

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

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Increase in entries pleases President Andrews

There is plenty of anticipation around the bowls greens of New Plymouth this morning as 56 sides face the starter's gun in the 68th Taranaki women's Open fours competition.

Those 56 teams have been divided into four sections of 14 teams each for the next three days, where sides will play six 25-end games. They will all be searching for fun and pleasure, of course, but they will also be hunting for four victories from those six games – that being the qualifying criteria.

Bowls Taranaki President, Ian Andrews, said he was pleased with the response the tournament has received from bowlers.

"We were concerned last year when we managed only 48 teams. There was a clash with the Aotearoa Maori bowls in 2019, so we were confident that we would get an increase in numbers."

Taranaki is hosting the Aotearoa Maori event this year – it starts on February 8 – and Andrews said there was some further concerns that some players may have preferred one over the other. However, this on the whole has not happened. "We take it as a positive endorsement on our conditions of play and everything else that Taranaki has to offer."

Andrews said the men's Open fours, which attracted 160 sides and concluded on Sunday, had caused some wear on the greens, but much less than last year. "I must tip my hat to all the workers in the clubs, many of whom are backing up again this week. With-

out them this event would not happen."

Last year's winner's Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent, Debbie White and outstanding skip Karen de Jongh, pictured below, have not returned to defend their title.

They beat Kristin Stampa's Hawera Park team of Ella Smailes, Irene Wallker and Pauline Kennedy 30-20 in last year's finale. Stampa and Kennedy have reunited again for this year. However, Girl Reweti and Marlborough titleholder Dorothy Turner will play up front this time.

Stampa is in fact the most recent victorious skip to return this year. She won the event in 2013.

Cheryl Hunia, who won the event in 2017 with Natarsha Grimshaw, and Val Langton and Eileen Rothwell, who were members of Bev Robinson's 2016 champion quartet, are all in the field as well.



Section C appears the toughest to qualify from

Luck in bowls can never be denied. And when it comes to the draw, luck will often play a huge part in determining how far teams progress. The 2020 Taranaki women's Open fours is no different, with a number of sides scheduled to meet a number of other very useful units during section play.

Section A: 2015 Dominion fours winner Pam Burgess (Wanganui) has a particularly useful looking side, including Dot Belliss who shared in that famous victory.

Ronnie Crone (Otaki) won the champion-of-champions pairs earlier in the month, her third Kapiti title, and will be a threat, as will past Bay of Plenty champion, Dawn Clark (Tauranga South). Heather Johns (Paritutu), one of Taranaki's best performed skips, has withdrawn. Her side will now be skipped by Barbara Harvey, with the new face from the programme being Carolyn Harris. Taranaki representative Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy) meets the Paritutu side in the opening game this morning at West End.

Section B: Playing today at Paritutu, where Cathy Andrews of the host club squares off with vastly experienced Manawatu player, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North). Visitors in the section include Bay of Plenty board member June Smith (Tauranga South), Teo Thorenson (Levin), who has three Kapiti titles, and last season's Wanganui open singles champion, Pauline Pirere.

Besides Andrews, local hopes could also sit with Margaret McCallum (Inglewood) and Liz Johnstone (Waitara).

Section C: Looms as the hardest group from

which to qualify. Three Bay of Plenty sides with aspirations are in the group – Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Martie Sissons (Ohope) and last season's NZ champion-of-champions pairs winners Wendy Green and Lynette McIntosh (Ngongotaha), who return with a good side. Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East) has been a dominant force in her home province for a number of years, while Karen Forrest (Manurewa), who has accumulated three NZ intercentre titles over the years, reappears.

Val McEldowney (New Plymouth) needs no introduction, although she carries the extra responsibilities of supervisor in this event. Ellie Goble (Lepperton), Gloria Shaw (Paritutu) and Susan Cottam (West End) are also in the section where any qualifiers are sure to be a threat in post section.

Plays at Vogeltown today.

Section D: Raewyn Falconer (Frankton Junction), Sue Murray (Parkakariki), who previously won two titles in Wellington, and Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) are among the more prominent visitors.

However, Gayle Melrose (Papakura) is not in attendance this week. But her side remains with Melrose's place being taken by Hetty Bolscher. Bolscher is an Auckland gold star holder and won the Dominion fours in 2004.

Hawera Park's Kristin Stampa is in the section, along with Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) and Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood). Adams has just returned from the World Indoor Championships in the United Kingdom, where she gave an excellent account of herself. Plays at Fitzroy today.



Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

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Green issues early warning on opening day

While it is still early days, Ngongotaha's Wendy Green sounded a loud warning on the first day's play in the 68th Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday.

Green and her powerful side posted two big wins to be half way to qualifying. They are joined by 13 other unbeaten teams. But on a joint appraisal of results and her team on paper, Green has emerged as a leading contender for the title.

Playing in **section C** at Vogeltown yesterday, Green (nee Clarke), who grew up in Stratford and is a much-decorated player now, received a stern examination in the first half of her opening match against Taranaki rep, Susan Cottam (West End).

