

6. TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BURWOOD PARK

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Corporate Plan Output: Leisure and Parks	

The purpose of this report is to request that the Council grant a temporary closure of Burwood Park South, to enable it to be used as a practice area for the duration of the Christchurch City Golf Classic (PGA Championship) as allowed for by section 53(1) (e) of the Reserves Act 1977.

INTRODUCTION

After more than a decade without a professional golf tournament, Canterbury will host a \$125,000 PGA Championship at the Christchurch Golf Club from 5-8 April, 2001.

The 72-hole Christchurch City Golf Classic, held under PGA tour conditions, is part of an international development tour for both professional and amateur players. The tour will be broadcast live across Australia. The anticipated attendance at the Christchurch championship is 140 competitors, plus in excess of 500 supporters. The tournament will be open to spectators, being preceded by a Pro-Am tournament (3 April) and a practice day (4 April). Christchurch will host the tour for three years.

PRACTICE AREA – BURWOOD PARK SOUTH

Any international golf tournament requires a practice area long enough for a drive and iron shot (approximately 200 metres long) within walking distance of the tournament course, i.e. Shirley Golf Course.

A number of options have been investigated, such as Kingslea School and Burwood Park north. The areas are either too short or too far away from Shirley Golf Course to meet practice venue requirements for an international tournament.

Burwood Park South is 240 metres long, and is ten minutes walk from Shirley Golf Course. It was used as a practice area for the 1990 World Golf Championships. The organising group for the Christchurch City Golf Classic has requested the use of Burwood Park South as the practice venue from 2-8 April.

A maximum of fifteen golfers will line up along the west end of the park and hit towards the east end. Practice will commence from 6.00am through to 2.00pm in 30 minute time slots. The area will be marshalled during practice hours and be supervised by an experienced golfer.

OTHER USERS ON THE PARK

The Burwood Park Tennis Club and the children's play ground are located on the southern boundary of Burwood Park. The tennis club has been contacted and made aware of the proposed use of the adjacent northern area. The president of the club has agreed to delay the start of Saturday afternoon play on 7 April until 2pm, to allow golf practice to occur safely. A letter of thanks has been sent to the club.

The children's playground will be closed during practice hours. The playground will be fenced off with signs erected to inform the public of the dates and times of the playground closure. Marshals will be positioned around the playground during practice hours.

The three rugby fields on this section of the park are not required on Saturday 7 April for weekend sport. The tee area will be outside the dead ball line of the rugby field.

Often as part of the game of golf a divot is taken out of the turf when the ball is hit. It will therefore be necessary for the organisers to pay a bond before practice commences, out of which the repairs for the damage to the turf will be paid.

Recommendation: That the Council resolve, pursuant to section (1)(e) of the Reserves Act 1977, to close all of Burwood Park South, except for the Burwood Park Tennis Club's leased area, from April 2 to 8 inclusive, from 6am through to 2pm, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The organisers of the tournament supplying marshals to police the closure of the park during the period of the parks closure, at their cost.
- (b) The tournament organisers paying a bond of \$1,000 to the Christchurch City Council prior to 2 April. The bond will be refunded in full, less any costs incurred by the Council.
- (c) The tournament organisers paying the cost of putting up signs around Burwood Park South advising the general public of the parks closure.
- (d) The event organisers abiding by the conditions stipulated in the letter granting permission for the use of the park.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.