

Review of Cricket Wicket Seminar 2010

"I learnt more in these 2 days than I have in 12 months" Comment from a Delegate.

"My guys haven't stopped talking about the event, they want to change many of the things that we do to improve our wickets" Comment from a Manager who sent several staff members to the event.

"I found the information provided was presented at a level that all attendees could understand and as a company it was well worth us having a stand. We would be more than pleased to sponsor and be involved in a similar day in the future" Comment from Sponsor.

The Cricket Wicket Seminar has received some fantastic feedback from delegates and sponsors. 160 Delegates were provided with valuable information and tips of the trade from the Les Burdett. Les' 40 years experience at Adelaide Oval was invaluable and he demonstrated his techniques on wickets at the venue.

Blacktown Olympic Park was the venue for the 2 day event and it proved to be a great location. We were able to have all aspects of the event in one area, presentations inside the cricket centre, exhibitors and demonstrations in the practice wicket area. Not only does it have many full size practice wickets which we used for demonstrating wicket preparation but Les Burdett was also able to get onto the oval to show how he would repair a wicket that has come out of football season and get it ready for cricket.

This unique style of seminar was really well received by everyone. A lot more can be learnt by showing techniques on a surface rather than just watching it on a screen.

Les Burdett not only provided a wealth of knowledge but is a very inspirational man. His enthusiasm and passion for the industry was very motivating to everyone there. He encouraged and inspired everyone over the 2 days of the event. It was great to see this 'guru' of the industry taking the time to teach and chat to the guys both at the event and during the function at the end of day 1. He would happily have his photo taken with the delegates and sit and talk to them about their wicket issues. A real legend.

We were not only very fortunate to have Les take time out of this very busy 'retirement' to help us with the event but also had Ricky Aitken from Hong Kong Cricket Club present to the delegates on life as a Curator in Hong Kong as well as local Curator, Adam Lewis from Hurstville Oval. The time and effort from our speakers is very much appreciated.

We had delegates from all over NSW, as far wide a Broken Hill, Bathurst, Orange, Warrambungle, Wollongong and many Sydney Councils and Schools. We were also pleased to welcome Karl Johnson from New Zealand and Steven Lord from Hobart Council.

The support of both Cricket NSW and Blacktown Olympic Park (BOP) was very much appreciated. The guys at BOP were definitely put on the spot as they demonstrated the machinery and techniques under the Les' guidance, to all the delegates. Many thanks also to Perry, Luke and Michael from ANZ Stadium who were on site the day before and during the event to help out when required. The star of the show had to be Nick from BOP. At times it was the Les and Nick show. Nick was enthusiastic, quick witted and very willing to put his wicket techniques on the line for all to see. A big thank you to Matt Cairns of BOP, Nick and all the staff for their support and efforts during the event.

As an Association we were very pleased with the outcome of the event and the hardest decision now is how often do we hold this event and/or similar events with both presentations and the practical learning.

We were very fortunate to have such great support from companies within the Turf Industry and we thank them for attending the event.

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Graeme Logan (STA NSW/ANZ Stadium) , Les Burdett (Adelaide Oval), Karl Johnson (Hamilton Council NZ) & Ricky Aitken (Hong Kong Cricket Club)



Delegates during the presentations



Trade Exhibitions



Ricky Aitken, Hong Kong Cricket Club



Delegates learning about wicket machines



Les teaching rolling techniques



Event Supporter
 ANZ Stadium
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 Cricket NSW
 Novotel Rooty Hill



Adam Lewis, Hurstville Oval



Delegates watching demonstrations

2010 Regional Seminar Review, 17th August

Kurri Kurri TAFE was again the venue for the annual STA Regional Sportsturf Seminar and Tradeshow. We were blessed with great weather once again and the event was received well with over 150 people in attendance.

The day started with Craig Paget from the Pacific Dunes Golf Club talking about the challenges he has faced at the Club with the drainage and water table management.

This was then followed 2 young guys of our industry with a topic titled "The future of Sports Field Turf Management, A Young Managers Approach". This was presented by Greg Askew from Newcastle Council who looks after No. 1 Sports Ground at Newcastle and also Ryan Buttel of Wenty Leagues who is the Turf Manager at Wenty Leagues Club in Sydney.

Continuing along the theme of development of greenkeepers, Daniel Palin of NSW Golf Course shared his experiences with the Ohio Program where he worked in the US and the impact this has had on his career.

The presentations were finished off with a talk from Murray Fraser discussing soil testing procedures for the Turf Industry.

Delegates then spent the afternoon watching machinery demonstrations on the various turf surfaces at the TAFE.

As has been the case in the past several years, the staff and students at Kurri Kurri TAFE presented a fabulous venue and we thank Chris Booth and the staff for all their assistance in the organising of the event.

There were several companies who supported this event and we are very grateful for their contribution to the event and support of STA NSW

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Kurri Kurri TAFE

