

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, January 30, 2026

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## High percentage in two sections sees 33 make it

A proportionally higher number of qualifiers in two sections has seen a total of 33 teams advance to post section play today in the 74th Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours.

Section three, with 12 teams in it, had six advance, while section six, with 10 sides in it, had five qualify.

The other sections, all with 12 teams in them, had a sprinkling of four or five qualifiers.

### Sunday afternoon final

The upshot of those numbers is that six rounds will be required to be completed before a winner can be found.

As is tradition in Taranaki, as many games as possible will be played in advance. Section one, with 16 teams in it, will be reduced to four teams tonight, and the winners of tomorrow morning's quarterfinals will observe their byes tomorrow afternoon, before returning on Sunday morning for the semifinals.

It is the same scenario for the top half of the second section. But the bottom half of that group requires a catch-up game, which means that teams will play only one match today, except the winner of the Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) and Adele French (Thames Coast). In total, 10 teams will be left tonight.

### Southland sides through

Both of the Southland sides in the field, skipped by Marilyn Fletcher (Lumsden) and Sharon Siegruhn (Northend), were successful yesterday. They join the two Canterbury teams, headed by Tracy Fickling (Allenton) and Hazel Littlejohn (Darfield), in post section, giving the south island a 100% strike rate.

Fletcher went through 30-14, eliminating Kristin Stampa (Stratford-Avon), who in fact led for her team in that game. A five on the first end to Fletcher set the tone of the match.

Siegruhn needed to win in the last game.

After losing to Hetty Bolscher (Pukekohe) 24-12 in the morning, Siegruhn beat Chris Com-

mane (Opunake) 25-9 in a game that both needed to win to qualify. A six on the fifth end gave the impetus to Siegruhn. Even though it was only 12-8 after 12 ends, Siegruhn scored freely after that.

There were other stories of success.

Wendy Sargeant (Mangawhai) earned the afternoon off after her side got the fourth win in the morning, beating the already-qualified Lesley McLinden (Royal Oak) 29-23. Sargeant pulled a six on the 11th head to lead 16-8. But after 22 ends, the Aucklanders were in front by two. A five on the next end put Sargeant ahead once again and they ensured the victory with a one and a two.

French and Barbara Harvey (Paritutu) also went through comfortably, although the former was restricted by Denise Heaven (Lepperton) to 12-11 through 15 ends, before winning 26-11.

Rachelle Morrison (Omokoroa) qualified in the morning, too, 23-18 over Ange Debique (Stratford-Avon) although it was looking dubious for a long time. Morrison, after leading 11-5, found herself 15-12 in arrears after 19 ends. However, a three, followed by a six, swung the game Morrison's way.

Marlene Alberino-Kay (Island Bay) was in no mood for mucking around, trouncing Trish Howard (West End) 29-9 in the morning.

Fay Jones (North End) got the nod over Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy) 27-16 with both teams needing a win in the last game. Gadsby, after a six, led 12-6. But after it was locked at 14-all, Jones pulled away to complete the transformation of four wins after two losses on Tuesday.



### Disappointment

But the other two teams attempting that feat just missed out in round six.

Karen de Jongh (Hinuera) was edged 22-20 by Howard, after she was in front 11-9 after 13 ends. Howard hit the lead after that, although the margin was only one shot playing the last end. While Brenda Rowe (Waitara), also after three wins, lost 25-12 to Pam Mulford (Plimmerton).

Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay) went down 27-18 to Jackie Morgan (Kia Toa) in the last game. Morgan had already made it through 22-14 over Commene in the morning. McDonald led 8-1 and 13-8, before Morgan reined them in. It

was 18-all after 21 ends. But Morgan took a single and consecutive fours to dash McDonald's hopes.

Debique, searching for a fourth, battled bravely in the last round against six winner Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) but fell just short 26-23, while Robyn Wilkinson (Waikanae) denied Tereska Knap (Miramar) 23-19.

Irene Taunt (Tower) opened with three wins, but three losses followed, the last one to Tina Jakes (Tokoroa) 20-13.

\* Since the reintroduction of the Marbles Restaurant pairs in 2022, the event has grown in entry numbers. Thirty-two took part last year and that has grown to 40 duos today.

## Fours and pairs draws for today

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

**Section 1, West End 3, round 2 (9am start — 2 rounds for the day):** Diane Strawbridge (Kensington) v Wendy Sarjeant (Mangawhai), Tracy Fickling (Allenton) v Susan Cottam (West End), Ngaire McKinley (Omarunui) v Heather Johns (Paritutu), Ruth Spittle (Taradale) v Jackie Morgan (Kia Toa), Marilyn Fletcher (Lumsden) v Anne Mahon (Katikati), Sheryl Wellington (Mairangi Bay) v Linda Kape (Okato), Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) v Fay Jones (North End), Hetty Bol-scher (Pukekohe) v Estelle Hickey (Carlton Cornwall).

**Section 2, West End 2, round 1 (9am start — 2 rounds for the day):** Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) v Adele French (Thames Coast).

**Round 2 (9am start — 2 rounds for the day):** Pat Dixon (Naenae) v Sharon Siegruhn (Northend), Robyn Fisher (Royal Oak) v Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Barbara Harvey (Paritutu) v Rachelle Morrison (Omokoroa), Trish Howard (West End) v Chris Telford (Napier). **Round 2 (9am start — 1 round for the day):** Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth) v Lynn Clifford (Mercury Bay), Kathy Dempster-Rivett (Whakatane) v Tia Moka (Homai). **To report at 12.30pm:** Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) v Marlene Alberino-Kay (Island Bay), Hazel Littlejohn (Darfield) v Nicoll/French winner.

**Draw for section play in the Taranaki women's Open fours-pairs event, commencing at 8.45am (three wins from four games required to qualify):**

**Section 1, Paritutu A:** Angela Debique (Opunake), Bronwyn Hunter (Blockhouse Bay), Colleen Short (Blockhouse Bay), Judy Fox (Manaia), Anne Trembath (Kia Toa), Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy), Bev Bromfield (Taradale), Shelley Baldwin (Lepperton), Maureen Druly (Taradale), Helen Chitty (New Plymouth), Chrissy Chilton (Kia Toa), Shona Lawn (Manaia), Pauline Davy (Stratford-Avon), Diane Chapman (Okato).

**Section 2, Paritutu B:** Irene Taunt (Tower), Gail Burrows (Inglewood), Pip Rawson (Miramar), Viv Hall (West End), Sue Carroll (Howick), Rita Davey (Opunake), Cheryl Simpson (Taradale), Jill Dyett (West End), Lanna Dowdell (Howick), Ronnie Crone (Levin), Di Patterson (Gonville), Diane Dunlop (Levin), Barbara Hewitt (Taradale), Els Maas (Bluff Hill).

**Section 3, West End 1:** Viv Borrie (Miramar), Tina Quilter (Lepperton), Tereska Knap (Miramar), Dannel Davis (Lepperton), Vicki Jones (Taradale), Janelle Duncie (Lepperton), Ellice Hona (Okato), Kristin Stampa (Stratford-Avon), Julie Inwood (Taradale), Pania Reed (Te Kuiti), Kere Matthews (Te Kuiti), Mihi Hona (Stratford-Avon).