

D-Day For Deserving Dozen

There are those who believe the process of qualifying for an international bowls final may well be the toughest examination paper in sport – that being required to compete against two or three national champions every day for five days requires a level of physical endurance, mental toughness and precision skills that would send most professional athletes into a tailspin.

But that's exactly what our heroes from the twenty-six competing nations here at Fendalton for the World Singles Champion of Champions have undertaken since Monday - amidst some of the most challenging playing conditions possible I might add - so it is my contention that all have passed with flying colours. I'm sure you agree.

However, only six guys and six gals from this Class of 2014 qualified for the right to participate in this morning's elimination finals, after which the women's semi finals and final will be contested to unearth this year's queen.

Tomorrow, like today, will see first men's semi final get underway at 10am, and the second at 12.30, before the main event kicks off at 2.30pm. The championship medal presentations for both disciplines will follow the final.

Congratulation to local superstar Ali Forsyth, Iain McLean from Scotland and Malaysia's Fairus Jabal on topping section one in the men's competition; also to Australia's David Holt, Kenny Chan from Hong Kong and England's Andy Walters in section two. Likewise to Noor Zafirah Noor from Malaysia, Tai Jim from the Cook Islands and Scotland's Lorna Smith in women's section one; along with Saskia Schaft from the Netherlands, local champion Helen King and Fiji's Litia Tikoisuva in section two.

Yesterday's final qualifying stanza was an emotional rollercoaster ride in the extreme as those in the mix experienced the agony and the ecstasy that elite level sport dishes out in large doses. Also worthy of hearty tribute are the greenkeepers and volunteers whose selfless toil made Fendalton playable after yesterday's deluge flooded both greens and more than two hours was lost.

In this morning's women's elimination finals Lorna Smith, a finalist last year, plays Helen King, with the winner to play Noor Zafirah Noor in the first semi final, while Litia Tikoisuva and Tai Jim will battle it out for the right to meet Saskia Schaft in the second.

Brilliant youngsters Kenny Chan and Fairus Jabal will put on quite a show this morning when they clash for a place in tomorrow's first semi final against Ali Forsyth, while the time-honoured England v Scotland rivalry will surface again when Andy Walters and Iain McLean slug it out for a shot at David Holt – who happens to be a former England international – in the second semi final.

Finishing positions in the sections were:

Men's section 1: A Forsyth (NZL) 20 points +135 shots, I McLean (Sco) 16 +85, F Jabal (Mas) 14 +71, R Dixon (NFI) 12 +16, S Tuikiligana (Fij) 10 +28, J Wong (Chn) 10 +8, A Krahenbuhl (Nam) 10 -9, T Morton (Bot) 10 -62, D Anderson (Can) 8 -52, D Rubinat (Arg) 6 -39, G Byars (Swz) 4 -66, S Ramanayake (Sri) 0 -142.

Men's section 2: D Holt (Aus) 18 points +60 shots, K Chan (HKC) 14 +69, A Walters (Eng) 12 +70, B Donnelly (RSA) 12 +26, D Kingdon (Wal) 10 +66, B Brault (USA) 10 +5, K Emura (Jpn) 6 -56, D Robinson (Zim) 6 -58, M Pita (CKI) 6 -47, D Mijnhijmer (Ned) 4 -28, O Akar (Tur) 2 -107.

Women's section 1: N Noor (Mas) 12 points +60 shots, T Jim (CKI) 12 +28, L Smith (Sco) 10 +63, N Abe (Aus) 10 +50, Y Goda (Jpn) 10 +29, K Heiser (USA) 8 -14, Y Yan (Chn) 6 -37, J Hackland (RSA) 4 -38, K Hewitson (Por) 0 -141.

Women's section 2: S Schaft (Ned) 14 +52 shots, H King (NZL) 12 +79, L Tikoisuva (Fij) 12 +26, R Bradborn (Phi) 8 +19, P Jones (NFI) 8 -8, J Dando (Esp) 8 -25, N Senna (Bot) 6 -25, A Chan (HKC) 2 -30, F Scott (Can) 2 -88.



Tai Jim (Cook Islands)



Kenny Chan (Hong Kong)



Noor Zafirah Noor (Malaysia)

Full results and play off details on reverse.

2014 MEN'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS S1
LEAGUE TABLE AFTER ROUND 11

| | Games Played | Game W - L | Set W - D - L | Shots F - A |
|------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 NEW ZEALAND | 11 | 11 - 0 | 18 - 2 - 2 | 241-106 |
| 2 MALAYSIA | 11 | 8 - 3 | 15 - 1 - 6 | 208-130 |
| 3 SCOTLAND | 11 | 8 - 3 | 13 - 2 - 7 | 209-130 |
| 4 CHINA | 11 | 6 - 5 | 12 - 1 - 9 | 178-143 |
| 5 FIJI | 11 | 6 - 5 | 11 - 3 - 8 | 177-143 |
| 6 NORFOLK ISLAND | 11 | 6 - 5 | 10 - 1 - 11 | 166-157 |
| 7 NAMIBIA | 11 | 5 - 6 | 10 - 3 - 9 | 168-177 |
| 8 CANADA | 11 | 5 - 6 | 8 - 5 - 9 | 152-192 |
| 9 BOTSWANA | 11 | 5 - 6 | 7 - 2 - 13 | 135-197 |
| 10 ARGENTINA | 11 | 4 - 7 | 7 - 3 - 12 | 144-183 |
| 11 SWAZILAND | 11 | 2 - 9 | 6 - 2 - 14 | 131-209 |
| 12 SRI LANKA | 11 | 0 - 11 | 2 - 1 - 19 | 108-250 |

