

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

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Thrilling final decided on dramatic last end

In a finale that befitted the occasion, Papakura's Marg Davies held her nerve to ensure victory for her side in the final of the Taranaki women's open fours event at Paritutu yesterday.

Davies' crew defeated a Wanganui team skipped by Pam Burgess 24-23 in the decider that had those watching the game – both at the green and online – immersed in what became a dramatic conclusion.

Davies and her quartet of Cheryl Hunia, Les Eagleton and Hetty Bolscher deservedly led 24-20 after 24 of the 25 ends.

But changing fortunes on the last end meant that Burgess and her team of Denise Taylor, Sonia Wooding and Dot Belliss were still in with a chance.

That chance became real belief when Burgess, with her first bowl, brilliantly turned off Hunia's shot bowl. It left Wanganui holding five shots – enough for victory.

However, after inspecting the head, Davies pushed down on the forehand, running into the counting bowls. She came off one of the counters, dislodging that off the head, and in turn sat on the shot bowl.

Burgess still had one to play. She also pushed into the head, collecting the jack, but on closer observation, it left her with only three shots – one short of a tie.

A relieved Davies didn't play her last bowl.

The Papakura side dominated the opening stanza of the final, leading 11-0 after six ends. Burgess got on the board on end seven, posting a three.

A single on the next made it 11-4.

However, the following three ends went to Davies team, making the score at the morning tea adjournment 15-4, after 11 ends.

Bolscher, in particular, had a highly productive start to the game, her experience as an Auckland gold star holder and a past Dominion fours winner showing through.



Pride of Papakura: Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia, Hetty Bolscher and Marg Davies.

But after the resumption in play, the Wanganui team settled and clawed back into the contest.

They scored a three and then a two to make it 15-9. However, Davies side retorted that with two threes and a single.

That made it 22-9 to Papakura after 16 ends. But then the Wanganui comeback commenced in earnest.

They took the next four ends to make it 22-16 as the teams entered the home straight.

A single to Davies gave a little breathing space, but Burgess took a three to tightened the score to 23-19. Belliss – the sister-in-law of the famed Peter – was impressive during this revival.

The sides then exchanged singles before the tense, accurate final end.

Wanganui gallant in defeat; the final by the numbers



Top left: Wanganui's Denise Taylor, Sonia Wooding, Dot Belliss and Pam Burgess with Taranaki President Ian Andrews.



The Wanganui side look unsuccessfully for the necessary fourth shot on the last end, as the Papakura front three celebrate.

PAPAKURA		v. Wanganui		
		LEAD		
		SECOND		
		THIRD		
M DAVIES		SKIP	P Burgess	
SECTION	A	ROUND		
		RINK	1	
SCORE	TOTAL	ENDS	SCORE	TOTAL
1	1	1	-	-
4	5	2	-	-
7	6	3	-	-
1	7	4	-	-
3	10	5	-	-
1	11	6	-	-
-	11	7	3	3
-	11	8	1	4
1	12	9	-	4
1	13	10	-	4
2	15	11	-	4
-	15	12	3	7
-	15	13	2	9
3	18	14	-	9
3	21	15	-	9
1	22	16	-	9
-	22	17	2	11
-	22	18	3	14
-	22	19	1	15
-	22	20	1	16
1	23	21	-	16
-	23	22	3	19
1	24	23	-	19
-	24	24	1	20
-	24	25	3	23
		EXTRA		
		TOTAL		

The winner of the game is: 1:55
 WINNER M Davies (Use Block Letters)
 LOSER (Signed) [Signature]

End of a fabulous fortnight

Bowls Taranaki President Ian Andrews was full of smiles after the completion of the 68th Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday. On the back of the men's Open, which concluded the previous Sunday, Andrews said he was delighted with how the "fabulous fortnight" had gone. "Throughout both events, I've spoken to many bowlers. I'm very pleased. We will take a breath and then conduct a full debrief," Andrews said. There had been no major disruptions or problems during the last two weeks, but "we strive for perfection." Andrews again acknowledged the outstanding support received by many clubs and

workers, something echoed by both skips in yesterday's final. Victorious skip Marg Davies, a cool customer, said her side were delighted with their success. "We came down not expecting anything," Davies said afterwards. "We are thrilled to be going home with the trophy. This remains a great tournament." Pam Burgess, who held victory for a few seconds on that remarkable final end, said that her team had loved the week and had every intention of returning again next year. • Like the men's final the previous week, the final was broadcast via livestreaming on Facebook.