of the national rankings. Two Manawatu rookies will battle out the Scottish Singles final in Richard Morpeth and Rohan Teaz.

Wairarapa's Garry Muriwai is in good recent form appearing in the World Indoor Singles semifinals and then is the top ranked of the UK Singles semifinalists but there are a couple of returned old campaigners surging up the ladder in Blake Signal and Richard Corry that could pose a problem. The day will finish with the World Indoor Pairs final again featuring Signal and Corry.

On Sunday Invercargill plays its UK Singles qualifier with an early key match-up between top 40 players Kelvin Jackson from Central Otago and Julie O'Connell. They last met in the same round in the predecessor to this event in 2019 with Jackson comfortably winning on that occasion.

Information including an application form, entry forms, dates and venues for the NZ PBA can be found on the worldbowlstour.org site under PBA – New Zealand though beware on the Hastings entry forms, the last weekend has been pushed back to 26 and 27 August.

Results:

Naenae, Wellington

Ranking Singles

1st round: Rozanna Muriwai bt Brian McDermott 11-1, 10-5; Blake Signal bt Mike Solomon 9-4, 3-10, 2-1.

2nd round: B.Signal bt R.Muriwai 5-5, 8-6; Francie Jasionowicz bt Dave Jones by default; Karen Ewart bt Leighton Wilding 3-9, 12-2, 2-1; Jayden Ravji bt Richard Morpeth 8-3, 9-9; Mark Finlay bt Rohan Teaz 10-5, 11-5; Garry Muriwai bt Lily Signal 10-6, 12-3; Stacey Thomas bt Sonny White 13-4, 11-1; Taiu White bt Henry Jasionowicz 11-2, 8-7; Steve Critchlow bt Lil Renata 9-8, 10-5; Gavin Hamlyn bt Jim Swift 12-6, 8-4; Lock Chin bt Steve Nicoll 9-4, 9-3; Greg Oldridge bt Scott Sinclair-Paton by default; Clare Hendra bt Kennie Critchlow 11-3, 9-1; Gill Oliver bt Steve Rickman 9-1, 1-15, 2-0; Ross Ellery bt Allan Heald 14-5, 18-2; Laurie Guy bt Richard Corry 7-6, 8-9, 2-1.

3rd round: B.Signal bt F.Jasionowicz 9-4, 12-1; Ewart bt Ravji 5-9, 11-1, 2-1; G.Muriwai bt Finlay 8-4, 11-2; Thomas bt T.White 17-4, 9-4; S.Critchlow bt Hamlyn 10-6, 7-7; Oldridge bt Chin 9-5, 8-3; Hendra bt Oliver 10-6, 9-5; Ellery bt Guy 4-11, 9-4, 2-0.

Quarterfinals: Ewart bt B.Signal 9-2, 10-3; Thomas bt G.Muriwai 10-2, 7-6; S.Critchlow bt Oldridge 4-13, 10-5, 2-1; Hendra bt Ellery 10-5, 6-6.

Semifinals: Karen Ewart (Wellington) v Stacey Thomas (Kapiti Coast); Steve Critchlow (Wellington) v Clare Hendra (Wellington) to be played Aug 12.

UK Singles

1st round: Scott Sinclair-Paton bt Leighton Wilding 10-3, 9-9.

2nd round: Lock Chin bt Sinclair-Paton 6-5, 11-3; Brian McDermott bt Taiu White 6-7, 11-2, 2-1; Rohan Teaz bt Jayden Ravji 11-3, 10-4; Sonny White bt Mark O'Brien 9-9, 12-7; Jim Swift bt Lily Signal 12-7, 8-4; Rozanna Muriwai bt Laurie Guy 11-9, 9-1; Karen Ewart bt Steve Nicoll 10-5, 10-9; Richard Corry bt Gavin Hamlyn 5-11, 9-3, 2-1; Mike Solomon bt Dave Jones by default; Ross Ellery bt Lil Renata 7-7, 13-2; Stacey Thomas bt Allan Heald 8-6, 11-6; Blake Signal bt Richard Morpeth 3-9, 9-4, 2-0; Kennie Critchlow bt Steve Rickman 7-6, 6-6; Clare Hendra bt Steve Critchlow 10-7, 3-12, 2-0; Garry Muriwai bt Henry Jasionowicz 12-7, 7-4; Gill Oliver bt Mark Finlay 11-1, 8-11, 2-0.

