

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

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Many strong visitors to challenge local hopes

Fifty-four teams will contest that Taranaki women's Open fours tournament when the 2018 edition commences at greens around New Plymouth this morning.

Of those, 20 sides are visiting from outside the province, with the other 34 from Taranaki. Teams will play two games of 25 ends each day, with section play scheduled to finish on Thursday evening. By that point, six rounds should have been completed, weather permitting, and those finishing with four or more wins will advance to post section on Friday.

Section one appears to be the strongest of the groups, with high-profile visitors Margaret Reed (Tauranga South), Reen Stratford (Aramoho) and Denise Samuel (Glenfield).

Stratford, the 2010 Dominion pairs winner, and the runner-up in the singles in both 2013 and 2017, has a useful looking side. Samuel also looks like having a solid team around her, including former NZ under 18 champion, Paris Baker. Stratford and Samuel are past teammates, having won a title together in Auckland. They have avoided each other — in section play at least.

Among the local teams in the section are Cindy Nichol, who's Inglewood side has had a good season to date, past NZ rep Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) and Val McEldowney (New Plymouth). Andrews opens her campaign against her sister, Janice Ropitni (West End). They are both past winners, Ropitni having led in the winning side in 1999, while Andrews was third in the victorious side the following year.

Section one will play at West End, Fitzroy and Paritutu.

Two-time champion Shona Chambers (Browns Bay) leads the most likely teams in **section two**, where a number of solid local teams exist. Chambers side of Ruth Lynch, Rona Turner and Carole Fredrick won the title in 2004 and 2009.

Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) is also a past winner, while Taranaki reps Maree Gadsby (New Plymouth) and Gloria Shaw (Paritutu) skip new-look teams.

Chambers doesn't have an easy start with the wily Ellie Goble (Lepperton), a three-time winner, and Stampa today.

Section two plays at New Plymouth, West End and Fitzroy.

Denise Taylor (Wanganui), the former NZ cycling representative, impressed in making the final of the Dominion pairs last season in New Plymouth. She skips a strong side, with the other three members — Cynthia Adams, Pam Burgess and Dot Belliss — winners of the Dominion fours in 2015, in **section three**.

Taylor is joined by Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe), who heads a side which includes two members of last year's winning team.

Among the locals are gold star holders Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) and Pauline Davy (Lepperton), along with Taranaki patron and the 2016 runner-up, Patty Symes (Tower).

Section three will play at Paritutu, New Plymouth and West End.

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Bev Robinson (Opunake), left, and Denise Taylor (Wanganui), right, are both expected to feature during the week.

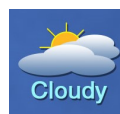


WEATHER FORECAST

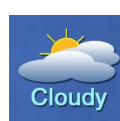
Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



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There is also a tough look to **section four**, with Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) and Bev Corbett (Hinuera), the former NZ rep who has won distinctions galore including the 1997 Dominion fours, meeting the likes of Gale Fache (Vogeltown) and Bev Robinson (Opunake).

Green, nee Clarke, grew up in Stratford and is the sister of the 1979 Taranaki champion-of-champions triples winner, Barry Clarke. Robinson has a similar side to the team that claimed the 2016 title and was runner-up in 2017, but with matches against both Corbett and Fache, plus some tidy other sides, qualification will not come easily.

Section four will play at Fitzroy, Paritutu and New Plymouth.

New champion this year

There will be a new winner of the Taranaki women's Open fours title in 2018, after last year's champion Natarsha Grimshaw decided, after initially entering, that she could in fact not fit the week-long competition into her busy schedule.

Grimshaw's Papakura side of Jan Larsen, Cheryl Hunia and Adrienne Tilyard won last year's final 21-9 over the Opunake side of Val Langton, Nell L'ami, Eileen Rothwell and Bev Robinson.

But while Grimshaw, along with Hunia, will bypass the tournament, Larsen and Tilyard have returned.

They are playing in a side that will be skipped by Pukekohe's Sharon Siegruhn, with Sheryl Nasey at No 2, in section three.



Changes to published programme

There have been few changes to the teams in the published programme.

In section two, Norma Gallagher's Mt Maunganui team has withdrawn. Its place has been taken by the Waitara side of Lynette Harte, Jean Keith, Joy Clouston and skip Liz Johnstone.

There has been a change at the helm of one of the Paritutu teams in section three, with the 2013 Dominion fours winner, Heather Johns, now skipping in place of Prue Wright. Johns skipped the winning team in this tournament in 2012.

Meanwhile, the Lepperton side in section one, originally entered under Gaelene Riddle, will now be skipped by Wendy Moratti after the former was forced to withdraw from the competition due to ill health.

Match of the morning — Reed v McEldowney

Rink 1 at West End this morning will involve two of the more favoured teams squaring off—Margaret Reed (Tauranga South) and Val McEldowney (New Plymouth).

Reed presents a powerful side, comprising Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis and Marilyn McLeod.

Reed, like McLeod, a dual member also of the Hinuera club in the Waikato, had a golden year in 2017 skipping her team in victory in the national club championship fours, as well as being a member of the Hinuera side that won the NZ interclub title. She has also previously won, with McLeod, the national club championship pairs.

