

2010 NEW ZEALAND SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

Day 6: The FINAL

Both players made a nervous start to the final and it was first time finalist Gary Gillard (Canterbury) who made the most of his chances against defending champion Chris Maltby (Waikato) to take the 1st frame 50 - 46. Maltby came straight back with breaks of 27 & 50 and an 83 - 7 scoreline to level the match. Gillard replied in the 3rd with a 71 break to win the frame 72 - 1 and it looked like it was going to be an exciting match. Maltby tied the match again with breaks of 33 & 32 for a 67 - 50 win and followed this up with a 74 break to take the 5th 74 - 0 and the lead in the match for the first time. It was short lived however as Gillard knocked in a 37 on his way to a 64 - 42 win and once again the match was all square at 3 - 3. The last frame of the 1st session saw Gillard into an early 14 point lead only to miss when in good position and leave Maltby a chance. He took it with both hands and proceeded to clear the table with a terrific 95 break and finish the session ahead 4 - 3.

Maltby started the 2nd session with a 52 break to Gillard's 30 and with a 65 - 47 frame win was now in front 5 - 3. The 9th frame was more tactical and it was Maltby who again came out on top 58 - 41 for a 6 - 3 lead. Gillard responded well in the 10th and with the help of a smallish 25 break took the win 62 - 25 to close the gap to 6 - 4. A 46 break by Maltby in the 11th was enough to secure the win 69 - 20 and put himself 1 frame away from his second title at 7 - 4. Gillard fought back strongly in the 12th with a 37 break and a 67 - 28 win to keep his hopes alive at 5 - 7 and with a 61 - 26 win in the 13th had pulled the difference back to 6 - 7. Maltby looked to be on his way to victory in the 14th and but unexpectedly missed the Pink when 5 points behind. Maltby then conceded the frame (causing some discussion amongst all present) and for the 2nd year in a row it had come down to the final frame. Surprisingly, the frame was relatively open with Gillard making a 40 break but it was a 33 & a 31 by Maltby that finally did the damage and he went on to take the frame 77 - 42 and the match 8 - 7.

Congratulations to both players and the referees in what turned out to be one of the longer finals.

Day

5:

Semi-finals - Semi finals - Semi-final 1 was between defending champion Chris Maltby and Steve Thomas, both players from the Waikato. Frame one started quietly with a bit of sparring but it wasn't long before the points started flowing with Thomas knocking in a 32 but it was Maltby, with a 38 who drew first blood 72 - 35. Frame 2 was a long drawn out affair lasting close to 45 minutes and it was Maltby who made it 2 - 0 with a very close 54 - 51 win. Frame 3 was a lot quicker and with a 58 break it was another win to Maltby 64 - 11. Things were starting to look ominous for Thomas. In frame 4 it was a 30 break to Maltby but a crucial 24 to Thomas gave him the win 76 - 53 to trail 1 - 3. The first frame after the break was over in quick time at 74 - 13 to Maltby to restore his 3 frame advantage. Thomas tightened things up in the 6th and

was rewarded with a 60 - 43 win and he then went on to take the 7th 60 - 51 in a very tight finish. Thomas kept up the momentum and tied the match at 4 all with a great 73 - 17 frame win and was looking a lot more comfortable. Maltby came back strongly in the 9th with a 55 - 18 win and then did enough in the 10th to hold off Thomas 70 - 57 and make his 2nd consecutive NZ final. Semi-final 2 between the 2 South Islanders, Gary Gillard (Canterbury) and Danny Ryan (Southland) shaped up to be a real thriller. Both players were playing for the distinction of their first NZ final and it was Ryan, courtesy of a 37 break, who got the 1st frame 76 - 20. Gillard tightened things up a little in the 2nd and with a 24 break was rewarded with a close 50 - 41 win to square the match. The 3rd seemed to be heading Gillard's way when after a 24 break he led 53 - 22 but with a pressure 38 clearance, Ryan was able to steal the frame 60 - 53 and go ahead again. The 4th frame was all Gillard as first a 25, followed by a 42, gave him the win 68 - 16 and the match was once again square. A break of 29 by Gillard to a 25 by Ryan was enough to give Gillard the win 70 - 47 and the lead for the first time at 3 - 2. It was more of the same from Gillard in the 6th with a 58 - 47 scoreline to go 4 - 2 and only needing another 2 frames. Ryan came back well in the 7th to take the frame 61 - 54 but a lovely 58 break by Gillard to take frame 8 74 - 25 put him only 1 frame away from victory. A 23 by Ryan in the 9th gave him some hope but Gillard replied with a 26 and eased to a 67 - 35 win to take the match 6 - 3 and a place in his first NZ Snooker Final.

