



Sports Field Forum Newsletter

October 2011 Vol. 7 (5)

Chairman's Cheers

The 2011 Rugby World Cup has been and gone and what a feast it was. We all know of course that a key factor contributing to the success of the tournament was the high quality of turf in the stadia and training venues around the country, as well as all the hours and hours of planning and maintenance that went into preparing the surfaces. Although turf surfaces and turf managers rarely get singled out for praise in the public domain by the media and sporting codes at the level given to other aspects of a major international tournament, you can rest assured that plenty of people outside of the NZ sports turf industry, including overseas turf specialists and stadium managers, were looking very carefully at the performance of the pitches – and this tournament will have set a benchmark for others to follow. So I for one offer my congratulations to the NZ sports turf industry for a job well done!

In the last newsletter, you will be aware that the Sports Field Forum changed its name to the Sports Turf Association of New Zealand (STANZ). We now have a new logo:



We'll start using the new logo on our newsletters in the New Year. In the meantime, a strategic planning day for the STANZ Executive will take place in Auckland on Thursday 10th November. All members of STANZ (that's you if you are on the Sports Field Forum mailing list) are warmly invited to attend and contribute to the planning day. We aim to start the day at 9.30 am and conclude by 4.30 pm. If you would like to help steer the industry to greater and better things, this is your opportunity.

The venue will be the Puhinui meeting room at the Civic Building in Manukau, Auckland. If you are able to come to all or some of the day, please could you let our newsletter editor, Bobbie Harvey, know for catering purposes and to receive further details at sportsturfNZ@gmail.com.

The formation of STANZ has been the catalyst for the decision to wind down the Turf Industry Profiling Group (TIPG). The last meeting of the TIPG was held on 27th September, during which time it was resolved that the remaining funds of the TIPG would be handed over to STANZ to help kick start the organisation. The STANZ Executive is very grateful to the TIPG for this donation and

for the support it is offering.

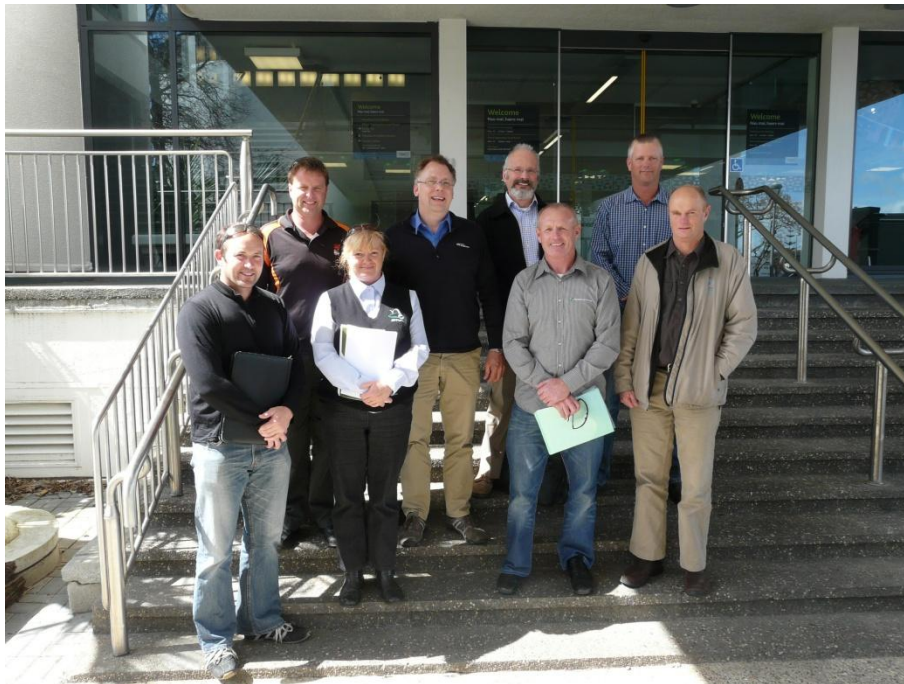


Fig. 1 The Turf Industry Profiling Group (TIPG) meets for the last time and hands over its remaining funds to the newly formed STANZ (from left to right: Ian McKendry, Spencer Myer, Kellie Rose, George Tohill, Richard Gibbs, Brett Turner, Jared Carter and Peter Harding).

