

Wellington defend title in Freyberg Rosebowl golf

Wellington successfully defended their title in a tense battle against Canterbury to claim the Freyberg Masters men's provincial teams competition at Rotorua today. As they had done several times during the week, Wellington were forced to come from behind to eventually triumph 4½ games to ½. The score did not fairly represent the battle with Canterbury ahead until the midway point when the experience shone through for Wellington.

It was a tough week for Wellington, who looked as though they may have even missed out on the semifinals and were tested before beating North Harbour in this morning's semifinal at Springfield Golf Club. It was the first time in the last five years that Wellington has beaten either Canterbury or North Harbour in the Freyberg Masters, the provincial teams' event for players 40 years and over.

"It's been on a knife edge today and I think that our experience in the last few holes counted," said Wellington manager Bill Cathie. "After six holes I had a giant headache as we were well and truly behind the 8-ball. "The strong crosswinds were quite tricky on the back nine and we have a bit more experience to handle those conditions. It was a bit of pay-back for the rugby result."

Leading the way for Wellington was Paraparaumu's Frank Borren who was unbeaten at No 5 for Wellington. "It was nice to get there. We had a lot of tight games, and I have had a lot of tight ones throughout the week," said Borren. "I had one win 5 and 4 and the rest all went to the final hole.

Results

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Round 1 | Wellington | bye |
| Round 2 | Wellington 2.5 | Bay of Plenty 2.5 |
| Round 3 | Wellington 3 | Northland 2 |
| Round 4 | Wellington 4.5 | Aorangi 0.5 |
| Round 5 | Wellington 5 | Waikato 0 |
| Round 6 | Wellington 1 | Canterbury 4 |

Round 7 Wellington 3 Manawatu/Wanganui 1

Semifinal Wellington 4 North Harbour 1

FINAL Wellington 4.5 Canterbury 0.5

Jeff Sims halved Peter McDougall

Martin Webber b Paul Bailey 3/2

Rodney Barltrop b Scott Ritchie 2 up

Malcolm Gullery b Jason Sincock 4/3

Frank Borren b Davitt Lavery 1 up