

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

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## New winner to be found in 2019 Open

There will be a new winner of this year's Taranaki women's Open fours tournament, which starts in New Plymouth this morning.

Last year's champion side of Karen Clarke, Robyn Davis, Marilyn McLeod and skip Margaret Reed (Tauranga South) are not among the 48 entries that have been divided into four sections for the first three days of the event.

The clubs being used are Paritutu, which acts as headquarters, West End, Vogeltown and New Plymouth.

The six section play games, up to and including Thursday afternoon, require teams to win four of those matches in order to qualify for Friday's post section rounds.

Numbers are down six teams on last year, but all is not lost, said Bowls Taranaki president, Brien Bennett QSM, pictured right.

"We would be kidding ourselves if we said that we were happy with the decline. We are not," Bennett said.

However, one of the factors in the reduction, it is believed, is the Aotearoa Maori national tournament, Bennett said. That competition, being held in Hastings, occurs on Saturday and Sunday this week, clashing with the closing stages of the Open. "We have lost some entries because of the clash."

It is the first time that the two events have conflicted. The Aotearoa Maori event is held on the weekend closest to Waitangi Day. Previously, when that day fell on a Wednes-

day, the Aotearoa Maori event would be held on the weekend after. Instead this time it is being held on the weekend before. "The draft dates for 2020 indicate that there should not be a repeat of the clash."

**Section 1:** Three visitors to keep an eye on are Marilyn Constantine, formerly of Wanganui and now of Tauranga, Sharon Siegruhn, who's side contains two members of the 2017 winning team, and Robyn Wallace (Omarunui). Constantine, who has played for Bay of Plenty since moving north, opens with a tough match against Lepperton's Ellie Goble.

Goble is a three-time winner of the event and has been in good recent form, winning the Tauranga women's open fours earlier in the month. The other members of that side are also competing in the Open this week. No 3 Pauline Davy, who now plays for Opunake, will skip the only side from Coastal Taranaki in the competition, after the originally entered skip Bev Robinson withdrew. Davy is also in section one. Goble's two front players in Tauranga, Heather Hughes and Jean Haggerty, are playing in section four with Carol Pearce.

Two other prominent skips in section one are the 2013 Dominion singles winner Val McEl-downey (New Plymouth) and the 2013 Dominion fours winning skip Heather Johns (Paritutu).



**Tauranga champs: Heather Hughes, Jean Haggerty, Pauline Davy and Ellie Goble.**

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**Section 2:** Shapes as a group that will be tough to qualify from. Denise Samuel, a semi-finalist last year, is back in the mix, while Pam Burgess (Wanganui) skips an imposing-looking side.

Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) remains a useful competitor, while the Central Cambridge side this year will be skipped by Waikato gold star holder, Alison Senior.

Of the Taranaki teams, Gloria Shaw (Paritutu), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) and last season's runner-up, Patty Symes (Tower), should all be competitive.



**Ngaire Cowan**

**Section 3:** The nature of the draw for a section of 12 is that the teams numbered one to six in the group will play the bottom six. There is a risk that one side of the section could dominate the other, and this group has a look like this about it.

Karen de Jongh, formerly from Auckland and now of Hillcrest in Hamilton, will take the early favouritism tag for the week. Daughter

of the famed Jos, de Jongh has had a decorated career in the Queen city, including a couple of titles at the now-defunct Auckland Bowls run New Zealand Open.

Her side this week includes Carol Cox and Sue Broadbent, plus Debbie White. White came from 20-11 down to win the Dominion singles three weeks ago today.

The top half of the draw also includes Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), who was the women's player of the year in Taranaki last season, former Black Jack Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) and Gayle Melrose (Papakura), the 2012 Dominion fours winner. Melrose also has a member of the 2017 winning side, Cheryl Hunia.

**Section 4:** The group has a very even look to it. Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) continues to chase titles with enthusiasm. She is a past winner, as is Valda Rowan (Paritutu).

Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) and Karen Forrest (Papakura) both qualified last season and would be expected to do the same this time. Solid local sides headed by Janice Ropitini (West End), Berys Norgate (Paritutu) and Carol Pearce (Lepperton) all have enough talent within their teams to qualify.

But inevitably, across all four sections, many of the aforementioned will not secure the necessary four wins. So competitive is the event.

## Changes to programme

There have been a number of changes to the originally published programme.

The most significant of these is that the Vogeltown B green has taken the place of Fitzroy 2.

This change affects sections two (Tuesday), three (Wednesday) and four (Thursday).

Further, after the withdrawal of Kerin Roberts (Browns Bay) from section four, the group has been redrawn into a 10-team section.

Two-time winner Shona Chambers (Browns Bay) has also withdrawn. Her place in section one has been taken by Liz Johnstone (Waitara), who will skip a composite side.

## Match of the morning — Burgess v Adams

The feature match of the opening morning is at Vogeltown between Pam Burgess (Wanganui) and Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy).

