



Welcome to the 4th SportSURF newsletter!

This is the 4th newsletter of the SportSURF network, newsletters are published at approximately intervals 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 manager Dr Paul Fleming at Loughborough University p.r.fleming@lboro.ac.uk.

Membership and Background

SportSURF currently has 280 members with an approximate split of 55/45 % academic/non-academics. It has a worldwide base including members from all five continents. The network's 3 year funding income from the EPSRC has just finished. However, it will continue with its activities of running workshops, conferences and providing a forum for dissemination, training, discussion and debate on all aspect of sport surface interactions.

5th Workshop and BASEM Annual Conference

Since the last newsletter the network has been heavily involved in two events. Firstly SportSURF held a special meeting in conjunction with the British Association of Sports and Exercise Medicine in April. This meeting enabled the sports surface community to present some interesting issues with regard to surfaces and human adaptations to a range of sports medicine practitioners who in turn presented interesting information mostly with regard to injuries and player monitoring. The conference was a great success and for the first time provided a good link between these two fields. The outcomes from the workshop included a better understanding of the issues from both sides and will hopefully lead to future collaborations to better identify and explain links between the playing surface and injury.

SportSURF held its 5th workshop at the new Sport Technology Institute at Loughborough University at the end of April. The workshop was very well attended by a good cross section of the industry, approximately 75 delegates. Many key issues were discussed at the conference including currently hot topics such as maintenance and warranty issues. If you would like more information the presentations are available for download on the website at www.sportSURF.org/workshop5.php.

Other news: Dr Colin Young joined SAPCA as the Technical and Training Manager at the end of June. The network will, however, continue to be supported by SAPCA with Colin and colleagues maintaining an active role.



Loughborough's new Sports Technology Institute was officially opened in February 2008 by Steve Backley

For further information visit:

www.sports-technology.com



Network Exit Strategy: Continuation after July 2008

The network will continue to operate even though the initial 3 year funding has ended. It will remain based at Loughborough University, under the management of Dr Paul Fleming with the continued input of the network core committee (as at present). The long-term aim is for the network to maintain its high profile and provide up to date information and opportunities for debate and discussion 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, possibly two per year
- 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 recently in Europe, for the benefit of its members
- to continue to disseminate current relevant information and 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 workshop 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 manager Dr Paul Fleming (P.R.Fleming@lboro.ac.uk)

Future Events

SportSURF Events:

- Future workshops – the core committee aim to meet in August to draw up a plan of future events. If you have strong views please email us.
- STARSS II (September 2009) – Science, Technology and Research into Sports Surfaces II – Details and paper submission details to be announced in September 2008

Other Events of interest:

- APCST (Asian Pacific Conference Sport Technology) – call for papers out now, deadline 31st October, see www.rmit.edu.au/apcst2009
- Annual SAPCA Conference – January 2009 – 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)