After 13 of the 25 ends, the scores were locked at 10-all. But as the drizzle — which of course was all-but non-existent last week for the men's Open — started to subside, Green took control, and aided by a seven, whistled home 30-12.

In the afternoon, Green was too strong for Chris Commane (Opunake), winning 29-8.

Green has an especially strong team this week. In addition to regular team mate, Lynette McIntosh at No 3, Green has former double Wellington titleholder Huia Ratana leading and Mina Paul at second.

Paul is the most successful women's bowler in the history of Bay of Plenty. She has four bars to her gold star, won the Dominion fours twice with the Khan family, and has secured other New Zealand honours in the intercentre (twice) and national club triples.

Val McEldowney (New Plymouth) also collected a seven in the morning as her side posted a 31-15 win over Martie Sissons (Ohope). However, McEldowney was nosed out 27-23 by Cottam in the afternoon.

Karen Forrest (Manurewa) was a comfortable 25-16 victor over Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East), and then even more con-

vincing in the afternoon, with a 39-7 effort over first-round winner Gay Baxter (Bulls).

Ellie Goble (Lepperton) prevailed 29-15 over Gloria Shaw (Paritutu), having led 21-4, and then made it two for the day by ousting Loveridge 26-21.

Joan Richards (Fitzroy) also had two wins. Richards upstaged Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) 23-14 in the first round. An even opening saw Constantine lead 8-7 after 11 ends. However, Richards won the next five ends to open up an eight-shot advantage. Richards then beat Faye Hopkins (Tower) 27-13.

The section moves to Paritutu today and then finishes at West End.

Leading the way in **section B**, which played at Paritutu, are Teo Thoresen (Levin), Margaret McCallum (Inglewood) and Pauline Pirere (Laird Park).

Pirere was untroubled in the first round, winning 32-15 over Pam Mulford (Plimmerton) and then defeated Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) 26-16, having raced to a 21-8 lead. Andrews had survived a tough assignment against Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) in the morning, winning 24-19.

Cowen recovered to beat Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 24-15 in the afternoon.

Thoresen scored the biggest win of the day, running away 44-6 over Rae Curtis (Manaia), and then beat Jean Sheary (Matua) 25-15.

But Curtis staged a remarkable turn around, beating Prue Wright (Paritutu) 31-13 after lunch.

McCallum's victories included an afternoon 28-21 triumph over June Smith (Tauranga), who had also won in the morning, having earlier beaten Wright 38-15.

Today the section plays at West End, before heading to Fitzroy on Thursday.

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Fitzroy's Maree Gadsby secured the comeback of the opening round. Her side came from 21-8 behind after 16 ends to pip Paritutu's Barbara Harvey 23-22 in **section A** at West End. Gadsby's comeback was bolstered by two fours. Gadsby completed a successful day with a 29-17 win over Wendy Moratti (Lepperton).

In the same section, former Dominion fours winner, Pam Burgess (Wanganui) was a convincing 39-10 victor over Margie Davis (Paritutu), but came unstuck in the afternoon, losing 19-18 to the unbeaten West End team skipped by Janice Ropitini.

Ropitini led 17-12 after 19 ends and held on after leading by two shots playing the 25th head.

Two other Taranaki sides also won both games in the group. Joy Collins got the second one over Anne Duggan (New Plymouth) 27-23, while a useful Tower side skipped by Jane Augustine also won twice. In the morning, Augustine trailed Te Awamutu's Judy Cato (nee Broomfield), who grew up in the city, 9-0. But the tide turned and Augustine triumphed 30-18.

Dawn Clark (Tauranga South) needed an extra end to deny Ronnie Crone (Otaki) 19-18. Clark led 15-11 after 17 ends, before Crone won the next five ends to lead 18-15 with three ends to go. However, Clark took a sin-

gle on each of the remaining heads, including the extra end. Both teams lost in the afternoon. Section A plays at Fitzroy today, before moving to Vogeltown tomorrow.

In **section D** at Fitzroy, Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay), whose side includes New Plymouth's Lyn Weir and Una Maha, won both games. They opened with a close 23-19 victory over last season's runner-up Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park). And then they beat Gale Fache (Vogeltown) 22-16.

Ohope's Mary Bettelheim held off Parkakariki's Sue Murray 25-22, having led by four shots playing the last end in the morning. Murray is in fact playing No 3 in the side, with Auckland's Denise Samuel skipping.

And Samuel's experience came to the fore in the afternoon when the side overturned a 11-2 deficit to beat Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) 31-21.

In one of the feature games of the afternoon, between morning winners, Carol Pearce (Lepperton) upstaged her former clubmate, Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) 28-24. The match was even until Pearce pulled a seven. However, Adams, after three successive threes, took the lead by one shot after 22 ends. But Pearce finished the better to win.

Marg Davies (Papakura) also won twice.

Section D plays at Vogeltown today and Paritutu tomorrow.

Who won how many on day one?

