

KIWI CLEAN-SWEEP IN TRANS-TASMAN FINALS

The twelfth edition of the Australia v New Zealand PBA Challenge took place over the last two days at the Hopes Bowls Stadium in Dunedin with New Zealand coming out on top for the fifth time. This pits five kiwis against five aussies over five rounds culminating in a best of three match finals last night. For the first time since 2013 in East Cessnock, NZ effected a 3-0 clean-sweep of the finals.

The New Zealanders were lead by Oliver Mason and Ray Martin both achieving four wins out of five in the preliminary rounds. Martin held the top spot at the completion of his match but was overtaken by Mason winning his last match in the third end of a tiebreaker over the previously unbeaten Sean Mawdsley. Mason was a late replacement for this event with last year's NZ number one Sheldon Bagrie-Howley still not back from his endeavours in Australia, and that win gives Mason an invite into next year's team in Perth as the top performing kiwi from this year's event.

In a rematch in the final Mason again beat Mawdsley 7-6, 8-8 who on arriving on Sunday adopted a local set of wider drawing club bowls with great effect throughout the tournament. In the battle of the second-placed finishers Martin finished strongly against Blake Butler winning 5-10, 9-1, 2-1, while debutante Ross Ellery took out the third-place getters battle over Kyle McIlroy 9-4, 11-6.

The NZ team for next year's event to be played in September in Perth now looks like Oliver Mason, Craig Merrilees (for a ninth successive Challenge), Craig Tinker, Sheldon Bagrie-Howley and Aidan Zittersteijn.

Six matches are available to watch on the streaming sponsored by Aero on the @PBADunedin Youtube channel.

The next PBA action will be our 16-year old NZ representative David Motu in the Scottish Open Singles in Edinburgh on November 7-9.

Information including an application form, entry forms, dates and venues for the NZ PBA can be found on the [worldbowlstour dot org](http://worldbowlstour.org) site under PBA – New Zealand.

Results:

Hopes Bowls Stadium, Dunedin

NZ v Australia PBA Challenge

Round 1: Sean Mawdsley (AUS) bt Ray Martin (NZ) 10-8, 8-8; Kyle Mcllroy (AUS) bt Craig Tinker (NZ) 8-3, 5-4; Blake Butler (AUS) bt Ross Ellery (NZ) 12-3, 8-10, 2-1; Craig Merrilees (NZ) bt Jack East (AUS) 4-9, 9-7, 2-1; Oliver Mason (NZ) bt Connor Biddle (AUS) 9-4, 8-4. Australia wins round 3-2.

Round 2: Jack East (AUS) bt Oliver Mason (NZ) 11-8, 4-7, 2-0; Ray Martin (NZ) bt Connor Biddle (AUS) 8-9, 14-9, 2-0; Sean Mawdsley (AUS) bt Craig Tinker (NZ) 4-6, 6-4, 2-0; Ross Ellery (NZ) bt Kyle Mcllroy (AUS) 4-7, 11-5, 2-0; Blake Butler (AUS) bt Craig Merrilees (NZ) 9-4, 12-4. Australia wins round 3-2.

Round 3: Kyle Mcllroy (AUS) bt Craig Merrilees (NZ) 12-4, 6-5; Oliver Mason (NZ) bt Blake Butler (AUS) 8-9, 10-5, 2-1; Ray Martin (NZ) bt Jack East (AUS) 9-9, 7-6; Craig Tinker (NZ) bt Connor Biddle (AUS) 8-5, 15-2; Sean Mawdsley (AUS) bt Ross Ellery (NZ) 9-5, 6-10, 2-0. NZ wins round 3-2.

Round 4: Ross Ellery (NZ) bt Connor Biddle (AUS) 7-8, 7-6, 2-1; Sean Mawdsley (AUS) bt Craig Merrilees (NZ) 7-6, 9-7; Oliver Mason (NZ) bt Kyle Mcllroy (AUS) 9-7, 5-7, 2-0; Ray Martin (NZ) bt Blake Butler (AUS) 7-7, 11-8; Craig Tinker (NZ) bt Jack East (AUS) 5-13, 17-0, 2-1. NZ wins round 4-1.

Round 5: Blake Butler (AUS) bt Craig Tinker (NZ) 8-5, 7-8, 2-1; Ross Ellery (NZ) bt Jack East (AUS) 9-8, 12-6; Craig Merrilees (NZ) bt Connor Biddle (AUS) 9-7, 3-10, 2-0; Oliver Mason (NZ) bt Sean Mawdsley (AUS) 6-9, 14-3, 2-1; Ray Martin (NZ) bt Kyle Mcllroy (AUS) 4-11, 9-5, 2-0. NZ wins round 4-1.

Standings: NZ – Oliver Mason 4 wins, 6 sets; Ray Martin 4 wins, 5.5 sets; Ross Ellery 3 wins; Craig Tinker 2 wins, 5 sets; Craig Merrilees 2 wins, 2 sets.

AUS – Sean Mawdsley 4 wins; Blake Butler 3 wins; Kyle Mcllroy 2 wins; Jack East 1 win; Connor Biddle 0 wins.

Playoff between 3rds: Ross Ellery (NZ) bt Kyle Mcllroy (AUS) 9-4, 11-6

Playoff between 2nds: Ray Martin (NZ) bt Blake Butler (AUS) 5-10, 9-1, 2-1

Playoff between 1sts: Oliver Mason (NZ) bt Sean Mawdsley (AUS) 7-6, 8-8

NZ wins finals 3-0.