Quarter finals - The first 1/4 was between David Meier-Bailey and Steve Thomas. Meier-Bailey had not played tournament snooker for 12 months due to study commitments and has steadily improved as the event has gone on. Thomas, a semi finalist from 2008, has been a player who has managed to stay under the radar and seems to keep his best performances for the times that count. It was to be another of those occasions for Thomas and playing a very tactical match was able to keep Meier-Bailey out of it and take the win 5 - 3. Thomas compiled a 50 break during the match and Meier-Bailey a 32. The 2nd 1/4 was between defending champion Chris Maltby (Waikato) and Shannon Swain (Southland) was the one that held everybody's attention. Maltby was always going to be a very difficult opponent to beat and when Maltby went out to a 2 frame lead it looked like the occasion may have got to Swain. He knuckled down to the task at hand and with some great play took the 3rd frame. In the 4th Swain missed a straight forward Black when on a break of 43 and Maltby hopped in to take the frame with a 35 clearance to go to the break ahead 3 - 1. Swain came out after the break and proceeded to get himself back into the match with several smaller breaks in the 20's & 30's to win the 5th to get back to 2 - 3, the 6th to tie the match up and then the 7th to take the lead for the first time in the match. Maltby responded like a champion to halt his losing streak, and despite a 35 break by Swain, managed to take the 8th and square the match. It was all to play for in the 9th and it was Maltby who held is nerve with a 58 break to put the match beyond the reaches of Swain. Swain is one of the NZ representatives at the upcoming IBSF Under 21 World Championships in Ireland early next month. The 3rd match was between 2 South Islanders in Danny Ryan from Southland and Jason Todd from North Otago with both players eager to close in on their first NZ Champs semi final appearance. As expected the match was a mixture of attacking snooker and some great safety play. In the end it was the more experienced Ryan who handled the pressure better for a 5 - 2 win. The match between Gary Gillard and Paul Bason was the first one finished and was a 5 - 1 victory to Gillard. Bason just couldn't get his game flowing and Gillard was quick to punish any mistakes. Both Gillard and Bason came into the event neck and neck on the World

Championship qualifying lists and depending on who finished far enough ahead of who would determine the final World Champs spots.

Day 3:

Round 15 - This was the round that would finally settle things. In Group A Chris Maltby continued to improve and rolled in breaks of 66 & 31 in an easy win 3 - 0 over John Rehman. Clive Thomson, Group B, guaranteed himself top qualifying spot with an easy 3 - 0 win over Graham Backman. In Group C Ramona Belmont finished with a flourish with breaks of 32 & 31 for a 3 - 0 win over Jim Ryan. The win however wasn't enough to see her through to the next round. In Group D Matthew Scarborough found himself in a must win 3 - 0 situation against Barry Moore to make the knockout and it was a delighted Scarborough who did just that. With 3 players on 2 wins each it came down to various calculations and the unlucky player to miss out was Tony van Wijk. Shannon Swain continued with his impressive display with breaks of 52 & 43 in a good 3 - 0 win over Daniel Sinclair to top the group. As expected in group F, Gary Gillard had no problems in disposing of Tom Sherriff 3 - 0 and in the process secured the 2nd top qualifying spot. In Group G Sam Bond, needing a 3 - 1 result over Vinny Gounder to advance, did just that and wrapped up 4th spot. The knockout will be good preparation for Bond as he prepares to leave for the World Champs in a couple of weeks. Group H produced a cliff-hanger with Mark Mitchell needing to win 3 - 1 against Steve Thomas to qualify. The match was poised at 2 - 1 to Mitchell and he held an 18 point lead in the 4th with Yellow up on the table. Thomas got his chance on the Yellow and made a great pressure clearance to level the match. A win 3 - 2 to Thomas would get him 2nd in the group and put Steve Robertson down to 3rd spot. Mitchell had 1st shot at the Black but it jawed and rolled across the table to hang right in the pocket for an easy pot for Thomas to take the frame and the win 3 - 2.