Standings after the first day's play in the 2020 Taranaki women's Open fours:

Section A: two wins, Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy), Jane Augustine (Tower), Janice Ropitini (West End), Joy Collins (Opunake); **one win**, Pam Burgess (Wanganui), Margie Davis (Paritutu), Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui), Judy Cato (Te Awamutu), Denise Clark (Tauranga South), Barbara Harvey (Paritutu).

Section B: two wins, Teo Thoresen (Levin), Margaret McCallum (Inglewood), Pauline Pirere (Laird Park); **one win**, Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), Alison Winter (Central Cambridge), June Smith (Tauranga), Pam Mulford (Plimmerton), Heather Thomas (New Plymouth), Rae Curtis (Manaia), Denise Cottam

(West End), Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North).

Section C: two wins, Ellie Goble (Lepperton), Karen Forrest (Manurewa), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Joan Richards (Fitzroy); **one win**, Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Martie Sisson (Ohope), Susan Cottam (West End), Gay Baxter (Bulls), Val McEldowney (New Plymouth), Faye Hopkins (Tower).

Section D: two wins, Carol Pearce (Lepperton), Marg Davies (Papakura), Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay); **one win**, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Margaret Farmer (Paritutu), Denise Samuel (Paekakariki), Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Mary Solomon (Tauranga), Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), Gale Fache (Vogeltown).



Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 30, 2020

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Goble turns back the years to qualify early

Lepperton's Ellie Goble ranks as one of Taranaki's finest ever women's bowlers. Her 17 centre titles is testament to that.

Yesterday she skipped her side into post section the easiest way possible in the 68th Taranaki women's Open fours — by winning four games in succession.

While Goble has an impressive tally — along with her No 3, June Ward, who has 21 crowns — the last of these was won in 2008. However, the duo, along with promising lead Ann Potako and second Brenda Rowe, gave a reminder that they are not a spent force yet by winning two further games to add to the two from Tuesday.

The quartet beat Gay Baxter (Bulls) 21-17, after the scores were even with two ends to go and Julie Reid (Paritutu) 29-21 to ensure qualification.

Three other teams have also made it through the direct way. Surprising, like Goble, two others are also from the tough **section C** — Karen Forrest (Manurewa) and Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) — along with Pauline Pirere (Laird Park) from section B.

Green had a slightly peculiar conclusion to her third round match. Playing Fitzroy's Joan Richards, who had also won twice on Tuesday, Green led 23-15 after 23 of the scheduled 25 ends.

Richards took a four to halve the margin, but then shook hands, electing to not play the final end. The 1.30pm time limit had occurred, but Richards still had the right to complete the last head after the fourth round game had been played. Surprisingly, she turned down that opportunity.

Richards returned to the winner's circle after lunch, eliminating Baxter 35-10. But she faces two tough games today, against Goble and Forrest. Forrest got through 34-10 over Susan Cottam (West End) and 27-19 against Gloria Shaw (Paritutu).

Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) and Faye Hopkins (Tower) both won twice to come within one win of qualifying.

Pirere's side continued to impress in **section B**. The Whanganui side won a topsy-turvy morning game against Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 25-17 — it had been 16-15 after 17 — and then was the first team to beat Teo Thoresen (Levin) 24-17.

Thoresen had some consolation after the game, when her side went out and completed its morning game against Pam Mulford (Plimmerton). The teams had been locked at 25-all after 23 ends.

After the resumption, Thoresen claimed a three and with Mulford managing only a two, the Kapiti side secured win No 3, 28-27. Mulford was left on two wins.

Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) and Jean Sheary (Matua) were the other two sides to win both games on day two in the group. They have three and two wins respectively now.

There are no unbeaten teams in **section A**, but six sides are nicely poised on three wins. Included in that sub-group is Barbara Harvey (Paritutu), who crucially held off Janice Ropitini (West End) 29-27 in the afternoon. Earlier, Harvey collected an eight in beating Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) 36-21.

Today Harvey meets new visitor Kera Parata (Kaikohe), who upset Ropitini in the morning, and then another three winner, Pam Burgess (Wanganui).

Burgess beat two further sides who finished with three wins — Jane Augustine (Tower) 33-17 and Joy Collins (Opunake) 29-17.

The two other three winners are Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui), who ended the hopes of Margie Davis (Paritutu) in the afternoon, and Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy).

Gadsby was tripped up 28-15 by Collins in the morning, before beating Ronnie Crone (Otaki) 26-16.

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Section D is also without a four winner, however, six sides are ready to pounce this morning as they sit on three wins.

Mercury Bay's Lee McDonald, and her composite side, is one of these. She was surprised 16-15 by Colleen Day (New Plymouth) in the morning before giving the Paekakariki side skipped by Denise Samuel its third loss, 31-21.

Two strong Taranaki sides, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) and Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), both won twice as well to be among the three winners.

Adams was decisive in the morning, 37-10 over Margaret Farmer (Paritutu), before back-

ing it up 26-14 against Trish Howard (West End). Stampa beat Mary Solomon (Tauranga) 33-11 and Farmer 28-19.

