

# 100% PURE NEW ZEALAND WINTERGAMES<sup>NZ</sup> 2011

## Curling action continues – Friday 26 August

There was plenty of action at the Maniototo Curling International ice rink today as the curling teams fought for a place in the semi-finals.

The **Men's Fours** were played yesterday afternoon. **Australia** played the **New Zealand Juniors** and led from the start. On their last delivery of the sixth the Australian team set up a guard to protect their shot stone and two other stones in the house. Sam Miller delivered a beautiful hit and roll to get shot to take 1 point. In the seventh the Juniors had shot stone with four Australian stones also in the house and delivered their last stone to sit front of house. The Australians last stone was tight and hit the guard leaving the Juniors with shot stone and giving them another point. On the last delivery of the eighth the Juniors stone was too heavy and finished at the back of the house. The Australians picked up 3 points and an 11-3 win.

The **New Zealand Seniors** played **Japan**. At the end of the sixth Japan was 5 points ahead 7-2. The Seniors had shot and another in the house and set up a guard on their last delivery. Japan took out the Seniors' second stone leaving them with shot and 1 point. Japan answered with 4 points over the next two ends giving them the game at 11-3. **David Greer** from the New Zealand team put it down to opportunity. ***"We had our chances – they gave us a lot and we took one or two but missed quite a few too. The 3 pointers that we lost hurt us. There shouldn't have been that big a margin on the scoreboard the way the teams played. The end that we did play really well we managed to create a steal and nearly stole two."***

The **New Zealand Men** played **China** in a gripping, low-scoring game with four blank ends (ends without a score). It was 4-2 to China after nine ends. It was an exciting tenth end with New Zealand having the advantage of the hammer and needing to score at least 2 points to stay in the game. On their last delivery China managed to take out the New Zealand stone to get their stone in the house. New Zealand attempted to raise their stone back onto shot stone but it didn't work out as planned and they lost to China 2-5. Korea had the bye.

The **Mixed Doubles** was the first game on the final day of round robin events. **New Zealand** played **Australia** in an exciting match watched by a number of spectators. Australia's 4 points in the fifth end helped them get a 9-6 lead after seven ends. On Australia's last delivery of the eighth they delivered a long run back to reduce the number of New Zealand stones in the house. They tried to get two stones out but only managed to get one. New Zealand had shot with two stones in the house and delivered their last stone to also sit in the house and get the 3 points they needed to draw with Australia 9 all. An extra ninth end was played and Australia picked up 1 point to put them ahead 10-9.

**Japan** played **Finland** and they won alternate ends. Japan was 6-3 ahead at the end of the seventh. In the final eighth end Finland had five stones in the house but Japan had shot. On Japan's last delivery they hit their guard with their stone sitting right on the front of the house. It was a difficult last shot for Finland who needed to secure 3 points to draw or 4 points to win. Paavo Kuosmanen drew a fast stone that failed to curl and knock Japan's shot stone out of the way. Japan won 7-3. Japanese player **Tomoko Tomabechi** said ***"We are relieved we won today's game and can now go to the semi-final tomorrow. We want to challenge Switzerland because they beat us last time and we want to enjoy the game."***

**Hungary** played **China**. Hungary started strong gaining a 5-0 lead after the first three overs and had a 6-2 lead after the first six ends. Hungary picked up an extra 2 points in the seventh winning the game 8-2. **Latvia** played the **USA**. It was a close game through to the sixth end when Latvia picked up 4 points. in the sixth end and was ahead at the end of the seventh and eventually won 8-4. Switzerland had the bye.

The **Women's Fours** played the second game of the morning. **China** had won all of their games going into the game so there was plenty of crowd support for their rival team **Japan**. It was a tight game that was 5 all after the sixth end and 7 all at the end of the ninth. Japan had the advantage of the hammer as they went into the tenth. There were two stones of each in the house as China delivered their final stone. Their hit and roll that slightly too heavy but took shot stone. Japan delivered a beautiful draw weight on their last delivery that took shot stone and won them the game 8-7 to much cheering in the gallery.

The **New Zealand Women** played **Korea** who was off to a strong start after scoring 5 points in the second end. A gain of 3 points in the sixth end kept the New Zealand team in the running. New Zealand were behind by 1 point 6-7 going into the eighth but came back 7 all after Korea's last stone of the end failed to find shot. Korea answered with 2 points in the ninth. New Zealand fought back to draw 9 all at the end of the tenth giving them an extra end to play. Korea had two in the house as Brydie Donald from New Zealand delivered her last stone but it was too narrow and Korea won the game 11-9. The Korean team members commented ***"The New Zealand Women's Team is a good team and they are getting better and better - our team found them difficult to play. The Naseby ice rink is very good. I think this game and the competition in general is very good."*** The New Zealand Juniors had the bye.