3rd round: McDermott bt Chin 10-4, 14-0; Teaz bt S.White 8-7, 7-6, 2-0; Swift bt R.Muriwai 3-12, 9-5, 2-1; Corry bt Ewart 6-5, 9-7; Solomon bt Ellery 5-10, 9-8, 2-1; B.Signal bt Thomas 12-3, 7-12, 2-0; Hendra bt K.Critchlow 12-5, 10-3; G.Muriwai bt Oliver 7-5, 6-7, 2-0.

Quarterfinals: McDermott bt Teaz 6-9, 9-3, 2-1; Corry bt Swift 12-4, 7-9, 2-0; B.Signal bt Solomon 11-7, 7-2; G.Muriwai bt Hendra 9-1, 8-4.

Semifinals: Brian McDermott (Wellington) v Richard Corry (Wellington); Blake Signal (Wellington) v Garry Muriwai (Wairarapa) to be played Aug 12.

Waverley, Invercargill

World Indoor Pairs

1st round: Richie Muir & Thomas Cockerill bt Sue Dillon & Peter Bain 11-2, 10-8; Lyall Spencer & Craig Tinker bt Sheldon Bagrie-Howley & Kerry Heffer 7-6, 10-5; Bevan Clark & Aaron Tribe bt Allan Todd & Thomas Eruera 12-2, 9-3.

2nd round; Muir & Th.Cockerill bt L.Spencer & Tinker 5-8, 13-1, 2-0; Clark & Tribe bt Tony Cockerill & Diane Drake 6-5, 8-5; Mark Smith & Jason Wheal bt Zoe Beck & Emma Drake 7-7, 8-4; Kelvin & Debbie Jackson bt Paul Russell & Noel Peachey 9-5, 6-8, 2-1; Bruce Ross & Brent Thomson bt Wendy Sutherland & Peter Dunne 9-7, 3-10, 2-1; Julie O'Connell & Dave Bean bt Allen Eastwood & Simon Clegg 4-10, 12-5, 2-0; Grant Simpson & Andrew Smaill bt

Darron Wolland & Alan Smith 8-6, 5-11, 2-1; Bob & Tina Johansen bt Shane Spencer & Emma Cathcart 11-2, 9-8.

Quarterfinals: Muir & Th.Cockerill bt Clark & Tribe 10-7, 12-3; Smith & Wheal bt K. & D.Jackson 10-6, 3-9, 2-1; Ross & Thomson bt O'Connell & Bean 9-4, 7-6; Simpson & Smaill bt B. & T.Johansen 10-4, 14-2.

Semifinals: Smith & Wheal bt Muir & Th.Cockerill 7-5, 7-9, 2-0; Simpson & Smaill bt Ross & Thomson 7-5, 13-3.

Final: Mark Smith & Jason Wheal (Southland) bt Grant Simpson & Andrew Smaill (Dunedin) 11-4, 8-3.

Mark Smith & Jason Wheal will play at Finals Weekend in Invercargill Sep 15-17.

Ranking Singles

Final: Craig Merrilees (Southland) bt Richie Muir (Central Otago) 9-7, 8-5.

World Indoor Singles

1st round: Julie O'Connell bt Richie Muir 7-5, 2-8, 2-0; Dave Bean bt Mark Smith 8-6, 9-8; Craig Tinker bt Debbie Jackson 13-0, 6-5; Lyall Spencer bt Brent Thomson 11-2, 8-6; Thomas Cockerill bt Wendy Sutherland 10-2, 7-6; Tony Cockerill bt Kelvin Jackson 3-14, 7-6, 2-0; Simon Clegg bt Shane Spencer 12-7, 2-10, 2-0; Bevan Clark bt Peter Dunne 12-3, 8-4.

