

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

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## Sarjeant makes it three for Northland in Open

For the third time a team from Northland has won The Devon Hotel Taranaki women's Open fours.

Mangawhai's Wendy Sarjeant skipped Christine Lineham, Angela Moon and Diane Klomp to become the 74th holders of the Erceg Rose Bowl at West End yesterday.

In the final they beat the Royal Oak side of Sandra Taylor, Gail Clark, Robyn Fisher and Lesley McLinden 31-21 in the final.

In doing so, Sarjeant's team becomes the third team from Kauri country to triumph. Ann Muir QSM skipped teams to back-to-back titles in 2014 and 2015.

The final was unusual insofar as McLinden's side won 13 of the 24 ends completed. The 25th end was not played.

But when Sarjeant did score, her side did so impressively.

That trend commenced on the fifth head. McLinden was leading 6-0, before Sarjeant took a four, with Royal Oak wayward.

Three ends later, a second four gave Mangawhai the lead at 9-8 and while the Aucklanders replied with three singles, the match was blown apart on the following two ends.

Firstly, Sarjeant took a four, again with Royal Oak just too loose. Secondly, Sarjeant took a six to make the score 19-11 after 13 ends.

Royal Oak were a trifle unlucky on the 13th, though. The front three for Sarjeant drew superbly and held six.

Fisher, with her last bowl, pushed through the head missing a number of the counting bowls by virtually nothing. McLinden, drawing with her first, was right on target, but just clipped the sixth shot, which straightened her turning bowl leaving the count unaltered. Seeing the desperation of the situation, McLinden changed to a forehand drive with her last bowl but she was wide.

Sargeant then took complete control by securing a five on the 15th end.



**The winners, from left: Angela Moon, Christine Lineham, Wendy Sarjeant and Diane Klomp.**

McLinden played two top bowls on the next end to generate a three for her side. But when they dropped a three on the next end, the deficit went back to 12 shots, which the Northlanders were able to protect until the end.

Sarjeant earned the moniker of "last bowl Wendy" during the tournament with a number of top shots, as befits a Northland Gold Star holder. Lineham, also a member of Mangawhai, holds four Northland titles, but the Open win is the first centre title for both Moon and Klomp. They are both members of the Kensington club in Whangarei.

Both finalists also benefited from being in what turned out to be a tough section play group, which was managed by Bowls Taranaki stalwart Kevin Gray. Sarjeant's side lost its first game to Adele French but won the next four, including a fifth-round 29-23 effort over McLinden.



Sarjeant's side was involved in a tense semi-final with the Carlton Cornwall quartet of Jeanie Browne, Paula Kempthorne, Helen Blick and Estelle Hicky, winning 23-20.

Ultimately, it was a haul of five shots on the second-to-last end which was to prove decisive. At that point, the scores were locked at 18-all. Mangawhai held a three, when Blick, running through the head, connected with the jack. It hit on the shot bowl and moved to the side. Sarjeant added another. Hickey drew up, touched the shot bowl, and flittered through. Sarjeant added a short counter. Hickey, reaching through the head, connected to nothing, and the measure indicated a five.

Hickey's side could only manage a two on the last and so ended their week.

In the other semi, McLinden was a 30-9 victor over Bev Rogers, Val Mathews, Kathryn McGaughey and Adele French (Thames Coast).

There were no indications early on of the match blowing out. McLinden led 6-5 after five ends. Her side was three, maybe four, down on the next, when with her last bowl, McLinden pushed one of the shot bowls onto

the jack for a count of three — a six shot turn-around.

McLinden killed the next end. On the replay, French was unlucky to spill the jack to go from one up to one down. McLinden added a splendid additional shot.

It became all Royal Oak then, with the Aucklanders shooting out to 20-5 after 13 ends.

A four to Thames Coast made it 20-9. But with Royal Oak winning the next five heads, the game was abandoned after 20 ends.



**The runners-up: Robyn Fisher, Sandra Taylor, Gail Clark and Lesley McLinden.**

## Garside and Patterson win pairs in close finish

Whanganui's Deborah Garside (left of picture) and Dianne Patterson came from behind to win the Marbles Restaurant pairs final at West End yesterday.

The duo beat Tower's Alethea Rowlands and Irene Taunt 21-16 in the decider.

Early exchanges were even. But with Rowlands holding an edge over Garside, the Hawera combination got in front 10-6 after 11 ends.

The Whanganui pair pulled one back on the next end and then Patterson proved her worth. Despite only starting to play bowls in 2000, Patterson has accumulated an impressive 45 centre titles in that time, at an average of nearly two per season.

On the 13th end, when three down, Patterson put the jack into the ditch for three shots. On the next end, Patterson drew three shots. And on the 15th end, after Garside held one, Patterson drew two more.

The three consecutive threes gave the lead to the visitors 16-10. Rowlands and Taunt battled back, and after a three on the 19th head, pulled the score back to 17-16 with two ends remaining.

On the penultimate head, Rowlands held

shot, but after Taunt had played her last bowl, the closest Whanganui bowl fell in for shot. That point proved crucial, giving a two shot buffer on the last end to which Garside drew very well to confirm the victory.