The other three winners in the section are Carol Pearce (Lepperton), Marg Davies (Papakura) and Mary Bettelheim (Ohope).

Pearce, after sneaking past Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) 25-23, was edged out by Gale Face (Vogeltown) by the same score in the afternoon. Nicoll, a semifinalist two years ago, is out after only one win, while Fache needs two wins today to make it through.

In a vital fourth round clash, Bettelheim comprehensively beat Davies 28-14 to enhance their chances of qualifying. Davies had beat Samuel 26-18 in the morning, while Bettelheim had defeated Fache 26-21.

Who has won how many after day two? Lander visits Open

Standings after the second day's play:

Section A: four wins, nil; **three wins**, Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy), Jane Augustine (Tower), Pam Burgess (Wanganui), Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui), Joy Collins (Opunake), Barbara Harvey (Paritutu); **two wins**, Janice Ropitini (West End), Judy Cato (Te Awamutu), Wendy Moratti (Lepperton).

Section B: fours wins, Pauline Pirere (Laird Park); **three wins**, Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), Teo Thoresen (Levin); **two wins**, Alison Winter (Central Cambridge), June Smith (Tauranga), Pam Mulford (Plimmerton), Heather Thomas (New Plymouth), Jean Sheary (Matua), Margaret McCallum (Inglewood), Denise Cottam (West End), Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North).

Section C: four wins, Ellie Goble (Lepperton), Karen Forrest (Manurewa), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha); **three wins**, Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Faye Hopkins (Tower), Joan Richards (Fitzroy); **two wins**, Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East), Val McEldowney (New Plymouth).

Section D: four wins, nil; **three wins**, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Carol Pearce (Lepperton), Marg Davies (Papakura), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay); **two wins**, Rae-wyn Falconer (Frankton Junction), Mary Solomon (Tauranga), Gale Fache (Vogeltown).

Chris Lander, Bowls New Zealand General Manager Clubs and Community, made an abridged appearance at the Taranaki women's Open fours this week.

Lander, pictured with Paritutu President Allan Batley, struck troubles with the closure of the New Plymouth airport on Tuesday and Wednesday but was still able to take in some of the action.

"We have tried to put one of our staff, directors or selectors on each of the events that are on the calendar," Lander said.

"We are committed to a full calendar, and that includes both the men's and women's Taranaki Opens."

It is important, Lander said, that the events meet the required standard in terms of competition, greens and publicity. "They need to be well managed and well received. What we have seen so far in Taranaki over both events is very encouraging."



Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 31, 2020

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22 teams make it through in 68th Open

When post section play gets underway this morning in the Taranaki women's open fours bowls event there will be 22 sides that will be harbouring hopes that 2020 is their year.

The field has been reduced to that number after three days of qualifying play and there were plenty of excellent performances during those early rounds.

There were two teams that won all six games – Pauline Pirere (Laird Park) and Karen Forrest (Manurewa). Both were impressive, as were Ellie Goble (Lepperton) and Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), although the latter two had the luxury of not having to play the last round. Goble and Green won five straight.

Section A: Barbara Harvey (Paritutu) qualified in the last round after beating former Dominion fours winner Pam Burgess (Wanganui) 26-15. Burgess had already qualified. It was a much-needed victory for Harvey after her side had been beaten in the morning 25-23 by Kera Parata (Kaikohe), after going into the last end even.

Two sudden death games occurred in the section that played at Vogeltown. Joy Collins (Opunake) beat Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) 28-16 while a West End side entered under the name of Janice Ropitini prevailed 21-19 over Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy).

Ropitini, with a sore leg, was substituted by Trish Howard for the majority of the game, with Jackie Moeahu taking over the skipping duties.

Collins had lost 27-18 in the morning to Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui), a result that ensured qualification for the Bay of Plenty team.

Gadsby had a frustrating day missing out. Prior to the two-point defeat in round six, the Fitzroy four had lost 27-22 to Jane Augustine (Tower), after the scores had been even with two ends to play. That was enough for Augustine to qualify.

Section B: Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) went

through 29-10 over Pam Mulford (Plimmerton) in an afternoon game that both teams needed to win to qualify. Andrews had earlier been denied her fourth win on an extra end when losing 22-21 to June Smith (Tauranga). Smith won her last game, too, to advance.

Jean Sheary's Matua team provided a story of survival. After two losses on Tuesday, Sheary needed the rest to get through and her side responded with four wins on the trot. Sheary beat Denise Cottam (West End) 21-18 in the morning and then Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 22-8 after lunch.

Two visiting sides, Alison Winter (Central Cambridge) and Teo Thoresen (Levin), battled it out in the final round to secure win No 4. Honours went to the Waikato quartet 22-17, which was a disappointing conclusion for Thoresen's team. It had started the week with three successive wins.

In the morning, Thoresen went down 22-12 to Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North). However, Cowen's lifeline didn't last, losing to Heather Thomas (New Plymouth) 26-17 in the last game. Both sides missed qualifying by one match.

