

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Saturday, January 27, 2024

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Seven visitors and one local into quarterfinals

The odds are firmly stacked in favour of the visiting sides, with seven of the eight teams still in contention in the 72nd Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours from outside the province following the first two rounds of post section at Paritutu yesterday.

Fitzroy's Val Symes is the only Taranaki team still alive. She meets Kaye Bunn (Thames Coast) this morning, while Rima Strickland (Royal Oak) will play Hetty Bolscher (Pukekohe).

On the other side of the draw, Denise Te Momo (Pirongia) strikes Chris Telford (Hastings) and Heather Gilbert (Tauranga South) meets fellow Bay of Plenty side Sue Hodges (Omokoroa).

In round two games yesterday, Bolscher never really let Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) into their encounter. Bolscher got away 5-0, then a five on the eighth made it 11-5.

Constantine was still in touch at 17-12 behind after 15. But that became 26-12 and the contest was effectively over.

Bunn had a close game with Marlene Foster (Wanganui East) before the Thames Valley side won through 28-20. Foster in fact led 11-9 after 12 ends. Then it was 12-all after 14 ends.

But counts of five on both the 15th and 17th heads, plus a three on the 18th, to Bunn provided the key factor in the result.

Strickland led for the majority of her match against Robyn Wallace (Omarunui). At 16-6 in front after 14, Strickland appeared comfortable. But Wallace's foursome climbed back into it, drawing level at 18-all with just two ends remaining.

However, the retort from Strickland was successful, a three on the penultimate, followed by a single on the last, ensured last year's finalists were through to today's rounds.

Symes beat Trish Cullinane (Papakura) 29-16. Symes' side of Lesley Te Awa, Robyn Klenner and Maree Gadsby built a big 24-2 lead after

12 ends. Cullinane's side commenced a comeback, but the damage had already been done. The closest they got was 27-15 after 21 ends.

Scoring was free early on in Te Momo's clash with Margaret O'Regan (Ohope). Both sides scored a four and after nine ends, Te Momo was in front 10-9. Then it became 13-all, before O'Regan nosed in front 17-16.

Te Momo got back in front and crucially took a two on the 24th to go four up playing the last end. It was a hurdle too far for O'Regan.

Telford's well-presented side had an intriguing contest with Diane Strawbridge (Kensington). The Hawke's Bay side bowled ahead 13-4 after 11 ends. Five heads later the margin remained at nine points.

But then Strawbridge got going. Her side's third four on the 21st end put them in front by one. However, they promptly dropped a three. Telford led by two playing the last.

Leeane Stewart (Hikurangi), therefore, became the last Northland hope. Her side had made a strong start against Gilbert, leading 15-9, before the Bay of Plenty side reeled them in. The sides were locked at 17-all after 17. A five on the next end gleefully gave Gilbert the game-breaker.

Hodges eliminated Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) 24-20. After an even opening, Nicoll was left to rue dropping a seven on end 11.

Her side then rallied, closing to just 16-15 behind after 18 ends. However, they dropped a four on the next, a huge end in the context of the game. Nicoll reduced the deficit to three playing the last, but just missed out.



In the morning round, Bunn had edged out Carol Cox (Tokoroa) 25-24. Cox led 13-10, but Bunn went ahead 17-13. Cox, with her third four of the game, levelled the ledger.

However, Bunn again went in front, 25-20. Cox won the remaining four ends, but each time the count was only one. The value of second shot still cannot be underestimated.

Foster also had a nailbiter in the morning. Her side prevailed 23-20 over June Smith (Katikati). After Smith had led 9-4, Foster got ahead 16-12. But a five to Smith took her in front. The sides were even playing the last end.

Strickland had a close game with Anne Lomas (Hunua) for the opening half. After 14 ends, the Royal Oak side were just one in front. But it was all one-way traffic after that, with two fours and three threes secured on the home straight.

Constantine was level at 13-all after 12 ends with Gayle Melrose (Papakura). But Constantine was in control after that to win 27-20.

Te Momo's morning win ended the hopes of Paritutu's Briar Atkinson 23-11. Once again the game was close in the first half, Te Momo leading just 10-9 after 12 ends.

O'Regan's win 33-18 over Hazel Littlejohn (Darfield) ended with a surprising margin. Littlejohn had led 13-6 after eight ends.

Strawbridge held on to beat Kerin Roberts (Mairangi Bay) 24-19, having four ends earlier led 22-12. The difference was just three shots playing the last end.

Two fours was the gave Stewart enough space in her morning 25-17 win over Serana Watt (Papakura).

Gilbert had a six on the 22nd end to thank for her side's 25-18 win over Agnes Motu (Bridge Park). Motu led 13-3 after 10 ends. But the next eight ends went to Gilbert.

Hodges beat Janet Barnard (Rotorua) 27-18 after the scores had been 17-all after 19 ends.

Nicoll came home with a wet sail to beat Marlene Malcolm (Waitara) 23-20, having trailed the whole game until the 20th end.

Fours results and pairs draw for today

Results of post section play in The Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday:

Section 1, Paritutu A, round 1: Kaye Bunn (Thames Coast) 25 Carol Cox (Tokoroa) 24, Marlene Foster (Wanganui East) 23 June Smith (Katikati) 20, Val Symes (Fitzroy) 23 Dot Collis (Waitarere Beach) 6, Patricia Cullinane (Papakura) 24 Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth) 9, Rima Strickland (Royal Oak) 32 Anne Lomas (Hunua) 13, Robyn Wallace (Omarunui) 29 Lynda Francis (Havelock North) 13, Hetty Bolscher (Pukekohe) 31 Meredith Pottage (Mount Maunganui) 11, Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) 27 Gayle Melrose (Papakura) 20.

Round 2: Bunn 28 Foster 20, Symes 29 Cullinane 16, Strickland 22 Wallace 18, Bolscher 28 Constantine 15.

Section 2, Paritutu B, round 1: Denise Te Momo (Pirongia) 23 Briar Atkinson (Paritutu) 11, Margaret O'Regan (Ohope) 33 Hazel Littlejohn (Darfield) 18, Chris Telford (Hastings) 25 Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) 11, Diane Straw-

bridge (Kensington) 24 Kerin Roberts (Mairangi Bay) 19, Leanne Stewart (Hikurangi) 25 Senara Watt (Papakura) 17, Heather Gilbert (Tauranga South) 25 Agnes Motu (Bridge Park) 18, Sue Hodges (Omokoroa) 27 Janet Barnard (Rotorua) 18, Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) 23 Marlene Malcolm (Waitara) 20. **Round 2:** Te Momo 23 O'Regan 21, Telford 24 Strawbridge 21, Gilbert 26 Stewart 22, Hodges 24 Nicoll 20.

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

Round 1: Viv Hall (West End) v Trish Howard (West End), Emily Gray (Paekakariki) v Sue Brady (Pine Rivers), Barbara Harvey (Paritutu) v Fay Jones (North End).

Round 2: Dale Rowe (Featherston) v Teo Thorensen (Paekakariki), Jackie Morgan (Kia Toa) v Irene Taunt (Tower).

To report at 10.30, round 2: Barbara Hewitt (Taradale) v winner Hall/Howard.