

MILLION DOLLAR UPGRADE FOR SOUTHLAND FOOTBALL

INVERCARGILL is set to get another top class sporting venue with an artificial football turf planned for Turnbull Thomson Park.

The \$1.5 million development will also include a refurbishment of the existing pavilion. The project has received a huge boost from the Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation with a combined \$990,000 grant. The ILT Foundation have provided \$750,000 and the ILT \$240,000.

Southland Football regional development officer Ken Cresswell said football players in Invercargill had suffered for many decades with pitches not withstanding a long, wet, winter season.

“We see the artificial surface as being a real solution to that problem for a long, long time.”

The ground will be an all-year-round venue with specialised training for players throughout the year.

And it will be accessible to all.

“It will be one ground, one surface, that will be utilised by Southland football players right from 5 to 6 year olds through to senior citizens.”

It is hoped the new ground will also help develop the regions talented young players.

“Having good facilities forms a plus for any sports’ ability to provide the quality it can deliver – not only all our players but also for elite members.

“We would love to see someone from Invercargill go through and become a national representative.”

Mr Cresswell said the project would not have got off the ground if funding from the Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation was not available.

“They have been very, very supportive of the sport.

“I think our sport would really be struggling now to maintain the number of members we have in development programmes without their help.”

Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation chairman Alan Dennis said supporting Southland Football was a natural progression.

“We only have to look at the success of Southland Stadium, the ILT Velodrome, Queens Park Cricket Pavillion, Rugby Park and the redeveloped hockey grounds to see how creating a top quality sporting venue can reap rewards both on a local, national and international level.

“The Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation are keen to back the great work of Southland Football and its members.

“We hope the new ground will enable Southland Football to grow not just in member numbers but also in the success it sees on a national level.”

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