

GAWLER'S division two Metropolitan Bowls Association team hit the ground running in the opening round of the season on Saturday with a 30-shot win over Brighton, finishing 100-70. Fortunate to stay in this division after holding on by only a handful of points last season, the win is an important confidence booster for the group, and came against a side that spent the 2020-21 season in division one. Particularly pleasing was the new combination of Bradbrook, Hatcher, Kirby and Squire who, though down early, fought back to snatch their rink 25-21. Taking all rinks and the maximum 16 points, it now hits the road for the water-bag trip to Port Noarlunga.

It was a similarly impressive away performance by the newly promoted division four side with an 11-shot win over West Lakes. Never an easy place to bowl due to strong westerlies, the team won the rink count 3-1 with the four of Thorogood, Dinham, Turner and Trzeciak best on the day, finishing 13-shots up. Spending only the one season in division five before comfortably taking the division five pennant, this side has plenty of upside and will be buoyed by this first-up effort.

Gawler's division five team was far too good for the visiting Payneham side with a runaway 32-shot victory. Most of the damage was done by the four of Marsh, Betton, James and Gloede, who thumped their opponents 36-13, and skipper Shirley Branson picked up where she left off last year, guiding her charges to a 12-shot win. Not far off a final berth last season, this is just the start the team would have been looking for.

Though taking two of the three available rinks, Gawler's division six team fell by three shots on the road to Salisbury. Peter Jones and his crew finished the day nine-up, and Vic Fielden's four scraped home by a single shot to bank the side four points. With a ton of experience in this group, and after almost grabbing the pennant last season, it is well placed to challenge again