Davis shared in last season's fours triumph, which was her third success in the "pathways" competition, and has also won the Auckland-based NZ open triples.

McLeod, has two national club championship titles, plus three titles from the Auckland-based NZ open.

McEldowney, a double gold star holder in Taranaki as well as having won the 2013 Dominion singles, has a new-look team with Eisie Morgan, Angela Robinson and former Taranaki rep Anne Brophy.

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

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Nine visitors and five Taranaki teams unbeaten

Margaret Reed and her strong side from Tauranga South sent out a loud and long warning to the rest of the field that they mean business in the 2018 Taranaki women's Open fours when the tournament commenced in New Plymouth yesterday.

Playing at West End, the side of Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis, Marilyn McLeod and Reed posted two convincing wins, to be among the 14 sides who won both matches which were played in fine conditions, despite at times heavy overnight rain. Nine of the two winners are visitors and the other five are from Taranaki.

In the feature game yesterday morning, Reed ran away from Val McEldowney's New Plymouth side, that was in fact skipped by Anne Brophy, 28-14 before defeating another New Plymouth quartet, this time skipped by Heather Thomas, 33-10, in the afternoon.

An early four had the McEldowney side in contention in the morning game and after seven of the 25 ends, the scores were locked at 8-all. However, the Tauranga South side then went on a scoring spree, winning the next nine ends to open up an unassailable 27-8 advantage.

It was just as emphatic in the afternoon against Thomas' team, that had produced heroics of its own in coming from 19-14

down after 20 ends to beat 2013 Dominion fours semifinalist, Val Webster (Vogeltown), 26-19 in round one.

The day got better for both McEldowney and Webster, however. McEldowney beat Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) 21-19, while Webster accounted for Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) 23-17. Nichol had caused an upset in round one, beating Reen Stratford (Aramoho) 23-22, in one of a number of matches separated by just a single shot.

Veteran Ellie Goble (Lepperton) and Taranaki rep Gloria Shaw (Paritutu) are the only unbeaten teams in section two. Shona Chambers (Browns Bay), after a narrow loss to Goble in the morning, responded to comfortably defeat Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 28-16 in round two.

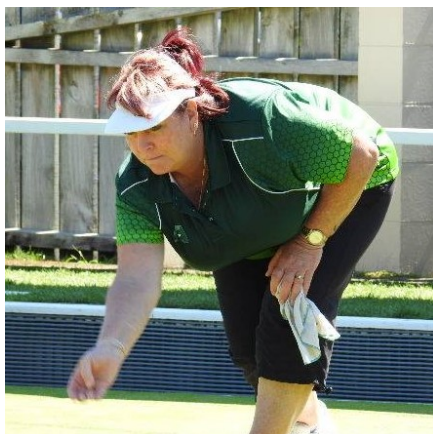
The Goble-Chambers match was an up-and-down affair, with some large scoring taking place. Goble collected three fives, and despite dropping four on the last end, had still done enough to win 29-28.

Shaw personally responded to the pressure in round one, getting the shot on the 25th end to defeat Judy Hyland (Tauranga) 29-26, having earlier led 26-17. Stampa's morning win, 23-22 over Liz Johnstone (Waitara) was an extra end effort, with No 3 Pauline Kennedy putting the jack into the ditch.

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Vogeltown's Gale Fache, above, posted two wins, while Pukekohe's Sharon Siegruhn, right, had one win and one loss.



WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday



Showers

Thursday



Showers

Friday



Cloudy

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Visiting teams largely dominated section three, with Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North), Mary Bettleheim (Ohope) and Denise Taylor (Wanganui) all unbeaten. Bowls Taranaki life member and patron Patty Symes (Tower) also finished the day with two wins.

Lepperton's Pauline Davy, a Taranaki gold star holder, had a frustrating day after being pipped twice — 22-21 by Bettleheim and 22-20 by Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy).

Section four also saw the visitors emerge from the day with more success. Karen Forrest (Papakura), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Jean Sheary (Mauta) and Bev Corbett (Hinuera) all won twice, as did Gale Fache

(Vogeltown).

Corbett had a tough tussle with Margaret McCallum (Inglewood) before winning 23-19 in the morning and then defeated Bev Robinson (Opunake) 29-18 after that. Both McCallum and Robinson remained in touch with qualification by both winning their other match, although for the later it was only just, 25-24 over Margaret Oates (Browns Bay).

Forrest's second win was a tense one, 21-20, coming at the expense of Anne Searancke (Tawa), who also had opened with a comfortable win.

By the conclusion of the sixth round on Thursday, teams need to have won four matches to qualify.

Who won how many on day one? Match of the morning — Symes v Taylor

Standings after the first day's play:

Section 1: two wins, Margaret Reed

(Tauranga South), Valda Rowan (Paritutu), Denise Samuel (Glenfield); **one win**, Janice Ropitini (West End), Rosemary McGill (Te Awamutu), Val Webster (Vogeltown), Cindy Nichol (Inglewood), Reen Stratford (Aramoho), Heather Thomas (New Plymouth), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), Val McEldowney (New Plymouth).

