

CHRISTCHURCH DISC GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

Our Club and your General Committee have been quite busy over the last few months. Here is an update on some of the things that are happening.

Growth

In 2019 Christchurch saw growth in player numbers of around 30% to 40%. Since the end of Covid-19 lockdown, player growth has accelerated (this is also seen in other countries). We have perhaps 2,500 players now in the City, and according to one estimate, as many as 6 new players are taking up the sport in Christchurch every day.

New Courses



In early 2019, the Club applied to the Council for permission to install a further 9 disc golf courses. These are spread around the City in appealing and well-suited public parks.

The priority for new courses is in parts of the City where there are currently none. The highest priority proposal is Warren Park, Hornby (an 18 basket course of medium length in a large, partly wooded park).

Christchurch City Council

The Club has been lobbying the Council for 3 years or more. Progress has been slow, but positive.

We have an established process to walk round proposed new courses with the appropriate Council staff. So far we have done 5 such walk-rounds.

We have begun a rolling process of presentations to local Community Boards to ensure support for proposed new courses from elected politicians and the community.

The Council has agreed to meet to start the approval process for new courses, starting with Warren Park. Council approval is likely to be in the form of long term leases or licenses. This will also regularise the situation for existing courses (for example, the Jellie Park course does not have a license to operate from the Council).

Red Zone

The group overseeing the strategic re-development of Christchurch Red Zone land (Te Tira Kāhikuhiku, or TTK) has agreed to allow the Club to make a short presentation to them. Assuming this goes well, the Club expects to follow up with detailed new course proposals for the Red Zone.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a high priority for the Club, but has been delayed by technicalities. Firstly, as the Club only became an incorporated society in January 2019, we have had to wait until quite recently to have a set of properly reviewed annual accounts (which donor organisations require).



Secondly, the Club has applied for the status of registered charity, as agreed by Members last year (we had to first wait to have our first set of reviewed annual accounts). It is now apparent that the application for charitable status will take several more months. Accordingly, the Club expects to make its first grant requests in the near future (for the Ascot/QE2 and Warren Park courses), without waiting for charitable status.

The Club is taking active steps to find ongoing sources of revenue (outside of grants for new courses). This is important to help cover the Club's ongoing expenses (e.g. accountancy fees, course maintenance, sundry items).

Club Logo

The Club has commissioned the design of a logo for the Club, which we hope to be able to show you before long. Having a good logo has many benefits, including, for example, recruiting new Members. A secondary benefit is that it will allow the Club to do merchandising (to give the Club some ongoing revenue).

Changes to the Jellie Park Course for Safety

Jellie Park is very busy, we can see 300-500 players on a busy Sunday. There are players on the course from 7:00 a.m. every day. There are many first time players. Safety on the course therefore becomes a priority.

We also became aware recently that one of the houses bordering Jellie Park is getting an average of 3 discs every day thrown into their property (obviously this cannot continue).



Accordingly, without doing any violence to the design of the Jellie Park course, we expect to do the following:

- Move 2 baskets a short distance (holes 8 and 9).
- Install a permanent teepad for hole 6.
- Add a small number of alternate teepads (typically making the hole a bit longer).
- Move 1 teepad a short distance for safety reasons.
- Add a small number of alternate basket positions (for interest).

Once these changes are made, we will ask all players (for safety reasons) to tee off only from permanent teepads.

Personnel Changes

Donald Booth and Louis Strydom have recently resigned from the General Committee. We thank them for their selfless service, and wish them all the best.

Help needed

The Club needs immediate help in the following areas:

- Management of fundraising efforts. We have a good template, we know which organisations to apply to. But the grant application process itself is time consuming and bureaucratic, also requiring good order.
- Identification of suitable locations for courses in the Red Zone. We have a good general idea, of course, but the detailed process is time consuming, involving the perusal of many maps and district plans, and liaison with multiple organisations (Council, TTK, LIM).

- Merchandising. Soon we will have a Club logo, at which point we need help with merchandising (for example discs, mini-disc markers, caps, shirts etc.).

If you would like to help in any of these areas, please let me or any General Committee Member know.

Paul Deacon
Chairman
20th September 2020

General Committee Members:

Paul Deacon (Chairman)
Chris Hoopmann (Treasurer)
Lorene Botha (Secretary)
Leon Botha
Philip Botha

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