Both present very useful sides.

Burgess has Debbie Wildermoth, Dot Belliss and former cycling champion, Denise Taylor, in her side. Both Burgess and Belliss were members of Cynthia Adams' victorious Dominion fours team in 2015.

Adams, who won the Taranaki open singles last October, is a gold star holder in the province, as is her No 3, Vickie Kelly. Lesley Te Awa and Faye Hill are the front end.



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

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## 14 teams open with two wins

Of the 48 teams that started, 14 managed to win both games on the opening day's play in the Taranaki women's Open fours in New Plymouth yesterday.

**Section one:** Five teams opened with the perfect record — Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Margie Davis (Paritutu), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Robyn Wallace (Omarunui) and Pauline Davy (Opunake).

Wallace, a former national club champion fours winning skip, defeated Val McEldowney (New Plymouth) in the opening round 26-22 and then posted a 33-23 victory over Jan Johnson (West End), who had won in the opening round over Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe).

The irony for Wallace's team, which includes a late replacement, Auckland's Alison Rennie, was that it dropped an eight in the morning and then gained one in the afternoon.

Wallace shot out to a 9-1 lead over McEldowney. But by the 16th end, and aided by an eight on the 10th, the New Plymouth side had the initiative at 20-15. However, three ends later it was even, and Wallace took the last two heads to take the honours.

It was the reverse in the afternoon, when, after dropping a six on the fifth end, Wallace

found herself 10-2 down to Johnson. However, the Hawke's Bay side won the next seven ends, and an eight soon after, exploded the game apart at 25-11. The West Enders rallied, closing to within seven, but Wallace still took the game with one end unplayed.

McEldowney ended the day with two losses, Johns winning their afternoon clash 23-10. In the morning, Johns beat Gay Baxter (Bulls) 33-27 after leading by five playing the last end.

Davy was comprehensive in both of her wins — 28-17 over Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) and 29-4 over Liz Johnstone (Waitara).

Davis worked hard for both of her wins — 22-17 over Sue Murray (Paekakariki) and 25-24 against Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy).

Constantine defeated Ellie Goble (Lepperton) 21-17 in the opening round — the two teams were separated by only two shots playing the last end — and then Baxter 28-13. Goble won the last seven ends of her afternoon match against Murray to draw the game at 24-all, and then took the extra end to win 28-24.

**Section two:** Only Patty Symes (Tower), the runner-up 12 months ago, and Denise Samuel (Glenfield), a beaten semifinalist 12 months ago, managed two wins from the group at Vogeltown.

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## Bennett opens second half of bowls carnival

Bowls Taranaki president, Brien Bennett QSM, officially opened the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday. Bennett said that every indicator suggested that the

women should enjoy, just as the men did last week in the first half of the bowls carnival, everything that the province has to offer. From the greens, to the competition, to the hos-

pitality, and the weather, too. Also pictured is Barbara Bishop, supervisor of section one, who had two wins a member of Margie Davis' Paritutu side.





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Symes went into the last end of the morning match 22-all with Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) and got the necessary point. The patron of Bowls Taranaki then defeated Trish Howard (West End) 26-13 in round two. Cowen responded with a win.

Samuel always held the lead in the morning against Linda Conley (Titahi Bay), who has four Wellington centre titles. A four and a five in the mid stages assisted the North Harbour side, who won 23-19. Samuel then beat Gloria Shaw (Paritutu) 30-19, while Conley upset Fitzroy's Rhonda Adams 31-16. Adams had scored a 28-19 win over Pam Burgess' Wanganui side, that is being skipped by Denise Taylor, in the match of the morning. Taylor led 19-15 after 20 ends, but Adams took three consecutive fours, plus a single, to win 28-19.

**Section three:** Karen De Jongh (Hillcrest), Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), Gayle Melrose (Papakura) and Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) all had two wins, most by large margins.

De Jongh hit 30 in both of her games, justifying her team's pre-tournament favouritism, while Melrose was also emphatic. Hewson withstood a late fightback from Judy Gernhoefer (Te Puke) in the morning, winning 24-19 after it had been 21-7, and edged Robyn Klenner (Vogeltown) 28-25 in round two.

In the afternoon, Andrews had a close clash with Jean Sheary (Matua), who had opened with a win, clinching the game 23-18.

## Who won how many on day one?

### Standings after the first day's play in the 2019 Taranaki women's Open fours:

**Section 1: two wins**, Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Margie Davis (Paritutu), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Robyn Wallace (Omarunui), Pauline Davy (Opunake); **one win**, Liz Johnstone (Waitara), Jan Johnson (West End), Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe), Ellie Goble (Lepperton).

**Section 2: two wins**, Patty Symes (Tower), Denise Samuel (Glenfield); **one win**, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North), Trish Howard

Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) was upset 23-15 by Wendy Moratti (Inglewood) but won in the afternoon.

