Winter Issue
December 2002

We Came and They Will Build Them
WV Soccer Gets Its Dream Fields

by John Bowen

WEST VANCOUVER SOCCER CLUB

SIDELINES

I missed it! I looked away for an instant to make sure my U12 daughter was behaving with due decorum in West Vancouver's Council Chamber…and the vote was over.

West Vancouver District Council voted unanimously on November 25 to build two artificial turf fields as soon as possible and to substantially improve several other fields in the municipality.
(see ***Turf-right*** continued on page 2)

"Tsunami - too gummy" No more picking cleats with ignition keys and popsicle sticks on our new artificial turf fields to be build at Ambleside in 2003. These U12 girls on the "WV Tsunami" team had to repeatedly remove caked-on grass and clay from their cleats at a recent game. The coach is Tim Harrington (centre). Assistant coach is Robert Koby (left). Photo by Kikuma Yamaguchi.

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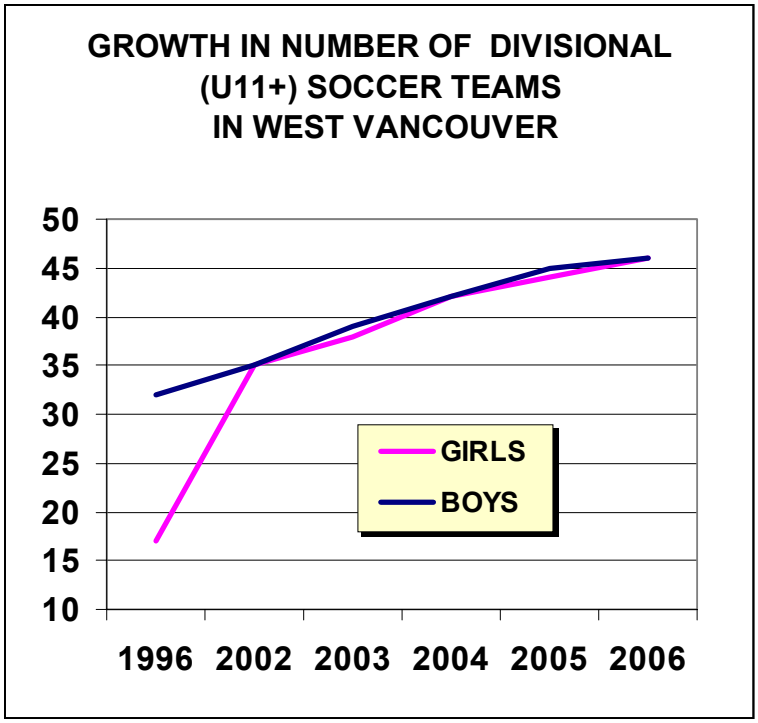
Turf-right (continued from page 1)

What happened in the blink of an eye, was a long time coming. Les Meszaros, soccer dad, coach, and once WVSC board member, has researched turf products, met municipal official and representatives of other field sports repeatedly for years, to try to obtain better playing facilities for West Vancouver's kids. The process was long and arduous, but suddenly in November 2002, soccer, field hockey and cricket representatives managed to work out a plan with the Municipality's Standing Committee on Recreation Facility Planning. Council approved the following recommendations made by the Committee:

- Ambleside Park, Fields D & E, be chosen as the site for the installation of an Artificial Turf Playing Field with lighting to game standards;
- Two fields at Hugo Ray Park be upgraded and converted to sand-based natural turf surfaces to serve the needs of both Field Hockey and Soccer;
- Field B in Ambleside Park be converted from soil to sand based natural turf field;
- A review of Ambleside Park on the south side of the tracks and Hugo Ray Park be undertaken to ensure maximum utilization for public and playing field access is realized;
- Staff implement the projects outlined in this report (Recreation Facility Development - Sportfield Implementation Plan Report) commencing in 2003 subject to budget approval.



