

Castlecliff cruise back to Manawatu-Wanganui A grade

Castlecliff have danced their way back in to Manawatu-Wanganui A grade pennants.

They completed the B-grade season unbeaten by trouncing Waiouru 8-1 in the final round at Hawkestone on Sunday.

The army club could muster only five of their six players.

Castlecliff have resided in B grade since being relegated in 2009 and lost their promotion match away to Marton last year.

The other northern club, bottom team Waimarino, had even worse problems on Sunday. With players injured, they could find too few fit men so they defaulted to host team Hawkestone.

Hawkestone finished second, ahead of Tawhero who shaded Linton Camp 5-4. Rangitikei finished fifth by beating Rangatira 7-2.

In A grade, everything points to Manawatu picking up their third successive title. The juggernaut rolled on at Palmerston North's Brightwater course when they trounced winless Taihape 12-0.

The No 1s had a tight match, Stu Smith (Manawatu) shading Matt Thomas 2 and 1. It's hard to see Taihape avoiding the drop this year with relegation automatic.

It was close to a similar smoking when Feilding thumped Marton 11 1/2- 1/2. Marton's only half point came when 7-handicapper Troy Calkin halved with 2.2 handicapper Brad Sinclair.

Palmerston North had to battle to beat Wanganui 7-5, coming down to the final two matches. Palmerston North won the foursomes 2 1/2-1 1/2 and the singles 4 1/2-3 1/2.

The host team won the top three singles, Mike McSherry beat Rick Harding 4 and 3, Regan Cording beating Michael Arnott 4 and 3 and Rhys Harold downing Stu Gillespie 2 and 1.

Levin beat neighbours Foxton 7 1/2-4 1/2. Foxton did well at the top with Junior Tatana beating Kim Ballantyne 2 and 1, Lance Knowles downing Shaun Millard 3 and 2 and Jason Tatana beating Reuben Tomane 5 and 4.

A grade round 4 at Palmerston North: Palmerston North 7 Wanganui 5, Manawatu 12 Taihape 0, Feilding 11 1/2 Marton 1/2, Levin 7 1/2 Foxton 4 1/2.

Points: Manawatu 12 pts (42 1/2 games), Feilding 9 (36 1/2), Levin 9 (21 1/2), PN 7 (29), Foxton 4 (20 1/2), Wanganui 3 (19 1/2), Marton 3 (12), Taihape 0 (10 1/2).

B grade at Hawkestone: Castlecliff 8 Waiouru 1, Rangitikei 7 Rangatira 2, Hawkestone beat Waimarino by default 9-0, Tawhero 5 Linton Camp 4.

Final points: Castlecliff 21 (49 1/2), Hawkestone 18 (46 1/2), Tawhero 15 (44), Linton Camp 12 (31 1/2), Rangitikei 6 (26 1/2), Waiouru 3 (25), Rangatira 3 (16), Waimarino 3 (13 1/2).