

NZ's WORLD BOWLS TOUR SPOTS DECIDED

The New Zealand Professional Bowls Association Finals Weekend had plenty of new faces and produced many dramatic finishes and story lines at the Waverley Bowling Club in Invercargill. The Scottish Singles berth went to the NZ PBA's youngest ever winner David Motu from Auckland beating local Dave Bean 9-9, 8-6. The 16 year old is the son of IBO World Super Bantamweight champion Mea Motu but is fast making his own name as a sporting champion. On the back of Motu's win, Auckland retained the InterBranch Trophy on a countback from New Plymouth.

The experienced Taranaki pair of Craig DeFaria and John Roberts overcame a slow start to beat Wellington's Richard Corry and Ian McLeod in the World Indoor Pairs playoffs 8-7, 8-3 with a four in the eighth end of the first set swinging the game their way.

Another under 25 player took out the UK Singles berth with Taranaki's Aidan Zittersteijn eeking out two impressive wins against current NZ number two Craig Tinker, and then Counties' Logan Clark in the final 12-3, 4-9, 2-1. The 24 year old had already wrapped up NZ's Under 25 singles nomination going into the weekend, and also grabbed enough ranking points to make the 2024 NZ team to play Australia ahead of Clare Hendra. Hendra still has a chance depending on this year's event and secured nomination for the World Ladies Invitational Singles.

The tournament wrapped up with another three end tiebreak thriller with Dunedin's Marty Kreft winning the World Indoor Singles position over David Clark 5-10, 8-5, 2-1. It was a particularly poignant moment for Kreft whose father passed away on Friday before he travelled south for the event.

Eight matches from throughout the weekend can be viewed on the Bowls New Zealand Youtube channel.

Action swings immediately to the Hopes Bowls Stadium in Dunedin on Monday and Tuesday for the 2023 Australia v New Zealand PBA Challenge. This pits five kiwis against five aussies over five rounds culminating in a best of three match finals on Tuesday evening. This will be an eighth successive Trans Tasman for Craig Merrilees, while three-time NZ year end number one Ray Martin, and current NZ number two Craig Tinker have played once each. Ross Ellery and Oliver Mason make their debut. Mason is playing in place of Sheldon Bagrie-Howley who is not yet back from World championship events in Australia.

Three of the successful Australian team from the catch-up 2022 event earlier this year are back in Blake Butler, Jack East and Connor Biddle. Biddle is in form recently secured a spot in the upcoming Scottish Singles in Edinburgh. Kyle McIlroy played in the 2019 Trans-Tasman while Sean Mawdsley is on debut.

Play starts at noon both days with live streaming sponsored by Aero on the @PBADunedin Youtube channel.

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.

Results:

Waverley, Invercargill

Shanghai Singles Qualifier

Aidan Zittersteijn (Taranaki), Richard Corry (Wellington) and Craig Tinker (Southland) qualified for NZ finals on Saturday

Shanghai Singles Finals:

Final: Craig Tinker (Southland) 31 bt Richard Corry (Wellington)15 and Rozanna Muriwai (Wairarapa) 4.

Scottish Singles:

Quarterfinals: David Motu (Auckland) bt Ethan Flynn (Central Otago) 11-6, 5-9, 2-0; John Roberts (Taranaki) bt Mike Isaacson (Hawkes Bay) 9-6, 2-8, 2-0.

Semifinals: Dave Bean (Southland) bt Richard Morpeth (Manawatu) 7-4, 7-6; Motu bt Roberts 10-5, 4-9, 2-1.

Final: David Motu (Auckland) bt Dave Bean (Southland) 9-9, 8-6.

David Motu will play in the Scottish Singles in Edinburgh Nov 7-9 v Stewart Anderson (Scotland)

World Indoor Pairs

Quarterfinals: Mark Smith & Jason Wheal (Southland) bt Andy McLean & Brent McEwan (Dunedin); Richard Corry & Ian McLeod (Wellington) bt Darren Wright & Bryan Gibson 10-5, 7-8, 2-1.