Section 2: two wins, Gloria Shaw (Paritutu), Ellie Goble (Lepperton); **one win**, Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), Shona Chambers (Browns Bay), Berys Norgate (Paritutu), Maree Gadsby (New Plymouth), Faye Bird (Central Cambridge), Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Denise Cottam (West End), Faye Hopkins (Hawera).

Section 3: two wins, Ngaire Cowan (Palmerston North), Mary Bettleheim (Ohope), Patty Symes (Tower), Denise Taylor (Wanganui); **one win**, Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe), Shona Lawn (Hawera Park), Artie Sissons (Ohope), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Julie Reid (Paritutu).

Section 4: two wins, Karen Forrest (Papakura), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Gale Fache (Vogeltown), Jean Sheary (Matua), Bev Corbett (Hinuera); **one win**, Margaret Oates (Browns Bay), Margaret McCallum (Inglewood), Anne Searancke (Tawa), Bev Robinson (Opunake).

The New Plymouth Bowling Club is the place to be this morning when two of the unbeaten teams from day one, Patty Symes (Tower) and Denise Taylor (Wanganui) square off.

Symes and her team of Hazel Schwartzfeger, Frances Busby, two relative newcomers to bowls, and Maureen Tamou, an experienced campaigner, worked hard for their two wins on the opening day.

They edged out Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) in the opening game 27-25 and then won a high-scoring contest 29-25 over Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe).

Taylor's side of Cynthia Adams, Pam Burgess and Dot Belliss didn't have things all their own way, either. But they got across the line twice — 21-13 over Shona Lawn (Hawera Park) and 29-24 against Val Fleming (New Plymouth).



Patty Symes gets it away smoothly

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 25, 2018

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Only four qualifiers so far in Open fours

Fifty-four teams started the Taranaki women's Open fours on Tuesday morning, but by last evening only four of those had retained untarnished records and qualified for post section play after round four had been completed.

The four unbeaten teams are Margaret Reed (Tauranga South), Karen Forrest (Papakura), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) and Mary Bettleheim (Ohope).

After edging out Denise Samuel (Glenfield) 22-19 in the morning, Reed's quality lineup ensured their qualification by easily beating Janice Ropitini (West End) 25-8 in the afternoon. Samuel's day got worse when her side fell to Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) 28-7. That has left Samuel needing to win both games on today to qualify, and her first opponent, the 2010 winner Valda Rowan (Paritutu), is also in the same boat.

However, things are looking brighter in section one for Nichol, Reen Stratford (Aramoho), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) and Val McEldowney (New Plymouth) after all four sides posted two wins yesterday and need just one more victory today to advance.

There are no qualifiers to date in section two, with three winner Ellie Goble (Lepperton) being edged out 26-25 in round four by Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), in a result

that kept the later's hopes alive with a 50% record. Gloria Shaw (Paritutu), Faye Bird (Central Cambridge) and Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) are all one win shy of qualifying with two games remaining.

Shaw dropped her morning match 21-20 to Liz Johnstone (Waitara) but got on the right side of another one-pointer in the afternoon, sneaking home 19-18 over clubmate Berys Norgate.

Bird enjoyed two high-scoring, three-point wins, the most notable of which was 28-25 over Shona Chambers in the first match. Chambers had led 23-20 after 19 ends, but Bird took five of the remaining heads to prevail. That left Chambers with only one win from the first three rounds, but her side remained alive in beating Faye Hopkins (Tower) 25-14. Stampa put in an impressive day's work with two convincing wins.

Bettleheim (right) and her crew underlined their domination of section three with two large wins yesterday – 29-14 over Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) and 25-6 over Laureen Bright (West End).



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Saturday final an outside chance — Bennett

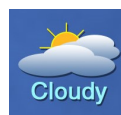
Bowls Taranaki chairman Brien Bennett QSM said that while the event is scheduled to finish on Sunday, there is an outside chance that it could conclude on Saturday. "The general rule of

thumb is that with a four-out-six qualifying criteria, one-third of the teams will make it through to post section play," Bennett said. With 54 teams in the

field, that gives an estimation of 18 qualifiers. But if only 16 made it through, then post section would be concluded in four rounds.

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday



Friday



Saturday



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Cowen, right, is still handily placed, on three wins, as is Martie Sisson (Ohope), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) and Patty Symes (Tower). Symes lost her unbeaten record to Heather Johns (Paritutu), who has two wins, 25-18 in the afternoon. But in the morning, Symes had looked a genuine title chance in beating Denise Taylor



Who has won how many after day two?

Standings after the second day's play:

Section 1: four wins, Margaret Reed (Tauranga South); **three wins**, Cindy Nichol (Inglewood), Reen Stratford (Aramoho), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), Val McEldowney (New Plymouth); **two wins**, Janice Ropitini (West End), Val Webster (Vogeltown), Valda Rowan (Paritutu), Denise Samuel (Glenfield).

