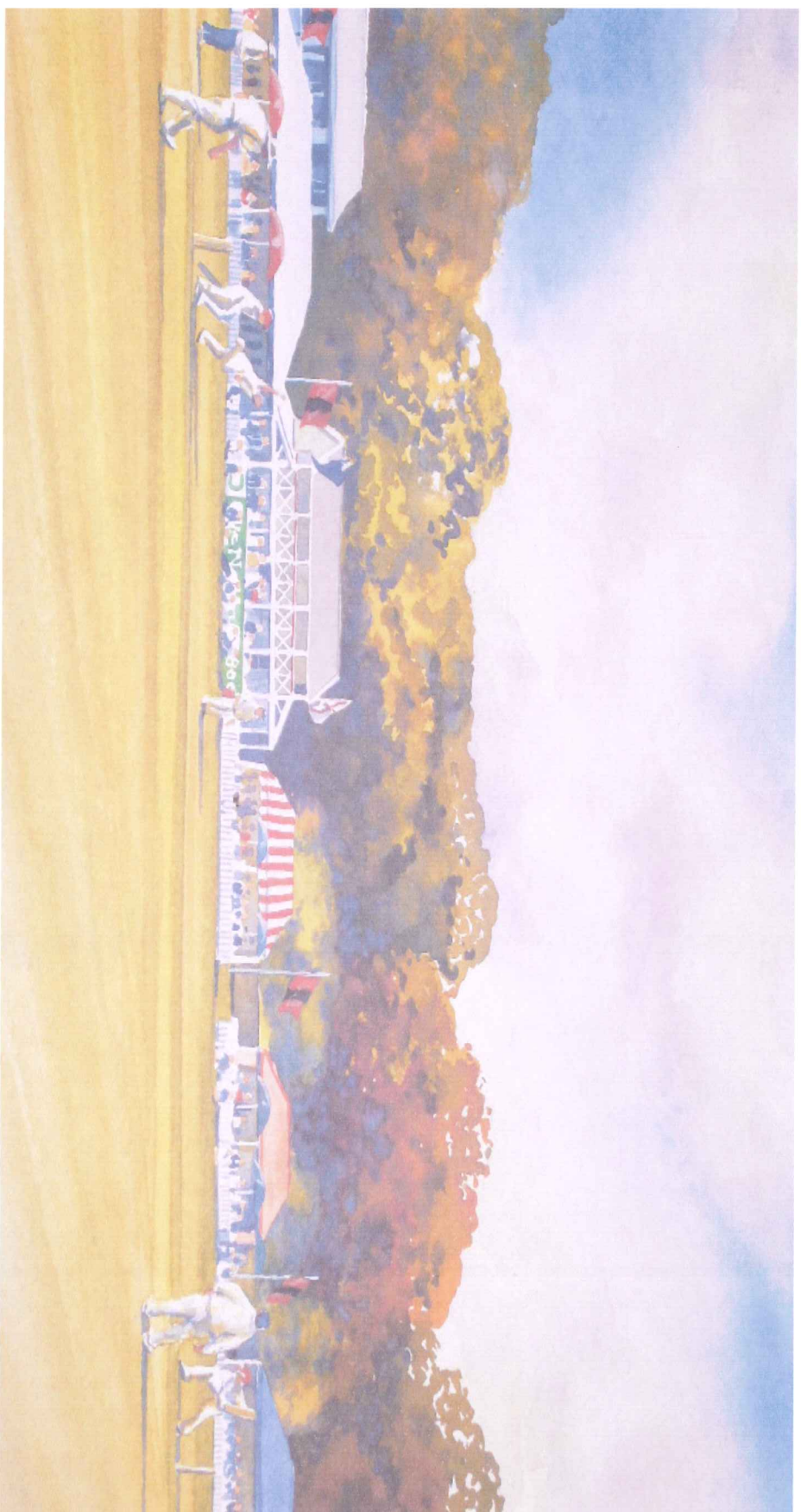


CANTERBURY CRICKET

Canterbury Cricket Association Inc.

Submission to Christchurch City Council Draft LTCCP 2009 - 19 in regard to the development of test cricket facilities at Hagley Oval



Submission

Having reviewed the Draft Long Term City Council Plan (LTCCP) 2009 - 19, Canterbury Cricket would like to make the following submission in support of the proposal to spend \$1m on developing test cricket facilities at Hagley Oval over 2010-11.

Canterbury Cricket

Canterbury Cricket is an incorporated society and one of the six major associations that make up the family of New Zealand Cricket. It has constitutional requirements to foster and administer cricket within the greater Canterbury region - Mid Canterbury, West Coast, Canterbury Country, Metropolitan Christchurch, Buller and South Canterbury.