Everyone concerned with the decision was painfully aware that by locating the new artificial turf fields at Ambleside we are sacrificing two of our best junior size grass fields. However, in consideration of all alternatives and attendant obstacles, it was clear that it was the only feasible choice. The artificial turf fields will compensate us many times over for the sacrifice. Ambleside D and E currently provide a maximum of 480 hours per year of playing time. The two lit, artificial turf fields that will replace them will give us as much as 2,300 hours per year. And just imagine, some lucky players will be able to practice on something better than gravel.

Another significant benefit is that in addition to the two junior size turf fields that we get in place of the existing north-south oriented Ambleside D and E, we gain a full size artificial turf field, superimposed, in an east-west orientation. Soccer in West Vancouver will receive a significant boost by having these facilities at Ambleside.

The improvements at Hugo Ray will also benefit soccer. Soccer will sometimes be played at Hugo Ray and field hockey will sometimes be played at Ambleside. Both sports will have access to facilities at both locations, to their mutual benefit.

The plan is to start construction of the artificial turf fields by Spring 2003 and have them ready for Fall 2003. However, there are likely to be some issues to deal with before we see bulldozers at Ambleside. For one thing, the type of turf to be used will require some consideration. There is a growing selection of turf products, all offering different advantages.

We are fortunate that West Vancouver's mayor and council, including a new council member, recently elected, saw the important social advantages of making it possible for our children to play soccer and field hockey. We thank them and I thank all the coaches, managers and soccer parents who made it clear to our municipal politicians that we demand our "turf-rights" now.

How Badly Does WV Need Additional Playing Fields?

By John Bowen

How badly does West Vancouver need additional sports fields? We need them desperately. All grass fields in West Vancouver were closed to play for the whole summer, this year. This drastic measure was deemed necessary by the municipality because our fields were in bad repair. Only one other municipality in Greater Vancouver found it necessary to close their fields this summer.

Teams that played after the end of the regular season had to inhale gravel dust or angle for invitations to play on fields in other municipalities. And during the regular season, some practices times have had to be cut to 45 minutes or even 30 minutes.

Artificial turf has made a huge difference to soccer in North Vancouver, Vancouver, Burnaby and many other local municipalities. We expect it to do the same thing here.

It is a common misconception to think of West Vancouver needs as static

compared to fast growing parts of the Lower Mainland. It is true that West Vancouver's population is not growing much, except growing older on average. Soccer participation by West Vancouver kids however, has soared. The number of divisional teams increased by over 40% from 1996 to 2002. They are expected to almost double from 1996 to 2006. Girls soccer came from nowhere in the early 1990's to almost equal boys soccer today.

The new fields and the improved fields approved by Council will help alleviate the current field shortage considerably. However, yet more fields will need to be provided to meet future demand.

High Tech Soccer Balls

By Len Brownlie

Editor's Note: When I found out that Len Brownlie was not only a West Van. Soccer dad x3, but also an aerodynamics consultant to NIKE, with a Ph.D. in Kinesiology, I asked him to write and article for Sidelines about one of his projects - "soccer superballs".

What's white and round and gets kicked about with little respect, yet can cause whole countries to take a holiday or start a riot? If your answer is a soccer ball. you're right! Despite all the attention paid to the "beautiful game", most players never think much about how soccer balls are made or the differences between balls. Yet there are real differences in ball performance, which can have a dramatic impact on the outcome of matches.

For example, if you remember the first goal of this year's World Cup final, a diving Oliver Kahn was about to grab the ball when it inexplicably dropped several inches in the last few feet and rebounded off his elbow, allowing Ronaldo an easy goal. Why did the ball behave so unpredictably? One clue is the nickname that several World Cup players gave Adidas' World Cup "Fevernova" ball - they called it the "Beachball". This heavily tested and advertised ball was slightly lighter, slightly larger and much smoother than the 1998 World Cup ball. Balls that are smooth and light, like a table tennis ball or a beach ball tend to float and dip unpredictably - not good qualities for a soccer ball. So, how does one make a fast, stable soccer ball? There are several pieces to the answer to this question - starting with 18 or 32! Confused? Here's the explanation:

Traditional English soccer balls were made with 18 panels. A few manufacturers still use the 18 panel format, but most have switched to a 32 panel configuration - 20 hexagons (6 sided panels) and 12 pentagons (5 sided panels). Through a quirk of geometry, the air bladder inside a soccer ball does not touch all of the panels equally . When you inflate a ball to it's recommended pressure of 12.5 psi, the air bladder touches the hexagon panels first, and will stress them slightly more. As a result, the 20 hexagons of an inflated soccer ball will bounce harder and they (or their coating) will wear faster than the 12 pentagons. The uneven spread of elastic forces leads to more torn seams between hexagonal panels than between hexagonal and pentagonal panels. More importantly, the uneven tension on the panels introduces a level of randomness into the game, which devalues major investments in training and field surface quality. Unequal panel loading can transform a perfect goal shot into a miss over the goalpost. The solution? Hexagonal panels which have three short sides and three longer sides. The ratio for these short-to-long sides, while optimizing the number of stitches, is 0.84. Most top balls by NIKE now employ this geometry and carry the stamp "0.84 Geo Design".

Speaking of seams, did you know that all quality balls are hand-stitched in Pakistan? Some stitching is conducted in other countries, and some very low-end balls may be mechanically stitched, but the best soccer balls are always hand stitched from the inside, using techniques that require up to eight years of apprenticeship to master. The best artisans can stitch a maximum of four balls a day, hence the cost of a high-end ball.

Beyond panel geometry and seams, the type of casing material can have a profound influence on ball performance. Traditional balls were made of leather, but over the last 20 years, natural leather has been replaced by a synthetic polyurethane top-coat, bonded to a non-woven casing material. Lower priced balls sometimes use PVC plastic - a nasty material which can produce toxic chemicals when burned. Higher quality balls will use either a chemically etched surface or a thermally applied surface impression to give a shiny, patent surface. Thermal impressions can compress the casing material and alter the wear characteristics of the ball. NIKE's top ball, the Merlin Vapour, utilizes an expensive chemical etching process to provide a fine finish. This ball has been accepted as the official ball of the English Premier League and the Spanish and Brazilian 1st Divisions. But is a smooth finish the right one for optimum ball stability?

To answer this question, we have to consider the aerodynamic behavour of a soccer ball. Balls in general are not very aerodynamic, and smooth balls have very poor aerodynamics -they tend to have a very high drag, given their size. The reason for this high drag is that the air flowing around a smooth ball breaks free from the ball at it's widest point, leaving a big, low pressure cavity behind the ball which "sucks" the ball back. To visualize this phenomenon, look at Figure 1 - a photo of smoke flowing over a soccer ball in a wind tunnel.

Figure 1:

Borrowing some terminology from automobile and aircraft design, the best measure of an object's aerodynamic proficiency is the "drag coefficient" or Cd. The lower the Cd, the more aerodynamic the object. For example,

the new Honda Hybrid gas/electric car advertises a Cd of 0.28 while a big highway transport truck will have a Cd of 0.8. So how aerodynamic is a soccer ball? As it turns out, not very. Measurements at the University of Sheffeld have shown that the average soccer ball, moving at a velocity of less than 8m/sec has a drag coefficient of about 0.5. (see Figure 2). However, at a ball speed of between 8 and 10 m/sec, the flow around a soccer ball will change dramatically - and the drag coefficient will decrease from 0.5 to as low as 0.15 through a phenomenon known as "flow transition". Essentially, during flow transition, the air around a ball becomes turbulent, and, as turbulent air will "stick" to the surface better than smooth air, the airflow will curve around behind the ball, thereby reducing the size of the low pressure wake. A ball that undergoes flow transition will have less drag and will go further, faster.

Figure 2:

Now you ask, is there any way to make a soccer ball go through flow transition earlier, so that even beginning players can kick rifle-like shots? If you look at Figure 2, you will notice that a golf ball undergoes flow transition at a lower speed than a soccer ball. Thus, one method to improve the aerodynamics of a soccer ball is to roughen the surface. But wait, don't soccer balls have rough seams already? Yes they do, and with the right number, size and orientation of seams, a ball could be roughly "tuned" to undergo flow transition. I say "roughly" (no pun intended) because seams will flex and change shape over the life of a ball, and if they increase in size or roughness, they can actually cause so much air friction (another form of drag) as to dramatically slow the ball. Recent research suggests that roughening the coating may be the best way to improve the drag of a soccer ball. This year, Puma introduced the "Cellerator Shudoh" soccer ball, which is advertised to fly 20% further, thanks to a surface covered in golf ball-like dimples. Without getting more technical, these claims should be considered carefully. However the application of properly sized dimples to a soccer ball should, in theory, reduce the drag of the ball.

