

# Welcome and Introduction

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&  
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SportSURF 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop  
3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2007



Supported by:

**EPSRC**

# Network Introduction

EPSRC Funded, awarded May 2005, for 3 years

Emerged from an EPSRC initiative 'Thinking About Sport' in December 2003

Self sufficient after 3 years....'exit strategy' needed

Core members developed the proposal, supported by many organisations/parties



# Network Objectives

**The specific objectives are:**

- **to create a new interdisciplinary 'surfaces' community**
- **to host stimulating meetings/workshops open to all plus a new specific conference (2007)**
- **to transfer ideas, techniques, models and technology between researchers and practitioners**
- **to produce multidisciplinary research proposals**
- **to disseminate the network outcomes widely via the web, publications, press releases.....**



# Membership

## General Membership

Open to any individual or organisation that has an interest in sports surfaces

International membership is being developed.....

Sports governing bodies considered vital... and a balance between academia and industry....



# Membership Update

- 160 members worldwide
- Approximately 40/60 Split (Academic/Non-Academic)
- Worldwide membership including USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and many European countries (Spain, Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany)



# WS 2 – Feedback/Issues

Natural turf is a suitable benchmark....?

Player feedback has adjusted initial FIFA PP limits

Medical studies...no difference between artificial and natural turf.

QA & Maintenance is the key. What is best practice...is it known and used? Are pitches tested enough?

Community study needed re health effects?

Issues?

Boot – stud configurations.....

Water required to be added for abrasion and speed..

Interaction Mechanics understood – linked to injuries?



# WS3 - Research Needs 1

- 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 – appropriate loading/activity conditions
- Many variables, and biomechanical experimental programmes are relatively complex and need to normalise in some way?



# Ws3- Research Needs 2

- Load rate, peak pressures, knee moments, and whole system modelling required
- Interdisciplinary approach needed
- Extensive injury related study needed (prospective?)





# 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop

- The focus of the workshop is ‘How to measure the appropriate characteristics of sport surfaces’.
- What is good/bad about the existing test methods?
- Evidence and questions regarding sensitivity, simulation, accuracy, and relevance.
- Recent developments/new methods.
- What does recent research tell us we should be measuring, and how?
- Where are the current gaps in knowledge/test methods?



# Programme (a.m.)

- 09:30 to 10:00 Coffee and registration
- 10:00 to 10:15 Introduction & Welcome  
*Dr Paul Fleming (Network Manager)*  
*Dr Matt Carre (Core Member & Host)*
- 10:15 to 10:30 Alastair Cox – Labosport Ltd  
Current test methods and future needs
- 10:30 to 11:00 Roger Webb – Federation Internationale De Hockey (FIH)  
Updating the FIH performance requirements
- 11:00 to 11:15 Colin Young – Loughborough University  
A comparison of test methods and player perception
- 11:15 to 11:30** **Coffee break**
- 11:30 to 12:00 Eric O'Donnell – Sports Labs  
Consultants perspective of test methods
- 12:00 to 12:30 Paul Fleming – Loughborough University  
Sensitivity and relevance of current test methods



# Programme (p.m.)

- 13:30 to 14:00 Harald Körger - Adidas Innovation Team  
Adidas football research innovations
- 14:00 to 14:30 Hans-Joerg Kolitzus - IST Consulting  
Development of the 'Linear Friction Tester'
- 14:30 to 14:45 David Rosa & Mercedes Sanchis Almenara - IBV  
A new method to evaluate traction
- 14:45 to 15:00** **Coffee break**
- 15:00 to 15:15 Rudy Verhelst – Ghent University  
A device to measure temperature and friction during sliding
- 15:15 to 15:45 Matt Carre & Bob Kirk – University of Sheffield  
Gaining understanding of traction test data
- 15:45 to 16:30** **Discussion Forum and Closing Remarks:**  
Where are the current gaps in knowledge or test methods?  
Research needs and new developments?  
Can we measure things better?



# Morning Session



# Lunch

# Afternoon Session



[www.sportsurf.org](http://www.sportsurf.org)

# Discussion Forum/ Open presentations



# Discussion – topics





# Closing Remarks

**Feedback – please help us.....**

**Forthcoming Events**

**STARSS – 17&18<sup>th</sup> September,  
Loughborough University  
2 Day programme...**





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**[www.sportsurf.org](http://www.sportsurf.org)**