Inglewood's Margaret McCallum exited after a 28-14 loss to Pirere in the afternoon. It left the Inglewood side ruing two narrow losses on Wednesday.

Section C: Two local sides, Faye Hopkins (Tower) and Joan Richards (Fitzroy), both entered the last day needing one win to qualify. But both went down twice to bow out.

Hopkins went down in the morning 22-21 to Gay Baxter (Bulls), having trailed by three shots after 24 ends, and then was beaten 32-22 by Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East). Loveridge finished on three wins.

Richards had a tough draw throughout section play. Her side was denied 23-14 by Goble and 28-19 by Forrest.

However, the 2013 Dominion singles winner, Val McEldowney (New Plymouth), won both games yesterday to be among the qualifiers. Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) made it four games without a blip when her side edged Susan Cottam (West End) 19-15 in round five.

Section D: After winning three straight, Lepperton's Carol Pearce, with young Briar Atkinson in the side, lost narrowly twice during section play. The loss yesterday was 24-21 to Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), which enabled last year's runner-up to qualify. But Pearce eased home 29-8 in the final round. That was against Raewyn Falconer (Frankton Junction), who was left stranded on three wins.

Atkinson, pictured, is a pupil at Sacred Heart Girls' College in New Plymouth. She has been playing bowls for only 12 months. Bowls Taranaki President, Ian Andrews, was not 100% sure that she was the youngest ever qualifier in the Open — "but we are pretty sure that she is."

On an adjacent rink at Paritutu, Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay) – with New Plymouth's Lyn Weir and Una Maha in her side – also qualified in the last round 30-22 over Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), who had exited on Wednesday.



McDonald started the game with a roar, leading 15-0 after just seven ends. Few could deny McDonald was a deserving qualifier. After the disruption to her side prior to the event commencing, the two losses the side incurred were both by the narrowest of margins. The second of those yesterday morning was an extra end job, 26-24, to fellow qualifier Marg Davies (Papakura).

All play today, tomorrow and Sunday is at Paritutu.

Open fours post section draw

Draw for post section play in the 68th Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu on Friday, January 31 (NB: all qualifiers must report for a 9am start):

Round 1 (9am start – two rounds for the day): J Ropitini (West End) v M Constantine (Tauranga), A Winter (Central Cambridge) v P Burgess (Wanganui), J Smith (Tauranga) v B Harvey (Paritutu), J Augustine (Tower) v J Collins (Opunake), W Green (Ngongotaha) v K Forrest (Manurewa), C Andrews (Paritutu) v M Bettelheim (Ohope).

Round 2 (9am start – one round for the day): J Sheary (Matua) v L McDonald (Mercury Bay), V McEldowney (New Plymouth) v A Loomb (Mt Maunganui), C Pearce (Lepperton) v P Pirere (Laird Park), K Stampa (Hawera Park) v M Davies (Papakura), R Adams (Fitzroy) v E Goble (Lepperton).

Match of the morning — Green v Forrest

The feature match of the opening round of post section this morning will be between Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) and Karen Forrest (Manurewa). Both sides completed section play in Section C and were largely untroubled throughout.

Green's team comprises Huia Ratana, Mina Paul and Lynette McIntosh, while playing with Forrest are Miriam Pedley, Nancy Wilson and Jan Jones.

It will be a frustrating end to the Open for the loser of the game — the same scenario occurred in the men's Open last week, when two eight-winners clashed in the first post section round.

The winner of the clash will meet the victor of the Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) v Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) match in the afternoon round for a place in Saturday's quarterfinals.

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Saturday, February 1, 2020

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Adams last local hope as visitors dominate

Fitzroy's Rhonda Adams is fast establishing herself at the top of Taranaki women's bowls. A fixture in the representative team, Adams collected her 10th Taranaki title just prior to Christmas in the open pairs.

Since then she represented New Zealand with some authority at the world indoor championships in the United Kingdom. But there is one glaring omission from her local CV – the Taranaki women's open fours.

However, on the basis of the form illustrated by Adams and her side of Faye Hill, Norma Rothwell and Vickie Kelly, that could change tomorrow.

Adams was required to play only one match yesterday. That was against Lepperton's Ellie Goble.

The Fitzroy side – now the last remaining local hope – powered away to win 29-8. That ended the week for Goble's Lepperton side of Anne Potaka, Brenda Rowe and June Ward, which was disappointing for the quartet as they had been unbeaten until that time.

Adams' side held the upper hand the majority of the game. That trend started on just the third head when they took a four.

After six ends, the Fitzroy side was 9-3 in front. At the mid-point, through 12 ends, Adams still held the advantage, although at 12-8, the contest still remained wide-open.

But it was all one-way traffic after that, with Adams winning the next seven ends, and the game being called off after just 19 completed heads.

Goble's clubmate, Carol Pearce, also exited, but not before a sterling challenge against Pauline Pirere (Laird Park).