The **Men's Fours** are currently battling it out for their place in the semi-finals. China is playing the New Zealand Juniors, Korea is playing the New Zealand Men, the New Zealand Seniors are playing Australia and Japan has the bye.

Tonight the Women's Fours continue with Korea playing Japan and China playing the New Zealand Juniors. The New Zealand Women have the bye.

## **New Zealand men battle it out on ice in Curling event – Monday 22 August**

The **New Zealand Men's Fours** had to fight hard to the last end against the **New Zealand Men's Juniors** yesterday to maintain their winning streak.

A great crowd enjoyed the action at the Maniototo International Curling rink. The Juniors played incredibly well, keeping ahead of the Men's team all the way through to the eighth end when they drew 7 all. Sam Miller delivered the last stone of the ninth drawing it round to get shot stone and bringing the Juniors ahead 8-7. This made for a thrilling tenth end. On the Juniors last shot of the tenth they tried to raise their stone to shot but it travelled too far and the New Zealand Men won the end with 3 points and the game 10-8.

**China** had a solid start against **Japan** scoring 5 points after the first two ends and continued to dominate the game. They beat Japan 11-4 after seven ends.

The **NZ Seniors** played **Korea** and it was a tight game all the way until the seventh end when Korea scored 2 points putting them ahead 7-3. The New Zealanders came back in the last two ends but couldn't catch up, losing to Korea 5-7.

The **Mixed Doubles** played the last round of the day. Finland thrashed the USA 11-1, China beat Japan 8-6 and Hungary beat Latvia 8-2. **Switzerland** were ahead of **Australia** for most of the game and despite Australia scoring 3 points in the seventh, Switzerland won the game at the end of the eighth 8-5.

The **Women's Fours** opened play on the third day of the 100% Pure New Zealand Winter Games curling events. **Japan** played **Korea** in a tight match that included very low-scoring ends. There was only ever 2 points between them. Japan finished ahead of Korea 6-4.

The **New Zealand Juniors** faced a tough challenge when they played the unbeaten **China** Team. China started strongly with 3 points in the first end and the New Zealand Juniors answered with 3 points in the second. The Juniors trailed behind China from the third but in Skip Chelsea Harley had the chance to get shot stone with her last delivery of the seventh end to bring the teams within 4 points. Unfortunately a heavy stone rolled to the back of house and China took the 2 points and a win of 11-4. **Kelsi Heath** from the New Zealand Juniors was pleased with their game ***"We played really well in the first half and were thrilled to score 3 points against them. In the end they were too strong an opponent."***

The **Mixed Doubles** were next up on the second round of the day. **China** played **Switzerland** and led from the start with Switzerland scoring points in the last three ends but could not catch up and lost to China 5-6.

**Hungary** and **USA** fought it out with a 6-all score after the seventh end. USA had the advantage of hammer (last throw) on the final eighth end. Hungary played a nice wick-in but only managed to get second shot. USA chose to guard their shot stone leaving Hungary with a difficult tap-back which came up short and wrecked on the guard giving the US a 7-6 win. **Jennifer Westhagen** from the USA team said ***"I think that we have learned from past games and we continued doing the things that we thought worked. We practised a lot yesterday and that helped with our shot making"***.

The **New Zealand** and **Latvia** game was always going to be a great game to watch as both teams had won two of their three previous games. The New Zealanders had a great third end and scored 4 points. This put them ahead for the rest of the game and helped their 8-5 win. **Australia** played **Japan** who led all the way and eventually won 8-3.

The **Women's Fours** are currently playing their second round of the day; **Korea** is playing the **New Zealand Juniors** and **Japan** is playing the **New Zealand Women**.

Tonight Japan takes on the New Zealand Juniors, Korea plays China and Australia plays New Zealand.

## Plenty of action at the curling – Saturday/Sunday 20/21 August

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The Men's Fours played their first round last night and today the Mixed Doubles opened the play once again for the curling events at the 100% Pure New Zealand Winter Games. The Women's Fours and Men's Fours followed.

The **Men's Fours** started in the last round yesterday with three teams playing to a large group of supporters. **Korea's game against Australia** was very close, but Korea finished 2 up at the end of the tenth and won 8-6.

**New Zealand played Japan.** Japan opened the scoring with 1 point and then they were neck and neck until the seventh end when NZ started to take the lead. With a score of 8-3 to New Zealand, a tenth end was not played. **New Zealand Player Iain Craig** said *"We didn't start very well but it was reasonably tight by half time. We played much better in the second half and put them under a bit of pressure. It is the first time the team has played together. It was good to get a win but we will need to play better from now on."*

**The New Zealand Juniors played the New Zealand Seniors.** It was an exciting game from the start and it wasn't until the fourth end that there were any points on the board. The Seniors were ahead by 1 at the end of the ninth, but two fantastic shots saw the Juniors come back to draw 5 all at the end of the tenth. An extra eleventh end was played and the Seniors came away winning 6-5.

