

Badminton
Hutt pairs win
Masters Games
medals

70



Sport

Football
Hutt takes U19 crown 71
Rugby League
Ake is Player of Year 71

Decision on Bell Park soon

By NICHOLAS BOYACK

The bell could be about to toll for Lower Hutt football's home ground.

The city council will, on Thursday night, discuss a proposal that will have major implications for the Lower Hutt City Association Football Club and Fraser Park Sportville.

Lower Hutt runs much of its junior and coaching programmes from Fraser Park but retains its Bell Park clubrooms. The club is in negotiations to become part of the sporting hub proposed for Fraser Park.

A potential buyer has been lined up for the Moera clubrooms but Lower Hutt wants the council to guarantee the lease of the building at Bell Park beyond 2016.

Club president Jim Baxter says he cannot identify the name of the ethnic-based organisation interested but says it only wants the clubrooms and carpark, not the pitch.

The community and infrastructure committee will discuss a recommendation to extend the lease, as long as two-thirds of the sale price is "gifted" to Fraser Park Sportville.

The clubrooms have an insurance value in excess of \$200,000 but Mr Baxter says



that is a replacement figure and does not reflect what could be received.

A meeting is planned for December to enable club members to vote on their involvement with Sportville.

His personal view is that moving north will be good for the club, but he says there is a lot of emotion and history tied up with the clubrooms. Making a firm commitment to Sportville will be much easier if the future of the Bell Park clubrooms is clarified, he says.

Sportville is based around the concept that the founding clubs will not be disadvantaged, and he hopes the council remembers this.

"We should be able to do something with our clubrooms, and any financial gain [from selling] should be pumped back into our core business – providing football."

Selling the clubrooms would also open up the possibility of subdividing the rest of Bell Park for housing.

Mr Baxter predicts that this could be challenging, as access is an issue.

Lower Hutt has 600 members, including more than 40 junior teams. Bell Park has one playing field and has been the home of Lower Hutt City since 1967, following the

merger of Lower Hutt and Railways. The clubrooms were built in 1976.

The council has budgeted \$5.5 million for

Fraser Park Sportville for the 2015-16 financial year and will soon have some detailed plans for the park.



Leading the way: Race winner Lee Campbell takes a breather during the swim leg of the 2011 Hutt City Triathlon at Naenae on Sunday. See page 70 for more on this event.

Photo: DEAN PEMBERTON

Chance to have a go at a variety of sports

Fraser Park Sportsville is hoping to increase awareness of the sporting hub that seems set to change the face of sport in Lower Hutt.

This Sunday the eight founding clubs are all taking part in a Family Sports Fun Day.

The clubs will be providing sporting opportunities for the entire family and giving out information.

Sportsville manager Trudi Jackson says details of the proposed development will soon become clearer.

The council has budgeted \$5.5 million and it is likely to include a second hockey turf, shared clubrooms, an artificial training surface, and new softball facilities.

Sportsville aims to bring the clubs together to share facilities, knowledge and skills, and to boost participation.

The Fun Day is an opportunity for the clubs to raise their own profile and make people aware of the opportunities that Sportsville will create.

The eight founding clubs and associations are Avalon Rugby Club, Hutt Valley Dodgers (softball), Fraser Park Squash, Hutt Valley Softball Association, Lower Hutt Football Club, Nae-nae Hockey Club, National Hockey Stadium Trust and the Taita Cricket Club.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR

Summer is almost here, and you know the last few months have not been kind to your body.

So be kind to yourself. Lose that extra weight, feel confident, feel great.

Don't like busy gyms? Basic Orange is 100% private. We can:

- Help you lose weight
- Increase your confidence
- Make exercising fun

Don't miss out on our **Lower Hutt Move Your Butt** special, visit www.basicorange.co.nz for details or contact Claudia on 027 776 3478.