

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

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14 teams open with two wins

Of the 48 teams that started, 14 managed to win both games on the opening day's play in the Taranaki women's Open fours in New Plymouth yesterday.

Section one: Five teams opened with the perfect record — Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Margie Davis (Paritutu), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Robyn Wallace (Omarunui) and Pauline Davy (Opunake).

Wallace, a former national club champion fours winning skip, defeated Val McEldowney (New Plymouth) in the opening round 26-22 and then posted a 33-23 victory over Jan Johnson (West End), who had won in the opening round over Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe).

The irony for Wallace's team, which includes a late replacement, Auckland's Alison Rennie, was that it dropped an eight in the morning and then gained one in the afternoon.

Wallace shot out to a 9-1 lead over McEldowney. But by the 16th end, and aided by an eight on the 10th, the New Plymouth side had the initiative at 20-15. However, three ends later it was even, and Wallace took the last two heads to take the honours.

It was the reverse in the afternoon, when, after dropping a six on the fifth end, Wallace

found herself 10-2 down to Johnson. However, the Hawke's Bay side won the next seven ends, and an eight soon after, exploded the game apart at 25-11. The West Enders rallied, closing to within seven, but Wallace still took the game with one end unplayed.

McEldowney ended the day with two losses, Johns winning their afternoon clash 23-10. In the morning, Johns beat Gay Baxter (Bulls) 33-27 after leading by five playing the last end.

Davy was comprehensive in both of her wins — 28-17 over Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) and 29-4 over Liz Johnstone (Waitara).

Davis worked hard for both of her wins — 22-17 over Sue Murray (Paekakariki) and 25-24 against Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy).

Constantine defeated Ellie Goble (Lepperton) 21-17 in the opening round — the two teams were separated by only two shots playing the last end — and then Baxter 28-13. Goble won the last seven ends of her afternoon match against Murray to draw the game at 24-all, and then took the extra end to win 28-24.

Section two: Only Patty Symes (Tower), the runner-up 12 months ago, and Denise Samuel (Glenfield), a beaten semifinalist 12 months ago, managed two wins from the group at Vogeltown.

• To page two.

Bennett opens second half of bowls carnival

Bowls Taranaki president, Brien Bennett QSM, officially opened the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday. Bennett said that every indicator suggested that the

women should enjoy, just as the men did last week in the first half of the bowls carnival, everything that the province has to offer. From the greens, to the competition, to the hos-

pitality, and the weather, too. Also pictured is Barbara Bishop, supervisor of section one, who had two wins a member of Margie Davis' Paritutu side.



- From page one

Symes went into the last end of the morning match 22-all with Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) and got the necessary point. The patron of Bowls Taranaki then defeated Trish Howard (West End) 26-13 in round two. Cowen responded with a win.

Samuel always held the lead in the morning against Linda Conley (Titahi Bay), who has four Wellington centre titles. A four and a five in the mid stages assisted the North Harbour side, who won 23-19. Samuel then beat Gloria Shaw (Paritutu) 30-19, while Conley upset Fitzroy's Rhonda Adams 31-16. Adams had scored a 28-19 win over Pam Burgess' Wanganui side, that is being skipped by Denise Taylor, in the match of the morning. Taylor led 19-15 after 20 ends, but Adams took three consecutive fours, plus a single, to win 28-19.

Section three: Karen De Jongh (Hillcrest), Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), Gayle Melrose (Papakura) and Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) all had two wins, most by large margins.

De Jongh hit 30 in both of her games, justifying her team's pre-tournament favouritism, while Melrose was also emphatic. Hewson withstood a late fightback from Judy Gernhoefer (Te Puke) in the morning, winning 24-19 after it had been 21-7, and edged Robyn Klenner (Vogeltown) 28-25 in round two.

In the afternoon, Andrews had a close clash with Jean Sheary (Matua), who had opened with a win, clinching the game 23-18.

Who won how many on day one?

Standings after the first day's play in the 2019 Taranaki women's Open fours:

Section 1: two wins, Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Margie Davis (Paritutu), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Robyn Wallace (Omarunui), Pauline Davy (Opunake); **one win**, Liz Johnstone (Waitara), Jan Johnson (West End), Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe), Ellie Goble (Lepperton).

Section 2: two wins, Patty Symes (Tower), Denise Samuel (Glenfield); **one win**, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North), Trish Howard

Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) was upset 23-15 by Wendy Moratti (Inglewood) but won in the afternoon.

Section four: Kristin Stampa (Paritutu), Karen Forrest (Papakura) and Janice Ropitini (West End) were the unbeaten sides. Stampa was dominant in both games, while Ropitini, who was in the winning team in 1999, had two narrow wins.

Forrest had a tough first game against Berys Norgate. The match went to an extra end, before the Counties side prevailed 21-18. Forrest had a more relaxing time in the afternoon, beating Mary Evans (Napier) 32-6.

Norgate won in the afternoon and meets Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), who also had one each way, in a crucial game this morning at New Plymouth.

Admin and play at the same time?

One of the more interesting statistics from the opening day was that all of the supervisors won twice.

Playing and administrating at the same time is often seen as a task nigh on impossible. But the burden didn't hinder Barbara Bishop, as a member of Margie Davis' team in section one, Patty Symes (section two), Cathy Andrews (section three) and Kristin Stampa (section four).

The hard working women are all now halfway to qualifying.

(West End), Pam Burgess (Wanganui), Linda Conley (Titahi Bay), Val Fleming (New Plymouth), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Prue Wright (Paritutu), Margaret McCallum (Inglewood).

Section 3: two wins, Karen De Jongh (Hillcrest), Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), Gayle Melrose (Papakura), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu); **one win**, Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Sue Edwards (New Plymouth), Jean Sheary (Matua), Wendy Moratti (Lepperton).

Section 4: two wins, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Karen Forrest (Papakura), Janice Ropitini (West End); **one win**, Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), Berys Norgate (Paritutu), Carol Pearce (Lepperton), Valda Rowan (Paritutu).