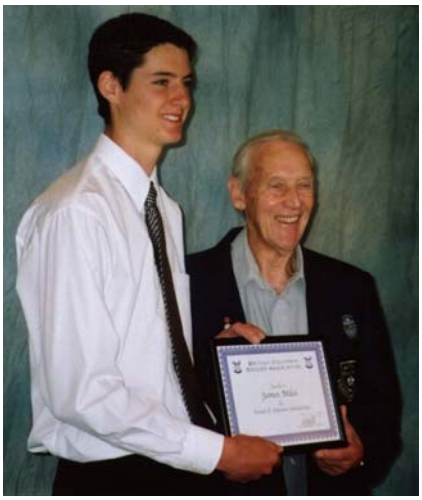
One other aspect of physics involved in ball performance is the tendency of a spinning ball to curve. This phenomenon is termed "the Magnus Effect" and occurs because of imbalances between airflow and pressure on opposite sides of a spinning ball. For example, a ball kicked at the bottom left will travel up and curve to the right. On a wet day, when the coefficient of friction between a soccer boot and the ball is lower and the amount of spin which can be imparted may be reduced by up to one third. Like drag, the amount of spin can be affected by the ball's surface texture - the right amount of surface roughening will provide an optimum spin rate.

Good soccer players apply some very sophisticated physics to free kicks. In a World Cup Qualifier between England and Greece in 2001, English star David Beckham scored on a free kick from 27 m out. Beckham's shot left his foot at 36 m/sec (80 mph) with considerable spin and he lifted it half a meter over the defensive wall. The ball rose over the height of the cross bar during its flight as it moved laterally about 3m due to the high spin rate, before suddenly slowing down to about 19 m/sec (42 mph) as it came back out of flow transition and the drag increased by about 150% in a split second. With the increased drag, the ball dropped like a stone into the top corner of the net.

While not every soccer player will develop the ball placement skills of the world's best players, new, high tech balls will help all players make better passes and shots - watch out goalies!

James Miles - A Great WVSC Example

By John Bowen



James Miles being awarded the 2002 Frank E. Ashdown Scholarship by Frank E. Ashdown himself

If you check the BC Soccer Association website at http://www.soccerbc.com/awards.htm you will see that 136 youth soccer players applied for BCSA scholarships for 2002. Of these applicants only 14 were successful in being awarded scholarships and only one applicant, James Miles was from West Vancouver Soccer Club. Well done James!

James Miles was awarded the $1,000 Frank E. Ashdown Scholarship for his contribution to the game of soccer.

Applicants for the Frank E. Ashdown Scholarship must not only have played, coached or refereed soccer for at least three years in BC, they must be good students who have been accepted into a university or college. The candidate must have demonstrated good citizenship, character and leadership.

James played and refereed soccer in West Vancouver for 12 years, or since U7. In recent years he served WVSC by reffing games and coaching U7 at Hugo Ray.

Frank E. Ashdown, the donor of the award is a soccer pioneer on the North Shore and in BC. He is the author of the book "Know Your Soccer Laws". Mr. Ashdown called me to emphasize the importance of the award and its purpose in encouraging the development of good soccer citizens. With luck, James will be one of many West Vancouver refs and players to win a BCSA scholarship.

(a paid advertisement)

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Saturday, November 30th, 9am to 6pm
Sunday, December 1st, 9am to 6pm

Western Canada's Largest Soccer Retailers

Christmas Book Review

The world through soccer's eyes

Reprinted from The Economist
Jun 6th 2002 edition

Soccer is at last producing books you do not have to lip-read

- Futebol: Soccer the Brazilian Way
- By Alex Bellos Bloomsbury; 407 pages
- The Boss: The Many Sides of Alex Ferguson By Michael Crick Simon & Schuster; 612 pages

Until recently there was an informal class division in sports literature in Britain. Much as with baseball in America, it was widely accepted that cricket could produce fine writing—by the likes of Neville Cardus and John Arlott. But books on soccer were generally rubbish: ghost-written pap that was suitable only for diehard fans, who were probably following the text with their fingers.

