







NZ Sports Turf Institute Service Contract for Bowls NZ

**Summary of Activities
(1st April 2011 to 30th June 2011)**

Introduction

This report details NZSTI activities under the contract with Bowls New Zealand covering the period 1st April to 30th June 2011.

Activities include;

-  Field Day Update
-  NZ Turf Management Journal Article
-  Fact Sheet Circulation
-  Turf Conference

Field Days/ Meetings

The following is a summary of the field days attended in the above quarter. 19 field days were held in the period covering 18 different regional greenkeepers associations from the Far North association to Southland. An impressive 358 greenkeepers attended field days this quarter.

A wide range of topics were covered at the meetings including irrigation, diseases, pests, and improving weak areas. As expected at this time of the year there was also a lot of discussion about renovations and how to determine the most appropriate strategy for individual greens, autumn fertiliser and management during the off season.

Bowls Northland Greenkeepers

A field day visited a number of bowling clubs (Mount Manaia, Onerahi, Whangarei, Whangarei RSA, Kensington and Kamo) on the 27 April, 2011.

Attendance: 24 NZSTI: Everett Darlington

Topics discussed: Renovation requirements; how to determine what is required to achieve a successful renovation.

Far North Bowls Greenkeepers

A field day/ AGM was held at the Kaeo Bowling Club on the 30 May, 2011.

Attendance: 9 NZSTI: Everett Darlington and Megan Cushnahan

Topics discussed: Renovation requirements, irrigation management and disease control. It was apparent at the field day that there had been significant Greenkeeper turnover in the past five years in the Far North. Irrigation is a major issue and Everett suggested that a field day focussing on irrigation should be held in the region to address the knowledge gap.

Auckland Bowls Greenkeepers

A field day was held at the Hillsborough Bowling Club on the 16 June, 2011.

Attendance: 30+ NZSTI: David Ormsby

Topics discussed: preparation for the Nationals later in the year, understanding cotula maniototo and general questions from the group.

Counties Manakau Greenkeepers

A field day visited several bowling clubs (Pukekawa and Te Kauwhata) on 20 June, 2011.

Attendance: 20 NZSTI: David Ormsby

Topics discussed: Mower setup. Maintenance requirements for Pukekawa, winter issues irrigation, drainage, Sclerotina. minor. At Te Kauwhata maintenance requirements and moss control were discussed.

Bowls Waikato Greenkeepers

A field day was held at the Cambridge Bowling Club on 2 May, 2011.

Attendance: 23 NZSTI: David Ormsby

Topics discussed: Post renovation recovery, weed control and winter issues.

Thames Valley Bowls Greenkeepers

A field day was held at the Hikutaia Bowling Club on 9 May, 2011.

Attendance: 30 NZSTI: David Ormsby and Kellie Rose

Topics discussed: It was pleasing to see that most clubs in the region were represented at the field day. Kellie Rose spoke on BDP. Reviewed the management of the green. General discussion on a wide range of issues. Completed AGM.

Bowls Taranaki Greenkeepers

A field day visited several clubs in New Plymouth (Fitzroy, Vogeltown, Waimere and Port View) on 9 June, 2011.

Attendance: 21 NZSTI: Chris Gribben

Topics discussed: moss control, disease (sclerotina minor and golden bracelet) differences between sod webworm and porina caterpillars and their damage and hydrocotyle control.

Wanganui Bowling Centre Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 7 April, 2011. Wanganui East, Durie Hill, Aramaho, Laird Park, Gonville Ladies, Gonville, Castlecliff, Marton and Centennial Park Bowling Clubs were visited as part of the field day:

Attendance: 13 NZSTI: Chris Gribben

Topics discussed: General greens walk; and discussions about management on the respective greens.

Bowls Wairarapa Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 11 April, 2011. The bowling clubs visited as part of the field day were: Eketahuna, South End, Lansdowne, Greytown, Carterton, Featherston, Masterton and Masterton Park clubs.

Attendance: 11 NZSTI: Chris Gribben

Topics Discussed: General management issues focussing around renovation.

Bowls Manawatu Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 11 April, 2011 at Fielding Bowling Club

Attendance: 10 NZSTI: Brendan Hannan

Topics discussed: Soil supplies, resurfacing of a green (at Fielding BC) and general maintenance issues.

Bowls Wellington Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 9 May, 2011 at Stokes Valley Bowling Club

Attendance: 15 NZSTI: Brendan Hannan

Topics discussed: Post renovation fertiliser practises, repairing of bare areas by stolonising (demonstration).

West Coast /Buller Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 7 April, 2011.and visited the bowling clubs in Westport.

Attendance: 8 NZSTI: Jaymie Batchelor

Topics discussed: Renovation strategies, nematodes, repairing bare areas fairy rings cotula dioica stolons and general discussion on a range of management issues.

Bowls Canterbury Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 10 May, 2011 at Sydneham, Cashmere and Barrington Bowling Clubs

Attendance: 24 NZSTI: Jaymie Batchelor

Topics discussed: EQ stuff (update from bowls Canterbury by M.Symes) importance of level survey undertaken Growsafe reminders, importance of renovations, methods of adding large amounts of soil, e.g. how much at a time, consolidate, rake.