**Section four:** Kristin Stampa (Paritutu), Karen Forrest (Papakura) and Janice Ropitini (West End) were the unbeaten sides. Stampa was dominant in both games, while Ropitini, who was in the winning team in 1999, had two narrow wins.

Forrest had a tough first game against Berys Norgate. The match went to an extra end, before the Counties side prevailed 21-18. Forrest had a more relaxing time in the afternoon, beating Mary Evans (Napier) 32-6.

Norgate won in the afternoon and meets Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), who also had one each way, in a crucial game this morning at New Plymouth.

## Admin and play at the same time?

One of the more interesting statistics from the opening day was that all of the supervisors won twice.

Playing and administering at the same time is often seen as a task nigh on impossible. But the burden didn't hinder Barbara Bishop, as a member of Margie Davis' team in section one, Patty Symes (section two), Cathy Andrews (section three) and Kristin Stampa (section four).

The hard working women are all now halfway to qualifying.

(West End), Pam Burgess (Wanganui), Linda Conley (Titahi Bay), Val Fleming (New Plymouth), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Prue Wright (Paritutu), Margaret McCallum (Inglewood).

**Section 3: two wins**, Karen De Jongh (Hillcrest), Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), Gayle Melrose (Papakura), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu); **one win**, Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Sue Edwards (New Plymouth), Jean Sheary (Matua), Wendy Moratti (Lepperton).

**Section 4: two wins**, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Karen Forrest (Papakura), Janice Ropitini (West End); **one win**, Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), Berys Norgate (Paritutu), Carol Pearce (Lepperton), Valda Rowan (Paritutu).

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 31, 2019

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## Six teams sleep easy in Open fours

It is a sure bet that six teams enjoyed a much more relaxing sleep last evening after securing the necessary four wins to qualify in the Taranaki women's Open fours in New Plymouth yesterday.

The six teams to take the direct route to Friday's post section rounds are Omarunui's Robyn Wallace, Tower's Patty Symes, Glenfield's Denise Samuel, Hillcrest's Karen de Jongh and two Papakura sides headed by Gayle Melrose and Karen Forrest.

**Section one:** Wallace, playing with Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness and Alison Rennie, defeated Te Awamutu's Judy Cato 23-12 yesterday morning at West End before beating Pauline Davy (Opunake) 23-15 in the afternoon.

That was the first defeat inflicted on Davy's side for the week and after 12 of the 25 ends, and the score at 11-10 to Wallace, the match was wide-open.

But Wallace took seven of the next eight ends to take an eight point lead as the teams entered the home straight.

Davy had posted a solid 28-19 win over Paritutu's Margie Davis in the morning. But Davis came good in the afternoon, beating two-winner Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) 26-18 to also finish in the handy position of three wins.

West End's Jan Johnson and Paritutu's Heather Johns are also on the same count. Johnson upset Johns in the morning, 32-21, before both sides won in the afternoon. Johnson beat Gay Baxter (Bulls) 28-13, while a six on the 21st end enabled Johns to break free from two-winner Ellie Goble (Lepperton) to win 29-20.

**Section two:** Symes and Samuel have continued on this week the way they performed last year — as dominant forces.

Symes, who is skipping Frances Parkes, Hazel Schwartzfeger and Maureen Tamou,

notched up victories at Paritutu over Pam Burgess (Wanganui), 25-21, and Gloria Shaw (Paritutu), 24-15. The loss was the second of the tournament so far for Burgess, but the side from the river city kept its hopes alive in the afternoon, defeating Prue Wright (Paritutu) 22-16. However, it was Shaw's third loss of the week.

Samuel's team this week comprises Puna Paretoa, Caroline

Dubois and Barbara Seddon.

Aside from the first round match on Tuesday

against Titahi Bay's Linda

Conley, Samuel's side has matched mercifully.

Yesterday morning they beat Val

Fleming (New Plymouth) 27-10

and accounted for Trish Howard

(West end) 29-17.

Conley has put in an excellent ac-

count since the opening loss and

sits in a strong position of three wins.

Fitzroy's Rhonda Adams has two wins and

meets two sides in the same position today.

**Section three:** de Jongh and Melrose, arguably the two most well-known skips in the

Open from the national scene, continued to sound loud warning signs on day two. Both of

their sides won twice and cemented their places in Friday's post section.



Titahi Bay's Linda Conley found ways to cool down and impressed with two wins on day two.

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De Jongh's team of Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent and Dominion singles titleholder Debbie White squashed West End's Denise Cottam 42-13 in the morning and while it wasn't as easy in the afternoon, the Waikato side still got home comfortably 25-16 over two-winner Sue Edwards (New Plymouth) at Vogeltown.

Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia and Margaret Davies have been setting it up for Melrose on the opening two days. Yesterday the side accounted for Robyn Klenner (Vogeltown) 32-15 but received a bit of a fright from Cottam before winning 28-23.

Wendy Moratti's Lepperton side, after a loss to de Jongh on Monday, added two further victories yesterday to sit on three wins.

