

BOWLS MADE ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE

DISABLED members of the Invercargill community are getting an opportunity to give bowls a go in a partnership between the Community Care Trust and Bowls Southland.

Bowls Southland development officer Gordon Crombie said a pilot programme had been developed last year between the two organisations with the participants trying out the sport using hard courts at Stadium Southland.

“Hard court bowls provides the opportunity to play bowls on surfaces such as netball courts, school halls, tennis courts and of course gymnasiums which makes it ideal as a wet weather alternative.

“It is envisaged that other groups servicing people with disabilities will make use of this opportunity in the future.”

The Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation have contributed a total of \$60,000 in grants towards Bowls Southland’s initiatives. The funding has also meant a continuation of the interschool competition that was also piloted last year.

“Several clubs already provide opportunities for secondary students to join their club and bowls Southland will be working with schools and clubs to increase the number of schools with club links,” Mr Crombie said.

“The value of clubs welcoming students is emphasised by the Otatara Bowling Club having two finalists, Kerry Heffer and Georgia McGee of Southland Girls’ High School, in the National Secondary School Championships.”

The funding will ensure Bowls Southland is able to propel its plan to deliver an exceptional sporting experience that is enjoyable, entertaining and accessible to all Southlanders, he said.

ILT Foundation and ILT chairman Alan Dennis said it was important that all members of the community had an equal opportunity to access sporting opportunities.

“Bowls has one of the highest participation rates of all sports in this community.

“The Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation see these grants as a way of developing the sport further as well as providing a great way of adding value to the lives of people within our community.”