

The start of 2026 has been very busy for both players and management with two major representative events, 1-5 singles and the Interclub 7's. Some of our players have featured in all four events and credit must go to them for continually putting in strong performances.

Southern Six

This event showed some challenges in our open team resulting in a rapid change of plans for the selectors with only two weeks between this event and the Super Sixes in Christchurch. Our Development Women had an excellent team spirit throughout the weekend and improved on their performance from the previous two years securing second spot this year. We are seeing some great potential for the future which is fantastic for our centre. The Open Women also secured second place finishing second overall to a very strong Dunedin side who finished top in both Open and Development competitions.

Thanks need to go to Clyde and Alexandra who worked so hard to ensure that all players, management and visitors were well looked after throughout the weekend with the whole event being a great showcase of the hospitality of Central Otago. A big thank you to all involved in making this event a success.

Super Sixes

Our main intention going into this event, much like other centres, is to give players an opportunity to play really strong teams with plenty of our NZ internationals on the green. I am very proud of our team, with many really stepping up to the occasion, revelling in this level of play. Unfortunately the results didn't quite go our way this year and we finished in 5th place. There are always 'what if' moments in any sport, however, I do feel it is important to note for our team that if four games, 2 draws and 2 within 2 points, had gone the other way on the last ends then we would have finished in third position. This goes to show how tight these games are, and our major work on is maximising opportunities and minimising risk in games where a few points either way on key ends would have been the difference between finishing 5th and finishing 3rd. Those ends in the Intercentre will be the difference between qualifying and not!

Intercentre 7's

This is our premier event for the season and we have an intense few weeks ahead of us getting the seven players who will proudly represent our centre to have the confidence and belief required to go that step further this year. I am looking forward to the challenge and I thank the many senior New Zealand players and Coaches who have given their time willingly at the Super Sixes to help me help our team find that required extra edge we will need.

My thanks go to Margaret and Angela who engage in great and robust conversations over how we select the right players to take us forward. Balancing performance for a particular event vs creating a strong foundation for the centre over the next 3-5 years is no easy task and sometimes we do have to sacrifice potential short term success for long term benefits. Our

focus over the next few days is selecting the strongest team we can for the Intercentre where a great performance will boost the confidence of the whole squad.

Thanks from myself and the whole team also go to Pauline and Bec for ensuring we get to the events with the minimum of fuss, stay in great accommodation and have all the food options that a travelling team need. Great work both of you, thank you.

Carl Street

Women's Centre Coach and Convenor of Selectors.