In other news, the Sports Turf ITO moves a step closer to amalgamation. It is not a case of if amalgamation is going to happen, but when. STANZ has offered support to an amalgamation provided the level and delivery method of sports turf training is not diminished.

Later in this newsletter we also hear from Mark Bowater of Auckland Council who has carried out a major study to look at future sports field demand in the Auckland region. Despite a sound business case, rapidly increasing demand for new facilities and support from the fairly influential Parks, Recreation and Heritage Forum of Auckland Council, it is disappointing to read in the NZ Herald only today that there are to be no additional funds made available for new sports fields – a signal surely that the sports turf industry needs an effective political lobbying voice, something we hope STANZ will be able to offer.

Dr Richard Gibbs
Chairman

Auckland Council signals support for sports field funding

An additional \$10.3m of funding per year over the next 10 years is needed to upgrade sports field playing capacities across the region.

At a meeting of the Auckland Council Parks, Recreation and Heritage Forum, councillors provided support for a report on capital works funding to address some of the issues faced by sports field

users across the region.

“Increased funding for sports fields is a must,” says Cr Sandra Coney, Chair of the Parks, Recreation and Heritage Forum.

“Across the region sports teams – especially young players – are missing out. This is largely due to our inability to meet rapidly increasing demand and provide playing surfaces that stand up to high use and Auckland’s wet winters.

“In order to encourage physical activity and champion community engagement, we need to support more investment in the development of new playing fields and upgrading existing ones,” she says.

A council officers’ report to the Forum summarised recent work undertaken on a regional sports field supply and demand study, which looked at current and projected demand for the 777 winter sports fields in community use.

The sports field demand model calculates and matches field demand with field capacity and, after applying growth projections, is able to assess future capacity surplus and shortfall issues. It projects that by 2021, the shortfall in sports field capacity across the region is expected to be 2,216 playing hours per week, primarily affecting training.

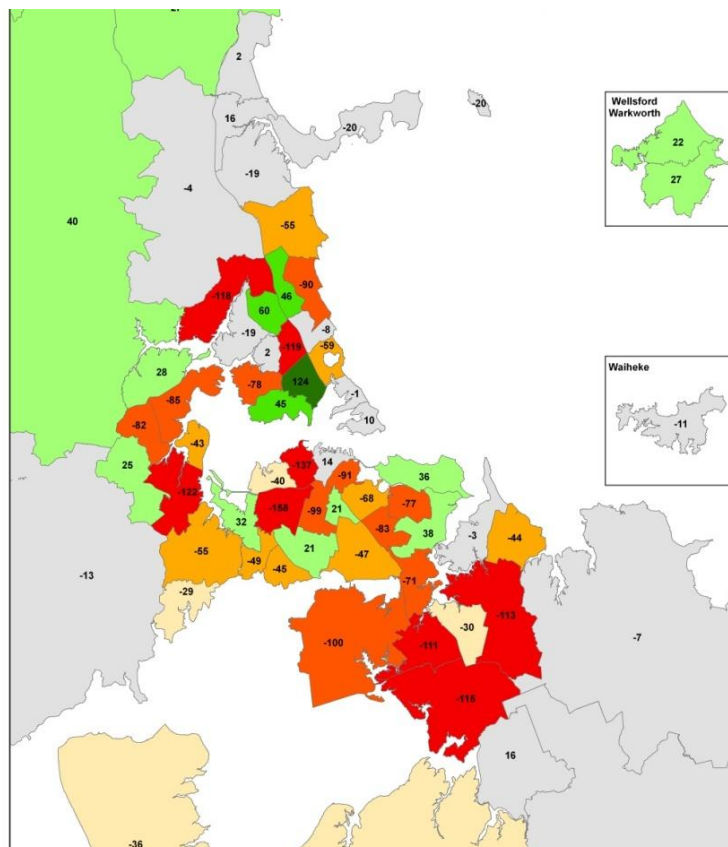


Fig.1. Looking into the future: an example of one of the many assessments carried out to show surplus or shortfall in sports field usage in the Auckland region in response to projected population increase and changes in sporting demand over the next 10 years (green is surplus and red is shortfall). Source of data: Longdill & Associates.

Mark Bowater, Manager of Local and Sports Parks, says that if the current level of field closures of 20% is halved, then the capacity shortfall would rise to 2,984 hours per week.

“This is a significant issue for the Auckland area, compounded by the wet winter climate, and the increasing levels of participation in sport.

