



Welcome to the 3rd SportSURF newsletter!

This is the 3rd newsletter of the SportSURF network, newsletters are published approximately twice a year and aim to keep our members informed of the latest network news, developments and research in sports surfaces. Membership of the network is open to any individual or organisation interested in sports surfaces, initially it is free. For more information and/or to become a member please visit the website www.sportsurf.org/signup.php or contact the network co-ordinator Colin Young at c.young@sportsurf.org.

*****We wish all of our members a happy Christmas and New Year*****

Membership and Background

SportSURF currently has over 200 members with an approximate split of 55/45 % academic/non-academics. It has a worldwide base including members from all five continents. The network is in its third and final year of funding from the EPSRC but it will continue to be active, below a brief overview of the exit strategy is included.

STARSS Conference

The STARSS conference was held at Loughborough University on the 17th and 18th September 2007. The first of a biennial conference for those interested and involved with sports surfaces. The two day event welcomed delegate from all over the world. Presentations were given in a number of disciplines related to sport surface research these included:

- Biomechanics
- Test Methods
- Measurements and Modelling
- Yarns and Carpets
- Maintenance and Environment

A CD of the proceedings was produced and can be ordered by contacting the network coordinator. More details of the event is available on the SportSURF website. www.sportsurf.org/conference.php. Copies of the presentations are also available to view from the website.



Dr Colin Walker keynote address on measurements and modelling



Dr Martyn Shorten keynote address on biomechanics and injury.

Exit Strategy: Continuation after Funding

The network will continue to operate after the end of funding in April 2008. It will remain based at Loughborough University, under the management of Dr Paul Fleming with the continued input of the network core committee (as present). The long-term aim is for the network to maintain its high profile and provide up to date information and opportunities for its membership in the science and application of sports surface interactions.

The 'new' objectives of the network will be:

- to maintain and grow the interdisciplinary SportSURF membership and participants
- to host stimulating meetings/workshops open to all interested parties
- to hold a dedicated surfaces related conference every two years called STARSS
- to continue to promote the transfer of ideas and technology between researchers and practitioners
- to facilitate and coordinate multidisciplinary research proposals where appropriate
- to interact with other networks, including European, for the benefit of its members
- to continue to disseminate the network outcomes widely (primarily) via the website and an annual newsletter

The membership will remain free, and the database, website and administration will be self-funding through delegate rates for the events, which will continue to be topical and cost efficient. Support funding for events will be sought as appropriate.

We welcome input from our members. This is YOUR network, please feel free to pass any idea/comments/proposals to the coordinator at C.Young@lboro.ac.uk

Future Events

SportSURF Events:

- March Date: TBC 2008 5th Workshop – Details will be posted on the website as they become available www.sportsurf.org/workshop5.php
- 17th April 2008: 6th Workshop in collaboration with the British Association of Sport and Exercise Medicine. When available full details of this event will be made available on our website www.sportsurf.org/workshop6.php. Please note: this event is being run by BASEM with a special session for SportSURF members consequently numbers will be limited. More details will be made available closer to the time.

Other Events of interest:

- 2nd – 6th June 2008 – The 7th International Sports Engineering Conference, Biarritz, France (more info <http://www.isea2008.estia.fr/>)
- Annual SAPCA Conference – 29th & 30th January 2008 – Chesford Grange Hotel: visit www.sapca.org.uk for more information

When available full details of future events will be posted on our website (www.sportsurf.org/news.php)