

## CHAMPION GREEN FACILITIES COMMITTEE

SAXTON FIELD COMMITTEE PUBLIC FORUM 22 May, 2019

### Champion Green developments:

Thank you to all Council staff and contractors for the completion thus far in the following projects:

- **New car park**
- **Landscaping around Saxton Velodrome**

#### Items for consultation with Saxton Field Committee:

- 1. THE CHAMPION GREEN FACILITIES COMMITTEE** as representing several sporting code user groups, wish to be **consulted** on the workshop outcomes in the review process of the **Saxton Field Reserve Management Plan (SFRMP)**. The timing of this would possibly be in September – October this year.
- 2. THE CHAMPION GREEN FACILITIES COMMITTEE** wish to be consulted on future **Marketing Strategies** especially in reference to the identified areas of the **SWOT analysis**.
- 3. THE CHAMPION GREEN FACILITIES COMMITTEE** wish to discuss with Council staff as soon as possible the current proposed spending allocations on Capital Projects as below: We are strong advocates in assisting staff to find ways NOT to spend unnecessarily on projects that are not currently needed by user groups.
  - **Velodrome lights** - \$60 000
  - **Velodrome sunshade** – installation costs
  - **Mountain bike track** - \$30 000

*(These 3 projects alone could wipe the \$115 000 liability debt owed by the Saxton Velodrome Trust being carried by the Councils)*
- **Proposed Champion Road to Saxton Field link road.** - \$800 - 900 000 estimate.

All of these Capital Projects are up for approval and to date user sports codes **have not had any input** into either their planning, their need or their financial viability.

In excess of a million dollars could be saved on such proposed works.

### CHAMPION GREEN FACILITIES COMMITTEE

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**SUBMISSION TO SAXTON FIELDS COMMITTEE**  
**22 May 2019**



**Submission by** - Nelson Heat Baseball (NHB)

**Purpose of submission** - to request a permanent home for baseball in Nelson.

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**REQUEST**

To accommodate the growth within the code nationally and locally, we need a permanent home for baseball in Nelson that provides access to a playing diamond throughout the year, rather than season to season.

We are requesting the following solutions:

**1. PERMANENT HOME - CHAMPION GREEN**

The new access from Champion Road, along with shared parking with the Velodrome and access to the toilets, changing rooms and storage at Avery, makes Champion Green an excellent home for baseball in Nelson.

It would, however, need appropriate ground works at Champion Green during the winter months to bring the field up to the same standard as Avery.

Once allocated Champion Green as a permanent home, NHB would be able to undertake fundraising & sponsorship initiatives to start investing in an infield diamond surface, fencing, dug-out facilities and batting cages.

An outfield of 130m would allow us to play both junior and senior baseball.

**2. ACCESS FOR HOSTED REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS - AVERY FIELD**

During Labour weekend 2018, NHB hosted the inaugural Nelson Heat Invitational tournament, with three visiting teams from Levin and Christchurch. The tournament was held at Greenmeadows, with the temporary set-up of two diamonds; one for u13 teams and one for u16 teams.

It was thanks to partnerships with Nelson Cricket and Nelson Basketball that NHB was able to deliver a successful tournament for the visiting teams, who have all subsequently committed to returning again for Labour weekend 2019.

We would like to request access to Avery field each year for our Nelson Heat Invitational tournament held in October, where, alongside a diamond at Champion Green, we could host a tournament with shared toilet facilities, parking and more importantly officials and spectators.

**3. ACCESS FOR HOSTED NATIONAL & LOCAL TOURNAMENTS - SAXTON DIAMONDS**

Nelson Softball Association (NSA) and NHB have recently met and agreed to start reconciling the relationship between the two codes, in the interest of growing both sports.

As such, NSA has agreed to allow NHB to use Saxton Diamonds to host a National u13 tournament, along with access to train players on the all-weather skin diamonds. We have submitted a proposal to Baseball New Zealand for 2020 - 2022.

NHB is also able to use Saxton Diamonds to host our annual Teeball tournament for primary schools across the region; the date for the tournament in 2019 is 25 September.

Due to the fundamental difference between the game of softball and baseball, Saxton Diamonds would only allow baseball games for junior teams, up to u13.

## HISTORY

Following a presentation to the Saxton Fields Committee in November 2018, with a request for a permanent home and a safe environment for our players, we were allocated the usage of Avery Fields from January to April 2019.

Not only did the move to Avery provide a safe playing field for our players, the access to changing rooms, toilets and storage facilities encouraged more player and family participation in our sport. During the second half of our 2018/19 season, we continued to grow.

