



Welcome to the 2nd SportSURF newsletter!

This is the 2nd 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 New Year and hope you all had a good holiday season*****

Expanding Membership

SportSURF currently has over 140 members with an approximate split of 55/45 % academic/non-academics. It has a worldwide base of members from all five major continents Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Oceania.

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 manufacturers, suppliers and research institutes make up the remainder of the membership.

SportSURF Workshops

Since the last newsletter SportSURF has run 2 successful workshops, one at Cranfield University and one at the University of Exeter.

Workshop 2 entitled: **Sport Surfaces 'Quantifying their Performance Requirements'** was hosted at Cranfield University. The day was packed full of informative debate with the highlights including two keynote presentations from representative of FIFA (Dr Eric Harrison) and the International Tennis Federation (Dr Stuart Miller and Jamie Capel-Davis). Several other presentations were given with interesting questions and discussion. For further details of the workshop and to download the presentations and a press release visit our website www.sportsurf.org/workshop2.php.

The 3rd workshop at the University of Exeter was focused on the biomechanics of sports surfaces with many informative presentations and enlightening discussion. The title of the workshop was **'Player-Surface Interactions: Biomechanical Studies'** a highlight of the day was the keynote presentation by Dr Darren Stefanyshyn from the Human Performance Laboratory at the University of Calgary. Other presentations were given from delegates active in biomechanics research from around Europe. A copy of all the presentations given at the workshop can be downloaded at www.sportsurf.org/workshop3.php. Several key points emerged from the workshop which are briefly summarised below:

- There is a lack of comprehensive injury studies
- Body measurements can be related to injury
- Biomechanical measurements are showing deficiencies in mechanical tests
- New tests are needed, more player/shoe/surface oriented with appropriate loading/activity conditions
- Many variables, and biomechanical experimental programmes are relatively complex and need to be normalised in some way?
- Extensive injury related study needed (prospective as opposed to retrospective?)

The next workshop will be hosted on 3rd April in Sheffield with a proposed title **'Can we measure the appropriate characteristics of sport surfaces?'**. More details of this event will be published shortly on our website www.sportsurf.org/workshop4.php.



2nd Workshop: International Tennis Federation Speakers



2nd Workshop: FIFA Speaker

STARSS Conference – 17th and 18th September 2007

The inaugural SportSURF conference 'Science, Technology and Research into Sport Surfaces' (STARSS) will be run on the 17th and 18th September 2007 at Loughborough University, UK. This is the first of a new biennial conference for those interested and involved in sport surfaces. The conference aims to provide a unique opportunity for the discussion of current research ideas and findings, dissemination of current practice and the transfer of technology and ideas between attendees from the academic and industrial communities. Full details of the conference including registration information, venue, keynote presentations, important dates and other useful information is available on our website www.sportsurf.org/conference.php.

Future Events

SportSURF Events:

- 17th and 18th September 2007 STARSS Conference – For full details please visit our website at www.sportsurf.org/conference.php
- 3rd April 2007: 4th workshop in Sheffield - Further details of this event will be made available on our website www.sportsurf.org/workshop4.php

Other Events of interest:

- 10th – 12th September 2007 Tennis, Science and Technology 3 – The conference hosted by the International Tennis Federation www.itftennis.com/technical
- Annual SAPCA Conference – 29th & 30th January 2007 – 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)