

**ATHLETICS CANTERBURY TRACK & FIELD COMMITTEE
&
CANTERBURY CHILDREN'S ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION**

**Report on upgrade of athletics facility at Rawhiti Domain
as at 29 August 2011**

Because of the unavailability of QEII Park following the February 2011 earthquake, an Athletics Sport Recovery Group was established to facilitate the provision of competition for athletes in Christchurch. This Group comprises members representing the above two organisations.

After considering a number of parks around the city, the Group identified three areas, QEII Park Ascot Green, Nunweek Park and Rawhiti Domain, the home of the New Brighton Athletic Club where Inter Club track and field competitions could best be held.

The Group wrote to the Christchurch City Council and eventually a meeting was arranged with a Sports Liaison Adviser where the three possible venues were discussed. After a process of elimination, Rawhiti Domain was selected as the best available venue for the sport as there were clearly more advantages (eg. not having to share with another sport, close to QEII Park, existing athletics facility etc.) than the other two venues which were eliminated principally because Touch uses Nunweek Park in the summer, and the QEII Park Green Park became unavailable following the major aftershock on 13 June 2011.

The Group has identified a number of items that need to be done to bring the Rawhiti Domain facility up to a reasonable standard for Inter Club athletics.

These include –

- Provide three new throwing circles – 1 x discus/hammer and 2 x shot put;
- Removal of two circles at the south end and one at the north end that are in poor condition;
- Provide an all weather 70 metres long jump/triple jump runway with pits at both ends on the west side outside the running track;
- Upgrade the existing all-weather high jump area to allow for left and right foot jumpers, and provide an all-weather javelin runway;
- Remove existing long jump runway and pit on eastern side inside the track;
- Provide a fence on top of the mound (preferably) to prevent anyone from straying on to the adjacent archery range from the athletics track;
- Provide toilet facilities for athletes and spectators;
- Provide a cut down and modified container (10 feet) on top of the mound adjacent to the finish line to house all the photo finish and electronic timing equipment;
- Provide a power supply to the photo finish and timing equipment area;
- Provide a temporary equipment storage shed (approx. 110 square metres) to be situated close to the 100/110 metres start area;
- Remove or tidy up damaged macrocarpa tree adjacent to the New Brighton Clubrooms;

Preparation of grass track areas by QEII Park ground staff.

It is proposed that for the 2011/12 season, the grass track be of six lanes with the 100/110 metres straight providing eight lanes.

Mondo All-weather Surfaces:

At this stage it is looking promising that we may be able to obtain a sufficient quantity of minimally-used Mondo surface lifted from Olympic Park in Melbourne at a heavily discounted cost.

Costs:

The Group has obtained most of quotations required with the exception being the supply of Mondo all-weather surfaces.

At the time of writing, the Group estimates the total cost of the work required will be in the vicinity of \$80,000 to \$100,000.

Finance:

The sport has received a number of grants which will be applied to this project as follows:

SPARC through Sport Canterbury	15,000
Calliope Athletic & Harrier Club	10,000
Track & Field Committee	20,000 (To be confirmed)
Total	\$45,000

It is hoped that the Canterbury Children's Association will also make a grant and it is intended to apply for the balance of funding required from the Mayoral Relief Fund.

New Brighton Athletic Facility:

We know it will be at least 2 years and very probably somewhat longer than that before an all-weather athletic facility to replace QEII Park will be built.

To that end, and with the support of Council officers, the Group sees this project as leaving a legacy for the sport on the eastern side of the city.

At this time, it is anticipated that the cut down and modified container and the equipment storage shed will be sold when the sport is able to move to a new "home".

The Group understands that this facility will be used on Saturday mornings for Canterbury Children's competitions and on Saturday afternoons for Track & Field Committee events.

For the rest of the week (Sunday to Friday), to help preserve the grass areas, the facility will revert to the home of the New Brighton Athletic Club and its members, and athletes and coaches from other Clubs will be discouraged from using the venue for training. There are other grass areas in the Christchurch, Selwyn and Waimakariri local authority areas that can be used for training.

Equipment at QEII Park:

Shortly after the February earthquake, all the equipment in the photo finish area and most of the equipment in the Control Room at QEII Park was removed and is being stored safely.

At the time of writing, there is a significant amount of athletics equipment under the north stand at QEII Park – hurdles, high jump pads, throwing implements, starting blocks etc. etc.

To date no one has been allowed to enter this area, but recently two plans have been prepared and forwarded to the Christchurch City Council as follows –

1. A plan to enter below the north stand to assess the damage and the prospects of retrieving the sport's equipment safely;
2. Presuming the area is safe, a plan to retrieve the equipment and place it in a safe and secure storage area.

Conclusion:

A number of people within the Sport Recovery Group have put in a lot of time drawing plans, obtaining quotations for a storage facility, meeting with City Council officers at various locations etc.

While it may appear that progress has been slow, we are moving forward and it should be recorded that to date we have received only positive co-operation from the City Council officers that we have dealt with.

John McBrearty and Alan Tucker
for the Athletics Sport Recovery Group