Pirere was in complete control leading 17-4 after 12 of the 25 ends. But by the commencement of the penultimate head, Pearce had turned things around entirely to lead 22-19. However, Pirere took a two and then a four, clinching the contest 26-22.

Pirere will meet Marg Davies (Papakura) in one quarterfinal this morning. In the other quarterfinals today, Adams will meet Pam Burgess (Wanganui), Karen Forrest (Manurewa) plays June Smith (Tauranga), while Jean Sheary (Matua) and Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui) will square off.

Davies was a 28-26 victor over Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park).

Stampa scored three fours during the first half of the match, but that was partly balanced by Davies notching up a count of six on the sixth end.

After 18 ends, Davies was in front 22-17, before Stampa scored a three, a three and a two to hit the front. However, that good work was undone on the next, when Davies took a four. Singles were shared on ends 23 and 24, which meant Davies led by one playing the last end.

Sheary collected an eight as her team posted an emphatic 35-16 win over Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay). After six ends, Sheary had surged in front 13-1, before McDonald won the next four ends to close the deficit to four shots.

However, a brace, followed by the eight, put McDonald's side under pressure. They responded a little, with the score 23-15 after 16. However, the death-knell came when Sheary took a five on the 20th head.

Loomb, despite scoring on only nine ends, ended the title hopes of Val McEldowney (New Plymouth) 24-22 in a round two match that was played in the morning. McEldowney sailed ahead 14-4 after 10 ends, but aided by a six on the next, Loomb edged in front 15-14 after 14.

It was anyone's match after that. McEldowney was one in front with three ends remaining, before Loomb took a three and a single, and the New Plymouth side could only manage a single in reply on the last end.

There were only three afternoon matches played, those games being between the sides who missed byes.

In those games, Forrest was a comfortable 21-11 victor over Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), while Smith broke free from Joy Collins (Opunake) to win 23-16.

Burgess meanwhile showed plenty of character in coming from 17-9 down to beat Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) 26-22.

Forrest held the upper hand throughout her match with Andrews. After seven ends, the side was up 8-2 and by the conclusion of end 19 that had become 20-7.

Collins started better than Smith, leading 8-4 after nine ends. However, after 13 ends, the scores were locked at 9-all. Smith assumed control after that, going to a 16-9 lead, then a 23-12 advantage.

Constantine looked odds-on to make it through to the last eight prior to the tea break in her game. After leading 7-1, the Tauranga side then increased the margin to eight shots after 13 heads.

However, the experienced Wanganui side hit back, taking five ends in a row, including a four on the 15th. With two ends remaining, the scores were 22-all and Burgess took two shots on each of those heads to complete the transformation.

Of the six round one games, three were particularly interesting.

Forrest, pictured below, made no race of the feature game against Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), winning 29-20. After 13 ends, Forrest had created a remarkable 21-2 lead, to extinguish what had been during section play a strong campaign from Green's crew.

Collins had a tight clash with Jane Augustine (Tower). Collins got home 23-22 after taking a two-shot lead into the final end.

Andrews came from 21-16 down after 21 ends to beat Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) 24-21.



Open fours post section results

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

Round 1: M Constantine (Tauranga) 26 J Ropitini (West End) 18, P Burgess (Wanganui) 26 A Winter (Central Cambridge) 16, J Smith (Tauranga) 29 B Harvey (Paritutu) 22, J Collins (Opunake) 23 J Augustine (Tower) 22, K Forrest (Manurewa) 29 W Green (Ngongotaha) 20, C Andrews (Paritutu) 24 M Bettelheim (Ohope) 21.

Round 2: J Sheary (Matua) 35 L McDonald (Mercury Bay) 16, A Loomb (Mt Maunganui) 24 V McEldowney (New Plymouth) 22, P Pirere (Laird Park) 25 C Pearce (Lepperton) 22, M Davies (Papakura) 28 K Stampa (Hawera Park) 26, R Adams (Fitzroy) 29 E Goble (Lepperton) 8, Burgess 26 Constantine 22, Smith 23 Collins 16, Forrest 21 Andrews 11.

Quarterfinal draw — eight still have a chance

Quarterfinals draw for Saturday, February 1 at Paritutu:

Marj Flowerday, Lynne Taylor, Pat Gillon, Jean Sheary (Matua) v Deirdre Parkes, Gloria Duffin, Lennie Symons, Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui), Maria Klitscher, Joan Raymond, Debbie Wildermoth, Pauline Pirere (Laird Park) v Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia, Hetty Bolscher, Marg Davies (Papakura), Faye Hill, Norma Rothwell, Vickie Kelly, Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) v Denise Taylor, Sonia Wooding, Dot Belliss, Pam Burgess (Wanganui), Donna Whitten, Alison Brocklehurst, June Mabbett, June Smith (Tauranga) v Miriam Pedley, Nancy Wilson, Jan Jones, Karen Forrest (Manurewa).