2014 MEN'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS S2
LEAGUE TABLE AFTER ROUND 11

| | Games Played | Game W - L | Set W - D - L | Shots F - A |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 AUSTRALIA | 10 | 10 - 0 | 15 - 1 - 4 | 179-113 |
| 2 ENGLAND | 10 | 7 - 3 | 16 - 0 - 4 | 198-107 |
| 3 HONG KONG CHINA | 10 | 7 - 3 | 14 - 1 - 5 | 186-116 |
| 4 SOUTH AFRICA | 10 | 7 - 3 | 11 - 1 - 8 | 164-134 |
| 5 WALES | 10 | 6 - 4 | 12 - 1 - 7 | 194-129 |
| 6 UNITED STATES | 10 | 6 - 4 | 10 - 3 - 7 | 144-139 |
| 7 JAPAN | 10 | 3 - 7 | 6 - 3 - 11 | 112-168 |
| 8 ZIMBABWE | 10 | 3 - 7 | 6 - 1 - 13 | 106-185 |
| 9 COOK ISLANDS | 10 | 3 - 7 | 5 - 3 - 12 | 118-171 |
| 10 NETHERLANDS | 10 | 2 - 8 | 4 - 3 - 13 | 128-160 |
| 11 TURKEY | 10 | 1 - 9 | 2 - 1 - 17 | 110-217 |

2014 WOMEN'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS S1
LEAGUE TABLE AFTER ROUND 9

| | Games Played | Game W - L | Set W - D - L | Shots F - A |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 MALAYSIA | 8 | 6 - 2 | 13 - 1 - 2 | 151-91 |
| 2 COOK ISLANDS | 8 | 6 - 2 | 9 - 2 - 5 | 131-103 |
| 3 SCOTLAND | 8 | 5 - 3 | 11 - 1 - 4 | 155-92 |
| 4 AUSTRALIA | 8 | 5 - 3 | 10 - 0 - 6 | 149-99 |
| 5 JAPAN | 8 | 5 - 3 | 9 - 1 - 6 | 134-105 |
| 6 UNITED STATES | 8 | 4 - 4 | 6 - 1 - 9 | 114-128 |
| 7 CHINA | 8 | 3 - 5 | 4 - 1 - 11 | 104-141 |
| 8 SOUTH AFRICA | 8 | 2 - 6 | 3 - 1 - 12 | 107-145 |
| 9 PORTUGAL | 8 | 0 - 8 | 3 - 0 - 13 | 66-207 |

2014 WOMEN'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS S2
LEAGUE TABLE AFTER ROUND 9

| | Games Played | Game W - L | Set W - D - L | Shots F - A |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 NETHERLANDS | 8 | 7 - 1 | 10 - 1 - 5 | 151-99 |
| 2 NEW ZEALAND | 8 | 6 - 2 | 12 - 1 - 3 | 164-85 |
| 3 FIJI | 8 | 6 - 2 | 10 - 2 - 4 | 132-106 |
| 4 PHILIPPINES | 8 | 4 - 4 | 9 - 2 - 5 | 121-102 |
| 5 NORFOLK ISLAND | 8 | 4 - 4 | 8 - 2 - 6 | 115-123 |
| 6 SPAIN | 8 | 4 - 4 | 8 - 0 - 8 | 121-126 |
| 7 BOTSWANA | 8 | 3 - 5 | 6 - 1 - 9 | 104-149 |
| 8 HONG KONG CHINA | 8 | 1 - 7 | 2 - 1 - 13 | 103-133 |
| 9 CANADA | 8 | 1 - 7 | 2 - 0 - 14 | 81-169 |

Men's Playoffs

| | | |
|--|----------------------|--|
| AUSTRALIA Win v bye 1-0 1-0 4 | | |
| | Australia vs 5 | |
| England vs Scotland 3 | | |
| | | |
| Hong Kong China vs Malaysia 5 | | |
| | New Zealand 7 | |
| NEW ZEALAND Win v bye 1-0 1-0 2 | | |

Women's Playoffs

| | | |
|--|------------------------|--|
| NETHERLANDS Win v bye 1-0 1-0 4 | | |
| | Netherlands vs 5 | |
| Cook Islands vs Fiji 4 | | |
| | | |
| New Zealand vs Scotland 6 | | |
| | Malaysia 7 | |
| MALAYSIA Win v bye 1-0 1-0 2 | | |