Section 2: three wins, Gloria Shaw (Paritutu), Ellie Goble (Lepperton), Faye Bird (Central Cambridge), Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park); **two wins**, Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), Liz Johnstone (Waitara), Shona Chambers (Browns Bay), Denise Cottam (West End), Faye Hopkins (Hawera).

Section 3: four wins, Mary Bettleheim (Ohope); **three wins**, Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe), Ngairi Cowan (Palmerston North), Martie Sisson (Ohope), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Patty Symes (Tower); **two wins**, Shona Lawn (Hawera Park), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Denise Taylor (Wanganui).

Section 4: four wins, Karen Forrest (Papakura), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha); **three wins**, Margaret Oates (Browns Bay), Bev Corbett (Hinuera), Bev Robinson (Opunake); **two wins**, Margaret McCallum (Inglewood), Gale Fache (Vogeltown), Jean Sheary (Matua), Anne Searancke (Tawa).

(Wanganui) 23-15. Taylor's struggles continued into the second game, losing 25-19 to Sisson.

Forrest's side will have slept well after two one-point efforts – 20-19 over Jean Sheary (Matua) and 22-21 over Trish Howard (West End). Green's fourth-round win was noteworthy, inflicting the first defeat on Bev Corbett (Hinuera) 26-19, after a morning win over Ann Cargo (New Plymouth) 25-17.

Corbett, like Margaret Oates (Browns Bay) and Bev Robinson (Opunake), on three wins apiece, is still odds-on to make it through to tomorrow. Oates beat Anne Searancke (Tawa) 30-17 and Margaret McCallum (Inglewood) 23-15, while Robinson nosed out Trish Howard (West End) 23-20 before beating Gale Fache (Vogeltown) 31-9.

Match of the morning — Siegruhn v Sisson

Two three-winners square off this morning at West End, with the winner certain to qualify for the post section rounds — Sharon Siegruhn (Papakura) and Martie Sisson (Ohope).

The teams head into the game with confidence after both Siegruhn and Sisson posted two positive results on day two. On day one, both visitors had a win and a loss.

Yesterday, Siegruhn beat Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) 27-17 and Shona Lawn (Hawera Park) 28-20. Sisson was a 23-14 victor in the morning round against Pauline Davy (Lepperton) before upsetting Denise Taylor (Wanganui) 25-19.

Siegruhn's side includes Jan Larsen, Sheryl Nasey and Adrienne Tilyard. Both Tilyard and Larsen were in last year's winning team. Sisson, pictured right, skips a foursome comprising Jenny Morris, Jill Payne and Margaret O'Regan.



Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 26, 2018

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20 qualifiers in women's Open fours

And then there were 20.

After the completion of round six, there have been 20 teams that have been successful in attaining the necessary four wins to make it through to today's post section rounds at Paritutu in the Taranaki women's Open fours. A total of four teams made it through from section one, with three more teams yesterday joining Margaret Reed's Tauranga South side, which for good measure went on to be the only team to win all six qualifying matches.

Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) took the desired route by winning in the morning, beating Heather Thomas (New Plymouth) 28-17, as did Reen Stratford (Aramoho). The 2010 Dominion pairs winner beat Wendy Moratti (Lepperton) 26-20.

Denise Samuel (Glenfield) was the only new qualifier to come out of the afternoon, her side beating Moratti 25-9. Earlier Samuel had eliminated Valda Rowan (Paritutu) 25-12.

But not so lucky were the hopes of three local sides, Val Webster (Vogeltown), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) and Val McEldowney (New Plymouth).

All lost to dip out. Andrews went down 28-17 to Val Webster (Vogeltown) and 20-13 to Stratford. McEldowney was soundly beaten 26-12 by Norma Rothwell (Fitzroy) and then lost 28-18 to Nichol.

The morning win kept alive Webster's hopes, but it was only a short reprieve, losing 26-11 to Reed.

The big clash of the afternoon in section two was between Shona Chambers (Browns Bay) and Gloria Shaw (Paritutu) who both needed the win.

Shaw led 12-3 early, but Chambers had levelled with two ends to go. Then the visitors pulled a four on the penultimate head and went on to get the win 24-21 to join three other qualifiers from the group.

Liz Johnstone's Waitara side, after two losses • **To page two**

on Tuesday, made it through by beating Ellie Goble (Lepperton) 29-26 and Faye Hopkins (Tower) 27-14.

Earlier, Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) and Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) qualified with a game to spare. Bird beat Judy Hyland (Tauranga) 29-19 while Stampa worked overtime to end the hopes of Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy) 21-19.

In the morning, Shaw had gone down 29-17 to Maree Gadsby (New Plymouth), while Chambers had won 31-16 over Denise Cottam, a result that spelt curtains for the West Enders.

It was a disappointing end for Goble's side. They won their first three games, but then the u-turns happened and they lost the last three, round six being a 29-13 demise to Hyland.

Section three produced a mammoth seven qualifiers.

In the clash of the two teams needing the win in the last round, it was Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) who got over the top of Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe) 27-12, having raced away to a 16-0 lead after eight ends. Heather Johns also made it through, as did Denise Taylor (Wanganui) when her side inflicted the first defeat on Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) 30-20 in round six.

