

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

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## A quarter of the field unbeaten after day one

Fourteen teams are already halfway to qualifying after the opening day's play in the Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday.

Evenly spread throughout the sections, there were plenty of close encounters, plus a few upsets, as players battled with temperatures not experienced in Taranaki so far this year.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the two losses incurred by Ngongotaha's Mina Paul. Paul's team includes three-time Dominion pairs winner Mary Campbell, Carolyn Tasker — whose husband, Lance, won the men's title on Sunday — and Marilyn Constantine.

In the opening game, Paul's side, in the feature clash in **section C**, went down 28-23 to Pam Mulford (Plimmerton) and they then lost 21-17 to Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth).

Both Mulford and Hodge finished on two wins.

Mulford's side is in fact being skipped by Liz Witton, with Val Hadfield and Annie Judge in the engine room.

Against Paul, the clash was very up-and-down. Witton led 6-0 after four; Paul hit the lead 7-6 after seven; Witton then led 11-7 and 16-10; Paul won five of the next six ends to lead 18-17; but a five followed by a three on the next two heads had Witton looking good.

Paul's side clawed back a three and a two to trail by two shots playing the last end. However, Witton took a three to win it.

Witton's afternoon win came 32-19 over Margaret Farmer (Paritutu). Hodge had coasted home in her morning match 35-10 over Colleen Clark (Ohope).

Allan's team rebounded well to triumph 27-20 in the afternoon against Vogeltown's Gale Fache, the joint women's player of the 2010 Dominion tournament. Fache had edged Anne Connelly (Bulls) 25-22 earlier.

The other unbeaten side in section C is Taranaki gold star holder, Pauline Davy (Opunake). Playing on her old home green with three members of the winning 2016 side, Davy beat Trish Howard (West End) 27-21 and Chris Telford (Napier) 23-19.

Defending champion Marg Davies (Papakura) made a successful start, posting two wins in **section D** on the impressive Inglewood green. With Denise Clark substituting at lead and Cheryl Hunia being promoted to No 3, Davies beat Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay) 24-13 and Taranaki great Ellie Goble (Lepperton) 30-15.

McDonald was level through 10 ends in the morning game, before Davies edged away. Gayle Melrose returns to the Davies side today.

Home town heroine Cindy Nicoll also posted two wins. But there was plenty of anxious moments before edging Goble in the opening game. Goble led 19-16 with two ends remaining. Nicoll replied with a five and Goble could only manage a single on the last, the Inglewood side prevailing 21-20. Nicoll then beat Denise Cottam (West End) 30-22.

Cottam had upset Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East) 23-21 in the first game. Loveridge had further agony in the last going down 26-25 to Paula Meredith (Johnsonville) in a particularly crucial game.

Meredith had dropped her first match to Heather Johns (Paritutu) 24-18. That was after Meredith had led 18-14.

But 10 points over the last five ends gave the game to Johns, who backed it up with a 38-14 afternoon win against Janet Olliver (Waitarere Beach).

Joining Johns with two wins was clubmate Gloria Shaw. Her second victory came 29-22 over Gaye Holub (Waitara), who had also opened with a win — 25-16 over Dawn Clark (Tauranga).

Kia Toa's Coral Lukies, skipping a composite side of old friends, continued a terrific run of form to open with two wins in **section A**.

Lukies was last season's Hawke's Bay junior player of the year and as recently as Sunday, claimed that centre's open triples title.

Lukies commenced with a resounding 27-11 win over Janice Ropitini (West End), before inflicting the second defeat of the day on last year's semifinalist, Jean Sheary (Matua), 27-18. After 23 ends, Lukies led by just one shot, but counts of five and three on the last two ends inflated the margin.

Lukies is joined on two wins by Mary Solomon (Tauranga), Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) and Elaine McClintock (Orewa).

After an easy 31-12 win over Joan Richards (Fitzroy), Solomon defeated a Hawera Park side that was being skipped by Pauline Kennedy 27-22. To do so, Solomon overcame a 12-5 deficit after 10 ends by virtue of scoring 17 shots on the subsequent seven heads.

Bird's wins came 30-23 over Joan Raymond (Wanganui East) — a six on the 16th end being vital — and 24-14 against Liz Johnstone (Waitara).

In the final analysis, McClintock was a comfortable victor in both games — 33-18 over Anne Duggan (New Plymouth) and 28-16 against Ronnie Crone (Otaki).

## Who won how many on day one?

### Standings after the first day's play in the 69th Taranaki women's Open fours tournament:

**Section A: two wins**, Fay Bird (Central Cambridge), Mary Solomon (Tauranga), Coral Lukies (Kia Toa), Elaine McClintock (Orewa); **one win**, Patricia McGrail (Napier), Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Liz Johnstone (Waitara), Joan Raymond (Wanganui East), Ronnie Crone (Otaki).

**Section B: two wins**, Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall), Mere Fryer (Palmerston North), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu); **one win**, Sue Edwards (New Plymouth), Fane Vessey (Paraparaumu Beach), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Martie

**Section B** featured the closest games of the day, with a number of nail-biters. Ngongotaha's Wendy Green experienced both sides of the coin, scrapping home 23-21 over Karen Forrest (Manurewa) and then losing out 22-20 on the last bowl played by Fane Vessey (Paraparaumu Beach).

Mere Fryer (Palmerston North), playing on the same green that she contested the Dominion singles semifinals in 2013, won twice. The first was 24-20 over Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), after leading by three shots playing the last end. It was even tighter in the second.

Trailing by three shots with two ends to play against Chris Commene (Opunake), Fryer grabbed two braces to get home 23-22.

Joining Fryer as unbeaten in the group are Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall) and Cathy Andrews (Paritutu).

Rennie was a victor over Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) 26-17 and Margie Davis (Paritutu) 29-19. Davis won a thrilling morning round clash 29-28 over a luckless Carole Pearce (Lepperton) — who lost both games by a point.

Davis gave Rennie a good go, too, leading 17-14 after 18 ends. However a three and a six on the next two ends turned the tide.

Andrews defeated Commene 30-19 and Forrest 30-21.

Sisson (Ohope), Margie Davis (Paritutu), Kay Goldsworthy (Napier), Judy Cato (Te Awamutu).

**Section C: two wins**, Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth), Pam Mulford (Plimmerton), Pauline Davy (Opunake); **one win**, Denise Te Moto (Te Awamutu), Rae Curtis (Manaia), Patty Symes (Tower), Chris Telford (Napier), Trish Howard (West End), Wendy Moratti (Lepperton), Colleen Clark (Ohope), Gale Fache (Vogeltown).

**Section D: two wins**, Marg Davies (Papakura), Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Gloria Shaw (Paritutu); **one win**, Dawn Clark (Tauranga), Janet Olliver (Waitarere Beach), Denise Cotnam (West End), Frances Parkes (Hawera Park), Gaye Holub (Waitara).