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Sunday, February 2, 2020

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Davies and Burgess to battle it out for title

It will be Papakura against Wanganui, Marg Davies versus Pam Burgess, when the final of the 68th Taranaki women's Open fours is decided at Paritutu this morning.

Both visiting teams were strong winners in their respective semifinals yesterday afternoon, and on the balance, appear evenly matched for the finale.

Davies' side of Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia and Hetty Bolscher advanced after they ended the fairytale run of the Matua side of Marj Flowerday, Lynne Taylor, Pat Gillon and skip Jean Sheary, picture top right.

Davies was a 24-11 victor, the loss being the first incurred by Sheary's side since Tuesday afternoon.

The Burgess bunch, including Denise Taylor, Sonia Wooding, Dot Belliss, won through 26-10 against Tauranga's Donna Whitten, Alison Brocklehurst, June Mabbett and skip June Smith, pictured bottom left.

Sheary started brightly against Davies, and after three ends, the Matua side led 5-0. However, four ends latter, the Papakura team had squared the ledger.

The momentum stayed with Davies. They collected a five on the ninth, then really hit their stride with a three on the 11th, followed by consecutive braces. Suddenly, the semifinal had been ripped apart, with the score 17-7.

Sheary replied with three singles in a row. But any hopes of a full comeback evaporated over the next four ends. With counts of two, one, three and another one, Davies took control. Sheary clawed a single back on the 21st, but then conceded.

Burgess was never headed against Smith. After the sides exchanged singles over the first four ends, Burgess took an early break. Six ends in a row went to the Wanganui team.

That created a 13-2 lead.

Smith quickly grabbed two threes to arrest the decline. However, Burgess then surged further ahead at 18-8. Smith retorted with a two on end 17, but that completed the scoring for Tauranga, the game concluding after 21 ends.



Burgess over Adams in closest quarterfinal

The quarterfinals yesterday morning were largely one-sided affairs, with the exception being the match involving Wanganui's Pam Burgess. Her side prevailed 19-15 over Fitzroy's Rhonda Adams, with the team from the River City leading throughout the contest.

However, they still had to withstand plenty of anxious moments before the end of the match. Burgess led 5-0 after three ends. This was extended to 8-3 (after eight), before Adams won three ends in a row to trail by just one.

This trend continued throughout the rest of the match; Burgess would make a mini break and Adams would in turn narrow the margin.

A three to Adams on end 22 made the score 16-15 in favour of Burgess. Burgess scored two singles on the following two ends to take a three shot lead into what became an interesting last head.

With the jack on the 2m mark, Wanganui was wayward with their first five bowls. However, a pending crisis was averted. Belliss hit up Taylor's second bowl for shot and then Burgess, with an excellent bowl, added another. Adams removed that with her last weighted shot but it wasn't enough.

Just like on Friday, Jean Sheary's side shone in the opening stanza of its quarterfinal against Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui). After four ends, Sheary was ahead 11-0 and after 16 ends that had become 22-7.

While Loomb gained some respectability, reducing the deficit to 23-12 after 20 ends, Sheary cribbed home with three singles. That made it 26-12 at shake-hands time, with two ends left unplayed.

June Smith produced the upset of the morning round, ousting Manurewa's Karen Forrest 22-14. After Forrest's fine form on Friday some observers had placed the favouritism tag around her side.

However, Smith scored on the opening three ends and was never headed.

While the lead was not huge – the Tauranga side were in front 7-6 after eight ends, then 12-9 through 13 – Smith took a single and two threes on ends 14-16. It gave Smith's side the decisive break it needed.

Marg Davies provided the turnaround of the morning when her team brought down the curtain on a highly successful week from the Laird Park side headed by Pauline Pirere, 30-20.

Pirere's four had been in terrific touch all week and that continued for the first 10 ends of the game.

They led 17-8 at that junction. But then Davies' quartet won eight ends on the trot to lead 23-17.

Pirere could only manage a couple of singles on the remaining heads, as Davies' domination denied the Wanganui team.

Open fours post section results

Results of the 68th Taranaki women's

Open fours at Paritutu yesterday:

Quarterfinals: Marj Flowerday, Lynne Taylor, Pat Gillon, Jean Sheary (Matua) 26 Deirdre Parkes, Gloria Duffin, Lennie Symons, Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui) 12, Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia, Hetty Bolscher, Marg Davies (Papakura) 30 Maria Klitscher, Joan Raymond, Debbie Wildermoth, Pauline Pirere (Laird Park) 20, Denise Taylor, Sonia Wooding, Dot Belliss, Pam Burgess (Wanganui) 19 Faye Hill, Norma Rothwell, Vickie Kelly, Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) 15, Donna Whitten, Alison Brocklehurst, June Mabbett, June Smith (Tauranga) 22 Miriam Pedley, Nancy Wilson, Jan Jones,

Karen Forrest (Manurewa) 14.