Round 14 - In Group A Dave Witehira got the win he needed to advance with a 3 - 0 result over John Bull. Witehira finally managed to string some pots together and made a nice 60 break. It was business as usual for Roy Clark in Group B as he knocked in a 40 break on the way to a 3 - 0 win over Frank Adams. Eldon Lai made sure of his qualifying spot from Group C with a 3 - 0 win over a lacklustre Scott Farnworth and in Group D Danny Ryan wrapped up the top spot with a 3 - 0 win over Greg Crichton. In Group E Gordon Jakeman continued his good championship with a 3 - 2 win over David Meier-Bailey who must now wait on the last result to see if he qualifies or not. Mark Hannah wrapped up at least runner-up spot in Group F with a 3 - 0 win over Tom Toomata. In Group G Bailey Emia snatched a frame from Harry Haenga in a 1 - 3 loss and means that Haenga has finished as runner-up. Haenga rolled in a 54 break but not to be outdone Emia got a lovely 42 break. The big match in this round was in Group H between Steve Robertson and Jason Todd as there were several scenarios for finishing spots depending on frames and who won. Robertson shot out to a 2 - 0 lead and it looked all over for Todd but some crucial misses by Robertson in the 3rd frame allowed Todd back into the match and he gratefully knocked in the Blue & Pink to haul it back to 1 - 2. This one frame was enough to ensure that Todd finished as group winner and he could now settle down and go for the match win. He was to get another chance near the end of the 4th frame and a Brown, Blue and Pink had the match all square and Robertson looking a little rattled. Todd however couldn't maintain the pressure and a grateful Robertson wrapped up the match 3 - 2.

Round 13 - In Group A former champion Wyn Belmont played a very tactical game and kept out the free scoring Talosaga for much of the match but it still wasn't enough to stop Talosaga winning 3 - 0. In Group B young Brett Wainohu recorded his 2nd win with a 3 - 2 victory over Arthur Webber. This is enough to see him through in 4th place for the knockout stages, an excellent effort in his first New Zealand championship. In Group C Sanjay Kumar had a very close fought win over Willie Florence 3 - 2 to give him 4 wins but must wait on the result of the last group match to see if he is a group winner or not. Florence is safely through on 3 wins but which position he occupies is still uncertain. In Group D B Grade champion David Tauhore had a great last gasp 3 - 2 win over Tony van Wijk. This leaves both players on 2 wins and the same differential and depending on results still to come could see one or both of them miss out on the knockout. Martin Jones, Group E, had a 3 - 0 win and a 38 break over Dennis Yin to seal a spot in the knockout but exactly where depends on other results. The match in Group F between Peter de Groot and Lee Barris turned into a marathon and it was Barris who lasted the distance better to take a 3 - 2 win. The surprise of the round was in Group G where George Elvin easily accounted for the previously unbeaten Paul Bason 3 - 1. Elvin had a couple of 41 breaks during the match but Bason couldn't put anything together at all and certainly didn't look the same player as yesterday and if Haenga can win his last match 3 - 0 he will snatch the top qualifying spot in the group. In Group H Jackie Chu beat Paul Olsson 3 - 0 and may yet still qualify for the knockout on Thursday.

Round 12 - The qualifying places were becoming more clear cut after each match but there was still plenty of room for upsets with some rather interesting matches still to play. In Group A Dave Witehira got his first win with a 3 - 1 result over John Rehman. Witehira, a former South Island Champion, would have to be disappointed with his performance so far but a win in his last match could see him sneak through to the knockout. Clive Thomson, Group B, continued his relentless march towards the knockout with a 3 - 0 win and a 46 break over Frank Adams. Baring any major mishaps Thomson looks likely to end up the No 1 qualifier for the post section matches. Ramona Belmont picked up her first win with a good 3 - 1 victory over Scott Farnworth. Nothing short of a win in her last match against Jim Ryan is needed for her to have a chance of advancing to the knockout and she is certainly capable of achieving this. In Group D Danny Ryan picked up another win 3 - 1 over Matthew Scarborough to remain unbeaten but still needs to win his last match to guarantee a group winner spot for Thursday. David Meier-Bailey increased his chances of continuing with a 3 - 0 win over Daniel Sinclair but still needs that 1 more win to be sure. His last match against Gordon Jakeman will be a winner take all proposition. Mark Hannah bounced back from his defeat by Gary Gillard to record his 3rd win and a win in his last match would see him take at least the runner-up spot in Group F. In Group G Sam Bond recorded his 1st win with a gritty 3 - 1 win over Bailey Emia while in Group H in the Battle of the Steve's from Waikato it was Steve Thomas who put a big dent in Steve Robertson's game plan with a great 32 clearance to snatch the first frame. Robertson came back well with some good breaks of 66, 39 & 37 to Thomas's 55 but it was Thomas who finished the stronger to run out a deserved winner 3 - 1. There is now even more pressure on Robertson in his last match against Jason Todd as a loss here will see him well down in the qualifying order.

