

\$30,000 grant from ILT Foundation on 17/12/09

CENTREPOINT GROUNDS BECOME HOME FOR SBHS RUGBY CLUB

An increase in rugby players has meant the Southland Boy's High School Rugby Club is about to set up at the Centrepoint rugby grounds.

SBHS Rugby Club president Rex Carter said the school had been struggling with training and playing fields for many years.

"As long as I've been involved with the school, on training days we have difficulty producing enough fields for teams

"We've got 300 boys playing now that we can't physically coach properly if we haven't got the room."

With having so many teams and the combination of Invercargill's winter weather, the grounds at the school would often become unsuitable to play or practise on.

Now the first XV was also playing in the Highlanders secondary school competition the demands on the grounds had increased.

The club committee considered different ways the problem could be remedied and decided extra grounds was the only solution.

"Although Rugby Southland had lots of grounds we really wanted a site where all our SBHS teams could play – making it a lot easier for parents."

The club will be leasing grounds 10, 11 and 12 at the Centrepoint grounds.

However the club now has to undertake the upkeep of the fields.

"Long term it's going to be great it's the setting up of it that's quite expensive."

The ILT Foundation has come to the assistance of the club in providing a \$30,000 grant.

This will help pay for the first year's development of the grounds which includes ploughing the grounds, sowing the grass, rabbit fencing the perimeter, building a changing shed and most importantly getting the posts up.

In the long term it is hoped a car park and grandstand will be built and lighting installed, Mr Carter said.

ILT Foundation chairman Alan Dennis said SBHS had long been known for producing great rugby players.

"Without a doubt SBHS is the nursery for Southland rugby.

"We believe these grounds will not only help to produce more great players but also continue to develop the school's pride and camaraderie by providing a top venue."