“In order to provide sufficient additional playing capacity to meet the projected demand, significant investment is required in installing new artificial pitches at suitable locations, upgrading field drainage, and providing additional floodlit training fields to spread demand,” he says.

The required level of capital investment has been assessed at over \$10m per year. Alongside planned developments of undeveloped land, this would provide the required additional sports field playing capacity. This potential development would include 20 new artificial fields and 200-300 sand carpet field upgrades across the Auckland region.

Of the 20 artificial fields, half of these are required in the central Auckland area, four in the southern area and three each in the north and west.

The report will now go to the Regional Development and Operations Committee for a further decision as part of budget considerations for the Long Term Plan process, and is also being forwarded to all 21 Local Boards for their information and comment.

Mark Bowater, Auckland Council

SPARC Name Change

The Minister for Sport and Recreation Murray McCully has publically announced that SPARC will be changing its name to Sport New Zealand.

He made the announcement while speaking at the official opening of the National Training Centre at the AUT Millennium Campus. While the announcement has been made, the change won't take place until early next year, with a re-branding process to be rolled out over the next three months in order to minimize costs, both for SPARC and for their partners.

There have recently been significant changes to the New Zealand sports landscape with the establishment of High Performance Sport New Zealand (HPSNZ) as a subsidiary of SPARC. There have also been changes to SPARC's strategic focus in the last few years. The new name - Sport New Zealand – better reflects its role now and into the future – which is to lead New Zealand's single sport system, invest in community sport and build capability across the sector.

Sport NZ is all encompassing of sport and recreation activities. Many countries are similarly using the word 'sport' in this way, and recreation will remain a key focus for the organisation.

SPARC will be providing more details on the change, and the roll out of the new name and brand, over the next few months.

NZ Cricket Annual Report Excerpt – Grounds & Facilities

New Zealand Cricket Annual Report 2010-2011

Section: Grounds & Facilities

Pitch and outfield conditions for first class and international venues across New Zealand were of a high standard for the 2010-11 season. This continues the trend of improving ground conditions that has been a result of the implementation of the warrant of fitness standards that has now been in place for the past five seasons.

Colin Maiden Park and the Basin Reserve were rated as the top venues in NZ for the 2010/11 season. Both venues consistently produced pitches of outstanding quality for all forms of cricket. Congratulations to Brett Siphthorpe, Mark Perham and their teams.

Cobham Oval in Whangarei has received ICC approval for staging International cricket. Gary Bell CEO of Northland cricket and the team from Recreational Services did outstanding work over the last 5 years in bringing this venue up to International ICC standards.

After the devastating damage and tragic loss of life on 22nd February 2011, the city of Christchurch will never be the same again. Amongst the damage and ruins of a great city, many sports clubs, sports fields and council assets were amongst those not spared from the ugly side of Mother Nature. Cricket grounds severely affected were AMI stadium, QEII Village Green and numerous other Canterbury Cricket facilities and grounds. We want to recognise and thank the work of Chris Lewis and Gerald Price from the earthquake affected AMI and QE11 stadium for their dedicated service over the past decade, preparing high quality grounds for international and first class cricket. At time of writing these venues' future is uncertain.

Post earthquake, Main Power Oval in Rangiora stepped up to take on the load of first class cricket and performed outstandingly well. Thanks to Canterbury Country Cricket and special credit to Turf Manager Jeff Kerr on a job well done.

NZ cricket want to pay special mention and congratulate Peter Domigan from Queenstown Event Centre and Ces Renwick from Auckland Cricket, who received awards for outstanding services to cricket for cricket groundsmanship at the NZ National Turf Conference in Hamilton.

During the year NZ cricket ran six regional turf management training days attended by over 150 turf managers across NZ.

The bi-annual national turf conference was held in Hamilton in June with over 180 cricket / sports field delegates. Cameron Sutherland the curator from the WACA was our key note speaker.

Initiatives

The next 12 months a key focus will be on the national strategic plan for facilities and grounds. This key piece of work will link into the High Performance Strategy of NZC and establish the policy to drive the future resources required for facilities across NZ. The outcomes will be the plan for a significant boost in facilities provision to supporting our best athletes, top coaches, and support staff by providing world class sports science and medical services through facility innovation and

technology that will give our athletes a competitive advantage on the world stage.

Ian McKendry, Facilities and Grounds Manager - NZC

Rugby World Cup Wrap Up – Stadiums

We asked a few of our World Cup venue managers to give us an insight into their experiences over the past six weeks.