2nd round: O'Connell bt Bean 7-5, 8-6; Tinker bt L.Spencer 9-4, 9-3; Th.Cockerill bt To.Cockerill 13-4, 5-0; Clark bt Clegg 0-7, 13-0, 2-0; Bob Johansen bt Peter Bain 5-8, 9-3, 2-1; Kerry Heffer bt Aaron Tribe 6-7, 10-5, 2-0; Jason Wheal bt Sue Dillon 2-9, 9-4, 2-0; Sheldon Bagrie-Howley bt Doug Coombes 8-5, 10-4; Tina Johansen bt Andrew Smaill by default; Allen Eastwood bt Emma Drake 9-9, 14-0; Darron Wolland bt Alan Smith 10-8, 11-2; Thomas Eruera bt Allan Todd by default; Craig Merrilees bt Paul Russell 12-1, 11-1; Bruce Ross bt Diane Drake 6-4, 7-6; Noel Peachey bt Emma Cathcart 8-3, 4-6, 2-0; Zoe Beck bt Grant Simpson by default.

3rd round: Tinker bt O'Connell 11-5, 5-12, 2-0; Clark bt Th.Cockerill 10-5, 7-6; Heffer bt B.Johansen 12-2, 9-4; Wheal bt Bagrie-Howley 5-10, 10-4, 2-1; Eastwood bt T.Johansen 9-7, 9-2; Eruera bt Wolland 8-6, 6-9, 2-0; Merrilees bt Ross 16-2, 14-0; Beck bt Peachey 9-5, 9-10, 2-1.

Quarterfinals: Clark bt Tinker 7-4, 6-8, 2-1; Heffer bt Wheal 10-9, 9-10, 2-0; Eastwood bt Eruera 6-5, 3-11, 2-1; Merrilees bt Beck 10-4, 13-0.

Semifinals: Heffer bt Clark 9-8, 9-6; Merrilees bt Eastwood 10-5, 11-4.

Final: Kerry Heffer (Southland) bt Craig Merrilees (Southland) 7-8, 10-8, 2-1.

Kerry Heffer will play Finals Weekend in Invercargill Sep 15-17.

Royal Oak, Auckland

Ranking Singles

1st round: Sean Mulholland bt Mark Griffiths 9-7, 7-7; Skye Renes bt Sandra Taylor 6-3, 7-7; Paul Neazor bt Janine Young 12-7, 7-6; Vili Fifita bt Shaun Goldsbury 8-6, 0-14, 2-0; Phil Taylor bt Steve Cox 10-5, 8-5; Nick Thompson bt Liam Hill 2-11, 11-5, 2-1; Kevin Judson bt Rima Strickland 10-7, 8-5; Bart Robertson bt Garry Cotter 10-6, 6-6.

2nd round: Mulholland bt Renes 7-8, 12-1, 2-0; Fifita bt Neazor 7-4, 11-6; P.Taylor bt Thompson 10-8, 7-7; Robertson bt Judson 8-7, 11-5; Ryan Hill bt

Mark Pene 6-11, 11-2, 2-0; Keiko Kurohara bt Richard Watt 12-5, 13-4; Neil Fisher bt Logan Clark 5-8, 13-1, 2-0; Ian Fisher bt David Motu 8-8, 10-5.
Quarterfinals: Mulholland bt Fifita 9-7, 9-5; Robertson bt P.Taylor 9-6, 8-4; R.Hill bt Kurohara 12-1, 11-6; N.Fisher bt I.Fisher 11-5, 7-7.
Semifinals: Robertson bt Mulholland 6-6, 9-3; N.Fisher bt Ryan Hill 8-6, 10-6.
Final: Neil Fisher (North Harbour) bt Bart Robertson (NorthHarbour) 7-6, 6-6.

