

SPORTS TURF

Newsletter

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...for better, safer Sports Turf

President's Message

Greetings! How time truly flies. It seems as though we just started the grass maintenance season, when suddenly there are only a few precious weeks left in the growing season for most of us before Autumn frost arrives. I hope the past season has been a successful one for all turf managers and you were able to keep your athletic and recreation fields in the best possible condition. With material cutbacks, labour cutbacks, and water restrictions in some areas, it has been a definite challenge for most of us.

To me a highlight of the past turf season was the exposure natural sports fields received with the World Cup from mid-June to mid-July. With artificial surfaces still outnumbering natural fields at the professional level, it was wonderful for our industry and others to see what spectacular conditions the natural fields were in for the World Cup soccer matches. The practice and game site locations were superb and even after a month of tolerating heavy use, and in most cases extreme heat, the fields remained in exceptional condition. The resounding success of the Pontiac Silverdome "mobile" field will hopefully convince other stadiums that natural grass, especially sand-based fields are viable, especially in future retractable-roof venues. The World Cup field conditions were certainly a shot in the arm for our industry from my perspective. This kind of positive exposure regarding the performance and durability of the natural grass fields (both Kentucky Blue

and Bermuda) will hopefully benefit athletes of the future as we try and decrease the amount of synthetic (asphalt) playing surfaces. Granted the cost for the Silverdome field and the upgrading required on many fields was expensive, but so are the devastating amount of injuries and careers shortened or terminated by playing on artificial turf surfaces.

With a high, there is often a low, and I regret to inform the membership that Steve Bodsworth resigned his position in July with the Board of Directors, and Bob Sheard will be stepping down as our Executive Secretary, effective Jan. 1, 1995. To Steve, on behalf of the STA, my sincere thanks for all your efforts and being a member of the Board, Newsletter Editor, colleague and friend. I hope you can assist us again sometime in the future. To Bob, it is just about impossible in this small article to express the respect and gratitude we have for the work you have done for our Association over the past 4 years. I'll save the accolades for a future article which properly befits Bob's contribution to the STA. Bob is leaving us to assume a senior position with the Masonic Order of Ontario. Our congratulations on this prestigious election. While Bob

will be leaving us as Executive Secretary, he has already suggested he would like to still help us out in the future, if we want him — Count on it Bob.

The months ahead will be busy one's for the Board. I'll chair a sub-committee to recruit the new Executive Secretary; final touches are being made to the agenda for the Guelph Turfgrass Symposium from Jan 4 to 6, 1995; plaques, by-laws and a membership directory will soon be sent to all members; Jane Rivers and Roy Forfar head a sub-committee regarding the direction for our next Field Day, Don Bridgeman, your Treasurer, keeps us on the right foot financially, and David Smith and John Hopkins continue to provide assistance for the Newsletter. Please remember, if you have any articles, it does not even have to be typed, send it along to our Executive Secretary. What you think is common practice on your sports field, may be revolutionary to others and provide valuable assistance to them. Share with us your successes, and even your failures, so others may learn and benefit from your experience(s).

Best wishes for better, safer sports turf,
Christopher Mark, President.

Ontario

Turfgrass Symposium

Ontario's Premier Education and Trade Show

The 1995 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium on Jan. 4, 5 & 6 has been designed to provide outstanding speakers and information on turfgrass management. Some of this information will be provided by the displays of over 100 suppliers in the Arena Complex. Information may also be gained through the Key Note Address by Eric Malling from the TV program 'W5' on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1995, the half-day Concurrent Seminars and the half-day panel discussion on "Contracting Out" arranged by the Sports Turf Association. Watch for your information brochure which will be arriving in the mail shortly. The Annual Meeting will be in the form of a Breakfast Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 8:30

am at the College Motor Inn. Please plan to attend to discuss the business of your Association.

As a member of this Association you are entitled to a saving of \$100.00 on your registration fee for the 3-day event if you register on or before Nov. 18, 1994 (\$50.00 for being a member of STA and \$50.00 for registering early). The reduced rate also applies to any associate or employee with your organization or company whose registration accompanies yours.

A significant portion of the yearly operating revenue of the Association is derived from our Association's participation in the Symposium. Our portion is assessed on the basis of the number of members or associates who indicated their affiliation with the Association on their registration form. It is critical, therefore, that you and your associates fill in that portion of the registration form.

By early registration and completion of the form showing your STA affiliation you are saving yourself money as well as contributing to the financial welfare of your Association.

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