



Welcome to the first SportSURF newsletter!

This is the first newsletter of the SportSURF network, newsletters will be published approximately twice a year and aim to keep our members informed of the latest network news, developments and research in sports surfaces.

This new network commenced in May 2005 and brings together, for the first time, a broad range of stakeholders comprising academics, practitioners, and sport governing bodies to share ideas and consolidate current knowledge, discuss and formulate research needs, disseminate the outcomes and seek funding for the long-term benefits related to 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 info@sportsurf.org.

Existing Membership

SportSURF currently has over 70 members with a 40/60 split between academic/non-academics. It has a worldwide base of members from many countries including USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and several European countries (including Spain, Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland).

There are many notable member organisations including SAPCA, English Institute of Sport, British Olympic Association, Sport England, Institute of Groundsman, Football Association, Football Foundation, Rugby Football Union, Federation Internationale De Hockey, English Hockey, National Playing Field Association and many others. Leading manufactures, suppliers and research institutes makeup the remainder of the membership.

Launch Seminar

The launch seminar was held at Loughborough University on the 17th November 2005. More than sixty delegates were brought together for the first inaugural meeting. Leading figures from the sports surface industry were present including figureheads from manufactures, research institutes, service providers and sports governing bodies.

The aim of the launch seminar was to bring together the member parties and stimulate discussion and debate regarding both the role of the network and the challenges that need addressing to advance the science of sport-surface interactions.

The first part of the day comprised several informative presentations from the core members of the network. In the afternoon session the delegates were split into four 'breakout' groups that debated some key questions after which the groups reconvened and the discussions were fed back to the whole group.



The topics of the day addressed many issues that affect sport surfaces including; user perceptions, biomechanics, surface mechanics, surface interactions, surface evaluation, modelling of the player and ball, and the construction and sustainability of sport surfaces.

There were seven presentations during the day from the core members covering a wide variety of sports surface issues these included; surface requirements (Dr Paul Fleming), user requirements (Dr Colin Young), player surface interactions (Dr Sharon Dixon & Dr Iain James), surface assessment and modelling (Dr Matt Carré), surface measurements methods (Dr Colin Walker), the construction perspective (Mike Abbott), and sports injuries and surfaces (Prof. Mark Batt). A copy of these presentations are available to download on our website at www.sportsurf.org/workshop1.php.

In the breakout session the four groups discussed the following questions:

- The effects of surfaces on the player/user with regard to performance perspective?
- The effect of surfaces on the player/user with regard to injuries/health perspective?
- The evaluation/measurement of appropriate surface mechanical properties?
- The innovations for surface design/manufacture/performance including 'whole life'?

A full review of the launch seminar including feedback from the breakout sessions can be viewed on our website in PDF www.sportsurf.org/workshop1.php.

Future Events

- 2nd workshop at Cranfield University **26th April 2006** – Further details of this event can be view on our website www.sportsurf.org/workshop2.php.
- International Symposium (TBC) **Summer 2007** – Further detail will be published when available.

Other Events of interest:

- 6th World Conference – The Engineering of Sport, Munich 11th – 14th July 2006 (<http://www.sportkreativwerkstatt.de/isea2006/>)

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

