

Press Release  
(For immediate release)  
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## **\$140,000 upgrade nears completion at Queens Park Golf Club**

The removal of an asbestos-riddled ceiling has led to a \$140,000 upgrade of facilities at the Queen's Park Golf Club.

Southland's largest golf club will feature a completely revamped ground floor with new changing rooms, toilets, showers, offices and foyer area when work is completed next month.

Vice-president Noel Boniface said the initial aim of the project was to rid the clubhouse of the asbestos.

"You really open a can of worms when you start alterations to an older building – you don't know what you're going to find so it has been a major project," he said.

"You also have to meet the new council requirements with regard to fire regulations."

The best option was to effectively replace the entire ground floor – a prospect the club's 550-strong membership was excited about.

"We've got a fine old clubhouse here – it's very user-friendly and this development will enhance the facilities even more," Boniface said. "We're very happy about it."

The Invercargill Licensing Trust and the ILT Foundation have both contributed \$20,000 each to the project.

"All of our members were a wee bit gob smacked at how generous the Trust has been – the support has been fantastic," Boniface said.

A member of the club for over 30 years, Boniface said it was probably 40-odd years since any major work had been undertaken.

It's location within Invercargill's heralded Queen's Park was always a consideration.

"We are conscious that our club is very much part of the whole gardens area and the golf course is an integral part of that," Boniface said. "It reflects on the city as a whole.

"A lot of people from overseas and throughout New Zealand are just in awe that there's an 18-hole golf course so accessible in the heart of the city – most courses are located on the peripheral of the town."

Facilities at the clubhouse, which was open daily "from dawn to dusk" were used by visitors to the park and tourists who "get caught short".

"While the great majority is our own members and golfers, there is a reasonable percentage of people that use the facilities so this will also benefit members of the wider community."

ILT Foundation and Invercargill Licensing Trust chairman Alan Dennis said Invercargill was heralded for its sporting facilities.

"An increasing number of visitors are coming to our city to experience the sporting assets we have to offer so it's important we ensure they make an impression and contribute to an overall positive experience," he said.

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