However, a tough day still awaits Moratti's side today — they meet Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) and Melrose. Andrews also has three wins, as does Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy).

## Who has won how many after day two?

### Standings after the second day's play:

**Section 1: four wins**, Robyn Wallace (Omarunui); **three wins**, Margie Davis (Paritutu), Jan Johnson (West End), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Pauline Davy (Opunake); **two wins**, Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Liz Johnstone (Waitara), Val McEldowney (New Plymouth), Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe), Ellie Goble (Lepperton).

**Section 2: fours wins**, Patty Symes (Tower), Denise Samuel (Glenfield); **three wins**, Linda Conley (Titahi Bay); **two wins**, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North), Trish Howard (West End), Pam Burgess (Wanganui), Val Fleming (New Plymouth), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy).

**Section 3: four wins**, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest), Gayle Melrose (Papakura); **three wins**, Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), Wendy Moratti (Lepperton); **two wins**, Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Sue Edwards (New Plymouth), Jean Sheary (Matua).

**Section 4: four wins**, Karen Forrest (Papakura); **three wins**, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Janice Ropitini (West End), Carol Pearce (Lepperton); **two wins**, Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), Valda Rowan (Paritutu).

Both were beaten yesterday morning—Andrews 28-25 by Edwards and Hewson 25-23 by Moratti.

**Section four:** Forrest's team of Miriam Pedley, Nancy Wilson and Jan Jones won the clash of the only unbeaten teams in the afternoon at New Plymouth 26-18 over Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park).

Forrest had beaten Heather Thomas (New Plymouth) 28-12 in the morning while Stampa was too consistent for Valda Rowan (Paritutu) recording a 32-14 victory.

West End's Janice Ropitini and Lepperton's Carol Pearce also sit one win short of qualifying, after they met in the morning round.

Pearce took out that match 27-18 and then eliminated Mary Solomon (Tauranga). Ropitini scored a vital 25-23 win over Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), a result that left the Bay of Plenty side needing to win both of its games today to qualify.

## Match of the morning — Andrews v Moratti

Two teams with three wins each square off this morning at Paritutu, with the victor of the match guaranteeing themselves a place in tomorrow's post section rounds.

Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), aside from a loss yesterday morning, and Wendy Moratti (Lepperton), aside from a loss on Tuesday afternoon, have both sailed their teams along satisfactorily.

Andrews has a more experienced and successful side on paper with Kileigh Barber, Marlene Barrowman and Barbara Batley, all past Taranaki centre titleholders.

Moratti's side includes Tina Quilter, Linda Clark — both relative newcomers but enthusiastic learners — and Gaelene Riddle.

Moratti faces a tough afternoon game should the morning match go against her team, having drawn four-winner Gayle Melrose (Papakura).

Andrews has an easier task on paper, meeting Judy Gernhoefer (Te Puke), whose Bay of Plenty side is now out of contention.



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Friday, February 1, 2019*

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## Open fours field reduced to 18 teams

The post section rounds of the 67th Taranaki women's Open fours will be contested by just 18 sides after section play was completed in New Plymouth yesterday.

After six teams had taken the direct route on Wednesday, a further eight quartets met the qualification criteria after the conclusion of the fifth round. A further four sides notched up win number four yesterday afternoon.

There was delight for those teams, but frustrations for a further eight sides who were left stranded on three wins after losing in the last round.

**Section one:** One of the great success stories of the week has been the efforts of Waitara's Liz Johnstone in skipping her team into post section. With the original draw being one team short, hard working Bowls Taranaki Executive Officer, Neville Elliott, compiled a side of players who had expressed an interest in helping out sides who were short.

Johnstone, herself a past Taranaki champion-of-champions triples winning skip, was combined with the West End duo of Denise Clark and Christine Kendrick and the wily Fitzroy competitor, Marlene Hayes. Hayes is best remembered for winning the Taranaki champion-of-champions singles in 2015.

After two wins and two losses from the opening four rounds, the team needed both games yesterday. And they didn't disappoint, ending the hopes of Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) 21-20 and then powering away from Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) 29-6.

Pauline Davy (Opunake), after suffering her second loss in the morning 24-20 to Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe), also qualified in the afternoon, thanks to a 31-25 win over Gay Baxter (Bulls). Davy appeared to be cruising for victory when leading 29-14 with five ends remaining, but Baxter's side gathered 11 shots over the next four heads to create plenty of interest on the last end. But Davy survived.

Siegruhn's morning win was to no avail in the end, with the Pukekohe side losing 31-15 to Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy). Siegruhn trailed 16-13 after 15, but it was all Gadsby after that.

New Plymouth's Val McEldowney also missed out. Seeking her fourth win in a row, McEldowney lost 32-30 to Lepperton's Ellie Goble. McEldowney fell 13-0 behind, before grabbing an eight and by the mid-point, the deficit was down to one. But two fives soon after meant that the lead was never hauled in.

