

8. MERLINS NETBALL CLUB – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

General Manager responsible:	Human Resources General Manager
Officer responsible:	Recreation and Sport Unit, Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present an application for funding from the Board's 2006/07 SCAP Fund from the Merlins Netball Club ("the Club"). The Club is requesting \$3,600 to assist in the purchase and installation of lighting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Merlins Club was established in 1986 by a group of Merlins Rugby Club wives. Since then the Club has grown to 260 members. The Club is expecting membership to take a dramatic increase this season as it is now the only club in the north west area that takes juniors. All their members come from the north west area with a large proportion from Shirley/Papanui area.
3. The Club is a community focused club and offers opportunities for all young girls and women to play competition netball, from the age of ten to masters level. The Club has an excellent youth development training programme and this year they hope to put in a mentoring structure for new coaches. Each year the Club fundraises to cover the cost of electricity, equipment, volunteers, training and uniform costs. The Club also likes to raise money to assist those families with more than one child who cannot afford the Canterbury Association subscriptions. The Club has an excellent management structure in place and has very good support from the community.
4. The Merlins Netball Club is seeking funding of \$3,600 to assist with the purchase and set up of a new lighting system. The total cost of installation lights is \$7,194.26. In the past the Merlins Netball Club trained and practiced at the Indoor Netball Centre at St James Park. Since its destruction the junior teams have been homeless and practices have been on an ad hoc basis around the community. The Club has found this to be unsatisfactory and unsafe for its members. This year the Club felt very strongly about needing a well-lit safe environment for the girls to practice in. The Club has negotiated with Isleworth School to have use of their three netball courts every evening from 4pm till 9.30pm. However in order for this area to be safe and useable the purchase and installation of permanent lighting is required.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. Merlins Netball Club have received a grant of \$1,300 from the Shirley Papanui Sport and Recreation Fund to assist with YMCA hall hire costs for their senior and premiere teams. The Club has applied to seven Trusts for this project and all applications have been unsuccessful.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve a grant of \$3,600 from its 2006/07 SCAP Fund for the purchase and installation of lighting of courts.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.

BACKGROUND

6. Originally when the Club was first established it was able to store all its uniforms and equipment at Merlins Rugby Club based at Nunwick Park. Last year the Club had outgrown the rugby clubrooms and the Club had to find a new home. After much investigation the Club negotiated with the Papanui Club and based themselves at their facility. The Merlins Club pays approximately \$1,800 in fees to Papanui Club for all members who are fifteen years and older. This entitles Merlins Club to:
 - free storage
 - weekly use of their meeting rooms
 - use of the function rooms for their Club events
 - management of their accounts
 - access to all the clubs facilities.

The Papanui Club does not provide any financial or funding support to manage the Clubs costs.

7. The Club has put in a joint application to Shirley/Papanui and Fendalton/Waimairi Boards to cover the costs of purchasing and installing the lights. The Club received three quotes ranging in price from \$5,978.00 to \$6,394.90 (GST exclusive). The Club would prefer to go with the quote of \$6,394.90 as the lighting, switch control and vandal proofing is superior to the other quotes.
8. During the season the Club undertakes regular fundraising and most of this year's money will be needed to cover new equipment and uniforms arising from the expected increase of junior members.

OPTIONS

10. In relation to this application the Board could choose to:
 - a) Fully fund as requested.
 - b) Partially fund.
 - c) Decline the application.

PREFERRED OPTION

11. That the Board agrees to partially fund Merlins Netball Club \$3,600 to purchase and install outdoor lighting for netball courts.