

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Sunday, February 1, 2026

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All semifinalists from upper half of north island

Just as the case was seven days earlier in the men's event, all four semifinalists in The Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours come from the upper half of the north island.

After two further rounds at West End yesterday, the four surviving teams became those skipped by Wendy Sarjeant (Mangawhai), Estelle Hickey (Carlton Cornwall), Lesley McLinden (Royal Oak) and Adele French (Thames Coast).

Sarjeant meets Hickey in one semifinal, with McLinden playing French in the other this morning at West End.

McLinden, playing with Sandra Taylor, Gail Clarke and Robyn Fisher, defeated Napier's Chris Telford 25-15 in 22 completed ends in their morning quarterfinal clash.

Telford opened with a two and single, before McLinden got out to an 11-5 lead after eight ends. Telford, with Raelene Cronin, Kay Goldsworthy and Michelle Robinson, pulled that back to 12-10 after 12 ends. But the Aucklanders dominated the scoring to open up a 23-11 lead to settle the issue.

Sarjaeant's side of Christine Lineham, Angela Moon and Diane Klomp were 24-12 victors over Lyn Rae (Kia Toa), who was skipping Jackie Morgan, Angela Rooker and Coral Lukies.

Opening exchanges were even, with the sides locked at 5-all after eight ends. Sarjeant won the next five ends, including a six on the 12th, to surge to 16-5. Rae needed a late rally, trailing 18-9 after 18 ends, but instead it was Sarjeant with counts of 3-2-1 that took control.

Hickey was a 29-22 winner over Sheryl Wellington (Mairangi Bay).

Jeanie Browne, Paula Kempthorne, Helen Blick and skip Hickey raced away to a 19-3 lead after nine ends. A quick finish looked likely. But by morning tea, that had been reduced to 19-9 and soon after it was 19-13. Then things heated up. Aided by a four, Wel-

lington's crew of Theresa Rogers, Colleen Rice and Jan Gledhill brought the score back to 21-19 after 18 ends, but each time they got close Hickey sneaked a little further ahead.

The contest remained tense after 22 ends, at 24-22 in Hickey's favour, before Carlton Cornwall sealed the result with a two, a single and a further two on the last end.

French became the last semifinalist, winning the only afternoon match 33-16 over Tia Moka (Homai). Playing with Bev Rogers, Val Mathews and Kathryn McGaughey, the Thames Coast side advanced to their second-successive semifinal. They raced away to a 19-3 lead after 10 ends against Moka.

A four and a three to Sheryll Brownlee, Joy Hall, Mary Korewha and Moka made in 19-10 and three ends later it was 20-13. The game had reached a critical stage. The movement went with French, her side taking a five to open up the margin again.

In the last 16 matches played in the morning, Moka beat Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth) 25-18, while French ended the run of Marlene Alberino-Kay (Island Bay) 32-11.

Hodge was left to rue dropping a six on the 14th end of the game. Her side of Val McEldowney, Anne Brophy and Margy Carey had led 9-4 after 10 ends. The New Plymouth quartet still battled after the momentum shifter and were in touch trailing 21-18 after 20 ends. But Moka's side won the next four ends.

French's side sailed in front 26-3 against Alberino-Kay, Carmela Ercolano, Robyn Lindsay and Assunta Ercolano and cruised home in 20 ends.



Taranaki v Whanganui pairs final

Tower's Alethea Rowlands and Irene Taunt will appear in their second final in three years in the Marbles Restaurant pairs event, supported in association with Bowls Taranaki Board member Kevin Gray.

The pair narrowly lost the 2024 final 22-18 to the Pine Rivers (Brisbane) team of Terry McAlary and Sue Brady. But they earned a second bite when they quickly won their two post section games at West End yesterday.

They have a tough assignment in the final, a Whanganui pair of Deb Garside and Dianne Patterson. Garside is a member of the Aramoho club and has three centre titles, while Patterson, of Gonville-Castlecliff, holds 45.

In the semifinals, Rowlands and Taunt, who have both just been named in the Taranaki senior representative side for the Octagonal fixture in two weekend's time, thrashed Fitzroy's Lesley Te Awa and Maree Gadsby 28-3, having earlier led 16-0.

The semifinal between Garside and Patterson and Australian Caite Roxburgh and Kristin Stampa (Stratford-Avon) was a close encounter. Generally, Garside and Patterson held the edge, but Stampa converted a number of

heads, including on the drive. Roxburgh and Stampa levelled at 8-all, and after 18 of the 21 ends, at 13-all. Garside and Patterson finished the better, taking a single and two twos.

An unusual occurrence in the quarterfinals was Roxburgh and Stampa picking up maximums of six shots on both the second and fourth ends on their way to a 26-18 win over Opunake's mother-and-daughter duo of Lois and Angela Debique.

Three teams share best Taranaki prize

In the final analysis, three Taranaki teams have shared the prize for the best-performed local team in the fours event.

The three sides all exited at the last 16 stage: Lois Ritson, Denise Banks, Denise Cottam and Susan Cottam (West End), Carolyn Harris, Debbie Smith, Marlene Barrowman and Heather Johns (Paritutu), and Val McEldowney, Anne Broiphy, Margy Carey and Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth).

Semi and final live on YouTube

In association with Bowls New Zealand, one semifinal and the final will be broadcast live on YouTube this morning. The coverage can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZMXto9KhL8>

Fours and pairs results

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

Round 3: Sheryll Brownlee, Joy Hall, Mary Korewha, Tia Moka (Homai) 25 Val McEldowney, Anne Brophy, Margy Carey, Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth) 18, Bev Rogers, Val Mathews, Kathryn McGaughey, Adele French (Thames Coast) 32 Carmela Ercolano, Robyn Lindsay, Assunta Ercolano, Marlene Alberino-Kay (Island Bay) 9.

Quarterfinals: Christine Lineham, Angela Moon, Diane Komp, Wendy Sarjeant (Mangawhai) 24 Jackie Morgan, Angela Rooker, Coral Lukies, Lyn Rae (Kia Toa) 12, Jeanine Browne, Paula Kempthorne, Helen Blick, Estelle Hickey (Carlton Cornwall) 29 Theresa Rogers, Colleen Rice, Jan Gledhill, Sheryl Wellington (Mairangi Bay) 22, Sandra Taylor, Gail Clarke, Robyn Fisher, Lesley McLinden

(Royal Oak) 25 Raelene Cronin, Kay Goldsworthy, Michelle Robinson, Chris Telford (Napier) 15, French 33 Moka 16.

Results of post section play in the Taranaki women's Open fours-pairs:

Round 1: Lois Debique, Angela Debique (Opunake) 20 Brenda McGregor, Colleen Short (Blockhouse Bay) 18, Caite Roxburgh, Kristin Stampa (Stratford-Avon) 18 Suzanne Green, Tereska Knap (Miramar) 17. **Round 2:** Alethea Rowlands, Irene Taunt (Tower) 25 Michaela Des Forges, Pip Rawson (Miramar) 9, Lesley Te Awa, Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy) 26 Natalie Anderson, Julie Inwood (Taradale) 23, Deborah Garside, Dianne Patterson (Gonville-Castlecliff) 23 Sue Carroll, Tina Atkinson-Watt (Howick) 15, Stampa 26 Debique 18. **Semifinals:** Taunt 28 Gadsby 3, Patterson 18 Stampa 13.