It appears that many greenkeepers in the region do not hold a current growsafe/ approved handler certificate. New rules that came in for Canterbury in June mean that all people spraying must hold a current growsafe certificate (not just approved handler)..

Mid Canterbury Bowls Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 26 April, 2011 and visited Rakaia, Methven, Ashburton MSA, Ashburton, Hampstead, Hinds and Tinwald Bowling Clubs

Attendance: 16 (including N.Cowie, Pres NZBGKA) NZSTI: Jaymie Batchelor and David Howard

Topics discussed: Renovations, autumn fertiliser, moss control, pearlwort control, physical treatment, repair of thin/bare areas, fungicide use and pest control.

South Canterbury Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 16 June, 2011. The bowling clubs visited on the day were: Town & Country, Ashbury, South Canterbury Womens Centre, Park, West End and Kia Toa clubs.

Attendance: 15 (including 4 from Mid Canterbury & 1 from North Otago) NZSTI: David Howard

Topics discussed: Patching with bulbils, autumn fertiliser, weed. and disease control, plugging bare areas, winter management of greens and managing nematodes.

Central Otago Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 14 April 2011. The Bowling Clubs visited on the day were: Millers Flat, Roxburgh, Alexandra, Clyde, Cromwell, Bannockburn, Hawea and Alexandra RSA clubs.

Attendance: 17 NZSTI: David Howard

Topics discussed: renovations, moss, watering, mowing heights and frequency, planing; pest control scirpus control, practises to improve weak areas on greens, and disease control.

Bowls Dunedin Greenkeepers

Two field days were held in this quarter.

The first field day as held on 1 April, 2011. The bowling clubs visited on the day were: Leith, North East Valley and Opoho and had a discussion at Anderson's Bay BC.

Attendance: 20 NZSTI: David Howard

Topics discussed: Renovations, moss, importance of autumn fertiliser and discussions on how the Nationals went and areas for improvement.

The second field day as held on 24 June, 2011. The bowling clubs visited on the day were: Tainui, Forbury Park and Caversham clubs.

Attendance: 15 NZSTI: David Howard

Topics discussed: Organic matter/renovation presentation, recovery of bare area with option of turfing, scirpus, tillaea and grass .control and managing worms.

Bowls Southland Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 23 June 2011. The Bowling Clubs visited on the day were: Waverley, Waihopai, Northend, Te Rangi, Invercargill, Kew, Southland and Waikiwi clubs.

Attendance: 37 (including S.Tippet Bowls Southland) NZSTI: David Howard

Topics discussed: General management issues on the respective greens; moss, autumn fertiliser, renovation timing, winter management managing weak areas, options for patching (plugging, sowing bulbils), scirpus control, disease control and Approved Handler renewals.

Fact Sheets

A winter fact sheet was sent to Bowls NZ for circulation in their publication. The fact sheet focussed on the winter checklist for clubs as well as the harvesting, storage and sowing of cotula maniototo bulbils during the off season. The fact sheet is attached with this report.

Publications

One article was printed in the May 2011 NZ Turf Management Journal that had direct relevance to bowling clubs. That was:

- *Post Renovation-Providing a quality paying green for next season*

This article is attached with this report.

However, there were a number of other articles in this issue of the journal that has some relevance to bowling clubs:

These included:

- Understanding Liquefaction*
- Christchurch Earthquake- clean up Report*
- HSNOtes –notes-Emergency Management Procedures*

National Turf Conference in Hamilton

Eight NZSTI staff were involved in presenting papers to the very well attended bowls sector of the conference which was held in Hamilton from 27-29 June. NZST staff presented a total of 15 presentations including talks, workshops, open forum discussion and attending the field day.

Topics were:

- *Bowls Greenkeeping in NZ-Planning for the future –K Oldham*
- *Weed ID workshop(3),open forum panel- D.Howard*
- *Disease workshop(3),open forum panel- M.Cushnahan*
- *Preparing a quality playing surface, open forum panel ,field trip-D.Ormsby*
- *Christchurch Earthquake-J.Batchelor*
- *Strategic plan for e-learning-bowls development programme-K.Rose (with P.Dale)*
- *Process of soil testing-B.Hannan (with N.Ofsoski)*
- *Health & Safety- C.Gribben*

Other issues

NZSTI undertook a significant amount of work assisting clubs affected by the Christchurch earthquakes again this quarter. This support work included working with the centre to ascertain the degree of damage to greens; greens surveys, attendance at centre delegate meetings; working with engineers visiting clubs, inspecting damaged agrichemical facilities and general support of greenkeepers.

The new edition of the NZSTI pest poster has been completed and will be available in August. This project was supported by NZCT.

David Howard

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New Zealand Sports Turf Institute

Appendices

- Articles: Post Renovation –providing a quality playing green for next season, Understanding Liquefaction *NZ Turf Management Journal May, 2011.*
- Winter fact sheet