

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Friday, February 1, 2019

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Open fours field reduced to 18 teams

The post section rounds of the 67th Taranaki women's Open fours will be contested by just 18 sides after section play was completed in New Plymouth yesterday.

After six teams had taken the direct route on Wednesday, a further eight quartets met the qualification criteria after the conclusion of the fifth round. A further four sides notched up win number four yesterday afternoon.

There was delight for those teams, but frustrations for a further eight sides who were left stranded on three wins after losing in the last round.

Section one: One of the great success stories of the week has been the efforts of Waitara's Liz Johnstone in skipping her team into post section. With the original draw being one team short, hard working Bowls Taranaki Executive Officer, Neville Elliott, compiled a side of players who had expressed an interest in helping out sides who were short.

Johnstone, herself a past Taranaki champion-of-champions triples winning skip, was combined with the West End duo of Denise Clark and Christine Kendrick and the wily Fitzroy competitor, Marlene Hayes. Hayes is best remembered for winning the Taranaki champion-of-champions singles in 2015.

After two wins and two losses from the opening four rounds, the team needed both games yesterday. And they didn't disappoint, ending the hopes of Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) 21-20 and then powering away from Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) 29-6.

Pauline Davy (Opunake), after suffering her second loss in the morning 24-20 to Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe), also qualified in the afternoon, thanks to a 31-25 win over Gay Baxter (Bulls). Davy appeared to be cruising for victory when leading 29-14 with five ends remaining, but Baxter's side gathered 11 shots over the next four heads to create plenty of interest on the last end. But Davy survived.

Siegruhn's morning win was to no avail in the end, with the Pukekohe side losing 31-15 to Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy). Siegruhn trailed 16-13 after 15, but it was all Gadsby after that.

New Plymouth's Val McEldowney also missed out. Seeking her fourth win in a row, McEldowney lost 32-30 to Lepperton's Ellie Goble. McEldowney fell 13-0 behind, before grabbing an eight and by the mid-point, the deficit was down to one. But two fives soon after meant that the lead was never hauled in.

Goble's hopes of qualifying had been extinguished in the previous round with a 25-24 loss to Jan Johnson, a result that qualified the West End team. At the same time, Margie Davis (Paritutu) made it comfortably through with a 28-10 win over Cato.

Section two: Two very tidy visiting teams, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) and Pam Burgess (Wanganui), suffered defeats in the sixth round to bow out.

Cowen, after beating Alison Winter (Cambridge Central) 31-17 in the morning, found Denise Samuel (Glenfield) too hot to handle in the afternoon, losing 26-19.

Burgess beat Samuel in the morning 30-24 to keep her team's hopes alive. But they were in turn beaten 28-21 by Inglewood's Margaret McCallum, who finished with three wins. Burgess had looked good leading 20-11 after 15 ends. But McCallum took the next seven ends to turn the game around.

In the only sixth round game involving two teams who both needed the win to qualify, Ann Duggan (New Plymouth) upset Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) 22-21.

Duggan stormed out of the blocks in the game, leading 8-0 and by the 10th end that had become 16-3. But Adams' team climbed back into the game, levelling the scores with one end remaining. Experienced New Plymouth No 3, Val Fleming, drew the winning shot on the last end.

In the morning round, Titahi Bay's Linda Conley had sneaked past Paritutu's Prue Wright 28-27 to qualify.

Section three: Joining Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest) and Gayle Melrose (Papakura), were two further qualifiers — Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy) and Cathy Andrews (Paritutu).

Both made it through in the morning. Hewson ended the qualifying hopes of Sue Edwards (New Plymouth) 31-23, while Andrews beat Lepperton's Wendy Moratti in the feature match of the morning 23-10.

Three further teams had a chance of qualifying in round six — Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Jean Sheary (Matua) and Moratti — but all lost. Nicoll went down to Edwards 22-20, after trailing by a difficult-to-get five shots playing the last end.

Despite picking up a seven on the fourth end, Sheary found the going too tough against de Jongh, losing 30-21.

Moratti was still in touch with Melrose, being 16-12 behind after 13 ends. But the Papakura team dominated after that to win 29-16.

Section four: Supervisor Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) suffered a scare but overcame that to qualify.

After losing 27-12 to non-qualifier Berys Norgate (Paritutu) in the morning, it meant

Stampa needed to beat Janice Ropitini (West End) in the afternoon.

Ropitini had already qualified, having beaten Mary Solomon (Tauranga) 21-11 in the morning. Stampa altered the playing order of her side but it didn't work initially, the Hawera Park side falling behind 14-5 by afternoon tea time.

But they turned the tide after that, levelling and then pulling away to win 31-20. Ironically, the two teams are drawn to meet each other this afternoon after byes in the morning.

Lepperton's Carol Pearce was the other new qualifier from the section. Her fourth win came 16-13 over Mary Evans (Napier) in the morning. But Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) couldn't repeat last year's effort of qualifying. Her side suffered

loss number three in the morning to Karen Forrest (Papakura) 27-17.

That was the fifth win in succession for Forrest, pictured right.



Open fours post section draw

Draw for post section, at Paritutu A, today:

Round 1 (9am start): Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), v Denise Samuel (Glenfield), Ann Duggan (New Plymouth) v Karen Forrest (Papakura).

Round 2 (1.30pm start): Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) v Janice Ropitini (West End), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) v Jan Johnson (West End), Gayle Melrose (Papakura) v Robyn Wallace (Omarunui).

Round 2 (9am start): Liz Johnstone (Waitara) v Margie Davis (Paritutu), Linda Conley (Titahi Bay) v Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest), Pauline Davy (Opunake) v Patty Symes (Tower), Heather Johns (Paritutu) v Carol Pearce (Lepperton).

Match of the day — Melrose v Wallace

The match of the day is likely to be this afternoon at Paritutu, when, after sitting out first round byes, Gayle Melrose (Papakura) will meet Robyn Wallace (Omarunui). Melrose is part of the Black Jacks coaching panel.

Both sides won four straight in section play, and even though Melrose had a slip-up yesterday morning, the two teams appear evenly matched.

Wallace has a very competent side with Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness and Alison Rennie, while Melrose's team is Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia and Margaret Davies.

The winner of the match will advance to the quarterfinals on Saturday morning at Paritutu.