There are approximately 19,000 players within the Canterbury region and thousands of volunteers and stakeholders.

Location of the test ground

Christchurch's Test Ground, and therefore Canterbury Cricket's home-ground, needs to be centrally - located in the same way as are many successful and popular Test Grounds throughout the cricketing world.

These include Australian Cricket Grounds such as in Melbourne (MCG), Brisbane, Sydney (SCG), Perth and Adelaide and English Test Grounds such as Lords (London), Edgbaston (Manchester), Trent Bridge (Nottingham), Old Trafford (Manchester) and Headingley (Yorkshire).

All of these grounds are centrally - located and within walking distance of not only the central business district of the city, but also within the entertainment and social hub and infrastructure of the city itself.

The most successful Test Cricket Grounds in New Zealand over the past decade have been the redeveloped Seddon Park in Hamilton and the Basin Reserve in Wellington. Wellington enjoys a similar advantage with the Westpac Stadium for other sports. Many people travel to Wellington from other parts of the country because of the accessibility of its sporting venues to the central city and the ability to share in other cultural and entertainment events all within walking distance of their accommodation. There is no requirement for expensive taxi fares or the hiring of a motor vehicle to travel distances out of the central city. All events and venues are within walking distance for visitors to that city.

The recent completion of the University Oval in Dunedin for domestic and international cricket is another example of an international ground being located close to the infrastructure of the inner city.

A unique opportunity to showcase Cricket and Christchurch

The development of Hagley Oval is a rare and exciting opportunity that will have a major impact on the prosperity of Christchurch and will assist in making Christchurch an even greater place to live. The location of Hagley Oval will provide an outstanding opportunity to showcase the city of Christchurch to a wide national and international television audience.

It is also an opportunity to create a unique home for cricket in Canterbury including club, representative & international cricket. There are agreements in principle in place between the three clubs currently based on Hagley Oval for this development to proceed. There is also the opportunity to incorporate many sustainable principles into the development. This could involve reducing the demand for energy, and using building systems that provided optimum operational and resource efficiency.

The development

The sympathetic development of Hagley Oval into a Test Cricket venue and home of Canterbury Cricket represents an enhancement of what already exists on the Oval and presents a significant global promotional marketing opportunity for the city whilst making Christchurch a genuine destination for cricket followers' world wide.

The development should feature the following:

- A low rise, flat top embankment can be created around approximately half of the playing oval.
- The playing area can be enclosed within a removable picket fence.
- Additional permanent seating, if required, can be provided by constructing a low level old fashioned pavilion on the eastern side of the ground Additional temporary seating can be utilised when required.
- The High School Old Boys pavilion could be altered to be used as changing rooms, dining & viewing facilities for teams. There is a decision in precedence reached by the CCC Parks & Recreation Committee (on November 13, 1996) granting High School Old Boys Cricket Club permission to increase the size of their pavilion from 262m² to 497m².
- Club cricket will still play a major role on Hagley Oval with the St Albans and Riccarton cricket blocks being retained and with two additional cricket blocks being created on adjoining playing fields.

The development should not feature the following:

- A permanent perimeter fence
- Concrete grandstands

It is important to note that AWM Stadium will still be used for International Twenty20 fixtures and One Day International matches.

Hagley Oval - a unique sports ground ideally suited to cricket

Hagley Oval is the historical and spiritual home of cricket in Canterbury and cricket has been identified and documented as being the cornerstone of sporting activity on the Oval.

The Oval is recognised in the 1991 Hagley Park Management Plan as “providing a unique sports ground which is ideally suited to cricket”... and Hagley Oval shall be used exclusively as a venue for cricket with no winter sports usage.”

The outstanding success of the 125th Jubilee Match against England in March 2002 prompted the following from one of the journalists covering the match:

“It defies logic, and the best intentions of the city planners who designated Hagley Park for the community’s recreation, that there is no place for a possible representative venue at the Park.

The sight of people ringing the boundary at the Hagley Oval on Friday and Saturday especially was a marvellous advertisement for the continuing appeal to all generations of the great old game. “ [Cricinfo, 9 March 2002]



Image by BötzDigital

Conclusion

There has already been wide spread support from the cricket community of Canterbury and New Zealand to the use of Hagley Oval to host test and domestic cricket.

The development of Hagley Oval is a rare and exciting opportunity that will have a major impact on the prosperity of Christchurch and will assist in making Christchurch an even greater place to live.

It is therefore the opinion of Canterbury Cricket that the Christchurch City Council confirms the development of Hagley Oval into a top - class cricket venue that is home to Canterbury Cricket and Test Cricket in our City.

I request the opportunity to present this submission at a hearing.

Yours sincerely,



Lee Germon
Chief Executive Officer
Canterbury Cricket
PO Box 789
Christchurch
(03) 363 5094