UK Singles

1st round: Neil Fisher bt Ryan Hill 10-5, 6-7, 2-0; Liam Hill bt Steve Cox 12-4, 7-7; Mark Pene bt Mark Griffiths 2-7, 11-7, 2-0; David Motu bt Sean Mulholland 10-6, 9-4; Garry Cotter bt Nick Thompson 9-4, 5-4; Kevin Judson bt Richard Watt by default; Graham Skellern bt Sandra Taylor 7-7, 12-3; Rima Strickland bt Keiko Kurohara 10-2, 5-8, 2-1.
2nd round: L.Hill bt N.Fisher 9-5, 11-1; Motu bt Pene 11-8, 8-4; Cotter bt Judson 13-9, 13-0; Strickland bt Skellern 11-5, 11-10; Bart Robertson bt Doug Thomas by default; Phil Taylor bt Sam Taloke 12-6, 7-6; Vili Fifita bt Ian Fisher 11-3, 8-3; Logan Clark bt Janine Young 10-4, 10-4.
Quarterfinals: Motu bt L.Hill 8-2, 6-7, 2-1; Cotter bt Strickland 8-5, 14-0; Robertson bt P.Taylor 11-2, 11-3; Clark bt Fifita 9-7, 7-6.
Semifinals: Motu bt Cotter 9-8, 7-6; Clark bt Robertson 7-4, 11-3.
Final: Logan Clark (Counties) bt David Motu (Auckland) 7-1, 8-5.
Logan Clark will play Finals Weekend in Invercargill Sep 15-17.

Hopes Bowls Stadium, Dunedin

Aero 1st Ranking Singles

1st round: Peter Fleury bt Tane Loper 6-5, 9-7; Jason O'Connor bt David Chisholm 12-2, 7-3; Nick Buttar bt Liam O'Connor 6-4, 9-4; John Moana bt Robbie Green 8-6, 5-10, 2-1; Bruce McDowell bt Bill McEwan 16-2, 11-3; Andrew McCallum bt Sue Smeaton 10-6, 14-1; Niel Louw bt Mitch Cook 9-4, 11-3; Jason King bt Ken Walker 8-4, 6-6; Marty Kreft bt Chris Simpson 11-7, 9-5; Robbie Ashton bt Leo Brett by default; Ross Brown bt Gareth Seddon by default; Nigel Thompson bt Cameron McKean 9-6, 9-6; Bill Hinton bt Moana Oliver 12-2, 5-8, 2-0; Alister Young bt Adam McGregor 10-5, 7-6; Tom McGregor bt Gemma Andrew 13-3, 11-8; Brent McEwan bt Miguel Rodriguez 15-0, 10-5; Brent Taggart bt Jeff Nowell 1-9, 7-6, 2-1; Brent Webster bt Dean Matheson 11-4, 10-1; Ray Webster bt Cameron Wood by default; Nic Andrew bt Grant Fleury 10-1, 10-5; Bevan Meddings bt JP Kritzinger by default; Hilda Bennett bt Mitchell Scott 10-8, 9-6; David Natta bt Grant Simpson 9-3, 2-8, 2-0.
2nd round: J.O'Connor bt P.Fleury 10-7, 3-8, 2-1; Moana bt Buttar 10-5, 4-11, 2-0; McDowell bt McCallum 6-10, 7-5, 2-0; King bt N.Louw 6-12, 8-7, 2-1; Kreft bt Ashton 14-2, 9-2; Thompson bt Brown 7-6, 6-6; Hinton bt Young 7-3, 7-4; B.McEwan bt T.McGregor 13-8, 9-5; B.Webster bt Taggart 5-11, 12-4, 2-1; R.Webster bt N.Andrew 10-3, 9-4; Bennett bt B.Meddings by default; D.Natta bt Andrew Smaill 8-4, 5-11, 2-0; Ethan Flynn bt Sacha Taylor 12-3, 2-10, 2-1; Oliver Mason bt Murray Wilson 8-5, 9-9; Russell Dawe bt Anna Louw 13-3, 12-4; Graham Cook bt Louise Natta 5-7, 11-2, 2-1.
3rd round: J.O'Connor bt Moana 12-3, 5-8, 2-0; King bt McDowell 7-6, 10-3; Thompson bt Kreft 3-10, 9-4, 2-1; B.McEwan bt Hinton 9-3, 8-7; B.Webster bt

R.Webster 5-7, 7-6, 2-0; Bennett bt D.Natta 5-10, 10-4, 2-1; Mason bt Flynn 12-1 8-6; Dawe bt G.Cook 11-2, 9-5.

