

7th Annual Field Day held at GTI

Chris Mark, President, STA

On June 22 the Sports Turf Association in partnership with the Guelph Turfgrass Institute held the annual Field Day at the GTI. Once again this year we were treated to beautiful weather and superb facilities. The organizing committee of Mike Bladon, Jane Rivers, Roy Forfar and Bob Sheard put together an excellent program of lectures, table top product displays, and field demonstrations. The outdoor exhibits featured much of the latest technology in sprayer operation, techniques and efficiency. The day also gave delegates an excellent opportunity to see the development of the G.T.I and tour the facilities. Sincere thanks are extended to Mike Bladon for chairing the day's activities.

The first speaker was Mr. Larry Porter. Larry has over 40 years experience as an amateur sports official, holding offices such as Referee in Chief, Central Ontario Football Association. One of the main reasons Larry was invited to lecture was his special interest in the area of sports injuries and the role of the field in injuries and injury prevention. Mr. Porter presented an excellent overview of how a referee would like to see the field when he arrives to officiate a game. Ideally there is a thick sward of turf over the entire playing surface, the field is laid out correctly and lines are crisp, and goalposts are padded for player protection. Unfortunately such conditions do not exist at all locations. There are fields which exist (and Larry cited examples) where there is no grass, large ponds of water, ground conditions like cement, no lines, no field dimensions and obstacles such as trees in the end zone and bleachers too close to the field of play.

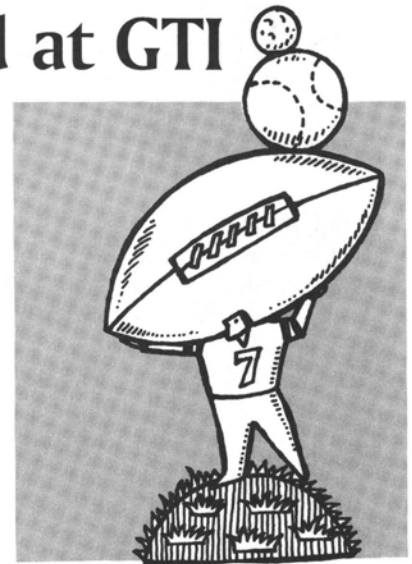
Larry presented a series of illustrations which showed the correct field dimensions for Canadian Football. When planning a field it is vitally important to locate the field away from all obstacles and ensure that end zones are included in your calculations since Canadian end zones are much larger than American. He stressed that many sports injuries and civil litigations he has witnessed, attended or heard

about through his involvement in amateur football relate to poor field design and substandard field maintenance programs. These days football players wear very good equipment from pads to helmets, but that is not enough to save many from injuries caused by poor playing conditions and hard compacted surfaces. To not only save athletes from injuries, and protect yourself and your institution from civil action, Larry stressed the absolute necessity to have a sports field management program. Even if it is basic program which only includes mowing, fertilizing, aerating once or twice per year, at least it is a plan of action. The first thing a legal representative will ask about after an injury is wanting to see your maintenance plan and records. If you do not have such documents it places you and the institution in a very unfavourable light and may cast doubt on competency.

The next speaker was Mr. Doug Morrow from the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Doug is a Regional Pesticides Control Officer for the Southwestern Ontario, based out of London. He is involved with the MOEE pesticides/pesticide container collection program and growers certification program. The main reason Doug was requested to speak at our Field Day is because of his involvement in the Ministry's Licence Streamlining Committee.

As most are aware the MOEE is embarking in the near future to drastically overhaul the existing licensing classifications and spraying regulations. Doug presented an excellent overview of existing licensing classes and procedures and compared it to the current direction the MOEE is taking in this matter. It seems that this new licensing plan has undergone many revisions from the outset as the Streamlining Committee has worked with and responded to the concerns of over 40 stakeholder groups. Each time a revision is made it must go before the various stakeholders.

One of the primary changes which will effect sports turf managers is the new Certified Assistants. Currently a licence



holder can have up to three (3) people spray under their licence and check on them every four (4) hours, this will no longer be the case. In future, if a person does not wish to obtain a MOEE licence, they can attend a one day in-class certification course to obtain the Certified Assistant classification which is valid for one (1) year. A Certified Assistant may work under indirect supervision and a log book must be kept by the certificate holder. A Certified Assistant may renew the designation for one (1) year, and then must obtain a MOEE licence.

