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Cheers From Your Chair

The Turf Conference and Expo 2016 is looming and it will be interesting to see the level of engagement from industry now that it has been pushed out to every three years.

There are three main reasons people usually attend these; holiday, networking and knowledge. We can't do much about your holiday choices but the STANZ executive has tried to put together an interesting program for you, focusing on short presentations from fellow turf managers on the latest innovations and trends we are seeing in the industry. Not to mention the knowledge and advice you swap with each other when you meet up with old friends again.

As someone that works across our different sectors, I have observed over the years each one has strengths and weaknesses, hence combining together like this every few years can be invaluable. The Golf sector monitor and manage water like no other, the Sports Field sector has been immersed in a Health and Safety culture for many years now and is certainly ahead of the game entering this new legislative environment and if you have concerns about nematodes your local Bowls greenkeeper can tell you a thing or two about managing this pest.

So if you are still sitting on the fence about joining us at Sky City in June have a look at the following program that's on offer and I look forward to catching up with as many of you there as possible.

Kellie Rose
Chair

In this issue;

Cheers From
Your Chair

Turf
Conference &
Expo 2016

Infection Risk
from Synthetic
Turf

TURF CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2016 - Sports Field Program

Cricket tournament in the USA – Mark Perham, Fieldturfnz

- The challenges of implementing cricket into the American market.

Sports field renovations “thinking outside the box” – Alex Glasgow, NZSTI

- Traditionally sports fields have been renovated in the spring and autumn breaks between seasons. Those breaks tend to be much reduced and less definite these days. That coupled with different grasses and rootzones means that the traditional approaches to renovations should be questioned. A lot of sports turfs simply don't have the luxury of a break with no use to accommodate renovation and recovery. In that case, renovation has to be done in a way that doesn't prevent normal programmed use. In this presentation, different approaches to sports field renovations to fit in with modern demands will be discussed.

STANZ workshop at Nixon Park – Spencer Myer, NZSTI. Mark Perham, Fieldturfnz. Grant Jennings, Auckland Council.

- The use of hybrid synthetic turf on our sports fields has become an interesting trend in the Auckland market. The extent of its use, the cost comparison to sand carpets and the do's and don'ts of installation and maintenance of the different products on the market will be discussed during a visit to a local park where you can see the results for yourself.

Seeded couch trial – Bevan Houghton and Dr Phil Ford, PGG Wrightson Turf

- A combined trial with Auckland City Council to assess if seeded couch is a viable option moving forward. The replicated trial in Melbourne will also be discussed.

Green engineering and infrastructure – Mark Bowater, Auckland Council and Tracey Talbot, OPUS

- The development of guiding principles based on green engineering, a 3 D graphic model of a virtual sports park based on green design principles.

New technology in sports fields – Will Bowden, SSDM

- A discussion of collected data from the last 3 years regarding the results of various Humic Acid field trials and case studies that have measured the effects of granular and liquid Humic Acid products in relation to the management of soil hydrophobicity and early turf grass establishment.

Drones used for sports fields – Chris Schraders, NZSTI

- Drones have proven their worth in the agricultural sector by helping farmers increase their yield through practices known as precision agriculture. Turf managers can take advantage of these developments to select and use tools relevant to sports turf management. In the sports field sector, drones can be used to produce low-cost, high-quality maps; sense turf health and cover; and help program 'smart machinery'. We'll look at what is currently available, and what we can expect to see in the near-future.

Irrigation management – Mark Hooker, Royal Auckland Golf Club and Martin Payne, WSP

- Moisture monitoring of your soil for smarter use of water and the do's and don'ts for operating an irrigation system efficiently.

In addition to the sports field program there are some excellent plenary speakers lined up and everyone is invited to join the golf sector for their golf tournament on the Sunday prior to conference and the field trip out to the newly constructed *Windross Farm Golf Course* on the Wednesday, see details for both of these below.

Follow the link to the website for registration details <http://www.turfconferenceandexpo.co.nz>



TORO



Join us for the 2016 NZ Turf Conference Golf Tournament

Location | Royal Auckland Golf Club, The Grange Course, 2 Grange Road, Papatoetoe
Date | Sunday 26th June, 2016 **Cost** | \$20 per player **Time** | BBQ from 11:30, Tee off at 12:30
To register | Tick the box on your registration form for the Turf Conference and we will include you for the day's play.