Round 11 - In Group A the match between Chris Maltby and Iti Talosaga was every bit as enthralling as expected with both players showing a lot of respect to each other. The only breaks made were a 44 & a 42 by Maltby in what was a very close match and it was Maltby who

squeezed out the win 3 - 2. In Group B Brett Wainohu got his long awaited first NZ Championship win with a 3 - 1 result over Graham Backman. In Group C Sanjay Kumar put an end to the unbeaten run of Jim Ryan with a comfortable 3 - 0 win and in Group D Barry Moore got back on track with another win 3 - 2 over David Tauhore. Tauhore made the only significant break with a 38. Moore is certainly getting plenty of play at the event having played 18 frames out of a possible 20. Group E saw a classic encounter between Shannon Swain and Martin Jones. Swain had a 48 break and Jones a 39 and it was Swain who made the most of his opportunities to take the match 3 - 2 and remain unbeaten. His last match against the highly rated Daniel Sinclair should be a cracker. In Group F Gary Gillard put together another tradesman like performance for a 3 - 1 win over fellow Cantabrian Peter de Groot. Gillard is another who is unbeaten so far. In Group G Paul Bason wasted no time in disposing of Vinny Gounder 3 - 1 and in Group H Jackie Chu got his first win with a 3 - 0 win over Mark Mitchell, who had a 41 break for his efforts.

Day 2:

Round 10 - In Group A Wyn Belmont was quickly into stride and with breaks of 47 & 39 soon had the match wrapped up against John Bull 3 - 0. A good effort from Belmont tomorrow should see him safely through to the next round. Roy Clark, Group B, knocked in a 41 in his match against Arthur Webber to take the win 3 - 1 and with 3 wins looks assured of a knockout spot. All that remains is to get the best possible finishing spot with good results in his last 2 matches tomorrow. Willie Florence and Eldon Lai had a great battle before Florence finally took control and the match 3 - 2. Both these players have 2 wins and will need some good results tomorrow to advance. Tony van Wijk eased over the line 3 - 0 against Greg Crichton in Group D. At one stage in the 1st frame the score was 33 - 20 and almost all the points had come from fouls. A top effort from van Wijk tomorrow in his last match against Matthew Scarborough should see him comfortably through to the knockout. In Group E Gordon Jakeman registered his 2nd win with a hard fought win 3 - 1 over Dennis Yin and in Group F the 3rd battle of Southland ended in a 3 - 0 win to Lee Barris over Tom Toomata. In Group G Harry Haenga recovered from losing the first frame against George Elvin to run out the winner 3 - 1. Haenga got back into the right frame of mind with a lovely 50 break. In Group H Jason Todd had a 34cl to go with a comfortable 3 - 0 win over Paul Olsson and with 4 wins is sitting in a good position for the knockout. As mentioned earlier, his last match against Steve Robertson will have a lot riding on it, and will generate a lot of interest.

Round 9 - The groups were slowly sorting themselves out for the 4 qualifying spots and the pressure to secure that valuable win was starting to show with some of the players. In Group A defending champion Chris Maltby had a lucky escape in his match against Dave Witehira. The match was tied at 2 all and Maltby had a narrow 9 point lead with only Blue, Pink & Black left. An outrageous fluke on the Blue when it jawed and ran across the table to drop into the opposite pocket gave him the buffer he so desperately needed and he managed to fall across the line and take the win 3 - 2. The match wasn't all flukes as earlier Maltby had knocked in a nice 69 break. In Group B Frank Adams put together a nice 45 break on his way to a 3 - 1 win over Graham Backman and with 3 wins from 3 looks certain to be one of the qualifiers. In Group C Jim Ryan got his 3rd win with a 3 - 1 win over Scott Farnworth. Ryan is another almost certain to qualify and just needs some good results tomorrow to get one of the top qualifying spots. It was another