Semifinals: Craig DeFaria & John Roberts (Taranaki) bt Viliami Fifita & Sam Taloke (Auckland) 8-7, 6-8, 2-0; Corry & McLeod bt Smith & Wheal 2-13, 10-5, 2-0.

Final: Craig DeFaria & John Roberts (Taranaki) bt Richard Corry & Ian McLeod (Wellington) 8-7, 8-3.

Craig DeFaria & John Roberts will play in the World Indoor Pairs in Norfolk starting 5 Jan 2024.

UK Singles

Quarterfinals: Mike Isaacson (Hawkes Bay) bt Bryan Harvey (Southland) 3-8, 11-2, 2-0; Logan Clark (Auckland) bt Richard Corry (Wellington) 7-8, 8-7, 2-0.

Semifinals: Aidan Zittersteijn (Taranaki) bt Craig Tinker (Southland) 6-8, 11-3, 2-0; Clark bt Isaacson 7-13, 11-3, 2-0.

Final: Aidan Zittersteijn (Taranaki) bt Logan Clark (Auckland) 12-3, 4-9, 2-1.

Aidan Zittersteijn will play in the UK Singles in Newcastle in March 2024.

World Indoor Singles

Quarterfinal: Marty Kreft (Dunedin) bt Aidan Zittersteijn (Taranaki) 0-14, 10-9, 2-1.

Semifinals: David Clark (Auckland) bt Garry Muriwai (Wairarapa) 4-6, 8-5, 2-0; Kreft bt Kerry Heffer (Southland) 9-7, 6-10, 2-0.

Final: Marty Kreft (Dunedin) bt David Clark (Auckland) 5-10, 8-5, 2-1.
 Marty Kreft will play in the World Indoor Singles in Norfolk in January 2024.

Draws:

Hopes Bowls Stadium, Dunedin

NZ v Australia PBA Challenge

Mon 18 & Tues 19 Sep 12noon

(years in Challenge, record v opponents)

NZ team:

Ray Martin (Wellington) (2022) 0-1 v Butler 0-1 v East 1-0 v Biddle,
 Craig Tinker (Southland) (2019) 1-0 v Mcllroy,
 Ross Ellery (Manawatu) (debut),
 Craig Merrilees (Southland) (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022) 2-0 v
 Mcllroy 1-0 v Butler 0-2 v Biddle,
 Oliver Mason (Southland) (debut).

Australia team:

Sean Mawdsley (debut),
 Kyle Mcllroy (2019) 0-1 v Tinker 0-2 v Merrilees,
 Blake Butler (2022) 1-0 v Martin 0-1 v Merrilees,
 Jack East (2022) 1-0 v Martin 1-0 v Merrilees,
 Connor Biddle (2022) 0-1 v Martin 2-0 v Merrilees

NZ Player Profiles:

Player database				
Name	Centre	Joined	Career-high Rank	PBA highlights
Ray Martin	Wellington	2017	1, yearend 2019	R32 2018/19 WBT World Indoor singles in Norfolk; 2022 Australia v NZ Challenge in Perth
Craig Tinker	Southland	2017	2, yearend 2019	R32 2019/20 WBT World Indoor singles in Norfolk; 2019 Australia v NZ Challenge in Perth
Ross Ellery	Manawatu	2020	3=, yearend 2022	winner 2021 Wellington Scottish & International singles, 2022 New Plymouth UK singles qualifiers
Craig Merrilees	Southland	2004	1, yearend 2018	runner-up 2018 Australia v NZ Challenge in Melbourne; 3rd 2015 Australia v NZ Challenge in Sydney; 5th 2022 Australia v NZ Challenge in Perth, 4 other Challenge appearances
Oliver Mason	Southland	2015	6, yearend 2022	winner 2021 Dunedin World Indoor pairs qualifier; winner 2022 Dunedin 1st & 2023 2nd Ranking singles