Things have changed over the past decade. Nick Hornby, one of Britain's best-selling novelists, made his name with "Fever Pitch", a book about his obsessional support for Arsenal football club. Mr. Hornby's book struck a chord with a generation of similarly preoccupied men, and perhaps also with their long-suffering wives. He showed that football could be interesting as much because of the passions it arouses, as because of anything that actually happens on the field of play.

A whole new genre of books followed, which used football as a window on to culture. Simon Kuper's "Football against the Enemy" captured the interplay between football, politics and nationalism; Jimmy Burns's books on Diego Maradona and Barcelona football club were as much about Argentine and Catalan culture as about football; and, to complete this trio of current or former Financial Times reporters, Jonathan Birchall used the launch of professional soccer in Japan (in "Ultra Nippon") as a whimsical way of looking at the country as a whole.

Alex Bellos's book on Brazilian football is a well-written and highly entertaining addition to this growing genre of football travel-writing. The author's ambition is to paint a "portrait of Latin America's largest country seen through its passion for football". Even more than the Rio carnival or the Amazon, Brazilian football has formed the world's picture of the country; an image of an exotic, joyous, multiracial nation. As Mr. Bellos writes: "We love Brazil because of the spectacle. Because their fans are so exuberantly happy...because the national team conveys a Utopian racial harmony." The emergence of yet another flamboyantly talented Brazilian team at this year's World Cup looks certain to prolong the footballing world's love affair with Brazil.

Yet, as Mr. Bellos shows, football is even more important to Brazil's self-image. The book is not so much a narrative as a series of snapshots of Brazil and its footballing obsession. In an opening chapter that is both amusing and poignant, Mr. Bellos visits a couple of the hundreds of Brazilian footballers making their living by playing abroad, in this case in the Faroe Islands; in another he discovers the man who designed Brazil's iconic gold jerseys, who turns out to be a Uruguay supporter. Towards the end, the book takes a more serious turn, as Mr. Bellos examines the corrupted state of modern Brazilian football— and what it says about the state of the country in general.

While Mr. Bellos's work is a good example of how the new football literature can be both serious and entertaining at the same time, Michael Crick's biography of Sir Alex Ferguson, the legendary manager of Manchester United, the world's richest club, is less successful. The fact that Mr. Crick—a well-known investigative journalist and political biographer—should have been commissioned to write over 600 pages on a team manager is itself evidence of the new respectability of football writing. But the result is disappointing. Mr. Crick's best work has involved unmasking villains such as Jeffrey Archer, the novelist and Tory politician, who is now in prison for perjury. The difficulty is that Mr. Crick is a self-confessed Man-U supporter; and hero-worship does not become him.

Mr. Crick is too much of a professional not to do some digging. He suggests, but only in passing, that it was junior coaches as much as Sir Alex who spotted and polished the talent of young players like David Beckham and Ryan Giggs. His portrait of Sir Alex is not especially flattering: he comes over as an evil-tempered bully. Maybe winning managers have to be. Or again, maybe not. Mr. Crick does not tell us. Unlike much of the best new football writing, this one is for fans only. ⚽

Soccer Greats Career Facts

PELE: King of Brazilian soccer from the late 1950's to the early 1970's

1940 Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento on October 21 in Tres Coracoes
1950 Began playing with local club Bauru, where his father was a coach
1950 Transferred to big-city club Santos and made his league debut at 15
1957 Made his debut for Brazil, at16, against Argentina 1958 Became the youngest ever World Cup winner, scoring two goals in the Final as Brazil beat Sweden 5-2
1962 Missed the 1962 World Cup win because of injury in the first round... but compensated by winning the World Club Cup with Santos
1970 Inspired Brazil to complete their historic World Cup hat-trick in Mexico
1975 Ended an 18month retirement to play for Cosmos of New York in the dramatic, short-lived North American Soccer League
1977 Retired again after lifting Cosmos to their third NASL championship
1982 presented with FIFA 's Gold Medal Award for outstanding service to the world wide game
1994 Appointed Brazil's Minister for Sport ⚽