For more information, please contact the organisers below

Martin Burger | martin@whitfordpark.co.nz **Darren Hannay** | darren.hannay@parkland.co.nz



NEW ZEALAND GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION


WINDROSS FARM
GOLF COURSE

Join us for the 2016 NZ Turf Conference Golf Field Trip

Location: Windross Farm Golf Course, Alfriston-Ardmore Road, Ardmore
Date: Wednesday 29th June 2016
To Register: Tick the Field Trip box on the Turf Conference registration form
Time: 10 am to 12 noon – lunch provided afterwards
Bus leaves Sky City at 9 am and returns to Sky City by 2 pm
Speakers: Architect – Brett Thomson
Windross Farm Golf Course Management

For more information please contact the organiser below.
Martin Burger | martin@whitfordpark.co.nz

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Infection risk from Synthetic Turf

Reports of synthetic turf use leading to infections, particularly caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) have continued since synthetic turf was first introduced. However, the research suggests that the turf is not the cause of the infection, although it may cause of the original skin trauma.

Research actually indicates how unlikely it is that infections arise from contact with synthetic turf. A study carried out by Penn State University investigated the survival of bacteria on a synthetic turf field after it was artificially inoculated with bacteria (Anon, n.d). The study results were as follows:

- On the control plot (i.e. no artificial inoculation) no bacteria was present at any time during the study.
- When plots were inoculated, the majority of bacteria was gone within 3 hours and almost all bacteria was dead within 72 hours.
- Natural turf inoculated with bacteria showed higher survival rates of bacteria than the bacteria on the synthetic turf almost all the way through the study.

Further research from Penn State (Serensits, *et al.* 2011) confirmed this initial result by broadening the study to 20 fields. Additionally, samples were collected from common areas such as training pads and surfaces in changing rooms and treatment tables. The study results indicated the following:

- *S. aureus* was not observed on any playing surfaces throughout the study.
- Bacterial colonies from non-turf areas were very high, including weights, the sauna, rubbish bins and the ball.
- The study concluded that the risk of infection actually comes from these non-turf areas.

The conclusion that infection following a skin trauma injury is likely to come from contact with training aids and player changing and treatment facilities is not new. Two previous studies; one published in 2008 (Kirkland and Adams) and one published in 2010 (Montgomery, *et al.*) both indicated that common areas and shared surfaces are the likely cause of infection experienced by sports people once skin abrasion has occurred. Both studies sampled common use items and changing facilities and both studies observed very high levels of bacteria on all of these items, including *S. aureus*.

The conclusions of both studies strongly indicate the need for improved player (personal) hygiene and the separation of players with skin injuries from those that don't, particularly where there are

common wash and changing facilities. Where players have not healed (or wounds cannot be adequately covered), both studies suggest restricting those players from taking part in sports to lessen the risk to other players.

The research reviewed for this article indicates that synthetic turf does not support the growth and continued colonisation of bacteria and, even when artificially inoculated, bacteria survival was very short. Therefore, it is the responsibility of club staff and medical staff to ensure that shared use facilities are adequately cleaned to reduce bacteria; this includes training/tackling pads, changing facilities and any areas where medical attention is being given as these have been shown in studies to harbour bacteria, including *S. aureus*.

Dr Marke Jennings-Temple, STRI

References

Anon (n.d.) A report to the Synthetic Turf Council on the research project: Survival of Staphylococcus aureus on synthetic turf. Prepared by Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences and available online:

<http://plantscience.psu.edu/research/centers/ssrc/documents/staph-survival-on-synthetic-turf.pdf>

Kirkland, E, B and Adams, B (2008) Methicilin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and athletes. Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. 59. 494-502.

Montgomery K; Ryan, T.J; Krause, A and Starkey, C (2010) Assessment of athletic health care facility surfaces for MRSA in the Secondary School setting. Journal of Environmental Health. 72:6. 8-11.

Serensits, T. J; McNitt, A. S and Petunak, D, M (2011) Human health issues on synthetic turf in the USA. Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Part P: Journal of Sports Engineering and Technology published online 13 June 2011:

<http://plantscience.psu.edu/research/centers/ssrc/documents/human-health-issues-on-synthetic-turf-in-the-usa.pdf>.



**NEW ZEALAND
TURF
CONFERENCE
AND EXPO
2016**

*Innovation & technology transfer
to create step change*

The NZ Turf Conference & Expo will be held at the SKYCITY Convention Centre Auckland.
27-28 June 2016.
<http://www.turfconferenceandexpo.co.nz>
turfconferenceandexpo.co.n



NZ Turf Growers

...we want to hear from you!

Turf Australia is the representative body for all Australian turf growers, providing the latest industry news and a comprehensive range of the up-to-date, practical resources for:

- **Production**
- **Marketing**
- **Research & Development**
- **Communications**

Please contact us for a FREE copy of our latest industry magazine.

We are keen to hear YOUR thoughts on the NZ industry, and how Turf Australia may be able to support NZ growers.

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Any queries regarding our Newsletters, Website, Sponsorship and membership please email sportsfieldforumnz@gmail.com

Best Wishes
Shona Calder – Editor

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