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INSTITUTE

NZ Sports Turf Institute Service Contract for Bowls NZ

Summary of Activities
1st October 2011 to 31st December 2011



1. Introduction

This report details NZSTI activities under the contract with Bowls New Zealand covering the period 1st October to 31st December 2011. Activities include:

- Field Day Update
- NZ Turf Management Journal Articles
- Fact Sheet Circulation

2. Field Days / Meetings

The following is a summary of the field days that have been attended in this quarter. 18 field days were held in this period covering regional Greenkeepers Associations from Northland to Southland.

As with earlier field days throughout the year, a wide range of topics were covered at each of the meetings. Several clubs that had new Greenkeepers were visited as part of the field day to provide onsite guidance.

2.1 Northland Bowls Greenkeepers

A field day held in the region visited the Hikurangi, Maungatapere, One Tree Point, Waipu and Mangawhai Heads Bowling Clubs on the 18 October 2011.

Attendance: 20 NZSTI: Everett Darlington

Topics discussed: Growsafe and agrichemical use, disease identification and control (using the spring fact sheet) and general management issues for the season.

2.2 Auckland Bowls Greenkeepers

A field day was held at the Hillsborough Bowling Club on the 31 October 2011.

Attendance: 37 NZSTI: David Ormsby

Topics discussed: Summer issues, general enquiries and getting the best from starweed greens at the upcoming Nationals in December.

2.3 Counties Manakau Greenkeepers

A field day visited the Karaka, Waipipi and Waiuku Bowling Clubs on 21 November 2011.

Attendance: 14 NZSTI: David Ormsby, Kellie Rose

Topics discussed: Very good discussions about management practices during the season took place, nematodes and training (and how the Tower Fund can assist with this).



2.4 BOWLS Waikato Greenkeepers

A field day visited the Raglan and Claudelands Bowling Clubs on 7 November 2011.

Attendance: 17 NZSTI: David Ormsby

Topics discussed: General discussions took place on general management issues as well as club survival and finding new Greenkeepers. The Raglan BC green was in a very good condition when seen at the field day.

2.5 Thames Valley Bowls Greenkeepers

A field day visited both the Tui Park and Te Aroha Domain Bowling Clubs on 2 November 2011.

Attendance: 17 NZSTI: David Ormsby

Topics discussed: Presentation on soil testing (Hills Laboratory), discussions on spraying and summer issues that might arise during the season. Also visited the Te Aroha Domain green to assist new the Greenkeeper at the club.

2.6 BOWLS Taranaki Greenkeepers

A field day visited the Smart Road, Inglewood, Tariki, Lepperton and Waitara Bowling Clubs on 5 December 2011.

Attendance: 25 NZSTI: Chris Gribben

Topics discussed: Irrigation, agrichemicals (in the sheds at the clubs) nematodes and general management issues.

2.7 Wanganui Centre Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 28 November 2011. The following clubs were visited: Laird Park, Aramoho, Durie Hill, Wanganui East, Gonville, Gonville Ladies, Castlecliff, Marton and Centennial Park Marton.

Attendance: 12 NZSTI: Chris Gribben

Topics discussed: Pests (nematodes and cotula weevil), thin areas and how to repair them, algal slime and other general management issues that arose during the course of the visits to the various clubs.

2.8 BOWLS Hawkes Bay Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 8 December, 2011. The bowling clubs visited as part of the field day were the clubs located in Napier: Bowls Napier, Omaranui, Port Ahuriri, and Wairere.

Attendance: 15 NZSTI: Chris Gribben

Topics discussed: Irrigation, weeds, pests (mealy bug nematodes and cotula weevil), general summer issues.



2.9 Bowls Manawatu Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 12 December 2011 at Bulls Bowling Club.

Attendance: 15 NZSTI: Brendan Hannan

Topics discussed: Management of greens over the summer period and cotula weevil Identification and control.

2.10 Bowls Nelson Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 25 October 2011 at the Mapua Wakefield and Motueka Bowling Clubs.

Attendance: 20 NZSTI: Jaymie Batchelor, Candice Prebble

Topics discussed: Algal slime, gold bracelet disease, summer watering practises and training (BDP programmes).

2.11 Bowls Marlborough Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 28 October 2011. The clubs visited were: Blenheim, Picton, Renwick, Riverside and Springlands.

Attendance: 10 NZSTI: Jaymie Batchelor, Candice Prebble

Topics discussed: Training, algal slime, spiking of greens, nematodes and general management queries.

2.12 Bowls Canterbury Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 11 October 2011. The clubs visited were Wooslon WMC, Woolston and Opawa Bowling Clubs.

