



Sports Field Forum NZ Inc.

Sports Field Forum NZ Monthly Newsletter

July 2008 Vol 6 (3)

Chairman's Cheers

Difference between use booked and use played.

What a difference four weeks makes. Since our last newsletter the rain has arrived and keeps coming here in Auckland.

The soil moisture is at capacity after each shower although it's still mild with only one ground frost to tickle up the Kikuyu.

This is the time that sorts the wheat from the chaff. How good are your fields now?

Contractors and field managers will be working hard to keep fields in use.

One useful measure to judge who is on the right track is the difference between the hours booked and the hours actually played. The difference of course are the restrictions.

Endosulphan

On behalf of the turf industry thanks are due to David Ormsby and the Sports Turf Institute for his submission to ERMA for the turf industry to retain the use of Endosulphan.

I trust that those in a position to do so will respond to the request to assist with funding of this exercise.

One erroneous impression that some people hold is that we use this product in a calendar spray regime. This couldn't be further from the truth. Here at Manukau we regularly survey for a range of soil invertebrates and only spray when the presence of the particular pest reaches a predetermined threshold level

I have no doubt personally that this product will be withdrawn from general horticultural use as there are suitable alternatives.

However I am confident there is a good case to retain it for use in the turf industry.

Time will tell.

Auckland Domain Forum field day, Executive meeting and AGM

I trust you are all aware of this event being held on August 7th 2008.

There is the opportunity for anyone with turf related equipment to display this at the field day. Please contact either myself or Secretary Kim Squire.

And finally

After two years as your chairperson I am pleased we have a succession plan that will see Dr Richard Gibbs appointed to the Chair at the AGM.

One last request I have of all members is to support the newsletter editor by supplying any material you think of interest to sports field managers, contractors, suppliers. I see the newsletter as a key part of our Forum's success

Robert Findlay, Chairman

AGM & Field Day Programme

A G E N D A

Auckland Domain Field Day - Thursday 7 August 2008 followed by the Annual General Meeting

Venue:	Auckland Domain Cricket Club, Grandstand Road South, off Carlton Gore Road, Newmarket	
Please Note:	Entry charge is \$10.00 per member, funds go towards the Forum	
Commencing:	10.00 - 10.15	morning tea / meet and greet
Welcome:	10.15 - 10.30	Chairperson, Robert Findlay
Speakers:	10.30 - 11.00	Auckland Domain storm water design presentation Dr Marke Jennings-Temple, Consultant Sports Surface Design & Management
	11.00 - 11.30	Dr Tim Fisher, Senior Water Resources Engineer Tonkin & Taylor
	11.30 - 12.00	Auckland Domain multi-use management of the surface Corrie Jamieson, Turf Manager Recreational Services
Lunch and demonstrations of turf equipment:	12.00 - 1.00	Lunch is kindly sponsored by Sport Surface Design & Management
AGM:	1.00 - 2.00	Annual General Meeting
	2.00 - 2.30	Endosulphan update presentation David Ormsby, Sports Turf Advisor, Regional Agronomy Manager – Waikato, New Zealand Sports Institute
	2.30 - 3.15	Dunedin multi-purpose stadium presentation Dr Richard Gibbs, Manager Sports Surface Design & Management

Close: 3.15 Wind up and further demonstrations of turf equipment and displays for those wishing to stay.
3.15 - 3.45 Sports Field Forum Executive Meeting

RSVP's: Kim Squire, Forum Secretary
kim.squire@manukau.govt.nz
or phone 262 8900 ext 8374 by 31st July 2008

South Island Fine Turf Seminar

The SIFTS was organised by the Canterbury Golf Course Superintendents Association. It was held at the Suburban Club in Nelson over 23-25 June 2008.

The Forum became involved at a very late stage when it became apparent that there was no sports field content.

In total there were approximately 140 delegates and trade people in attendance. Of these about 25 were sports field related. The low numbers for our sector are a result of the original programme being totally golf focussed.

The Monday programme featured presentations on "Sustainable Golf Course Management", "Nutrient Management Programmes", "Saxton Field development, grassing and cricket block construction" plus an Open Forum that focussed on cricket block construction primarily. The evening provided a great opportunity for delegates to have a natter over an ale (provided by Trade Sponsors) or two in the main bar area.

Tuesday morning saw two very enlightening presentations.

The first by Andrew Peart, gave the Australian perspective and experiences on how they have managed the lack of available water for irrigation during the recent water crisis. Many examples were given of major water harvesting schemes, and storm water capture.

One training need we may have in New Zealand in the future is for a greater understanding of water quality issues and their effect on turf grass, if we face similar issues of unavailability of high grade water for irrigation.

The second presentation was by Steve Marsden, on the recent golf course construction at Kinloch. Many "interesting" techniques were used on this site during construction to ensure successful establishment- especially on slopes.

It also gave a great insight in "top level" construction demands and expectations- and what money can buy!

The rest of Tuesday was spent on a bus trip to visit various Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council sports fields, prior to a machinery demo time at Nelson Golf Club. The afternoon finished with a sausage sizzle which was a welcome way to warm up some frozen hands after a very cold day.

In the evening, there was a well attended seminar dinner.

For the future, we need to get alongside the organisers of these events to ensure that we can contribute to their programmes, and ongoing success.

We are one industry- and it is important to get together with our peers from golf, bowls, race tracks and schools to share our experiences more.

The next SIFTS is likely to be in the Southland area in 2010. It can't be any colder than Nelson was- but thanks for coming to break our seven week drought, we were desperate for the rain.

Peter Gray

Laying the groundwork for the worlds best!

...not just another day at the office!

New Zealand Sports Turf Industry Training Organisation



National Certificate in Sports Turf (Introduction to Turf Care) 2008/2009

Auckland • Wellington • Gore



National Certificate in Amenity Turf Maintenance 2008/2009

Auckland • Palmerston North • Christchurch



For all Level 3 Course enquiries contact:

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Important:

Courses can be scheduled for other locations if sufficient demand exists.

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Executive Committee

Feel free to contact any member for assistance:

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If you are interested in advertising in an upcoming newsletter, have a news flash or job vacancy you want circulated to the forum membership, or have suggestions for material in future newsletters, please contact Bobbie-Jo at sportsfieldforumnz@gmail.com

Bobbie Harvey
Sports Field Forum Inc