Taylor had beaten Adams 27-20 in round five. Siegruhn lost both matches yesterday, having earlier fallen 22-20 to Martie Sisson (Ohope). Johns, the 2013 Dominion fours winner, was relatively untroubled in collecting the necessary two wins — 32-16 over Val Fleming (New Plymouth) and 25-13 against Shona Lawn (Hawera Park).

Like Sisson, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) and Patty Symes (Tower) won in the morning to earn the afternoon off. Cowen finally got over the top of Lawn 27-22 while Symes beat Pauline Davy (Lepperton) 25-22.

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Margaret Oates (Browns Bay) became the third North Harbour qualifier, posting an easy win in the last game to become one of five advancing from section four, when her side beat Gale Fache (Vogeltown) 26-2.

Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), who like Karen Forrest (Papakura) had already qualified, had earlier ensured that Oates needed to play her sixth round when the former won 28-19.

Bev Corbett (Hinuera) and Bev Robinson (Opunake) both recorded comfortable wins in the morning to qualify.

Corbett beat Fache 26-13, while Robinson showed no mercy to Malita Bracken (West End) in winning 36-6.

Anne Searancke (Tawa) fell two points short in the last round against Trish Howard, losing 18-16, which denied the team from the capital from qualifying. The Tawa team had earlier notched up win number three against Brenda Rowe (Lepperton) 19-16.

In their only game of the day, Forrest ended the hopes of Margaret McCallum (Inglewood) 21-14.

Open fours post section draw

Draw for post section, at Paritutu A, today:

Round 1 (9am start): Reen Stratford (Aramoho) v Heather Johns (Paritutu), Bev Corbett (Hinuera) v Denise Taylor (Wanganui), Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) v Denise Samuel (Glenfield), Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) v Fay Bird (Central Cambridge).

Round 2 (2pm start): Shona Chambers (Browns Bay) v Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Bev Robinson (Opunake) v Margaret Reed (Tauranga South), Liz Johnstone (Waitara) v Karen Forrest (Papakura), Patty Symes (Tower) v Martie Sisson (Ohope).

Round 2 (9am): Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) v Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Margaret Oates (Browns Bay) v Cindy Nichol (Inglewood).

Top half of the draw appears the strongest

The luck of the draw is something most bowlers are very familiar with and as is often the case, the draw for post section play this morning appears to have a stronger compartment to it.

Missing the bye, and therefore needing to record two wins today to make tomorrow's quarterfinals, only one team from the four at the top of the chart will survive.

This morning's round sees Reen Stratford (Aramoho) meet Heather Johns (Paritutu) and the winner will then tangle with the victor of the Bev Corbett (Hinuera), pictured right, and Denise Taylor (Wanganui) fixture. Stratford, Johns and Corbett have all won titles at the Dominion. While Taylor, who is still a junior, has not her three teammates, Pam Burgess, Cynthia Adams and Dot Belliss have. Taylor and Belliss contested the pairs final at the Dominion last January.



The other group of four teams required to play two rounds today, again meaning only one quartet will make it through to the quarterfinals, also has a complicated look to it.

Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), whose side marched so decisively through section play, meet the highly respected Denise Samuel (Glenfield). Whoever prevails in that game will meet the winner of the Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park)-Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) match.

The other 12 qualifiers will play only one round today to produce the remaining six quarterfinalists. As scheduled, the final will take place on Sunday morning.

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Saturday, January 27, 2018

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Visitors dominate quarterfinal berths

A number of powerful visiting teams gave Taranaki sides a difficult time as the first two rounds of post section reduced the Taranaki women's Open fours tournament to eight sides in hot conditions at Paritutu yesterday.

Illustrating the domination of the visitors is the fact that six of the quarterfinalists are from outside Taranaki. Patty Symes (Tower) and Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) are the exceptions. Symes will play Karen Forrest (Papakura) this morning, with Nichol squaring off against Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North).

The top half of the draw, comprised entirely of visitors, is of Rolls Royce quality. Bev Corbett (Hinuera) meets Denise Samuel (Glenfield), while an all Bay of Plenty clash features Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) and Margaret Reed (Tauranga South).

There were plenty of stories to emerge from yesterday's play.

In the opening round clashes, at the top of the chart, Reen Stratford (Aramoho) beat Heather Johns (Paritutu) 26-17 while Corbett defeated Denise Taylor (Wanganui) 26-22. Stratford was completely dominant at the commencement of the Johns game, scooting away to a 20-0 lead after eight ends. While Johns brought it back to 20-9 after 13 ends, finding anything more than a single after that for Paritutu was exceedingly difficult.

Corbett led throughout her clash with Taylor. And further assisted by a mid-game five, three and single in succession, had the Hinuera side in control at 19-7. After 20 ends that had become 23-11 and while Taylor rallied, picking up two fours, the five-shot last end differential was too large.

