

Fenburn Duster, Saturday 30 January

The Fenburn Duster is an embroidered pennant competed for annually between the Fendalton and Burnside Bowling Clubs. This competition started in 1978 and since then the Duster has been in contention 42 times with 20 victories to Fendalton while Burnside has been on a golden run since 2015 to rack up 22 successes. This run continued on Saturday with the hosts winning 11 games, 142 points to Fendalton's 5 games, 109 points.

Eight fours playing two games each of nine ends represented each club in warm but somewhat blustery conditions. Burnside led narrowly 5-3 after the first round of games but held on to win 6-2 in the second half with many close matches going the locals' way. Four Burnside teams, skipped by Debbie Ho, Neil Andersen, Vincent Chia and Scott Greenland, won both their games while Don Forbes also skipped his Fendalton four to two wins.

All in all this was a contest played in good spirit, always competitive but very enjoyable for all participants. Many thanks are due to Graeme Paton for organising Fendalton's challenge. Brenda Turner, Burnside's President, was presented the Duster by her Fendalton counterpart, Peter Law, to conclude a very successful afternoon.

The other club event of the day was the weekly Festival Bowls competition which attracted 30 entries. Surprisingly there were no three winners on Saturday with Bruce Wallace leading the way with two wins and one draw to take the major prize. Stu Grant and Clare Churcher finished one end behind Bruce while Sharyn Pryde, in fourth place, led home a large number of two winners.

Meanwhile the Canterbury Centre Finals' Weekend was being played on the Orchard Green in front of an appreciative audience - appreciative because of the skill on display in often very difficult conditions caused by the cross winds on the fast green. Over Saturday and Sunday Burnside players did the Club proud. Centre titles were won by Richard Hocking and Tayla Bruce in the Mixed Pairs, Mike Small and Matt Small in the Men's Pairs, Ange Mitchell in the Women's U5 Singles and Mike Small in the Men's Singles.

Runner Up to title winners were Jude Main in the Women's U5 Singles, Hamish Wilson in the Men's Singles, (both runners up to Burnside club mates), Richard Hocking, Barry Williams and Mike Small in the Men's Triples, the Men's 3 x 4s side and Tayla Bruce in the Women's Singles.

Others who performed with much credit were Lance Main, Jude Main and Gill Abel in the Mixed Pairs and Jill Lee and Beth Mehaffey in the Women's 1 & 2 Years Singles competitions.

Congratulations too to Glen, David Conroy and his team, bar staffers, coffee and tea providers and everyone else who helped out over the weekend.

Finally this weekend was book ended by two big days for the club.

Friday afternoon saw 110 corporate players take to the Laing and Davie Greens under the tutelage of Alan Bryce and his volunteers. What was notable here was that on Thursday afternoon and late evening two deluges of rain hit Christchurch and all three greens were under water. When the participants, from the Christchurch and Auckland branches, arrived at the Club for lunch at midday on Friday, the Davie Green was still a lake. Glen Miller's roller achieved wonders and at 1-30 pm the large group emerged, took a group photo, and organised themselves into 27 fours and had a great time. At 4-00 pm the Auckland contingent headed for the airport while many locals stayed on. Heads up to Glen, Alan and his helpers for a very successful afternoon!

Monday, being the first Monday of the month, was Gala Pairs afternoon. Forty six pairs filled the three greens in this monthly 2 x 4 x 2 Pairs tournament. 92 players braved the wind and heat in a very enjoyable afternoon made possible by Allan Vernel and his excellent team of helpers. Glen meanwhile was seen heading for a well deserved lie down!