Dates and Notices

U12 2003 Tryouts
U11 boys and girls will be trying out for U12 gold and silver teams at Pauline Johnson's grass fields on Saturday April 26 and Sunday April 27 Sat 2003. Registration will take place several weeks in advance. Coaches and managers will be informed about details. Other information is available on WVSC's website at www.westvansoccer.com

U13 and up Tryouts:
Dates and fields for tryouts for U13 and older players are yet to be settled, pending knowledge of Provincial Cup dates and field improvement schedules. Coaches and managers will be kept informed by email.

Community Coach Youth Course:
Fridays 6-10 PM Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003 - $120 per coach. Club will reimburse coaches who attend all 20 hours and successfully complete the course. The course will be held in West Van. Interested coaches should contact Jammer ASAP at (604) 926-5347 or email jafshar@shaw.ca

U11 Clinics:
- Sunday Feb 16 - Girls 10am - 11:30am Boys 12:30 - 2pm
- Sunday Mar 9 - Boys 10am - 11:30am Girls 12:30-2pm

Fix-it Volunteer Needed
To repair our lining machines, call Claudia @ 604-922-4544 if you can help out!

Referee No Show?
If a Referee doesn't show to any North Shore Field. Report by calling 604-802-0936

Congratulations Sean!
BU 16 Gold Spuraways player, Sean McColl who became the first Canadian to take top spot at the UIAA World Youth Climbing Championships help Sept. 28 and 29 in Canteleu, France. Sean beat out climbers from 32 countries to win the Gold! ⚽

West Vancouver Soccer Club Directors 2002-2003

EXECUTIVES	CONTACT INFO.	FUNCTION
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Mark Steven	Home 604 913-2496 marksteven@marksteven.com	-Risk Management

Avoid Disappointing Your Team. Sign up early for
West Vancouver Soccer Club's
Kinsley Woo Invitational Tournament
(Nineteenth Annual) March 29 & 30th, 2003
Registration forms available on www.westvansoccer.com or email Bruce Rothdram at lionsgate@telus.net

Lost and Found

If you lost or found an item at a soccer even, call Jan Moger 926-4096

Left at Fun In the Sun Summer Camp 2002

Grey Zip front hooded Fleece Brand "Gumboots" Name inside "Sammi"
Grey Nike Hooded kangaroo sweater, medium size
Pink "Kid Canada" Fleece jacket, size 7-8
Green Lunch bag "Bradyn Mirabelle"
Arctic Zone lunch bag, blue, contains orange water bottle
Canucks "C-Force" lunch box, blue
Water Bottle ,"Bryan W"

Baseball caps:
1. White, Nike.
2.Green, Gap, " Andrew H"
3.Grey San Diego,, size Youth
4.Black/Grey "Untouchable Caterers"
5.Blue, WV, "Nolan"
6.Navy ,"Yehia"
Reversible Hats
1.Navy/Blue and black pattern
2 Red/Green

Found Ambleside Sept/Oct

Men's large Burgundy Goretex jacket
Women's knee length woolknit black jacket
Woman's button up cardigan
Man's black zip hoody sweatshirt
Jocelyn's 922 3075

Left at PJ East Oct 5th

Men's orange-yellow Red Edge Jacket Large
Boys WV soccer jacket Jaxon on sleeve
Boys water bottle Graydon Harris
Bev 921 9876

Left at Westcot 21Sept

Gap Blue vest like soccer blue New Boys , ($35 tag)
Pee Wee Boys from team 11.45 game
Margaret Stonemoncker 926 7673

Left at Ambleside E Sun Oct 20th after 12noon game.

Blue patterned boy's ski Jacket size 10 "Mills"on label Mary 926 6602

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Wonderful New Year to all Members of West Vancouver Soccer Club and their

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