Samuel beat Mary Bettleheim (Ohope) 26-17 and Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) ended the hopes of Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) 26-24 in the other round one games. Samuel, after leading 15-5, saw Bettleheim claw it back to 16-13 before the North Harbour team pulled

away again. Stampa collected three fours along the way to establishing a 25-15 lead with four ends remaining against Bird. But a six on the next end changed the dynamics of the match, although Stampa was able to hang on.

In the two last 16 games played in the morning, Cowen and Nichol came through. Cowen's side was too steady for Rhonda Adams' Fitzroy side, winning 28-24. From leading 16-14, Cowen put together four successive ends to move ahead 25-14. Adams continued to fight, closing to just three behind playing the last end, but it was the Manawatu gold star holder who got across the line.

Nichol held off Margaret Oates (Browns Bay) 27-22, despite a couple of nervous moments. Nichol appeared cruising when leading 19-6, but four ends later it was just 19-14. The Inglewood side moved away again, to 26-14 but a single, a six and another single reduced the deficit to just four shots playing the last.

There were two major reversals in the afternoon, with both Corbett and Reed coming from behind to win.

Corbett trailed Stratford 14-4 through six ends, but three ends later, had hit the lead 15-14. It was then Stratford's turn to take over, leading 23-18 after 14. However, Hinuera controlled the scoring after that, with Aramoho managing only two singles, leaving the Waikato side the victors 32-25.

Reed was in all sorts of bother against Bev Robinson (Opunake), falling 22-5 behind after 14 ends. However, a single, two successive fives and a three, had the margin down to three points. Opunake consolidated a little, extending the lead to six points with five ends remaining. But, with the mat well up the green, Reed's team claimed 14 points over the next four ends to win 33-25.

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Samuel skipped an inexperienced side into the last eight after ending the hopes of Stampa 25-9. Samuel's side has highly promising youngster Paris Baker, a third year player leading, Caroline Dubois, who has played for 18 months at No 2, and Barbara Seddon, who is just out of juniors at third. Samuel and Stampa were locked at 6-all after 10 ends. But three successive braces gave Samuel the edge, which her side extended further to 18-7.

Green ended the hopes of a third title for Shona Chambers (Browns Bay) in winning 25-15. The two sides were 7-all after six ends before Green put on the afterburners, progressing to 21-10 in front after 16.

Forrest, pictured right, was involved in the closest game of the day, edging out Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 23-22. Forrest had looked good, leading 16-7 after 13 ends, but the tena-

cious Waitara side squared the match at 17-all after 18. Suddenly, it was game on. But Papakura held their nerve, until the last end, into which they took a three-point lead.

When Forrest played her last bowl she was three down. She

reduced it to two and Johnstone was too heavy to adjust the count.

Symes ran away with her match against Martie Sisson (Ohope), winning 32-13, having earlier led 19-5.



Open fours post section results

Results from post section yesterday:

Round 1: Reen Stratford (Aramoho) 26 Heather Johns (Paritutu) 17, Bev Corbett (Hinuera) 26 Denise Taylor (Wanganui) 22, Denise Samuel (Glenfield) 26 Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) 17, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 26 Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) 24.

Round 2: Corbett 32 Stratford 25, Samuel 25 Stampa 9, Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) 25 Shona Chambers (Browns Bay) 15, Margaret Reed (Tauranga South) 33 Bev Robinson (Opunake) 25, Karen Forrest (Papakura) 23 Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 22, Patty Symes (Tower) 32 Martie Sisson (Ohope) 13, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) 28 Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) 24, Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) 27 Margaret Oates (Browns Bay) 22.

Quarterfinal draw for today at Paritutu:

Bev Corbett (Hinuera) v Denise Samuel (Glenfield), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) v Margaret Reed (Tauranga South), Karen Forrest (Papakura) v Patty Symes (Tower), Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) v Cindy Nichol (Inglewood).

Drop a six and lose? Wrong!

There are not many teams that would not accept a count of six shots on one end. Taking it a step further, dropping that many shots on one end can often mean curtains — but not necessarily so in the Taranaki women's open fours where the 25 end duration of matches often means more twists and turns than Mt Messenger. And so it proved yesterday. There were four teams that picked up six shots on an end — no sevens or eights were posted — but remarkably all four lost their games.

In the morning, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) and Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) both dropped sixes late in their victories over Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) and Margaret Oates (Browns Bay) after holding good leads. In the afternoon, counts of six gave both Reen Stratford (Aramoho) and Bev Robinson (Opunake) big early advantages. However, Bev Corbett (Hinuera), against Stratford, and Margaret Reed (Tauranga South), against Robinson, were both able to dominate the closing stages of their matches. That enabled both teams to overcome the deficits and live to fight another day.

Now, who wants to drop a six today?

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Sunday, January 28, 2018

www.taranakibowls.co.nz www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/

Seven propels Tauranga South into Open final

Collecting seven shots on the 14th end two threes of proved to be the difference as Margaret its own, as Reed's Tauranga South side advanced into McLeod on the 22nd end the final of the Taranaki women's Open fours and Reed, pictured right, on the 23rd end at Paritutu yesterday afternoon. both produced top-notch deliveries to effectively kill-off the contest.

