

Christchurch Quake Update

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Its fair to say that the resilience and frustration levels of many CHCH bowling clubs are being severely tested. ... similarly for Bowls Canterbury as it attempts to plan next season's programme and coordinate the recovery of quake affected clubs.

Many clubs which were significantly affected by liquifaction in September and February got another unwelcome dose on June 13. Up to 8 greens may not be available this coming season and another 12 greens are likely to see delayed starts.

The worst affected areas were again in the Edgware/Shirley/CHCH Richmond/Parklands area with clubs out Mount Pleasant/Redcliffs/Sunner way also feeling the impact.

The implications from the series of quakes (now around 7500) is expected to be significant. The immediate and long term viability of a number of clubs has certainly come into question and clubs are having to make some hard decisions.

With an already dwindling membership clubs face more losses from people either leaving the city or moving across town. With few enough administrators for the upcoming AGM's, little prospect of trust funding, and many members with major issues to sort out with their own houses, clubs are having to weigh up the option of using their limited resources and financial reserves for potential green repair costs (estimated at up to \$50,000 per green for some clubs) and high reinsurance levies, against the option of baling out and taking whatever equity they may have to another location to form a stronger more sustainable club.

These are difficult times – with sport in general being a lesser insurance priority than residential and business needs it has been hard to make progress accessing technical staff and getting timely cost estimates so clubs can make a quality decision – many clubs will be seeking members' guidance at their AGM's.

With the loss of many community sports facilities in the city the council is keen to ensure efficient sports utilisation of any allocated council land and is working with Bowls Canterbury and clubs towards this end.

If clubs and centres around the country are wondering how they might help then please look at Bowls Canterbury's website for details on funding support or check out the Caps for Canterbury campaign – every little bit will be a help and is certainly appreciated.