The **Mixed Doubles** once again started the first round on day two of the curling events. **Hungary** scored on the first two ends but **Australia** came back with some high scores – a 4 in the third end and a 5 in the sixth. They finished play after the 7th end with Australia achieving their second strong win in the tournament 12-5.

**New Zealand** was leading after the first two ends but **Japan** came back and scored 5 points over the next two to lead 2-5. New Zealand had shot stone in the fifth end and **Bridget Becker** promoted her front of house stone to score 2 points putting them back in contention 4-5. Japan once again answered with a fantastic end scoring 5 points and putting them ahead 10-4. Despite New Zealand winning the seventh end with 1 point, it was not enough to continue play and the final score was 10-5 to Japan. Female player **Tomoko Tomabechi** said *"The ice condition is wonderful, we enjoyed playing - it felt really great!"*

**China** started strong with 3 points and kept the pressure on **Finland** all the way through. They dominated the last three ends scoring 7 points and coming away with a 12-3 win. **USA** and **Switzerland** battled it out on the Francis Rink winning alternate ends. They were still close with Switzerland just in front by 8-6 after the seventh end.

The **Women's Fours** followed in round three of the day's curling events. **China** played **Korea** and it was a close game all the way to the eighth end. In the eighth end both teams drew round a guard resulting in four stones camped on the button. China held shot stone and Korea had two close-by. China placed a guard to prevent an angled hit leaving Korea with a difficult raised takeout that didn't work out as planned giving China 2 points and a lead of 6-3. Korea's tactics paid off in the ninth end as they won with 3 points bringing the two teams to a draw going into the tenth. China had one stone sitting on the edge of the house when Korea delivered their last stone which didn't curl enough to hide behind their guard leaving China with an open hit to win the game. China won 7-6 in one of the closest games of the tournament so far.

The **New Zealand Women** led all the way with the **New Zealand Juniors** only scoring their first points in the fourth end. The Juniors managed to get shot stone in the eighth. **Chelsea Farley** delivered the last stone to attempt a 'hit and stay'. Although hitting the Women's stone out of play, the Juniors' stone rolled out leaving them with only 1 point - not the 2 points they were after. The Women's Team finished the ninth end another 2 points up leading 4-8 going into the tenth end. They started the tenth end but ran out of stones so shook hands and conceded the Women's team to be the winners 8-4.

## High scores and close games during first day of curling – Saturday 20 August

The **Mixed Doubles** teams opened the play for the curling events at the 100% Pure New Zealand Winter Games. The Women's Fours followed and there were some high scores and close games throughout the day.

It was a close game between **China** and **Latvia** until the fifth end when Latvia scored another 3 points and didn't look back, beating China 10-5. **Hungary** was too strong for **Switzerland** who had beaten them 10-3 by the seventh end so an eighth end was not played. Player **Gyorgy Nagy** said

***"The ice was very fast and we like to play on fast ice. It (the ice) was also very consistent. I think we played well. Ildiko played a fantastic shot on the fourth end."***



It was a thrilling game between **USA** and **New Zealand**. USA were up 5-1 after the fifth end and then New Zealand came back so it was 5-6 after the seventh end. It was an exciting eighth end with Bridget Becker throwing the last stone. Her raised takeout had too much power and the stone finished in the house alongside USA's stone. The stones had to be measured by the Umpire who called it in New Zealand's favour giving a draw. The teams then had to play an extra end to name a winner. New Zealand placed their stone on the button and the USA team drew up a guard behind it. After drawing a guard behind the USA stone the New Zealand team won 7-6.

**Finland** and **Australia** played a close game and despite Finland getting 5 in the third end, Australia was leading after the seventh end 11-8. In the final eighth end Finland could only manage to get 1 point losing to Australia 9-11. Japan had a bye.

**Peter Becker** said the ice was ***"fast with a small swing. Naseby has had a lot of cold weather lately and had a hard frost last night. This has made the temperature inside the rink very cold"*** he said.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the second round and the **Women's Fours** were played in the third round. **Japan** led from the start with a 3 in the first end, a 1 in the second and a 5 in the fourth. **New Zealand** failed to come back and lost 3-11 to Japan after the seventh end. The Skip for the Japanese Team is **Satsuki Fujisawa**. ***"It's the team's first time in New Zealand and the ice condition is very good. We had a good game"*** she said.

The **New Zealand Juniors** played a good game against **Korea**. The game looked like it was all going Korea's way until the eighth end. The New Zealand Juniors got 1 point in the next two ends but couldn't carry on their winning streak into the tenth, losing to Korea 5-7. China had a bye.