Peter Gray, Turf Manager Trafalgar Park in Nelson, hosted 3 matches

What were you most worried about ahead of hosting Rugby World Cup games?

Getting growth and recovery during the later part of winter when it was still quite cold (during end of ITM Cup). Did a minor renovation (coring and seeding plus some sanding) at end of August – and got good recovery though as we then got a good spell of weather.

Other concern was for rain during the lead up too, or during our games. Did a vertidrain just before 1st match as insurance. All worked great- only some rain in 2nd half of last game.

The accreditation process turned into our biggest nightmare trying to get our staff through the process so we could do our jobs!

What has been the most challenging aspect of preparing the venue?

Getting past all the security staff and being able to get gear in to site to do our job

What has been your most rewarding moment of the tournament?

A few spring to mind- The fantastic crowd atmosphere at our games, Hearing the USA and Aussie anthems playing on our park, being part of such an important event, taking some Italian supporters out sailing then having a fantastic bbq/evening with them-and the friendships we have made.

Most valuable lesson learned for future events?

Need more control of all the set up people. Need less security people, must be able to irrigate even when all the sound gear is set up.

Nelson has the people and facilities to host major events like this – we can do it!

Which team is going to win the World Cup?

One from the southern hemisphere, and one coached by a kiwi.

Karl Johnson, Waikato Stadium

What were you most worried about ahead of hosting Rugby World Cup games?

Waikato had a good run in the provincial ITM Cup competition, which placed added pressure on the playing surface at Waikato Stadium. Rugby fans will be aware the ITM Cup final – won by my boys Canterbury! – was played at Waikato Stadium only 11 days before the All Blacks met Japan in the first Rugby World Cup match held in Hamilton. Perhaps the toughest task for myself and my team was presenting a 100% “clean” playing surface and venue, in line with RWC commitments. Removing the ITM Cup logo and assorted sponsors’ branding from the pitch was quite a significant task – but we got there in the end, and had some very positive feedback from RWC and the IRB.

The weather's always a factor in what we do, and ahead of RWC Hamilton had a lot of rain which made for a real challenge.

What has been the most challenging aspect of preparing the venue?

See above. And added to that was the fact the eyes of the rugby world were on Hamilton and the nation as a whole. When the expectations are high, and the work of people in roles such as mine is under scrutiny, you really feel compelled to lift your game and work closely with your team.

What has been your most rewarding moment of the tournament?

Reading the front page of the New Zealand Herald the day after the All Blacks defeated Japan at Waikato Stadium. The newspaper published glowing reports on how Hamilton and the venue had performed – particularly in comparison to the issues which occurred in Auckland the week prior, when the opening match of the tournament was held.

Most valuable lesson learned for future events?

The importance of having good people with the right skill set involved. I also had to expand my role (turf manager for Seddon Park and Waikato Stadium) to include aspects of venue management I am not usually responsible for, for example overseeing the preparation and management of training grounds, two gymnasiums for teams, two indoor courts and two pool complexes. I relied on a number of people to assist me with the extra tasks in meeting RWC requirements.

Which team is going to win the World Cup?

The team in black will beat the French by 30+ points. Must say, I'd have preferred an All Blacks vs. Wales final, because I've got a good relationship with Wales coach Warren Gatland and it would have been a great finale to the tournament to see two rugby-mad nations competing for the trophy.

Excerpt NZ Herald Article with Mark Perham, Head Groundsman Eden Park.

One spectator at tomorrow's Rugby World Cup match between Wales and Australia will be hoping more than most for an open, running game of rugby.



Eden Park's painstakingly prepared turf faces its biggest audience yet at Sunday's Rugby World Cup final, with 61,000 fans in the stands and tens of millions expected to watch on television. Head Groundsman Mark Perham said his pitch must first endure a few days of spring rain and a third-place playoff.

Mr Perham said slow, gritty matches played in the middle of the ground did the most damage to his pitch. The England-France quarter-final left his ground with more divots than any other World Cup game. "They just spent a lot of time in the middle section of the ground. They had a lot of reset scrums, and not much running, we definitely get less damage to the pitch when we have two sides that are willing to play open rugby."

Mark has stood at the side of the field at every match, showing the odd grimace when 1600kg of forwards dug their studs into the turf. Ground staff have had to replace 30sq m from the middle of

the Eden Park field after it became too worn. While this was only a fraction of the 2000sq m of spare turf on standby in Karaka, Mr Perham said he would prefer not to have to replant any more before the final.