Goble's hopes of qualifying had been extinguished in the previous round with a 25-24 loss to Jan Johnson, a result that qualified the West End team. At the same time, Margie Davis (Paritutu) made it comfortably through with a 28-10 win over Cato.

**Section two:** Two very tidy visiting teams, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) and Pam Burgess (Wanganui), suffered defeats in the sixth round to bow out.

Cowen, after beating Alison Winter (Cambridge Central) 31-17 in the morning, found Denise Samuel (Glenfield) too hot to handle in the afternoon, losing 26-19.

Burgess beat Samuel in the morning 30-24 to keep her team's hopes alive. But they were in turn beaten 28-21 by Inglewood's Margaret McCallum, who finished with three wins. Burgess had looked good leading 20-11 after 15 ends. But McCallum took the next seven ends to turn the game around.

In the only sixth round game involving two teams who both needed the win to qualify, Ann Duggan (New Plymouth) upset Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) 22-21.

Duggan stormed out of the blocks in the game, leading 8-0 and by the 10th end that had become 16-3. But Adams' team climbed back into the game, levelling the scores with one end remaining. Experienced New Plymouth No 3, Val Fleming, drew the winning shot on the last end.



In the morning round, Titahi Bay's Linda Conley had sneaked past Paritutu's Prue Wright 28-27 to qualify.

**Section three:** Joining Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest) and Gayle Melrose (Papakura), were two further qualifiers — Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy) and Cathy Andrews (Paritutu).

Both made it through in the morning. Hewson ended the qualifying hopes of Sue Edwards (New Plymouth) 31-23, while Andrews beat Lepperton's Wendy Moratti in the feature match of the morning 23-10.

Three further teams had a chance of qualifying in round six — Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Jean Sheary (Matua) and Moratti — but all lost. Nicoll went down to Edwards 22-20, after trailing by a difficult-to-get five shots playing the last end.

Despite picking up a seven on the fourth end, Sheary found the going too tough against de Jongh, losing 30-21.

Moratti was still in touch with Melrose, being 16-12 behind after 13 ends. But the Papakura team dominated after that to win 29-16.

**Section four:** Supervisor Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) suffered a scare but overcame that to qualify.

After losing 27-12 to non-qualifier Berys Norgate (Paritutu) in the morning, it meant

Stampa needed to beat Janice Ropitini (West End) in the afternoon.

Ropitini had already qualified, having beaten Mary Solomon (Tauranga) 21-11 in the morning. Stampa altered the playing order of her side but it didn't work initially, the Hawera Park side falling behind 14-5 by afternoon tea time.

But they turned the tide after that, levelling and then pulling away to win 31-20. Ironically, the two teams are drawn to meet each other this afternoon after byes in the morning.

Lepperton's Carol Pearce was the other new qualifier from the section. Her fourth win came 16-13 over Mary Evans (Napier) in the morning. But Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) couldn't repeat last year's effort of qualifying. Her side suffered

loss number three in the morning to Karen Forrest (Papakura) 27-17.

That was the fifth win in succession for Forrest, pictured right.



## Open fours post section draw

**Draw for post section, at Paritutu A, today:**

**Round 1 (9am start):** Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), v Denise Samuel (Glenfield), Ann Duggan (New Plymouth) v Karen Forrest (Papakura).

**Round 2 (1.30pm start):** Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) v Janice Ropitini (West End), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) v Jan Johnson (West End), Gayle Melrose (Papakura) v Robyn Wallace (Omarunui).

**Round 2 (9am start):** Liz Johnstone (Waitara) v Margie Davis (Paritutu), Linda Conley (Titahi Bay) v Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest), Pauline Davy (Opunake) v Patty Symes (Tower), Heather Johns (Paritutu) v Carol Pearce (Lepperton).

## Match of the day — Melrose v Wallace

The match of the day is likely to be this afternoon at Paritutu, when, after sitting out first round byes, Gayle Melrose (Papakura) will meet Robyn Wallace (Omarunui). Melrose is part of the Black Jacks coaching panel. Both sides won four straight in section play, and even though Melrose had a slip-up yesterday morning, the two teams appear evenly matched.

Wallace has a very competent side with Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness and Alison Rennie, while Melrose's team is Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia and Margaret Davies.

The winner of the match will advance to the quarterfinals on Saturday morning at Paritutu.



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Saturday, February 2, 2019*

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## Wallace takes game with her final bowl

Experienced Omarunui skip Robyn Wallace delivered the telling shot on the final end of her round two game to ensure her side survived in post section of the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday.

Wallace and her side of Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness and Alison Rennie held a five-shot advantage over Gayle Melrose's Papakura quartet as they entered the 25th and final end of the last 16 clash.

After Melrose had killed the first attempt, excellent bowls from Papakura's front three of Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia and Margaret Davies left the side holding four shots on the skip change-over. Wallace missed with her first bowl and Melrose drew shot number five, effectively tying up the game.

