

The Blind Nationals continues at the Burnside Bowling Club with the pairs championship now in full swing. In mildly unpleasant conditions on Wednesday, players continued to play a high calibre of bowls with all matches being fiercely contested. All will be pleased that some sun is forecast for Thursday.

The combined B1/B2 event is a third round qualifying event with a final to be played between the two top qualifiers. Ron Sime (Director Sharon Perry) teamed up with B1 singles champion Glenn Hanneman (Director Bernard Yeo) to be the first team into the final by winning all three games. In the final commencing at 9am today they will play Joseph Kim (Director Margaret Davies) who is partnered by the new NZBLBA President, Gordon Oldfield (Director Roydon James). The final promises to be a great match as in their qualifying round yesterday Sime had to draw three shots within a mat length to come from behind and win the match by one. Kim and Oldfield will be trying to stop that occurring today.

The combined B3/B4 event is also a very closely fought event. This event is a five-match round robin event with no final. After the first three rounds no team has achieved three wins. The best results are by three teams who have all won two games and lost one. Those teams are Spencer Stacey (Director Sue Ashton) playing with Suzie Tukariri (Director Anne Easton), Don Clark (Director Ray Zajonskowski) playing with Sue Curran (Director Anne Muir) and finally David Stallard (Director Helen Stallard) playing with Kay Wood (Director Garth Wood). The final two rounds today will certainly crown a new champion pair. All three of these teams play at least one of this trio today with the Stallard combination potentially having the hardest road as they have to play both the Stacy and the Clark combinations.

On the website page click on the "photos" section of the "Updates" to view an excellent range of photos taken at the event by the Burnside Master Photographer, Arjan van Hasselt.

The Championships will close this evening with the traditional Prizegiving and Dinner.

By Kevin Smith