Attendance: 11 NZSTI: Jaymie Batchelor, Candice Prebble

Topics discussed: Clover and starweed control, new formulations for grass control and general summer management issues.

2.13 South Canterbury Bowls Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 15 November 2011. Clubs visited were the Waimate, Park, Aorangi, Ashbury, Pleasant Point, Fairlie, Geraldine and Temuka Bowling Clubs.

Attendance: 18 NZSTI: David Howard
(including N. Cowie, President NZBGKA)

Topics discussed: Clover, nematode management, diseases (brown patch), weak areas and plugging, mowing practices, summer issues to be aware of and minimising scalping when mowing. Growsafe and approved handlers certificates was also discussed.



2.14 North Otago Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 18 October 2011. Clubs visited Meadowbank, Awamoa and Maheno Bowling Clubs.

Attendance: 19

(including Greenkeepers from South Canterbury,
N. Cowie, President NZBGKA)

NZSTI: David Howard

Topics discussed: Moss, early season and summer management, improving playing consistency, managing dumpers and rink movement, autumn fertiliser, pest control and addressing low areas.

2.15 Central Otago Bowls Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 8 October 2011. Clubs visited were the Middlemarch, Ranfurly, Waipata and Naseby Bowling Clubs.

Attendance: 16

(including R Gibson, Taieri BC)

NZSTI: David Howard

Topics discussed: Playing season management, mowing heights and avoiding cutting too low, spring recovery issues, fairy rings, watering in hot weather, and recovery from spray damage.

2.16 Bowls Dunedin Greenkeepers

Two field days were held in the centre in this quarter.

The first field day was held on 31 October 2011. Clubs visited were Brighton, Fairfield, Outram, Mosgiel RSA and Taieri Bowling Clubs.

Attendance: 20

NZSTI: David Howard

Topics discussed: Scripus control, very good discussion on mowing and mowing practise on the green (demonstration), aeration, moss control on natural and synthetic greens, irrigation survey and watering practises. Mr N Brightwell (Advanced Irrigation Systems) gave a presentation on irrigation systems.

The second field day was held on 12 December 2011. Clubs visited were Leith, Opoho, Roslyn and Wakari Bowling Clubs.

Attendance: 13

NZSTI: David Howard

Topics Discussed: Playing season issues, repairing low and bare areas, improving both green speed and consistency with mowing and use of groomers, cotula weevil, checking soil for water repellancy and pests and diseases to watch out for over the summer.



2.17 Bowls Southland Greenkeepers

A field day was held on 7 October 2011. Clubs visited Tapanui, Waikaka, Riversdale, Lumsden, Balfour, Gordon and Gore RSA bowling clubs.

Attendance: 23 NZSTI: David Howard, Candice Prebble

Topics discussed: Moss (silver), diseases, thin areas, starweed suppression, scripus control, selective watering, pests (Porina and nematodes), aeration, grooming, and general management issues over the summer and planning for the autumn.

3. Field Day Summary

In summary for 2011, a total of 61 field days were attended by NZSTI advisors. This is 5 field days more than the allocated number for the year. All but three regions (Far North, Bay of Plenty and Wairarapa) did not use their allocation. The North Shore was combined with the Auckland region for the field days.

There has been recently a resurgence in interest in the Bay of Plenty region and it is anticipated that the region will use its full allocation in 2012(a field day is planned for January 2012).

4. Fact Sheets

A summer fact sheet was sent to Bowls NZ for circulation in their publication. The fact sheet focused on the in season playing management in particular preparing the green for a club or centre tournament. The fact sheet is attached with this report.

5. Publications

Two articles were printed in the November 2011 NZ Turf Management Journal that had direct relevance to bowling clubs. They were:

- Benchmarking of Bowling Green Maintenance Costs and Club Back to Basics: Maths of Sports Turf
- Maths of Sports Turf
- Sprayer Calibration

These articles are attached with this report.

In addition to these three articles, the “Successful Disease Management” article also has some relevance to the bowls green keeping sector.



6. The Next 3 Months

At this point, the green keeping associations below have organised the following dates for their field days in this quarter. These are:

- Bay of Plenty (16th January)
- Auckland (13th February)
- Waikato (7th February)
- Thames (20th February)
- Dunedin (5th March)
- Counties (12th March)
- Nelson (13th March)
- Blenheim (14th March)

David Howard
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New Zealand Sports Turf Institute

Appendices

- Articles:
 - Benchmarking of Bowling Green Maintenance Costs and Club Back to Basics: Maths of Sports Turf NZ Turf Management Journal November 2011
- Spring fact sheet (Preparing for a Club Tournament)