One final point Doug mentioned was the pesticide container collection sites which have been set up throughout the Province to recycle old plastic pesticide containers. Containers must be triple rinsed or jet rinsed. Dealers request that containers be air dried and the caps removed and brought in a separate box for recycling. There are over 100 dealers throughout the Province who will accept old containers throughout the summer until October, 1994, during normal business hours. Audience members noted that there appears to not be any locations in the Metro Toronto area which means that many turf managers from that area do not have access to these collection depots. Mr. Morrow indicated he would investigate and follow up on this point to see if a depot(s) could be sited close to Metropolitan Toronto.

Our third lecturer was Dr. Keith Solo-

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mon who is Director of the centre of Toxicology at the University of Guelph and is also a Professor of Environmental Biology. He directs an active program in the area of the fate and effects of pesticides in the environment as well as exposure of humans to pesticides. Dr. Solomon was invited to participate in the Field day to update delegates on current research into fate of pesticides in the environment and effects on humans. An interesting research program he is currently conducting at the G.T.I is a study on the effect of chemicals (pesticides) on freshwater aquatic life. To conduct this research 32 round microcosm (swimming pools) have been constructed through which water is circulated. Water for the pools is drawn from the 2.2 million US gallon, irrigation reservoir. Dr. Solomon will be injecting pesticides to determine the effects on flora, fauna and animal life. This research project is still in its infancy and we plan to provide more information in future Newsletters on this important subject of the effect of pesticides on aquatic and plant life, when results are available.

Our final lecturer was Mr. Helmut Spieser who is an Agricultural Engineer with the Kidgetown College Agricultural Technology. He was invited to speak at the

field day because his primary interests are in the area of calibration of sprayer nozzles, nozzle wear and drift problems. Mr. Spieser brought a Patternator which he has developed and it provided an excellent demonstration of the effects of sprayer distribution patterns depending on the nozzle type and size. By catching the liquid from each sprayer tip, it was very interesting to note the inefficiencies in different nozzles and worn or improperly sized nozzles. In addition the significant difference between fan type nozzle tips was most informative. Helmut also gave a short presentation on sprayer calibration. He noted that calibration is vitally important since it is the only way of knowing exactly how much spray is being applied per unit area. He noted that there are still many industry people both agricultural and horticultural who are not calibrating their sprayers properly and that leads to a tremendous waste of product, turf damage, and can cause damage to non-target vegetation.

Our sincere thanks to Helmut for traveling the long distance to be with us at the Field Day.

The 7th Annual Field Day at the GTI was a very informative and educational event and we thank all the participants, speakers and suppliers. We hope to see you again next year.

VIDEO AVAILABLE

A 26-minute video "Calibrating Golf Course Boom Sprayers" has been developed by the University of Illinois Agricultural Engineering Department for use in training pesticide applicators in the proper use of powered-boom sprayers while applying turfgrass protectants. The audience would be those employed with golf courses or parks managers. Nozzle selection, calibration, electronics, PPE and safety, and the environment are the topics covered. The video was supported through funds from Rhone-Poulenc Turf Division, the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, and the Illinois Pesticide Applicator Training Program. Copies may be obtained from:

Robert E. Wolf,
Dept. Agric. Engineering,
360-Q Ag. Engineering Sci.
Bldg.,
1304 W. Pennsylvania Ave.,
URBANA, IL. 61801

STA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

The Sports Turf Association is pleased to announce that our 1st Scholarship award winner is Ms. Lorelei Eckel-Braun. Lorelei received a cheque for \$200.00 plus a one year subscription to the Newsletter.

Lorelei finished fourth in the second section of the 25th Turf Managers Short Course '94 at the University of Guelph. She achieved the highest average (91%) in Soils and Nutrition, Turf Management, and Herbicides. These three subjects have been deemed of most value to a sports turf manager. Lorelei is employed with the City of Kitchener Parks and Recreation Department where she has several sports fields under her jurisdiction. Congratulations on your achievement and we wish Lorelei much success in all future endeavours!



The President of the Sports Turf Association presents Ms. Lorelei Eckel-Braun with her STA Scholarship Award.