His team of six staff have banned machinery from the grass this week, except for the final mow today. Watering has been cancelled after yesterday's deluge in Auckland. "We've just been really lucky between [double-headers] that we've had good weather. It's looking good for Friday, Saturday, Sunday, but we are never completely relaxed."

He said the opening ceremony put more pressure on his ground than most rugby games, so he was thankful there was no full-scale closing ceremony.

The end of the World Cup will not signal a break for the ground staff. They will be back at work next week re-sowing and mowing the grass, and rugby posts will be replaced by soccer goals for the Wellington Phoenix's first match at the ground on November 19.



Bobbie Harvey, Editor.

Breakthrough in Bird Deterrent Technology

AVANEX™ unique endophyte technology

Sports Surface Design & Management (SSDM) was commissioned to redesign a number of high profile fields across Auckland's North Shore. A primary catalyst for the work at one particular venue, Onewa No.1 Field, had been preparation for the impending rugby tournament and the requirement for a high performance training venue.

Onewa No.1 field was designed with a sand carpet and then seeded with Regal Staygreen® kikuyu (a turf-type kikuyu) and later transitioned with true winter-active ryegrass for the winter. The surrounding running track was later addressed as part of the redesign process. The primary difference between the field and the area of track (both Regal Staygreen® kikuyu areas) was that the field was transitioned with an avian (bird) repellent seed (AVANEX™ unique endophyte technology in Colosseum which contains superior insect resistance), while the running track was transitioned with standard high endophyte Colosseum perennial ryegrass.

For the past six months, Will Bowden of SSDM has been carrying out an on-going programme of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the venue. This involves establishing and monitoring pest threshold levels and developing a biological approach to the nutritional management of the field. During the autumn and early winter of 2011, bird activity on the Regal Staygreen® kikuyu increased significantly resulting in damage to the playing surface presentation. While initially this activity was widespread across the field and surrounding running track, it became noticeably less pronounced on the field (transitioned with Colosseum AVANEX™ unique endophyte technology), but the bird damage remained clearly evident on the running track (which had been transition seeded with standard high endophyte Colosseum perennial ryegrass).

These pictures were taken by Will Bowden on one of his monitoring visits to the site and clearly show the distinct increase in bird activity/damage to kikuyu in the running track as opposed to the uniformity and density being achieved on the sports field. These photos were taken within three metres of each other.



Figure 1. Onewa No. 1 Field, AVANEX™ unique endophyte technology in Colosseum



Figure 2. Onewa No. 1 Field, Running track (Colosseum)

George Tohill, PGG Wrightson

Things of Interest

[Home](#) > [Sports](#) > [Rugby & league](#) > [Other](#)

House Of Pain Goal Posts

Current bid: **\$4,000.00**


 Reserve met

Closes: Mon 24 Oct, 4:28 pm

Listing #: 416090718

Min next bid: \$

Place bid

Auto-bid 

It's a goooaaaaallll!

Purchase a piece of rugby history... the goal posts from Carisbrook. Some great names have kicked some famous goals over these old girls. Posts are in tip top condition and the black dot is included on both cross bars (post sold as a pair)!

Please read the [questions and answers](#) for this auction.



 [View full size photos](#)

Upcoming Events in 2011

- STANZ Development/Implementation Planning Day is being held in the Puhinui Meeting Room at the Civic Building in Manukau, Auckland on Thursday 10th November between 9.30am - 4.30pm. All SFF/STANZ members are welcome. Please advise if you wish to attend by emailing Bobbie Harvey at sportsturfz@gmail.com (for catering purposes)

December 2011 Newsletter

The next Sports Field Forum newsletter will be sent out mid December 2011. If you have something to include in this newsletter, please send through to Bobbie by Friday 2nd December 2011 at sportsturfz@gmail.com (new STANZ email address)

Past Forum Newsletters

If you wish to read any past newsletters (including all newsletters from the past year), they are all on the Sports Field Forum's website at www.sportsfieldforum.co.nz. All contact details for the Forum Executive and their responsibilities are also listed there.

We are always looking for contributions for the Sports Field Forum's bi-monthly newsletters. Please email any news, views, updates and reviews to sportsfieldforumnz@gmail.com.

Best Wishes

Bobbie Harvey – Editor

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