



McMillan Hockey Centre, 65 Harbour Terrace, P O Box 5098, Dunedin 9054
Phone: (03) 474 9201, Fax: (03) 474 9204, Email: admin@oha.org.nz, Website: www.oha.org.nz

Otago Hockey Submission, 2023 Annual Plan

Purpose of Submission

The purpose of our submission is to seek Council support in renewing our successful partnership with Council for ongoing support of the provision of quality artificial turfs here in Dunedin.

The council has been a fantastic supporter of artificial turf for the last thirty years, with annual contributions in the form of grants and support for the backing of various loan arrangements that have enabled Otago Hockey to provide quality facilities for the benefit of the wider community.

Both of our turfs at Harbour Terrace are now past their useful life and in need of resurfacing. Ten years is the estimated lifespan of each surface and we have had our current surfaces in use from 2009 and 2012 respectively.

Otago Hockey wishes to renew its important partnership with the Dunedin City Council so that timely replacement can be achieved.

We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight that we have funded the transition of one of our turfs from old inefficient lighting to more affordable and efficient LED lighting. We need to transition the other turf to LED and understand from discussions with DCC that this might be manageable within sports facility lighting upgrade project that the DCC is currently undertaking.

Success of the Partnership

Hockey is a game for life with our participants ranging in age from 5 to 75. Currently our Dunedin turf facilities support over 3,000 regular participants, with an equal number of participants being female and male. Hockey is amongst a rare number of sports in New Zealand that continues to experience growth in participation. To enable growth to continue here in Dunedin we need to maintain the standard of our playing surfaces.

Artificial surfaces are multipurpose community assets. Football, Marching, Cricket and Rugby are amongst others who have used our facilities in recent years. In our off-peak times, and when we do not have bookings we are open for casual use with the surrounding student population in particular using our facility for recreational activity.

Partnering with DCC is the only way we can continue to provide quality facilities and we appreciate that the DCC also values this partnership.





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The recent addition of the third turf at Kings has opened significant opportunity for both community use and to make Dunedin a viable option for significant national and international events.

This was evident when we hosted the National Hockey Championships in Dunedin during 2022. An event that attracted 37 teams who were in the city for eight nights. A significant event for both social and economic benefits for the city. With an estimated 10,000 bed nights across teams, officials, supporters etc. There was significant reporting after this event and the DCC will have economic impact data.

This event was made even more special by the fact that the Otago Men won the National Championship for the first time in its 114-year history, further evidence of the strength in our local hockey community.

Otago Hockey now enjoys a strong working relationship with Hockey New Zealand. One tangible consequence of the success of hosting the National Hockey Championships is that Otago Hockey has been rewarded with the rights to host the 2023 National Under 18 Boys event. As with the earlier tournament, this will be a seven day and eight night event and will attract a large number of teams (n= 25). The age of the players is such that a number of family supporters will travel to Dunedin. Hosting this national age group tournament provides opportunities for the city, University and Polytechnic to market themselves as future educational destinations to the players and their families.

There are at least two reasons why it is imperative that the hockey turf resurfacing project is completed within the next year. First, so Otago Hockey can continue to provide a safe and quality facility for our local community. Second, to take advantage of the opportunity we have to secure Dunedin as a key location for Hockey New Zealand. We have a very real opportunity to be a regular host of major domestic tournaments and international matches but we need our facilities to be of the required standard. The following is an extract from HNZ post tournament document that demonstrates this opportunity.

Through delivering this event, it's clear that Otago Hockey are on board with our hockey strategy to open up our game so more kiwis can see, experience and love hockey - we've seen it come to light in and around this tournament. We've developed a great working relationship with Otago Hockey and will continue to work with them and provide opportunities where possible to host other national events in Dunedin in the future. We are already looking forward to coming back in 2023.

From an operational perspective Otago Hockey is largely self sufficient and believes it brings a lot to this partnership in this regard. We employ our own caretaker, pay our own maintenance, lighting, water and ground lease costs and we do not ask the DCC to





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provide us with any grass fields. This is in contrast to other community groups similar to ours which require the DCC to cover these costs. We understand that recent work carried out to explore what sporting facilities are required within the city has highlighted the need for artificial surfaces such as the ones we currently manage.

The recent collaboration at King's High School where DCC funding was supplemented with Otago Hockey, Kings High School and trust funding points towards an opportunity for other sources of funding for this project, however this does come with some challenges.

Otago Hockey's \$200,000 contribution to this facility has left us without significant reserves. One of the risks associated with being both a large facility owner/operator and a regional sports organisation is that funding required for capital projects can then jeopardize what is available for operational and programme delivery expenditure.

Whilst these sources of funds will be targeted to assist with the resurfacing project, we feel it is important here to highlight this balancing act. We are committed to continuing to put our resources into developing and delivering quality participation opportunities, another significant item of value that we believe we bring to this partnership.

The Cost & Timeline

Initial pricing for the resurfacing of both turfs at the McMillan Hockey Centre in Harbour Terrace ranges from \$685,000 to \$950,000 excluding GST.

The higher number is a worse case if the rubber underlay is also needing replaced on both turfs. Whilst this cannot be determined for sure until the turf is lifted off, reports indicate that only remedial work on underlay rather than replacement should be required as the underlay was replaced last time the playing surface was done.

Both turfs are now below standard, they are slippery due to lack of pile and have large tears and gaps in seams. This project needs to be completed in the warmer summer months for the glue to set. We need to have this work carried out between December 2023 and February 2024.

As referenced earlier in the submission, previous arrangements with Dunedin City Council for partnership on funding the turfs have included grants, support of loans to third parties and loans with the DCC itself. We are open to working with the Dunedin City Council on a solution that is best fit for all parties.

Closing

Otago Hockey wishes to thank the Dunedin City Council for its consideration of this





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submission and ongoing support. Support from the Dunedin City Council has been pivotal in both the provision of quality facilities for our local community but also in securing events for the city.

Otago Hockey has been proud to be able to deliver the results we had hoped for from the partnership with the Dunedin City Council and it looks forward to developing an even stronger partnership.

More in-depth participation and facility use data is available as required, as is the reporting on the 2022 National Hockey Championship.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Andy McLean
Otago Hockey General Manager