epic 5 frame match in Group D between Barry Moore and Danny Ryan. Both players were unbeaten and there was a lot resting on the outcome. Ryan knocked in a 64 break but Moore kept hitting back and the match was tied at 2 frames each. Ryan got in early in the deciding frame to build a small lead but Moore kept chipping away and with 2 reds left the difference was 18. The gap closed when Moore played a lovely snooker and Ryan failed in his first 2 attempts. Another snooker by Moore and a miss by Ryan had the difference down to 6. Moore got the last red, a Black and the Yellow and looked likely to clear enough of the colours to win when he missed a not too difficult Green. Ryan produced 2 good pots with the rest on the Green & Brown and then under some pressure slotted the Blue and the Pink to take the win 3 - 2. Shannon Swain and David Meier-Bailey produced an excellent match in Group E. Meier-Bailey rolled in a 65 break and Swain knocked in a 56 to even the stakes up and go on to take the match 3 - 2. Both these young players have represented NZ at World Under 21 Championships and the experience gained at these events is really starting to come through. Gary Gillard and Mark Hannah had a good battle but Hannah's lack of match play this year started to show as Gillard applied the pressure. The end result being a 3 - 1 win to Gillard. Bailey Emia, another of the younger brigade won his 2nd match in a 5 framer against Vinny Gounder and is closing in on a qualifying spot for the knockout. His match with another of the young guns, North Otago's Sam Bond has the makings of a real cracker. Another to make it 3 from 3 was Steve Robertson in Group H although he didn't have it all his own way in the match. Mark Mitchell fought back strongly to level the match twice before finally falling at the last hurdle and letting Robertson off the hook for a 3 - 2 win. Robertson rolled in a 44 break in the match but didn't look as confident as he had done yesterday.

Round 8 - Iti Talosaga gave another excellent display of attacking snooker and knocked in a good 57 break as he coasted to a 3 - 0 win over John Bull. Roy Clark racked up another win with a 3 - 0 victory over Brett Wainohu and in Group C Eldon Lai got his 2nd win with a great 3 - 0 victory over Auckland A Grade champion Sanjay Kumar. Greg Crichton and David Tauhore had a titanic struggle in Group D and it was Crichton, with a 54 break, who managed to hold on for his elusive first win 3 - 2. In Group E Martin Jones got another valuable win when he overcame a determined Gordon Jakeman 3 - 0. The match was not as easy as the scoreline indicates and Jakeman has been one of the unlucky players in the event so far. Canterbury's Peter de Groot secured his 2nd win with a 3 - 1 win over Tom Toomata. De Groot also had the match high break of 44. Group G produced what many would consider an upset when Paul Bason completely outplayed Harry Haenga to register a 3 - 1 win. Bason is often overlooked when it comes to favouritism but when he is on his game he is almost impossible to stop. North Otago's Jason Todd continued on his winning way in Group H and rolled in a 65 break on his way to a 3 - 0 win over Jackie Chu. A mouth watering match looms between Todd and Steve Robertson which could very well decide who wins the group.

Round 7 - In Group A Wyn Belmont registered his 2nd win with a 3 - 1 victory over John Rehman and in Group B Clive Thomson rolled in a nice 49 on his way to a 3 - 1 win over Arthur Webber. In Group C Willie Florence had a good 3 - 0 win over Ramona Belmont. Florence was very aware of Belmont's ability and was not prepared to give her any chances at all although this is Belmont's 3rd loss her first two were 5 framers and with an ounce of luck she could have been in a good position in the group. Tony van Wijk and matthew Scarborough fought it out over a marathon 5 frames with van Wijk just getting over the line 3 - 2. Van Wijk had a break of 46 to

Scarborough's 31. B Grade runner-up Daniel Sinclair got back to his best with a 45 break in his 3 - 0 win over Dennis Yin and in the 2nd battle of Southland in Group F Tom Sherriff got the better of Lee Barris 3 - 2. Sam Bond registered his first frame win but still couldn't manage the win when he was beaten by George Elvin. Elvin had been beaten the previous evening by one of the younger players and was determined not to suffer the same fate again. 2008 semi finalist Steve Thomas knocked in breaks of 54 & 41 on his way to a 3 - 1 win over Paul Olsson and looks to be coming back into some form at the right time.