Quarterfinals: J.O'Connor bt King 6-6, 11-5; B.McEwan bt Thompson 10-7, 9-5; B.Webster bt Bennett 7-4, 8-0; Dawe bt Mason 10-5, 9-3.

Semifinals: Jason O'Connor (Canterbury) v Brent McEwan (Dunedin); Brent Webster (Southland) v Russell Dawe (Dunedin) to be played Aug 20.

Aero 2nd Ranking Singles

1st round: Bruce McDowell bt Miguel Rodriguez by default; Gemma Andrew bt Cameron Wood by default; Peter Fleury bt Liam O'Connor 8-3, 4-8, 2-0; Sue Smeaton bt Gareth Seddon by default; Marty Kreft bt Ethan Flynn 7-4, 9-6; Andrew Smaill bt Mitch Cook 13-7, 4-6, 2-1; Graham Cook bt Brent Webster 11-1, 4-6, 2-1; Adam McGregor bt Tom McGregor 10-1, 12-7; Robbie Ashton bt Tane Loper 9-7, 3-8, 2-0; Ross Brown bt Dean Matheson 11-2, 8-7; Russell Dawe bt Alister Young 12-1, 9-8; David Natta bt Cameron McKean 3-8, 11-5, 2-1; Nick Buttar bt Leo Brett by default; Louise Natta bt Robbie Green 9-4, 3-8, 2-0; Murray Wilson bt Grant Fleury 8-1, 9-7; Bill Hinton bt Brent McEwan 9-4, 9-3; Mitchell Scott bt Nic Andrew 2-9, 7-3, 2-0; Jeff Nowell bt Andrew McCallum 10-5, 6-9, 2-0; John Moana bt Sacha Taylor 12-4, 7-6; Moana Oliver bt Anna Louw 12-4, 7-6; Ray Webster bt Hilda Bennett 7-6, 2-11, 2-1; Jason O'Connor bt Niel Louw 4-8, 8-2, 2-1; Bevan Meddings bt Jason King 8-8, 9-6.

2nd round: McDowell bt G.Andrew 11-0, 8-3; P.Fleury bt Smeaton 8-8, 7-7, 2-1; Smaill bt Kreft 6-5, 8-6; G.Cook bt A.McGregor 8-5, 9-3; Ashton bt Brown 5-6, 8-2, 2-1; Dawe bt D.Natta 9-6, 9-7; Buttar bt L.Natta 7-7, 8-3; Wilson bt Hinton 8-2, 5-11, 2-1; Nowell bt Scott 9-3, 0-11, 2-1; Oliver bt Moana 8-3, 0-12, 2-1; R.Webster bt J.O'Connor 7-5, 10-8; Brent Taggart bt B.Meddings 8-7, 5-6, 2-1; JP Kritzingler bt Bill McEwan 6-6, 6-5; David Chisholm bt Grant Simpson 7-6, 7-7; Oliver Mason bt Nigel Thompson 10-9, 6-9, 2-0; Chris Simpson bt Ken Walker 9-8, 9-5.

3rd round: P.Fleury bt McDowell 9-4, 10-4; G.Cook bt Smaill 11-0, 10-5; Dawe bt Ashton 12-2, 9-1; Wilson bt Buttar 7-3, 7-5; Nowell bt Oliver 8-5, 7-6; Taggart bt R.Webster 7-7, 11-0; Chisholm bt Kritzingler 8-3, 9-8; Mason bt C.Simpson 16-5, 10-3.