We believe the move to a safe playing environment allowed our players to remain competitive at a national level, with good results at both the u16 and u13 National tournaments, and also contributed to our players continuing to success in representing New Zealand, with seven players selected to play in Japan and the United States in July & August this year.

With these successes however, comes the need to be able to train all year round and therefore a permanent home.

Without a permanent home, we have no where to train during our off season and any investment the club has made in fencing, pitching mounds and signage, has had to also be temporary.

## Growth of baseball in Nelson and New Zealand

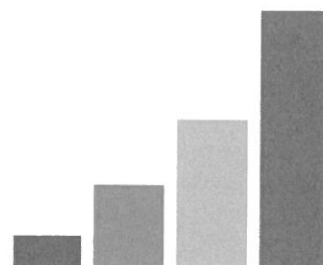
Alongside the growth of player numbers, Nelson Heat has developed a stronger understanding of the game with attendance at national coaching weekends in Auckland and initiating national-level scoring and umpiring clinics in Nelson.

Seven Nelson Heat Baseball players currently represent New Zealand in age group baseball.

Following another successful 2018/19 season of baseball, highlighted by growth in player and supporter numbers, along with the success of players selected to represent New Zealand, we are preparing for further growth in the coming years.

To meet the growth we will be introducing new playing grades for u11 and u19.

<b>NELSON HEAT PLAYER NUMBERS</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20 (estimates)</b>
Teeball	0	10	15	20
U11	0	0	0	15
U13	14	14	23	30
U16	0	12	16	30
U19 / Adult*	0	0	10	15
<b>Total Players</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>110</b>



Baseball New Zealand has continued to strengthen and now boasts a professional team playing in the Australian Baseball League (Auckland Tuataras). The pathway for baseball players in New Zealand has never been stronger and the investment in the sport continues to grow. Baseball will be played in the 2020 Olympics in Japan.

**HIGHLIGHTS 2018/19**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Venue</b>
September 2018	New Zealand Scoring clinic	Held Scoring clinic, delivered by Baseball New Zealand Head Scorers Carol & Beverley	HNZ board room
September 2018	Teeball tournament	School teeball tournament held with more than 200 players from across eight schools in the Nelson Tasman region.	Champion Green
October 2018	New Zealand Umpiring course	Held Umpiring training, delivered by Baseball New Zealand Umpire Martin Hunt  Collaboration with Nelson Basketball with umpiring course held at Jack Robins Stadium	Jack Robins Stadium
October 2018	Nelson Heat Invitational Tournament	Hosted the inaugural Nelson Heat Invitational tournament with visiting teams Levin Hustle U13 and Christchurch Astros U13 & U16. Collaboration with Nelson Cricket with tournament held at Greenmeadows Fields due to safety concerns with Champion Green	Greenmeadows Fields
October 2018	New Zealand U12 Trial	Held New Zealand U12 trial in Nelson, with Baseball NZ Selector & Coach Toshiki Nakao. One NHB player was selected to represent NZ.	Champion Green
November 2018	MLB Pitcher coaching clinics	Hosted Steven Brault in Nelson, a professional baseball pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates. - Coaching clinics held at Nelson College & Waimea Intermediate - Public coaching clinic at Champion Green	Champion Green
10 November 2018	First mens game	The first mens game was played in Nelson, with a team fielded against the U16 team.	Champion Green
February 2019	Jim Kaat Invitational Tournament	Three teams traveled to Christchurch for the annual JKI tournament, resulting in a win for both u16 and u13 teams, along with a 2nd place for u13.	Christchurch
February 2019	New Zealand U13 & PONY Trial	Held New Zealand U13 trial and PONY U12, U14 & U16 trials in Nelson, with Baseball NZ Selector & Coach Kris Richards.	Avery Field
March 2019	U16 Club Nationals	Nelson Heat U16 team competed at Nationals. Nelson Heat player Cooper Grant was named as Best Pitcher of the tournament.	Auckland
March 2019	International Selection	Seven players were named in the PONY teams to travel to Japan in July.	
April 2019	U13 Club Nationals	Nelson Heat U13 team competed at Nationals.	Auckland
April 2019	International Selection	One player was named in the Cal Ripken U13 New Zealand Allstars team to play in USA in August.	
May 2019	New Zealand Honours	Coach Marty Grant was named U16 Coach of the Year Player Cooper Grant was named U16 Player of the Year	Baseball New Zealand Awards