

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 26, 2024

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Perfect 32 qualifiers schedules morning final

The perfect draw number of 32 qualifiers was achieved with a mixture of good and bad fortune in the final round of section play in the 72nd Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday.

It means that after two rounds today at Paritutu, only eight teams will remain in the event and that the final will be played on Sunday morning.

Inevitably, there were stories of delight in qualifying and stories of frustration at missing out as the last round games were played.

In the clash of the two three winners in the last game, it was Leanne Stewart (Hikurangi) that prevailed over Martie Sisson (Ohope) 29-20.

The big difference came on the 14th end when Stewart picked up an eight. While it may not have been the first eight from either the men's or women's Open, it certainly was the first to come past the desk of this writer.

The scores had been even at 8-all after nine ends. Sisson took a four, Stewart replied instantly with a five before the maximum came three heads later.

Ruth Spittle (Taradale) dipped out. Spittle lost 34-18 to Dot Collis (Waitarere Beach) in the morning, a result that saw the Kapiti team qualify. Spittle was then beaten by Briar Atkinson (Paritutu) 28-8. Atkinson rushed away to 21-0 after seven ends.

Atkinson had already qualified in the morning, but it was hard work against Jenny Sargison (Omarunui) 27-22. Sargison led 22-21 with three to play before Atkinson scored a two, a single and a three.

Hetty Bolscher (Pukekohe), part of the 2020 winning side, went through with two wins. The last round was 28-17 over Sue McFarlane (Raumati), the Counties side having charged ahead 16-1 after nine ends.

Bolscher's third win had come via an extra end in the morning round, 28-27, over Val Symes (Fitzroy).

Bolscher had led 20-12 through 15 ends before Symes got a five and the match tightened up.

Symes, though, did have the satisfaction of still qualifying after her team beat Mary King (Thames Coast) 19-7 after lunch in a match that lasted just 13 ends.

Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) posted two big wins to go through, while Marlene Malcolm (Waitara) was comfortable in her morning win and earned the afternoon off as a result.

Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) missed out 27-15 in the last round Dale Rowe (Featherston).

Carol Cox's Tokoroa side was a late qualifier by virtue of its sixth-round 25-23 win over the previously unbeaten Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth). After Cox had claimed win No 3 in the morning, the match with Hodge was a close encounter.

It appeared to be heading the way of Hodge, with her side leading 16-10 after 16 ends.

But Cox got back into the game with a seven two ends later, and then, after 22 ends, the Waikato side – all rep players – had got in front 23-18. With a three and a two, Hodge levelled the scores, but Cox took two on the last end to win.

No play was necessary in the afternoon in the seventh section at Oakura. Anne Lomas (Hunua) was emphatic in her 25-9 triumph over Gale Fache (Paritutu), while Marlene Foster (Wanganui East) sneaked through by one point in the morning round of games.



There was frustration for Adrienne Tilyard (Buckland) when her side went down 23-22 on an extra end to be left stranded on three wins. Tilyard at least does have the memories of 2017, when she was part of the winning side, to comfort the disappointment this time.

Tilyard wasn't alone, though.

Diane Dickinson (Hnederson) missed out in the last and so, too, did one of Taranaki's best bowlers, Kristin Stampa. Stampa dropped a two on the last end to lose 21-20 to Lepperton's Wendy Moratti to be denied.

But June Smith (Katikati) also went through, the last win being a commanding 36-11 effort.

Robyn Wallace (Omarunui) took the winner-take-all prize from her last round section four clash with Jilly Kimber (Waitara). Both teams had three wins heading into the match, too. Wallace, after leading 16-7, won 21-12.

Frances Busby (Tower) went into the day needing one more win. After losing 27-18 to Hazel Littlejohn, a match that saw the Darfield

side qualify, Busby lost 24-14 to Carol Pearce (Lepperton). Busby had a chance still, when trailing 16-14 after 21 ends. But Pearce won the next three ends to take the contest.

* Both of last year's finalists have tricky clashes this morning in the first round of post section at Paritutu.

On the front green, 2023 runner-up Rima Strickland (Royal Oak) takes on Anne Lumas (Hunua). While the feature game on the back green sees defending titleholder Denise Te Momo (Pirongia) tangle with local favourite, Briar Atkinson (Paritutu).

* There are 30 teams entered in the Open fours-pairs event, with the two sections playing at West End. Sides require three wins from the four qualifying games in order to make post section play.

* All the action for both the fours and the pairs on Saturday and Sunday will take place at Paritutu, and will be on regardless of weather conditions.

Fours and pairs draws for today

Draw for post section play in The Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours today:

Section 1, Paritutu A, round 1: Carol Cox (Tokoroa) v Kaye Bunn (Thames Coast), June Smith (Katikati) v Marlene Foster (Wanganui East), Val Symes (Fitzroy) v Dot Collis (Waitarere Beach), Patricia Cullinane (Papakura) v Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth), Anne Lomas (Hunua) v Rima Strickland (Royal Oak), Robyn Wallace (Omarunui) v Lynda Francis (Havelock North), Meredith Pottage (Mount Maunganui) v Hetty Bolscher (Pukekohe), Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) v Gayle Melrose (Papakura).

Section 2, Paritutu B, round 1: Denise Te Momo (Pirongia) v Briar Atkinson (Paritutu), Hazel Littlejohn (Darfield) v Margaret O'Regan (Ohope), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) v Chris Telford (Hastings), Kerin Roberts (Mairangi Bay) v Diane Strawbridge (Kensington), Leanne Stewart (Hikurangi) v Senara Watt (Papakura), Agnes Motu (Bridge Park) v Heather Gilbert (Tauranga South), Janet Barnard (Rotorua) v Sue Hodges (Omokoroa),

Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) v Marlene Malcolm (Waitara).

Draw for section play in The Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours-pairs event, commencing at 8.45am:

Section 1, West End 3: Vickie Clark (Kia Toa), Lyn Bowcock (Taradale), Di Cross (Kia Toa), Viv Hall (West End), Fay Jones (North End), Di Smith (Havelock North), Gail Burrows (Inglewood), Alison Williamson (Taradale), Dale Rowe (Featherston), Irene Taunt (Tower), Linda Kape (Okato), Isabelle Hassall (Paraparaumu Beach), Anne Woods (Okato), Sue Brady (Pine Rivers), Cindy Gray (Okato), Di Deegan (Pine Rivers).

Section 2, West End 2: Molly Nagle (West End), Rita Davey (Opunake), Cheryl Simpson (Taradale), Teo Thorensen (Paekakariki), Angela Rooker (Kia Toa), Barbara Harvey (Paritutu), Diane Chapman (Opunake), Emily Gray (Paekakariki), Judy Fox (Manaia), Trish Howard (West End), Jackie Morgan (Kia Toa), Barbara Hewitt (Taradale), Liz Corbett (New Plymouth), Ashleigh Megaw (Okato).