Quarterfinals: P.Fleury bt G.Cook 7-11, 12-3, 2-1; Dawe bt Wilson 8-7, 6-11, 2-0; Taggart bt Nowell 4-9, 9-6, 2-0; Mason bt Chisholm 5-10, 8-5, 2-1.

Semifinals: Peter Fleury (Dunedin) v Russell Dawe (Dunedin); Brent Taggart (Dunedin) v Oliver Mason (Dunedin) to be played Aug 20.

Draws:

Naenae, Wellington

Sat 12 Aug

World Indoor Singles

Semifinals 9am: (44)Sonny White v (4)Gavin Hamlyn [1-0 Hamlyn]; (36)Garry Muriwai v (57)Mark Finlay [1-0 Muriwai].

Final 3pm.

1st Ranking Singles

Final 11am: (4)Gavin Hamlyn v (83)Mike Solomon.

Scottish Singles

Final 11am: (185)Richard Morpeth v (123)Rohan Teaz.

UK Singles

Semifinals 11am: (60)Brian McDermott v (106)Richard Corry; (72)Blake Signal v (36)Garry Muriwai.

Final 1pm.

2nd Ranking Singles

Semifinals 1pm: (196)Karen Ewart v (83)Stacey Thomas; (52)Steve Critchlow v (2)Clare Hendra [2-0 Hendra].

Final 3pm.

World Indoor Pairs

Final 3pm: Lily & Blake Signal v Richard Corry & Ian McLeod.

Waverley, Invercargill

Ranking Singles – Sat 12 Aug 8.30am

1st round: (28)Kerry Heffer v (273)Tony Cockerill; (6)Craig Tinker v (134)Wendy Sutherland [2-0 Tinker]; (145)Zoe Beck v (118)Matt Tautari; (120)Emma Cathcart v (185)Simon Clegg; (137)Mark Smith v (83)Noel Peachey; (3)Sheldon Bagrie-Howley v (8)Richie Muir.

2nd round: (137)Allen Eastwood v (118)Shane Spencer [2-0 Eastwood]; (19)Dave Bean v (10)Bevan Clark [1-0 Clark]; (49)Sue Dillon v (26)Brent Thomson; (1)Craig Merrilees v (100)Darron Wolland; (63)Bob Johansen v (101)Thomas Eruera; (75)Peter Bain v (97)Tina Johansen; (226)Diane Drake v (33)Kelvin Jackson; (196)Aaron Tribe v (185)Emma Drake; (9)Thomas Cockerill v (35)Julie O'Connell [1-0 Cockerill]; (48)Bruce Ross v (233)Paul Russell; (68)Jason Wheal v (24)Debbie Jackson [1-0 Wheal]; (179)Doug Coombes v (88)Peter Dunne; (65)Lyall Spencer v (135)Alan Smith.

UK Singles – Sun 13 Aug 8.30am

1st round: (179)Doug Coombes v (65)Lyall Spencer; (101)Thomas Eruera v (10)Bevan Clark [1-0 Clark]; (118)Shane Spencer v (19)Dave Bean; (233)Paul Russell v (28)Kerry Heffer; (88)Peter Dunne v (9)Thomas Cockerill.

2nd round: winner Dunne/Th.Cockerill v (185)Emma Drake; (8)Richie Muir v (75)Peter Bain [4-0 Muir]; (273)Tony Cockerill v (26)Brent Thomson; (33)Kelvin Jackson v (35)Julie O'Connell [1-0 Jackson]; (137)Allen Eastwood v (226)Diane Drake; (68)Jason Wheal v (97)Tina Johansen; (118)Matt Tautari v (24)Debbie Jackson; (1)Craig Merrilees v (135)Alan Smith; (137)Mark Smith v (49)Sue Dillon; (83)Noel Peachey v (185)Simon Clegg; (134)Wendy Sutherland v (100)Darron

Wolland; (120)Emma Cathcart v (6)Craig Tinker; (145)Zoe Beck v (63)Bob Johansen; (48)Bruce Ross v (196)Aaron Tribe [3-0 Ross].