Semifinals: Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia, Hetty Bolscher, Marg Davies (Papakura) 24 Marj Flowerday, Lynne Taylor, Pat Gillon, Jean Sheary (Matua) 11, Denise Taylor, Sonia Wooding, Dot Belliss, Pam Burgess (Wanganui) 26 Donna Whitten, Alison Brocklehurst, June Mabbett, June Smith (Tauranga) 10.

Final to be played at Paritutu on February 2, commencing at 9am:

Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia, Hetty Bolscher, Marg Davies (Papakura) v Denise Taylor, Sonia Wooding, Dot Belliss, Pam Burgess (Wanganui).



Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Monday, February 3, 2020

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

Thrilling final decided on dramatic last end

In a finale that befitted the occasion, Papakura's Marg Davies held her nerve to ensure victory for her side in the final of the Taranaki women's open fours event at Paritutu yesterday.

Davies' crew defeated a Wanganui team skipped by Pam Burgess 24-23 in the decider that had those watching the game – both at the green and online – immersed in what became a dramatic conclusion.

Davies and her quartet of Cheryl Hunia, Les Eagleton and Hetty Bolscher deservedly led 24-20 after 24 of the 25 ends.

But changing fortunes on the last end meant that Burgess and her team of Denise Taylor, Sonia Wooding and Dot Belliss were still in with a chance.

That chance became real belief when Burgess, with her first bowl, brilliantly turned off Hunia's shot bowl. It left Wanganui holding five shots – enough for victory.

However, after inspecting the head, Davies pushed down on the forehand, running into the counting bowls. She came off one of the counters, dislodging that off the head, and in turn sat on the shot bowl.

Burgess still had one to play. She also pushed into the head, collecting the jack, but on closer observation, it left her with only three shots – one short of a tie.

A relieved Davies didn't play her last bowl.

The Papakura side dominated the opening stanza of the final, leading 11-0 after six ends. Burgess got on the board on end seven, posting a three.

A single on the next made it 11-4.

However, the following three ends went to Davies team, making the score at the morning tea adjournment 15-4, after 11 ends.

Bolscher, in particular, had a highly productive start to the game, her experience as an Auckland gold star holder and a past Dominion fours winner showing through.



Pride of Papakura: Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia, Hetty Bolscher and Marg Davies.

But after the resumption in play, the Wanganui team settled and clawed back into the contest.

They scored a three and then a two to make it 15-9. However, Davies side retorted that with two threes and a single.

That made it 22-9 to Papakura after 16 ends. But then the Wanganui comeback commenced in earnest.

They took the next four ends to make it 22-16 as the teams entered the home straight.

A single to Davies gave a little breathing space, but Burgess took a three to tightened the score to 23-19. Belliss – the sister-in-law of the famed Peter – was impressive during this revival.

The sides then exchanged singles before the tense, accurate final end.

Wanganui gallant in defeat; the final by the numbers



Top left: Wanganui's Denise Taylor, Sonia Wooding, Dot Belliss and Pam Burgess with Taranaki President Ian Andrews.



The Wanganui side look unsuccessfully for the necessary fourth shot on the last end, as the Papakura front three celebrate.

PAPAKURA v. Wanganui				
	LEAD			
	SECOND			
	THIRD			
M. DAVIES	SKIP	P. Burgess		
SECTION A	ROUND		RINK 1	
SCORE	TOTAL	ENDS	SCORE	TOTAL
1	1	1	—	—
4	5	2	—	—
7	6	3	—	—
1	7	4	—	—
3	10	5	—	—
1	11	6	—	—
—	11	7	3	3
—	11	8	1	4
1	12	9	—	4
1	13	10	—	4
2	15	11	—	4
—	15	12	3	7
—	15	13	2	9
3	18	14	—	9
3	21	15	—	9
1	22	16	—	9
—	22	17	2	11
—	22	18	3	14
—	22	19	1	15
—	22	20	1	16
1	23	21	—	16
—	23	22	3	19
1	24	23	—	19
—	24	24	1	20
—	24	25	3	23
		EXTRA		
		TOTAL		
The winner of the game is: 1: 55				
WINNER M. Davies (Use Block Letters)				
LOSER (Signed) [Signature]				

End of a fabulous fortnight

Bowls Taranaki President Ian Andrews was full of smiles after the completion of the 68th Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday.

On the back of the men's Open, which concluded the previous Sunday, Andrews said he was delighted with how the "fabulous fortnight" had gone.

"Throughout both events, I've spoken to many bowlers. I'm very pleased. We will take a breath and then conduct a full debrief," Andrews said.

There had been no major disruptions or problems during the last two weeks, but "we strive for perfection."

Andrews again acknowledged the outstanding support received by many clubs and

workers, something echoed by both skips in yesterday's final.

Victorious skip Marg Davies, a cool customer, said her side were delighted with their success.

"We came down not expecting anything," Davies said afterwards. "We are thrilled to be going home with the trophy. This remains a great tournament."

Pam Burgess, who held victory for a few seconds on that remarkable final end, said that her team had loved the week and had every intention of returning again next year.

• Like the men's final the previous week, the final was broadcast via livestreaming on Facebook.