

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

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## Fache's side impressive on day one

Paritutu's Gale Fache has had her share of success in bowls.

She has accumulated seven Taranaki titles and was the joint women's player of the 2010 Dominion.

And there appears to be plenty of life in her yet based on the performance of her side on the opening day of the 73rd Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday.

Fache's side of Amanda Crehan, Marlene McArthur and Bridget Fletcher posted two large wins to be one of 24 sides to start the Open in the preferred manner, played in ideal conditions.

While most greens were moving along, the odd one was holding a little.

Thirty-seven sides had one win and 25 teams dropped both games.

Fache's side had an interesting opening clash at Waitara against Tina Jakes' Tokoroa team, which has plenty of talent included in it.

A five and a four early had Jakes in front 10-3, before Fache's side took over. The 15th head proved crucial with Fache taking a six and the score eventually blew out to 39-18.

Fache was equally as dominant in the afternoon when her side ran away from Elaine Phillips (Okato), a first round winner, 35-9.

Things didn't improve for Jakes, her side falling 28-15 to Pania Roberts (Opononi). Roberts had dropped her first game 28-22 to Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay).

McDonald and Mary Korewha (Manurewa) joined Fache as the three unbeaten teams in section seven.

Also joining McDonald in making the perfect start were two other Thames Valley sides — Adele French and Kaye Bunn, both of the Thames Coast club.

French was dominant in round one, beating Janice Lockwood (Upper Hutt) 38-11 and backed that up with a 29-19 afternoon triumph over Val Symes (Fitzroy).

French got out to a 16-5 lead. A six on end 17, followed by a three on the next made it 26-12, and even though the Fitzroy four rallied, it was too late.

Bunn scored wins over Gloria Hope (Rewa) 23-21 and Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth) 26-15. But the first one was oh so close.

Coming from 14-10 down after 15 ends, Bunn had worked in front 20-16 with two to play. However, her side dropped a five to trail by one shot playing the last end.

Hope held one there until Bunn, a semifinalist in the Dominion pairs earlier in the month, clipped off the counting bowl to take shot and to push the game into overtime.

Bunn's No 3, Lorraine Putt, who in fact plays for the Kerepehi club where she is the President, repaid her skip's faith by drawing two shots to secure the victory on the extra end.

Another club President, Barbara Harvey, also won twice. Playing on her home green at Paritutu, her side posted a seven in each game.

It was badly needed in the first round. Trailing Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) 25-17 after 22, Harvey got the seven. Her side then dropped a two before picking up a four on the last end to win 28-27.

The afternoon seven came on the fourth end, with her side prevailing 34-11 over Diane Smith (Te Puke).

In the same section, there were performances of assurance in both games from Robyn Wallace (Omarunui) and Dianne Strawbridge (Kensington), with the two favoured sides having points to spare each time.



Robyn Wilkinson (Waikanae), the skip of the winning Kapiti champion-of-champions fours team last season, had nothing to spare in her first round match which finished at 7pm.

In the only morning game to not meet the 1.30pm deadline, Wilkinson led Karen de Jongh (Central Cambridge) 23-11 after 15 ends. By 1.30pm that had become 27-23 in Wilkinson's favour with one end remaining.

On the final end of the day, de Jongh supported her front three by drawing two shots. Wilkinson, three and a measure down, missed with her last bowl but then had the relief of seeing umpire David Brunton tip out her side's bowl to take the clash 27-26.

Wilkinson had earlier won well 27-8 over Fay Cox (Titahi Bay), while de Jongh, albeit with a completely different team to the one she skipped to victory in 2019, had come from 23-12 down to beat Ruth Spittle (Taradale) 31-24. Defending champion Sue Hodges (Omokoroa) won twice. Her side was given a bit of cheek

in the afternoon game by Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), before it pulled away to win 29-15.

Among the other teams to win twice was Pat Dixon (Naenae). The Wellingtonians posted a last end thriller 23-21 over Mihi Hona (Lepperton) in the morning and overturned a 22-14 deficit in the second to beat Leanne Stewart (Hikurangi) 33-24.

Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) got underway with a commendable 28-17 win against Wendy Mitchell (Masterton), who won three Wairarapa titles last season, and then beat Sheryl Wellington (Mairangi Bay) 29-18.

Among the more prominent skips to lose both games were Estelle Hickey (Carlton Cornwall), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Louise Fitness (Taradale) and Chris Telford (Napier).

Fitness' first loss was 34-19 to Reen Belliss' Aramoho side which impressed in both games on day one.

## Summary after first day's play

### Results from the first day's play:

**Section 1:** two wins, Robyn Wallace (Omarunui), Adele French (Thames Coast), Dianne Strawbridge (Kensington), Barbara Harvey (Paritutu); one win, Sue Edwards (New Plymouth), Val Symes (Fitzroy), Faye Ford (Mooloolaba), Janice Ropitini (West End), Raewyn Vernon (Ohope), Cheryl Le Claire (Taradale).

**Section 2:** two wins, Adrienne Tilyard (Buckland), Sue Hodges (Omokoroa); one win, Jilly Kimber (Manaia), Karen De Jongh (Central Cambridge), Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Ruth Spittle (Taradale), Robyn Wilkinson (Waikanae), Debbie Wildermoth (Wanganui East), Janet Barnard (Ngongotaha).

**Section 3:** two wins, Pat Dixon (Naenae), Janet Olliver (Waitarere Beach), Jackie Morgan (Kia Toa), Lynda Francis (Havelock North); one win, Bev McDavitt-Whyte (Raglan), Denise Cottam (West End), Leanne Stewart (Hikurangi), Mihi Hona (Lepperton).

**Section 4:** two wins, Marilyn Constantine

(Tauranga), Hetty Bolscher (Pukekohe), Lyn Bowcock (Taradale), Kaye Bunn (Thames Coast); one win, Sheryl Wellington (Mairangi Bay), Wendy Mitchell (Masterton), Vivienne Hall (West End), Frances Parkes (Tower).

**Section 5:** two wins, Trish Howard (West End), Lynn Clifford (Mercury Bay), Pam Mulford (Plimmerton), Kath Nepe (Ngongotaha), Reen Belliss (Aramoho); one win, Karen Wallace (Okato), Ralda Adams (Levin).

**Section 6:** two wins, Paula Meredith (Johnsonville), Marlene Foster (Wanganui East); one win, Shona Lawn (Manaia), Judi Bishop (Frankton Junction), Jane Augustine (Tower), Martie Sisson (Ohope), Robyn Reihana (Riverhead), Anne Lomas (Far North RSA), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), Eileen Jones (Paraparaumu Beach).

**Section 7:** two wins, Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay), Mary Korewha (Manurewa), Gale Fache (Paritutu); one win, Elaine Phillips (Okato), Irene Hunt (Napier), Janet Ravji (Stratford Avon), Linda Clarke (Lepperton), Tereska Knap (Miramar), Pania Roberts (Opononi).