Reed's side of Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis and Marilyn McLeod trailed Denise Samuel's Glenfield side 13-7 after 13 ends. But a count of seven on the next end proved decisive as they went on to win 26-20.

They will meet a side from the Tower club, Hawera, of Hazel Schwartzfeger, Frances Busby, Maureen Tamou and Patty Symes (skip) in this morning's final at Paritutu, which commences at 9am.

Symes' side were too steady in their semifinal in eliminating Inglewood's Cindy Nichol 34-19, after leading throughout.

Being behind at the mid-point was of no real concern for the Tauranga South side, especially after they overcame a 19-shot deficit on Friday afternoon. Glenfield, aided by five twos from the first nine ends, led 10-5, and while Reed's team pulled one back on the next, it was the North Harbour team who enjoyed the cream and jam scones at the break the most.

And on the return, they continued more of the same, extending to 13-7, before the fateful seven came. It was a drawn seven, albeit a measure was required to allow the last two into the count.

Sensing the moment, Reed's side backed it up with a single and an immaculately drawn four. In the short space of three ends, Reed had turned a negative of six into a positive of six.

After 20 ends, it was still Tauranga South leading 20-15 and they held two shots on the next end. But with Reed unable to adequately cover, a superb trail by Samuel gave the Glenfield side hope by picking up three.

However, Tauranga South responded with

its own, as McLeod on the 22nd end and Reed, pictured right, on the 23rd end both produced top-notch deliveries to effectively kill-off the contest.

Symes was also greatly assisted by a count of seven in her semifinal victory. That came on end 13, shortly before the afternoon tea adjournment, and it elevated Symes into a 22-10 lead.

Tower won the first two ends to lead 5-0, and while Inglewood promptly replied with a double brace, the tone was somewhat set. Symes had her side out to 11-4 in front, through seven ends, and this was extended to 13-6 (nine ends) and 15-7 (11 ends), before the seven came.

Coming back from the break 11 shots in arrears, Nichol's side needed to score quickly. But it was the Tower front stuff that called the tune. They won three ends in succession to open up a 28-11 advantage.

They then went missing for a couple of ends, Inglewood taking its opportunity to pounce with a five and a three to narrow the score to 28-19. There was still six ends remaining, meaning the game had a new aspect of life to it. However, that was as far as it went, the Tower team combining brilliantly on the closing ends to secure the match, with two ends left unplayed.

The equal third sides comprised of Paris Baker, Caroline Dubois, Barbara Seddon and Samuel, and Lorraine Crofskey, Margaret Luckin, Loris Ropitini and Nichol.



Samuel wins thrilling quarterfinal over Corbett

Denise Samuel's Glenfield team posted the most thrilling quarterfinal victory at Paritutu in the first round yesterday.

Samuel's side edged out Carol Cox, Kath Kendall, Deb White and Bev Corbett (Hinuera) 18-16 in a low-scoring, even contest. Corbett led 9-3 early, but a tense match ensued, with Samuel in front by one playing the last end.

Down on the head, White put the jack into the ditch. She drew another shot with her second, before Samuel, with her final bowl reduced the count to one, effectively meaning the game was all tied-up.

But Corbett's last bowl pushed up Samuel's for shot, leaving Glenfield the winners.

Margaret Reed's Tauranga South side won an all-Bay of Plenty clash 25-17 over Doreen Ryan, Huia Ratana, Lynette McIntosh and Wendy Green (Ngongotaha).

Reed raced in front 16-5, but when Green scored a four on the 16th end, it was game on at 16-14. However, the Tauranga South team finished the better.

Patty Symes (Tower) showed her class in beating Nancy Wilson, Jan Jones, Miriam Pedley and Karen Forrest (Papakura) 27-12, after the Counties side had seemed more likely in the opening stanza.

Symes, in fact, drew the shot on the end before morning tea, when five down, to bring the score to 11-all after 11 ends. And the



Patty Symes (Tower) had an impressive day on the green skipping her side into this morning's final.

Tower team kicked into a higher gear after that.

Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) ended the fine run of Sandy Pettersen, Di Gemmell, Rayner Stewart and Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) 25-18 in the other quarterfinal.

Inglewood had the better of the match, except for dropping consecutive fours on ends eight and nine, but they had regained the initiative by the 12th end.

The match was still open at 16-14 after 16 ends to Nichol, before the Inglewood side consolidated that by taking the next five ends, which blew the score out to 23-14.

Open fours post section results from day five

Results from post section yesterday:

Quarterfinals: Paris Baker, Caroline Dubois, Barbara Seddon and Denise Samuel

(Glenfield) 18 Carol Cox, Kath Kendall, Deb White and Bev Corbett (Hinuera) 16; Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis, Marilyn McLeod and Margaret Reed (Tauranga South) 25 Doreen Ryan, Huia Ratana, Lynette McIntosh and Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) 17; Hazel Schwartfeger, Frances Busby, Maureen Tamou and Patty Symes (Tower) 27 Nancy Wilson, Jan Jones, Miriam Pedley and Karen Forrest (Papakura) 12; Lorraine Crofskey,

Margaret Luckin, Loris Ropitini and Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) 25 Sandy Pettersen, Di Gemmell, Rayner Stewart and Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) 18.

