



## Petone Football Club Submission re Petone Arena Proposal

### Summary

Petone Football Club supports, in principle, the proposed concept of a Petone Arena. However the Club's support is conditional on there being minimal negative impact on Petone sports clubs.

### Purpose

This submission is Petone Football Club's response to Community Facilities Trust's proposal to Hutt City Council, dated 18 March 2014, re the Petone Arena.

Note that Petone Football Club is **not** associated with Petone Sportsville, and has not yet been consulted on the proposal.

### The proposal

Community Facilities Trust has proposed to Hutt City Council that a 12,000 capacity boutique stadium be developed at the Petone Recreation Ground.

### Petone Football Club

The Club was founded in 1898 as the Petone Association Football Club. It is the oldest football club in Wellington to have carried on in the form in which it was founded, without amalgamating with other clubs to sustain it.

The Club was headquartered at the Petone Recreation Ground until 1960, when it moved to the newly created Memorial Park in 1961. In 1968 the Club opened its own gymnasium and in 1976, clubrooms were built within the gymnasium. Three years later, the Club erected floodlights around the No. 3 pitch.

The Club's main home ground is now the artificial turf, opened early in the 2013 season on the Memorial Park no. 1 pitch. Club teams also play on the no. 2 and no. 4 pitches, as well as Sladden Park. The no. 3 pitch continues to be the Club's main training ground.

The artificial turf was developed as a joint venture between New Zealand Football (and FIFA), Hutt City Council and Capital Football. The Club made a financial contribution to the project and was heavily involved in the development of the main turf and warm-up area. We have also worked with Hutt City Council and Capital Football on the recent redevelopment of the changing facilities at Memorial Park.

This chronology of asset development at Memorial Park is testament to a Club focus on forming a solid foundation which has succeeded in providing a basis for sustained high level development and performance in junior, men's and women's football on the one hand, and for the more leisurely football pursuits of other young and older alike.

The Club's membership currently comprises 13 men's teams, 2 women's teams, 2 youth teams and 430 junior players. The total playing membership is over 700, and there are also 230 non-playing members.

In the last three years, the Club has appointed a Director of Junior Football who helped implement New Zealand Football's Whole of Football programme, along with introducing advanced and elite junior training programmes and school holiday programmes. The Club is looking to further expand the Director of Junior Football role in the near future.

The Club's membership continues to grow, with two men's teams added in the last three years, additional junior programmes introduced, and a new 5-year plan for the growth of women's football about to be launched.

The Club has been a leader in Wellington football for the last sixty years in respect of the facilities as mentioned, as well as staging the Hilton-Petone Tournament as a region-wide forerunner to the annual championship season and recently leading the way in the local implementation of New Zealand Football's Whole of Football programme for juniors.

## Submission

Petone Football Club's submission is:

1. As a football club we welcome and encourage the development of the game at all levels.
2. We support the Wellington Phoenix Football Club relocating to Hutt City.
3. We support the development of a community-based multi-purpose stadium but **not** at the expense of local sports clubs.
4. We **do not** support locating the new stadium at Petone Recreation Ground **unless** any negative impact on local sports clubs is minimal, including:
  - a) Preserving Petone Football Club's current access to Memorial Park for playing purposes
  - b) Preserving Petone Football Club's current access to and control of Memorial Park no. 3 pitch for training purposes
  - c) Preserving and improving the standard of the playing and training surfaces at Memorial Park
  - d) Granting of access to Memorial Park by any other parties, including Wellington Phoenix or any other sporting code, for training or playing, **must** be in consultation and agreement with Petone Football Club
5. We require a full, practical social impact report of the Petone Arena to be produced.
6. Hutt City Council must reach a suitable and agreeable arrangement with current direct users of Petone Recreation Ground with regard to access to grounds for playing and training purposes.
7. We must be consulted directly, and early, regarding any potential arrangements or developments affecting Memorial Park.
8. Hutt City Council and Community Facilities Trust must produce evidence that full consideration has been given to all suitable sites before one is chosen.

Craig Deadman  
Chair, Petone Football Club