

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 30, 2025

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## Thirteen are through and another 42 have a chance

The first 13 qualifiers have been found in the 73rd Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours tournament after the completion of the four rounds of section play.

Another 14 teams are well placed to qualify, sitting on three wins, while 28 sides have a 50% record and need to win twice today to make it through to post section tomorrow.

It is expected that the final number of qualifiers will be on or just over the 32 mark. That is the magical number to decide whether five or six rounds are required to find a winner in post section. If there are 33 or more qualifiers, then six rounds will need to be played and the final will be on Sunday afternoon.

In 2024, 32 teams qualified from a field of 88, while in 2023, which had 82 teams, 33 made it through. There are 86 teams taking part this time.

Mary Korewha (Manurewa) was the only side to emerge with four-straight wins from section seven — but only just.

Her side scored a three on the last end of its morning game to pip Janet Ravji (Stratford-Avon) 21-20, and then eliminated Tina Jakes (Tokoroa) 31-29 in another nailbiter.

Elsewhere, Paula Meredith (Johnsonville) was in a completely dominant mood, scoring two resounding wins, as did Janet Olliver (Waitarere Beach) and Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga).

The other sides to march directly into post section are Robyn Wallace (Omarunui), Adele French (Thames Coast), Dianne Strawbridge (Kensington), Sue Hodges (Omokoroa), Pat Dixon (Naenae), 2023 pairs winner Lynda Francis (Havelock North), Kaye Bunn (Thames Coast), Trish Howard (West End) and Pam Mulford (Plimmerton).

After two strong wins on day one, Aramoho's Reen Belliss dropped both games. Both losses were to four winners, Howard and Mulford, which explained in part, at least, the result.

Against Howard, Belliss lost 26-25 on an extra end. While Mulford got the afternoon game 26-21.

Belliss had led there 9-5, before Mulford got in front. It was a close contest after 16 ends, with Mulford leading 16-14. Then came the match-winning break. Mulford took the next four ends to open up a 12-shot lead and even though Belliss won the last five heads, the counts were restricted to ones and twos.

Belliss today meets two three winners — Karen Wallace (Okato), who has 2016 champion lead Val Langton in her side, and Thames Valley gold star holder Lyn Clifford (Mercury Bay).

Howard's side qualified in emphatic style as it claimed its fourth win 38-5 over Denise Heaven (Lepperton).

Mulford had been comprehensive in her morning win, 29-16 over Pauline Davy, a result which somewhat surprisingly ended the hopes of the Opunake side.

Hodges made it through with wins of 24-20 over Adrienne Tilyard (Buckland) and 28-6 against Jilly Kimber (Manaia). Against Tilyard the scores were locked at 18-all through 21 ends. But two singles and a four gave Hodges the cushion required.

French ensured qualification in beating Janice Ropitini (West End) 25-21, having led 20-5 midway through the afternoon game, while Robyn Wallace's toughest game of the Open so far was yesterday morning when she inflicted the second defeat on Val Symes (Fitzroy) 30-24.



After receiving big wraps in yesterday's newsletter, Gale Fache's Paritutu team went to sleep after 17 ends against Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) in the morning round at Paritutu. At that point, Fache was ahead 19-11. But Green won the remaining eight ends to take the game 27-19.

It was a short reprieve only, though, for Green. After two losses on Tuesday, her side bowed out in frustrating fashion when it lost 31-23 to Marlene Malcolm (Waitara).

Green had led 13-7, before Malcolm got in front 19-16 after 20 ends. Green replied, taking a 23-19 lead into the last end.

The tide turned again with Malcolm collecting a four to tie the match, and then claimed the first eight — at least recorded with headquarters — from the men's or women's Open on the extra end, as Green's side, playing with weight, attempted to retrieve the situation.

Fache got back on track after lunch, beating Ravji 26-13, after trailing 7-6 after nine ends.

Fache this morning meets follow three-winner Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay).

Among the more prominent teams to win twice on the day and sit comfortably on three wins were Leanne Stewart (Hikurangi), Ruth Spittle (Taradale) and Pania Roberts (Opononi).

In addition to Belliss, a number of other well-known names also need two wins today — Hetty Bolscher (Pukekohe), who dropped both yesterday, Ann Muir (playing under the Far North RSA banner), who had one each-way, and Louise Fitness (Taradale), who won twice in convincing style.

Wendy Mitchell (Masrton) also sits on two wins and is scheduled to play Bolscher in the last round.

Muir also faces a tough ask. Her side meets Meredith first off and then Marlene Foster (Wanganui East), who has three wins. Karen de Jongh (Central Cambridge), another two winner, is also in a tricky position with her first opponent today being Hodges.

After an opening win on Tuesday morning, Faye Ford's Mooloolaba team lost contention when it dropped both games.

## Win summary after the second day's play

**Standings after day two in the 73rd Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday:**

**Section 1: four wins**, Robyn Wallace (Omarunui), Adele French (Thames Coast), Dianne Strawbridge (Kensington); **three wins**, Cheryl Le Claire (Taradale); **two wins**, Val Symes (Fitzroy), Janice Ropitini (West End), Raewyn Vernon (Ohope), Barbara Harvey (Paritutu).

**Section 2: four wins**, Sue Hodges (Omokoroa); **three wins**, Ruth Spittle (Taradale), Robyn Wilkinson (Waikanae), Debbie Wildermoth (Wanganui East); **two wins**, Karen De Jongh (Central Cambridge), Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Adrienne Tilyard (Buckland), Estelle Hickey (Carlton Cornwall), Janet Barnard (Ngongotaha).

**Section 3: four wins**, Pat Dixon (Naenae), Janet Olliver (Waitarere Beach), Lynda Francis (Havelock North); **three wins**, Jackie Morgan (Kia Toa), Leanne Stewart (Hikurangi); **two wins**, Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy).

**Section 4: four wins**, Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Kaye Bunn (Thames Coast); **three**

**wins**, nil; **two wins**, Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth), Hetty Bolscher (Pukekohe), Lyn Bowcock (Taradale), Sheryl Wellington (Mairangi Bay), Wendy Mitchell (Masterton), Vivienne Hall (West End).

**Section 5: four wins**, Trish Howard (West End), Pam Mulford (Plimmerton); **three wins**, Karen Wallace (Okato), Lynn Clifford (Mercury Bay), Kath Nepe (Ngongotaha); **two wins**, Louise Fitness (Taradale), Reen Belliss (Aramoho).

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

**Section 7: four wins**, Mary Korewha (Manurewa); **three wins**, Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay), Pania Roberts (Opononi), Gale Fache (Paritutu); **two wins**, Elaine Phillips (Okato), Linda Clarke (Lepperton), Tereska Knap (Miramar).