Semifinals: Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis, Marilyn McLeod and Margaret Reed (Tauranga South) 26 Paris Baker, Caroline Dubois, Barbara Seddon and Denise Samuel (Glenfield) 20; Hazel Schwartfeger, Frances Busby, Maureen Tamou and Patty Symes (Tower) 34 Lorraine Crofskey, Margaret Luckin, Loris Ropitini and Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) 19.

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Monday, January 29, 2018

www.taranakibowls.co.nz www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/

Tauranga South too consistent in Open final

By scoring on 15 of the completed 22 ends, the Tauranga South side of Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis, Marilyn McLeod and skip Margaret Reed ran out convincing winners in the final of the 2018 Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday.

The side deservedly beat the Tower side of Hazel Schwartzfeger, Frances Busby, Maureen Tamou and skip Patty Symes 30-16 in the finale, which was played in superb conditions, on a green running sweetly.

In a nutshell, the Bay of Plenty side drew far more consistently in the final, putting more bowls on the head and largely controlling the match after the morning tea break. Symes' side had headed into the interlude holding a 12-8 lead after nine ends. That had largely come about because of Reed's side being wayward on ends two

and seven, when Tower pulled a four and a five.

The five gave Tower a 9-8 advantage, and that was backed that up with a two and a single. In fact, they may have wished for the scrumptious scones – some with cream and jam, others with cheese and tomato – could have been a few ends later.

As when the sides returned, it was Tower who were at sea and Tauranga South who were the dominant side.

Their rise started with a three, followed by a four, a two, two singles and then a five. Suddenly, Reed's quartet had moved to 24 and Symes was still stranded on 12.

The Hawera-based side managed to pull back a two and single, but the prior trend returned, with Reed taking the next four ends – with a single, a three, and two further singles. Playing for pride on the 22nd end, Symes took a single, but it was academic by then.

Speaking on behalf of the winning side,

McLeod, a steady, dependable player in the final, said the team had thoroughly enjoyed the tournament. "Patty has been around a long time. We knew it would not be easy."

McLeod was complimentary of the greens played on during the tournament and concluded by saying that the team will be back in 2019.



2018 champions: The victorious Tauranga South side, from left, Marilyn McLeod, Margaret Reed, Karen Clarke and Robyn Davis.

Symes won her last Taranaki title away back in 1984 – although she has won even greater distinction as a Life Member and the current Patron of Bowls Taranaki since. She didn't let her disappointment show afterwards, though. Symes acknowledged and congratulated Reed's side on the quality of their bowls and on their victory. "And I can't thank my team enough. They've given me great bowls all week. We will be back next year and will try for one better."

Curtain comes down on great 2018 bowls carnival

Tauranga South v Tower

TOWER		TAURANGA SOUTH	
LEAD	SKIP	LEAD	SKIP
	P Symes		M Reed
SECTION	ROUND	RINK	1
SCORE	TOTN	ENDS	TOTAL
1	1	2	3
1	2	3	4
1	3	4	4
3	6	5	4
2	8	6	4
1	8	7	9
1	8	8	2
1	8	9	1
3	11	10	12
4	15	11	12
3	17	12	12
1	18	13	12
1	19	14	12
SA	24	15	12
1	24	16	2
1	24	17	13
1	25	18	13
3	28	19	15
1	29	20	15
1	30	21	15
1	30	22	16
		23	
		24	
		25	
		EXTRA	
		TOTAL	

WINNER: M Reed
LOSER (SKIP): P Symes



Worthy finalists: The team from Tower that contested the 2018 Taranaki women's Open fours final — Hazel Schwartfeger, Frances Busby, Maureen Tamou and Patty Symes.

Final count: The official scorecard, left, tells the precise story from the final — Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis, Marilyn McLeod and Margaret Reed (Tauranga South) 30 Hazel Schwartfeger, Frances Busby, Maureen Tamou and Patty Symes (Tower) 16.

Carnival a great success — Bennett

As the curtain came down on the fortnight-long Taranaki bowls carnival yesterday, Bowls Taranaki chairman Brien Bennett QSM hailed it a great success. The carnival, which involved both the Taranaki men's Open fours and the Taranaki women's Open fours, had been a great advertisement for the sport in the province.

"Of course, these tournaments can only be held with the co-operation of so many people, and especially all of the clubs that have been utilised," Bennett said. "I tip my hat to all the umpires, supervisors, greenkeepers, kitchen and bar staff, plus the Taranaki board itself."

Bennett, pictured right, also acknowledged the financial support received from the TSB Community Trust.

"We always pride ourselves in Taranaki on running a good ship, and aided by the multitude of volunteers I refer to, plus the kind weather (only half a day's play was lost during the fortnight), this has been a great success."

Bennett said while it was disappointing the newspaper coverage received was significantly reduced, the "introduction of the daily *Open News* plus live streaming of matches on Facebook has resulted in wide praise."

"We look forward to 2019," Bennett concluded.