Both skips, with a bowl to play, faced equal pressure. Wallace was the first to play. Making sure she reached the head, she got a touch off the fourth shot and sat neatly between the two closest bowls to take shot. Melrose, the 2012 Dominion fours winner, was unable to alter the head, swinging underneath the head to leave the Hawke's Bay side victorious 27-21.

After eight of the 25 ends, it appeared that the game would result in a Melrose victory, with her side racing out to a 14-6 lead, which included a seven on end seven.

But the consistency of the Wallace side drew them back into the match, bringing them to within one shot after 19 ends. On the following head, Wallace's side took a six which ultimately proved the difference.

This morning, Wallace's side will meet West End stalwart, Jan Johnson.

Johnson and her team of Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin — who, like Johnson, and Johnson's husband, Graham, are Life Members of the famous club — and Jackie Moeahu.

Johnson scored a surprisingly easy 27-11 win yesterday afternoon over the highly decorated Paritutu player, Cathy Andrews. After 17 ends, the game was all but over, with Johnson, who has won the singles and triples already this season at her club, ahead 24-7.

In the other afternoon games, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) continued the trend from the previous day, beating Janice Ropitini (West End) 27-12, while Denise Samuel (Glenfield) edged out Karen Forrest (Papakura) 21-19.

Having beaten Ropitini in the sixth round of section play the previous day, Stampa held a physiological edge. It showed on the first four ends, with Stampa, aided by a seven on the second end, opening up a 15-0 advantage. By the 13th end, Stampa was still in complete control, leading 21-8.

Samuel and Forrest had a real hum-dinger of a clash. After Samuel had led 7-6 after seven ends, Forrest took the lead 12-7 two ends later.

By the 16th end that had become 17-12 and it took Samuel until the 21st end to level the scores. Starting the penultimate end, the scores remained even, but Samuel took singles on the last two heads to win.

In the two round one matches in the morning, for sides unlucky to miss the bye, both Forrest and Samuel were comfortable winners.

Samuel posted counts of seven, on the sixth end, and eight, the 15th head, on her way to beating Fitzroy's Nellie Hewson 36-15.

Hewson, after the seven, managed to make a game of it, levelling at 14-all after 13 ends. However, the next four heads all went the way of Samuel, including the eight, and within the short space, the game had gone from being tense to one-sided, the score blowing out to 28-14.

Forrest accounted for Ann Duggan (New Plymouth) 30-14. Forrest led 7-0 after three and the margin was rarely challenged. A few ends later it was 14-7, then 22-11. A three on the 17th end gave Duggan some hope, but the remainder of the scoring was done by Papakura.

Four round two matches were also completed in the morning.

A four end scoring spree from head nine ensured Karen de Jongh's Hillcrest team posted an easy 30-11 win over Linda Conley (Titahi Bay).

Conley trailed just 7-6, after eight ends, but four ends later de Jongh had taken complete control at 20-6.

De Jongh will meet Waitara's Liz Johnstone in this morning's quarterfinals, after Johnstone's composite side of Denise Clarke, Christine Kendrick and Marlene Hayes edged out Paritutu's Margie Davis 25-22 in a tense encounter.

In the first half of the game, Johnstone took a six, but the very next end Davis claimed a five to level the scores at 12-all. After 22 ends, the scores were locked again at 21-all. Johnstone took a brace, Davis replied with a single, but Johnstone sealed the match with a further two on the last end.

The remaining two quarterfinal berths were secured by Pauline Davy (Opunake) and Heather Johns (Paritutu).

Davy and her side of Val Langton, Joy Collins and Eileen Rothwell held a number of handy leads over Patty Symes (Tower) — 11-5, after 10 ends, 17-11 after 16, and 21-14, after 22. But Symes, the most devoted women's servant of the sport in this province in this generation, claimed a two and a three to reduce the margin to just two shots with one end remaining.

On the last end on the skip change-over, Symes held three. She drew a fourth, before Davy, running at the head, hit a bowl onto the jack, reducing the count to one. Symes calmly drew back a second shot, but Davy, equal to the occasion, ran off the second shot to leave Opunake the victors 21-20.

This morning they will meet the Johns' side of Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn and Debbie Smith.

The Johns-skipped team had to work hard to dispel Lepperton's Carol Pearce 25-20 in the morning.

The teams had been locked at 16-all after 18 ends. But Johns then took a two, a four and a single. Pearce reduced the deficit to three shots playing the last end, but Johns claimed a two to win.

## Open fours post section results

**Results of post section play in the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday:**

**Round 1:** Denise Samuel (Glenfield) 36 Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy) 15, Karen Forrest (Papakura) 30 Ann Duggan (New Plymouth) 14. **Round 2:** Samuel 21 Forrest 19, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 27 Janice Ropitini (West End) 12, Jan Johnson (West End) 27 Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) 11, Robyn Wallace (Oamaru) 27 Gayle Melrose (Papakura) 21, Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 25 Margie Davis (Paritutu) 22, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest) 30 Linda Conley (Titahi Bay) 11, Pauline Davy (Opunake) 21 Patty Symes (Tower) 20, Heather Johns (Paritutu) 25 Carol Pearce (Lepperton) 20.