Round 6 - Defending champion Chris Maltby had a much better start this morning and strung together a number of breaks, 63, 49, 48, 47 & 30 on his way to an easy 3 - 0 win over John Bull. He will certainly be one to watch as the tournament progresses. Roy Clark was untroubled in his match with Graham Backman and coasted to a 3 - 0 win while Jim Ryan knocked in a 32 in his 3 - 0 win over Eldon Lai. Barry Moore, with a 33 break, ground out another victory 3 - 1 over Greg Crichton. Shannon Swain had a better match although still a bit scrappy and scored a valuable 3 - 1 win over Gordon Jakeman. Gary Gillard posted his 2nd win and a couple of smaller breaks, 35 & 34, in his win over Tom Toomata. Harry Haenga really got into gear in his match and knocked in breaks of 89 & 78 on his way to an easy 3 - 0 win over Vinny Gounder. 4 time champion Haenga would have to be one of the favourites to take the title this year and if he continues with this impressive form will be very difficult to beat. Jason Todd was another who got his 2nd win with a 3 - 0 win over Mark Mitchell and also got himself on the break board with a 36.

Day 1:

Round 5 - The final round of the day saw Wyn Belmont grind it out over Dave Witehira for a 3 - 1 win. Frank Adams hit some form with a 58 break on his way to a 3 - 0 win over Arthur Webber and Willie Florence get his 1st win with a 3 - 0 win over Scott Farnworth. Florence also had the only break of the match, a 42. In Group D Danny Ryan put together a 40 on his way to a quickfire 3 - 0 win over Tony van Wijk. Ryan was especially pleased to finish the day with 2 wins as he woke up this morning with what seemed like a pulled muscle in his neck but as these things sometimes tend to do, it may have helped him focus just that little bit more. Group E saw a great struggle between David Meier-Bailey and Dennis Yin. Both players were chancing their arm at times and Meier-Bailey put together a fine break of 61 on his way to a 3 - 2 victory. Yin also produced some great snooker at times and was rewarded with a break of 43 for his efforts. In Group F Mark Hannah quickly jumped out to a 2 frame lead over Lee Barris but then seemed to momentarily lose his concentration to allow Barris a glimmer of hope. Barris levelled the scores at 26 all but a poor attempt at a red saw him leave Hannah a chance to get back into the game. It was a chance Hannah gladly accepted and with a display of masterly potting quickly cleaned up the last 6 reds and then mopped up the colours for a terrific 71 clearance, the high break of the day. Group G's match between Bailey Emia and George Elvin was the last match to finish for the evening. Emia, one of a number of younger players at the event, went out to a 2 - 0 lead before Elvin started to get himself back into the game with a win in the 3rd. The 4th frame was a tight affair as neither player wanted to be the first to make a mistake and it was Elvin who managed the win to tie the match up. In the 5th Emia got away to a great start and had soon established a 30 plus lead. Elvin chipped away at it, taking the last 2 reds and Blacks and the Yellow before a poor attempt at the Green. Emia went to stun the cue ball behind the Pink only

to see it fall into the centre pocket and him snookered on the Brown. A great getout with the Brown going into the centre pocket had Elvin needing snookers. Alas it wasn't to be and Emia went on to win the frame and the match 3 - 2. Steve Robertson put in another good performance and a break of 47 on his way to a 3 - 1 win over Paul Olsson. Not to be one to miss out Olsson also got himself on the break board with a break of 30 in the 3rd frame.

Round 4 - In the fourth round of the day Iti Talosaga continued his impressive display of power and precision with a 52 break included in his 3 - 0 win over John Rehman and Clive Thomson put in another tradesman like performance with a 3 - 0 win over Brett Wainohu. The match of the round would have been Ramona Belmont and Sanjay Kumar who fought long and hard before Kumar just got over the line 3 - 2. There was some impressive safety play from both players and also some excellent attacking play with Belmont having the match high break of 62 against Kumar's best effort of 60. David tauhore and Matthew Scarborough battled it out over 5 frames before Tauhore just held on for the 3 - 2 win. Daniel Sinclair regained some of his B Grade form and went on to ease past martin Jones 3 - 0 and Peter de Groot defeated Tom Sherriff 3 - 1. Paul Bason gave Sam Bond no chance when he coasted through to a 3 - 0 scoreline and in the last match of the round Steve Thomas got his first win with a 3 - 1 win over Jackie Chu.

