

**A record 206 teams has been whittled down to 48 quarter-finalists in six divisions of Premier Sevens, the most popular form of bowls in Queensland which is also on the verge of spreading to northern NSW and Victoria.**

**The eight Division 1 quarter-finalists have been given this weekend off before returning to the fray at Mermaid Beach on Saturday week and they include titleholders Wellers Hill.**

**The Wasps progressed with a 2-1 qualifying win over Ferny Grove which included a 31-23 singles result for the team's backbone Kevin Higson and a 23-10 fours win by Carl Hearnden's team.**

**They now face a strong challenge from Burleigh Heads who advanced 2-1 against Victoria Point.**

**Helensvale sneaked through 2-1 over Moorooka, despite Mick Carley being edged out 31-30 in the singles by teenager Kobe Barton, and now meet Southport who were lucky to get past Jindalee 2-1.**

**Scott Laphorne skipped a 27-12 Jindalee fours win and their singles player Jason McNaught lost a 31-30 nailbiter to Caine Burns, while Bernie Lamberton and Alan Elliott were comfortable 23-13 pairs winners for Southport.**

**Windsor downed Darra Cementco 2-1, with singles and fours success, and now takes on West Toowoomba, 2-1 winners over Springwood.**

**The remaining quarter-final pits Mooloolaba, who received a forfeit from Tewantin, against Tarragindi, who eliminated Sandgate 2-1.**

## **Division 1 Over 60s**

Refreshed after a week off, four of the eight quarter-finalists take to the greens at Mermaid Beach on Sunday with the other four facing a further week's rest.

Titleholders Salisbury Magpies meet Ferny Grove Fire and Mooloolaba opposes Burleigh Heads in Sunday's matches.

On Saturday week, April 8, it's Tweed Heads v Sandgate and Robina v North Ipswich.

## **Division 3**

Ipswich Miners remain the hottest of favourites to retain the title after extending their winning record.

The Miners, unbeaten in two seasons, reached the quarter-finals with a 2-1 eclipse of Salisbury.

Singles whiz Danny Knight won 31-24 and old hand Charlie McAnany skipped the fours home 20-15.

Benowa also continued their unbeaten run with a 2-1 defeat of Bramble Bay and loom as the most likely team to test Ipswich in the final.

## **Division 4**

Third place qualifiers Helensvale toppled Section winners Toombul 3-0 in an upset and now meet Paradise Point in a quarter-final.

McKenzie Men and Laidley, both 3-0 winners against Bribie Island and Burleigh Heads respectively, clash in a quarter-final.

The darkhorses in this division are St Lucia, 2-1 winners over Algester in a qualifying final, as they are fielding some seasoned former top division pennant players.

In St Lucia's defeat of Algester, Mike Waterhouse won the singles 31-30 and Val Scolaro skipped the fours home 23-18.

## **Division 5**

Coolangatta will enter the finals full of confidence after dismantling Toowong 3-0.

The Coast club's pairs and fours teams were on fire in notching 26-12 and 24-8 wins respectively with fours skip Geraldine Carey in particular a standout.

But Ian Gardiner had to work hard in the singles with Toowong's Peter Longland taking a 29-27 leading before losing the last two ends.

Coolangatta now meets Rosewood whose impressive first season continued with a 2-1 elimination of the Sunny Boys.



*Toowong's Division 5 singles player Peter Longland in action at Booval Swifts on Sunday*

## *Division 6*

Paradise Point Dolphins owed plenty to singles star Mick Thorne for their 2-1 defeat of Pine Rivers Pirates after he fought back from 11-23, winning 11 of the last 17 ends to beat Darren Vardy 31-29.

The Pirates sneaked home 22-20 in the fours and it all came down to the pairs which Kevin Fowler and Terry Fox led 23-19 playing the last end.

But they were four down to Peter Vardy and Roger Swift before Fox cut it back to three with his last bowl for a 23-22 victory.

Unbeaten Woongoolba remain the hottest of favourites to win this division after clean-sweeping Banyo 3-0 to set up a quarter-final against Springwood.

Third place qualifier Broadbeach upset runaway Section winners Durack/Inala 2-1 and now meet Pine Rivers in a quarter-final.

Russell Island remain firmly in contention by eliminating Mermaid Beach 2-1 and face Brighton for a semi-final berth.