## Quarterfinal draw — four big games await

**Quarterfinal draw this morning at Paritutu:** Puna Paretoa, Caroline Dubois, Barbara Seddon, Denise Samuel (Glenfield) v Ella Smailes, Irene Waller, Pauline Kennedy, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin, Jackie Moeahu, Jan Johnson (West End) v Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness, Alison Rennie, Robyn Wallace (Oamaru), Denise Clarke, Christine Kendrick, Marlene Hayes, Liz Johnstone (Waitara) v Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent, Debbie White, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest), Val Langton, Joy Collins, Eileen Rothwell, Pauline Davy (Opunake) v Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn, Debbie Smith, Heather Johns (Paritutu).

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Sunday, February 3, 2019*

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## Stampa and de Jongh impress ahead of final

Fours is often referred to as a team game. And that adage rang true when the finalists were found in the 67th edition of the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday. But, as had been seen at the closing stages of the men's event last week, the impact a dominant skip can have on a match can be far-reaching.

Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) and Karen de Jongh, a member of the Hillcrest club but skipping a composite Waikato side this week, both produced some mighty bowls to ensure their teams had a more comfortable path into today's final.

Stampa's side defeated West End's Jan Johnson 30-17 in the semifinals, while de Jongh's team advanced 27-17 over Paritutu's Heather Johns.

Stampa and her side of Ella Smailes, Irene Waller and Pauline Kennedy held a handy 21-15 lead after 17 of the 25 ends in the semi. However, on the next end, after Johnson had played a good shot, West End held three. Stampa, with her last bowl, trailed the jack for three. Johnson, in a valiant attempt, sat on one of the counters, but fell out. It left Hawera Park with three; had the bowl fallen in, Johnson would have had the shot.

On the next end, when down on the change-over, Stampa drew two immaculate shots on to the jack.

And suddenly the score had become 26-15. The rest became somewhat academic, which was a disappointment given what Johnson and her side of Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin and Jackie Moeahu had brought to the tournament.

Early exchanges in the semi had been even, but Stampa's side took a four and a six on the two ends before afternoon tea, blowing the score out to 18-6.

But Johnson's side came back out and scored a four and a two. They remained in contention until Stampa's superb deliveries.

De Jongh's side of Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent and Debbie White had some anxious moments late in the game against Johns.

But de Jongh also produced a couple of dazzling shots. On one end, she was five down but drew the shot. Then after that, with the margin just four shots with four ends remaining, de Jongh produced a toucher, which converted a one shot negative into a three shot positive again.

It gave the Waikato side the nudge it needed, making the score 24-17. The team continued that on, winning the next two ends to book their place in the final.

The other key difference between the two sides occurred on just the fourth end. After Paritutu had opened the better, leading 4-0, de Jongh's side raised a drawn seven. White attempted to measure in the eighth, but the final count was seven.

De Jongh's side also had a purple patch from end seven, taking five heads in a row to move from 7-all to 17-7 in front.

Johns' side of Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn and Debbie Smith rallied after that. Twice they got to within four, but de Jongh was to deny the Paritutu side with two quality shots.



**Karen de Jongh delivers while Heather Johns waits.**

• **Quarterfinals on page two.**

## Johnson causes the upset in the quarterfinals

Three relatively one-sided games and one upset summarised the quarterfinals yesterday morning.

Jan Johnson and her West End team were the causes of the upset, defeating Omarunui's Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness, Alison Rennie and Robyn Wallace 26-20. Wallace's side had given indications

throughout the week that they were a genuine title chance.

But in a game that was highlighted with a number of closely-packed heads, Johnson produced a some superb shots to ensure victory. Her side

had started the best, leading 11-6 after 10 ends.

However, Wal-

lace's side clawed back into the game. And aided by a four and a three on ends 15 and 16, they took the lead 16-13. Two ends later, John-



Jan Johnson in action in the semifinals with Kristin Stampa.

son took back a four of her own. Just one point separated the teams as they headed for the final five ends. And it was Johnson who rose to the occasion, securing a three that set the trend for the remainder of the game.

Stampa led throughout her 28-11 win over Glenfield's Puna Paretoa, Caroline Dubois, Barbara Seddon and Denise Samuel. From 8-0, Stampa moved to 14-5. A four on the next end gave some hope to Samuel, but it was not to be. Stampa advanced to 19-9, then 23-10, with Samuel unable to secure any counts.

Johns was emphatic as her side trounced the Opunake team of Val Langton, Joy Collins, Eileen Rothwell and Pauline Davy 30-7. While 25 end games are well-known for changing partway through, the contest was nearly all over after nine ends, Johns in front 19-3.

