

DEVELOPMENT MEN @ SOUTHERN 6

08.02.26

The team of 9 as selected travelled away to Dunedin on Friday, 23 January.

The van, sourced on the lakes side, collected Senior and Development players west of Clyde and, once at Clyde, the players split into their respective team vans. The Development team carried on to their designated venue, the St Clair BC but conditions did not allow a roll up. We returned to our accommodation in Mosgiel staying at the Bonnie Knights motel.

Weather played a major part in the weekend and, as forewarned and predicted, the Development Squad tournament was moved to the Mornington BC all-weather green. As a result of a lesser number of rinks being available the two pairings were combined to establish another 4's combination. The singles were scheduled at the outdoor Stadium green. Whilst the singles game was completed, those at Mornington were called off with about 40 minutes remaining.

At this point it was agreed that all games (Senior & Development) be played indoors at the Stadium with a reduced timeframe of 90 minutes. The Seniors played a full round followed by the Development teams allowing the tournaments to be completed in a timely fashion.

Central Otago (Development) started poorly winning only one of three games in each the first two rounds against Dunedin and South Canterbury respectively. In particular the original 4's combination really struggled to get bowls near the jack and consequently build heads. As a result, the make-up of that combination was changed and a team meeting was held prior to playing Southland.

Without question the fixture against Southland was the highlight of the weekend. All three games were won. On the final end in the singles Paul Spooner played a brilliant 3rd bowl, a drive, to turn the end on its head and then drew a second shot with his last bowl to win the game. Both 4's combinations held tough to beat two very good Southland teams. The level of energy in this fixture was fantastic and the results gave us an opportunity to win the tournament though we needed a couple of other results to go our way. On the second day the fixtures against South Otago and North Otago were both won 2 games to 1. A whitewash in both fixtures would still only have had us finish second on countback.

Final result

1st South Canterbury 33 points/11 wins; 2nd Dunedin 30 points/10 wins; **3rd Central Otago 27 points/9 wins**; 4th Southland 22 points/7 wins and a draw; 5th South Otago 12 points/4 wins & 6th North Otago 10 points/3 wins and a draw.

The full Central Otago results are at the foot of the report.

Overall, it was a pleasing result albeit not what we wanted. To bounce back after the poor start is a credit to the team. The camaraderie was exemplary and the team had a fun and enjoyable time. I will be working with Dave Chisholm on a review of the season to date to obviously include the Southern 6.

Logistically, things went very well. Van pick-ups and drop-offs went without a hitch and the accommodation was excellent. Pauline's communication from the Centre was, as always, without fault. The gear, jackets, playing and casual shirts looked great.

It would not be out of order to send a note of thanks to Nigel Thompson and the team from Dunedin for the manner in which they coped with very trying conditions. To complete the tournaments was a miracle in itself and the catering team did a fantastic job changing venues at very short notice.

	Lead	M Duff	M Duff	S Geary	
	2	J Harley	D deBeer	G Hammond	
	3	M Carter	J Harley	T Swain	
	Skip	D deBeer	M Carter	D Chisholm	P Spooner
Dunedin		L 2 - 15		L 5 - 9	W 19 - 15
South Canterbury		L 3 - 21		W 7 - 5	L 12 - 21
Southland			W 10 - 3	W 10 - 3	W 15 - 14
South Otago			W 11 - 7	L 9 - 13	W 21 - 14
North Otago			L 6 - 10	W 11 - 6	W 21 - 6

Match Points	6	9	12	27
Points For	32	42	88	162
Points Against	56	36	70	162
Differential	-24	6	18	0

As previously signaled, I wish to now concentrate on the Year 1-5's and given the numbers competing in the Year 1-5 Central Otago singles this is likely a timely move. Southland are keen to compete against us on March 15 and I would like to discuss this at our February 9 meeting.

Peter Dunne
 Manager
 Central Otago Bowls Development Squad