



MEDIA RELEASE

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SBS Bank pledges community commitment with third Star Investment Special

Clubs and charities have another chance to benefit from an innovative SBS Bank investment product, specifically designed to provide them with a bonus payment into their coffers with the launch of the *Summer 2010 SBS Star Investment Special*.

The SBS Star Investment Special allows investors taking out a new fixed term investment of six months or longer to nominate their chosen SBS Star account club or society to receive a bonus payment from SBS Bank.

SBS Bank general manager corporate performance Lana Winders said, as New Zealand's only customer-owned bank, the return of the SBS Star Investment Special was a reflection of SBS Bank's ongoing commitment to its customers and their communities.

The SBS Star Investment Special is an additional feature of the successful SBS Star banking package, which was developed as a specific account for non-profit clubs and societies. SBS Star offers fee-free transactions, alongside the opportunity to go in a draw to win one of ten \$1000 monthly prizes.

"We know how important non-profit clubs and societies are to our communities. That's why we've brought back the SBS Star Investment Special so we can assist further and reward the community groups who support SBS Bank by bringing their banking business to us. That's how a mutual, customer-owned bank operates. We find ways to bring benefits to the members who support us.

"Generally we are able to benefit our customers through the pricing of our rates and fees, the smartness of our banking products and services and the efficiency and genuine warmth of our people at SBS Bank. With the Star account and this investment special, we also add a little shot into the coffers of hard-working clubs and charities that are the foundations of our community," Mrs Winders said.

Since the introduction of SBS Star, SBS Bank has injected \$230,000 into the reserves of non-profit clubs and societies through the monthly prize draw. In addition to this, more than \$20,000 has been paid out to SBS Star account holders through Star Investment Special bonus payments.

Rugby Southland Referees treasurer Mike Saunders said their organisation valued the ongoing partnership and support of SBS Bank, which was truly representative of what the southern icon stood for – its community.

"During the rugby season, more than 50 voluntary rugby referees meet every Thursday night to work on improving their knowledge and application of the law and we were able to buy a projector to expand the level of our referee training with the \$1000 we were fortunate to win through SBS Star.

“We know how important community support is because we’re always appreciative of the support we receive from the many willing people who volunteer their time to help referee rugby games during our Southland seasons.

“We would be lost without the community volunteers and refereeing is a fantastic way for people get involved in the sport.

“The Board of Management appreciates the ongoing sponsorship of Rugby Southland Referees by SBS Bank and the potential to benefit even more through their latest SBS Star Investment Special is a real bonus,” Mr Saunders said.

The investment is a limited edition special available only until Wednesday 31 March, with payments being made to nominated clubs in April.

NB: The SBS Star Investment Special officially opens on Wednesday 27 January

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