Round 3 - In Group A defending champion Chris Maltby (WK) opened his account with a hard fought 3 - 2 win over former champion Wyn Belmont (AK). Belmont had the only breaks of significance in the match when he knocked in a 42 and a 38. In Group B Arthur Webber (AK) had a good first up win over Graham Backman (AK) 3 - 1 and in Group C Southland's Jim Ryan came out on top 3 - 2, but only after a re-spotted Black in the 5th, over Capital City's Willie Florence. Ryan kept attacking all through the game and when he missed would often leave Florence in some awkward positions. In Group D Barry Moore (AK), making a rare appearance in a tournament showed he would not need to be taken lightly, when he knocked in a 35 break on his way to a good win over Tony van Wijk (AK) 3 - 1. In Group E it was a marathon match between Shannon Swain (SOU) and Dennis Yin (AK) with Swain knocking in a break of 49 to Yin's 32 on his way to a 3 - 2 win and in Group F Canterbury's Gary Gillard started his campaign on the right footing with a good 3 - 1 win over Southland's Lee Barris. Group G saw late replacement Vinny Gounder (AK) unable to match the potting of George Elvin (BOP) and was eventually beaten 3 - 1 and Auckland's Mark Mitchell had a 42 break on his way to a 3 - 0 win over fellow Aucklander Paul Olsson.

Round 2 - In Group A defending champion Chris Maltby (WK) opened his account with a hard fought 3 - 2 win over former champion Wyn Belmont (AK). Belmont had the only breaks of significance in the match when he knocked in a 42 and a 38. In Group B Arthur Webber (AK) had a good first up win over Graham Backman (AK) 3 - 1 and in Group C Southland's Jim Ryan came out on top 3 - 2, but only after a re-spotted Black in the 5th, over Capital City's Willie Florence. Ryan kept attacking all through the game and when he missed would often leave Florence in some awkward positions. In Group D Barry Moore (AK), making a rare appearance in a tournament nowadays, showed he could not be taken lightly when he knocked in a 35 break on his way to a good win over Tony van Wijk (AK) 3 - 1. Group F saw Canterbury's Gary Gillard start his campaign on the right footing with a good 3 - 1 win over Southland's Lee Barris. In Group G, late replacement Vinny Gounder (AK), was unable to match the potting of George Elvin (BOP) and was eventually beaten 3 - 1 and Auckland's Mark Mitchell had a 42

break on his way to a 3 - 0 win over fellow Aucklander Paul Olsson in Group H.

Round 1 - Play got underway on time in the 2010 Cuesports Foundation NZ Snooker Championships and it was soon apparent that we would be in for some great snooker over the week. In Group A Iti Talosaga (CC), making his first appearance in the event for a number of years, was all business against Dave Witehira (CA) and rattled in breaks of 57 & 42 on his way to a comfortable 3 - 0 win. Frank Adams (CC) didn't have it all his own way against newcomer Brett Wainohu (HB) but courtesy of a 38 break was able to take the win 3 - 1. In Group C Auckland A Grade champion Sanjay Kumar accounted for fellow Aucklander Scott Farnworth 3 - 0 and in Group D newly crowned B Grade champion Dave Tauhore (AK) was unable to produce the same form against Log of Wood winner Danny Ryan (SOU), eventually losing out 1 - 3. In Group E the first of several intriguing match-ups saw Martin Jones (AK) just get there 3 - 2 over David Meier-Bailey (AK). Meier-Bailey, who is currently studying at Auckland Uni, has been out of the game for approx 12 months but showed some glimpses of form and he should get better and better as the event progresses. North Island Champion Mark Hannah (CC) accounted for former champion Peter de Groot (CA) 3 - 0 in Group F and in Group G Paul Bason (AK) knocked in a 44 on his way to a comfortable 3 - 0 win over Bailey Emia (AK). The Group H match between former champion Steve Robertson (WK) and Jackie Chu (AK) was all over in about 40 minutes with Robertson putting breaks of 40 & 41 together on his way to an easy 3 - 0 win.