

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 30, 2020

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## Goble turns back the years to qualify early

Lepperton's Ellie Goble ranks as one of Taranaki's finest ever women's bowlers. Her 17 centre titles is testament to that.

Yesterday she skipped her side into post section the easiest way possible in the 68th Taranaki women's Open fours — by winning four games in succession.

While Goble has an impressive tally — along with her No 3, June Ward, who has 21 crowns — the last of these was won in 2008. However, the duo, along with promising lead Ann Potako and second Brenda Rowe, gave a reminder that they are not a spent force yet by winning two further games to add to the two from Tuesday.

The quartet beat Gay Baxter (Bulls) 21-17, after the scores were even with two ends to go and Julie Reid (Paritutu) 29-21 to ensure qualification.

Three other teams have also made it through the direct way. Surprising, like Goble, two others are also from the tough **section C** — Karen Forrest (Manurewa) and Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) — along with Pauline Pirere (Laird Park) from section B.

Green had a slightly peculiar conclusion to her third round match. Playing Fitzroy's Joan Richards, who had also won twice on Tuesday, Green led 23-15 after 23 of the scheduled 25 ends.

Richards took a four to halve the margin, but then shook hands, electing to not play the final end. The 1.30pm time limit had occurred, but Richards still had the right to complete the last head after the fourth round game had been played. Surprisingly, she turned down that opportunity.

Richards returned to the winner's circle after lunch, eliminating Baxter 35-10. But she faces two tough games today, against Goble and Forrest. Forrest got through 34-10 over Susan Cottam (West End) and 27-19 against Gloria Shaw (Paritutu).

Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) and Faye Hopkins (Tower) both won twice to come within one win of qualifying.

Pirere's side continued to impress in **section B**. The Whanganui side won a topsy-turvy morning game against Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 25-17 — it had been 16-15 after 17 — and then was the first team to beat Teo Thoresen (Levin) 24-17.

Thoresen had some consolation after the game, when her side went out and completed its morning game against Pam Mulford (Plimmerton). The teams had been locked at 25-all after 23 ends.

After the resumption, Thoresen claimed a three and with Mulford managing only a two, the Kapiti side secured win No 3, 28-27. Mulford was left on two wins.

Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) and Jean Sheary (Matua) were the other two sides to win both games on day two in the group. They have three and two wins respectively now.

There are no unbeaten teams in **section A**, but six sides are nicely poised on three wins. Included in that sub-group is Barbara Harvey (Paritutu), who crucially held off Janice Ropitini (West End) 29-27 in the afternoon. Earlier, Harvey collected an eight in beating Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) 36-21.

Today Harvey meets new visitor Kera Parata (Kaikohe), who upset Ropitini in the morning, and then another three winner, Pam Burgess (Wanganui).

Burgess beat two further sides who finished with three wins — Jane Augustine (Tower) 33-17 and Joy Collins (Opunake) 29-17.

The two other three winners are Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui), who ended the hopes of Margie Davis (Paritutu) in the afternoon, and Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy).

Gadsby was tripped up 28-15 by Collins in the morning, before beating Ronnie Crone (Otaki) 26-16.

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**Section D** is also without a four winner, however, six sides are ready to pounce this morning as they sit on three wins.

Mercury Bay's Lee McDonald, and her composite side, is one of these. She was surprised 16-15 by Colleen Day (New Plymouth) in the morning before giving the Paekakariki side skipped by Denise Samuel its third loss, 31-21.

Two strong Taranaki sides, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) and Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), both won twice as well to be among the three winners.

Adams was decisive in the morning, 37-10 over Margaret Farmer (Paritutu), before back-

ing it up 26-14 against Trish Howard (West End). Stampa beat Mary Solomon (Tauranga) 33-11 and Farmer 28-19.

The other three winners in the section are Carol Pearce (Lepperton), Marg Davies (Papakura) and Mary Bettelheim (Ohope).

Pearce, after sneaking past Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) 25-23, was edged out by Gale Face (Vogelstown) by the same score in the afternoon. Nicoll, a semifinalist two years ago, is out after only one win, while Fache needs two wins today to make it through.

In a vital fourth round clash, Bettelheim comprehensively beat Davies 28-14 to enhance their chances of qualifying. Davies had beat Samuel 26-18 in the morning, while Bettelheim had defeated Fache 26-21.

## Who has won how many after day two? **Lander visits Open**

### Standings after the second day's play:

**Section A: four wins**, nil; **three wins**, Maree Gadsby (Fitzroy), Jane Augustine (Tower), Pam Burgess (Wanganui), Ann Loomb (Mt Maunganui), Joy Collins (Opunake), Barbara Harvey (Paritutu); **two wins**, Janice Ropitini (West End), Judy Cato (Te Awamutu), Wendy Moratti (Lepperton).

**Section B: fours wins**, Pauline Pirere (Laird Park); **three wins**, Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), Teo Thoresen (Levin); **two wins**, Alison Winter (Central Cambridge), June Smith (Tauranga), Pam Mulford (Plimmerton), Heather Thomas (New Plymouth), Jean Sheary (Matua), Margaret McCallum (Inglewood), Denise Cottam (West End), Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North).

**Section C: four wins**, Ellie Goble (Lepperton), Karen Forrest (Manurewa), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha); **three wins**, Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Faye Hopkins (Tower), Joan Richards (Fitzroy); **two wins**, Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East), Val McEldowney (New Plymouth).

**Section D: four wins**, nil; **three wins**, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Carol Pearce (Lepperton), Marg Davies (Papakura), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay); **two wins**, Rae-wyn Falconer (Frankton Junction), Mary Solomon (Tauranga), Gale Fache (Vogelstown).

Chris Lander, Bowls New Zealand General Manager Clubs and Community, made an abridged appearance at the Taranaki women's Open fours this week.

Lander, pictured with Paritutu President Allan Batley, struck troubles with the closure of the New Plymouth airport on Tuesday and Wednesday but was still able to take in some of the action.

"We have tried to put one of our staff, directors or selectors on each of the events that are on the calendar," Lander said.

"We are committed to a full calendar, and that includes both the men's and women's Taranaki Opens."

It is important, Lander said, that the events meet the required standard in terms of competition, greens and publicity. "They need to be well managed and well received. What we have seen so far in Taranaki over both events is very encouraging."

