

urday games. The team has a 2-1/2-hour Thursday afternoon practice, so any paint must be dry by noon. If weather conditions look poor for drying, the painting schedule is moved forward.

Soccer

On a soccer field, one in-ground socket is placed at the very center point of the field. We remove the cap, drop in the string peg, and run the string out to the correct distance. We walk around this string 'circle,' dotting the line with an aerosol can of paint. Then we go back and connect the dots.

Other in-ground sockets are placed at the corners of the field, at the lengthwise sideline center points, and at the outer point of the penalty area on the sidelines. We don't put in-ground markers around the goal because it's a high-traffic area, so we must measure and line for the goal arcs and square out from the goal mouth.

Keep the Perspective

If the press and the public see that your field looks great, they'll think it is great. That's one bonus of aesthetics. You can consciously use this to your advantage to draw the eye to the logo instead of the hashmarks and other wear areas. Damage isn't quite as noticeable.

We do tend to think of field presentation as primarily a "fan thing" or a "media thing," but don't discount the effect it has on the team. They do notice that presentation, and they do appreciate it. ♦

— *Sports Turf Topics 1998-1999, A Compendium of STMA Articles*

Mike Andresen is athletic turf manager at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. He is a board member for the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association and is chapter relations chair of the national STMA.

"Inside-Out" means to start with yourself. If you want to be trusted, be trustworthy. If you want to have a friend, be a friend. If you want more latitude in your job, be a more responsible employee.

Cricket's Fields of Dreams

EXTENSIVE WINTER DAMAGE FIXED FOR BIG TOURNEY

Imagine the shock Ron Aldridge and the other International Cricket Council Trophy organizers felt when the snow melted last April and uncovered pitches in horrible shape.

The Toronto winter was harsh. Damage to the grass was extensive and with only three months before some 400 cricketers from more than 20 countries were to descend on the Toronto area to play in the tournament – the world's biggest gathering of national teams – it would take a miracle to get the fields ready in time.

"It was a monumental task," said Aldridge, chairman of the organizing committee. "We had a winter where it froze and thawed and it froze again. When we eventually got a view of the wickets, they were in disastrous condition."

Many doubted the fields would be ready in time. Countries scheduled to compete in the tournament would send spies to scout the grounds and they would return with negative reports.

Even the ICC, the world governing body of cricket, was worried. "It would

be fair to say that there was a bit of concern earlier in the year because of the weather they had," said Clive Hitchcock, the ICC's manager of cricket operations.

So Aldridge and his crew called in experts from England to rebuild the lawns. They sought out an extra venue to decrease wear and tear on the existing fields and they got some help from Mother Nature in the form of warm, wet weather. The 10 fields were green, groomed and ready for the matches, which started June 22.

"Those people that came here to do reconnaissance in March and April are now just shaking their heads because they really didn't believe it could come back the way it has," Aldridge said. "The wickets are exquisite and the grounds look beautiful." ♦

— *excerpts from Tim Cook, The Globe and Mail, June 23, 2001*

Editor's note: What a shame that the governing bodies of cricket in Canada could find no one qualified and experienced enough in turf management that they had to bring in people from England.

Industry News

COVERTECH has been protecting golf course greens across North America for over 12 years. The result has been that more and more Sports Turf Managers are inquiring about, purchasing and using our products on their natural turf environments such as soccer, baseball and football fields.

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