De Jongh ended the fairytale run of the composite side of Denise Clarke, Christine Kendrick, Marlene Hayes and Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 29-7. The team was put together the week before the event to prevent a bye.

While Johnstone started the match with a three, the Waikato side completely dominated the scoring after that. They led 18-4 after 12 ends. Four ends later it was 24-5, with the white flag being shown after just 19 heads.

## Open fours post section results

**Results of post section play in the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday:**

**Quarterfinals:** Ella Smailes, Irene Waller, Pauline Kennedy, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 28 Puna Paretoa, Caroline Dubois, Barbara Seddon, Denise Samuel (Glenfield) 11, Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin, Jackie Moeahu, Jan Johnson (West End) 26 Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness, Alison Rennie, Robyn Wallace (Oamrunui) 20, Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent, Debbie White, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest) 29 Denise Clarke, Christine Kendrick, Marlene Hayes, Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 7, Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn, Debbie Smith, Heather Johns (Paritutu) 30 Val Langton, Joy Collins, Eileen Rothwell, Pauline Davy

(Opunake) 7.

**Semifinals:** Ella Smailes, Irene Waller, Pauline Kennedy, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 30 Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin, Jackie Moeahu, Jan Johnson (West End) 17, Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent, Debbie White, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest) 27 Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn, Debbie Smith, Heather Johns (Paritutu) 17.

**Draw for final this morning at Paritutu commencing at 9am:**

Ella Smailes, Irene Waller, Pauline Kennedy, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) v Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent, Debbie White, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest).



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Monday, February 4, 2019*

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## De Jongh the star as title heads to the Waikato

Giving a brilliant individual performance, Waikato's Karen de Jongh skipped her side to victory in the Taranaki women's Open fours tournament at Paritutu yesterday.

De Jongh's team of Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent and Debbie White took the honours of the six-day event when they beat Hawera Park's Kristin Stampa 30-20 in the decider. Stampa's team included Ella Smailes, Irene Waller and Pauline Kennedy.

De Jongh made a big name for herself in Auckland bowls before moving south last year and linking up with the Hillcrest club in Hamilton. It was the first time she has competed in the event, which was in its 67th edition, and what an enactment it was. She drew superbly and when necessary attacked with accuracy.

In the final Stampa played a number of very good bowls to counter de Jongh. It was just that de Jongh played more of them.

Stampa's side opened 3-0 in the final, but the signs came soon after that de Jongh meant business, as she had throughout the week.

On the fifth end, she sat through the Hawera Park shot bowl for three. It gave the Waikato team the lead for the first time, an advantage they never relinquished.

Counts of four and five soon after extended their score, which by the midpoint had become 21-7.

But sensing that the game was slipping away, Hawera Park showed plenty of fight. They scored 11 points on the next five ends, but crucially they missed out on a further three when de Jongh, with her last delivery, glanced off one of White's bowls, dislodging

the jack back to give the Waikato quartet two.

However, with the score at 23-18, Hawera Park conceded a somewhat loose four. The momentum went back to de Jongh's side and she firmly sealed the deal converting the next three ends in an impressive display.

White, in breaking with tradition where the skip makes the victory speech, told the crowd that it was unfair to single out only one player, but in this instance, de Jongh deserved

special praise. No one could argue with her observation.

De Jongh's side is the first Waikato team since 1986 to win the Open, when the legend Rhoda Ryan skipped a side that included an even greater legend in Elsie Wilkie. On the form de Jongh brought to the final, she is of similar ilk.



**Waikato winners: Karen de Jongh, Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent and Debbie White enjoy the moment of winning the 2019 Taranaki women's Open fours.**





Hawera PARK V. Composit				
		LEAD		
		SECOND		
		THIRD		
K STAMPA		SKIP	K Dejongh	
SECTION <input type="checkbox"/>	ROUND <input type="checkbox"/>	RINK <input type="checkbox"/>		
SCORE	TOTAL	ENDS	SCORE	TOTAL
1	1	1		
2	3	2		
		3	2	2
		4	1	3
		5	3	6
		6	2	8
1	4	7		
		8	1	9
2	6	9	5	14
		10		
1	7	11	4	18
		12		
2	9	13	3	21
2	11	14		
		15		
3	14	16	2	23
4	18	17		
		18		
		19	4	27
		20	1	28
		21	1	29
1	19	22		
1	20	23		
		24	1	30
		25		
		EXTRA		
		TOTAL		
The winner of the game is: ☺ 1.45				
WINNER K de Jongh (Use Block Letters)				
LOSER (Signed) K Stampa				

Prize winners: Ella Smailes, Irene Waller, Pauline Kennedy and Kristin Stamp (top left); Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin, Jan Johnson and Jackie Moeahu (middle left); Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn, Heather Johns and Debbie Smith (bottom left).

Looking like they could do another fortnight, Bowls Taranaki president Brien Bennett QSM and vice president Ian Andrews complete the presentations.

