



# Memorandum

**To:** Councillors, Club / Group / Association Secretaries  
**Cc:**  
**From:** John Drummond (Greens Committee Chairman)  
**Date:** 23 October 2008  
**Ref No:** MSC 115/08  
**Subject:** **HOLDING SURFACE IN DITCHES – Law 3.3 and 1.3.14**

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Subsequent to MSC 106/08 dated 1 October 2008 and the earlier MSC 101/08 dated 15 September 2008 this subject was raised at the RVBA Council Meeting on 22 October 2008 and it was approved as a best/preferred practice that the material to be used as a Holding Surface in ditches be as follows:

Type of Green		Recommended material
1	Grass or Sand infill synthetic carpet	Sand, or 30 – 35mm pile synthetic carpet
2	Woven or needle punched carpet greens	30 – 35mm pile synthetic carpet, or Eggshell type material <small>(Eggshell type material has been previously approved by the Board)</small>
3	The existing exemption for Hampton Park to remain (ditches are only 50mm).	

This will now bring Clubs who have already changed their ditch material from sand to 30 – 35mm pile synthetic carpet within the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and allow those wanting to change to do so.

The “ditch carpet” should be one continuous strip for the entire length of each ditch but if strips are in sections they should be glued together to form a continuous strip. The “ditch carpet” needs to be brushed regularly to maintain a holding surface, i.e. take it out of the ditch, shake it, brush it to reconstitute the pile, and replace it back in the ditch.

World Bowls has since pointed out that the above matrix is restrictive as other materials may also meet the requirements of the Laws, e.g. pebbles, corks, rubber chips.

Accordingly, if a club intends to use other than the materials shown in the above matrix it would be appreciated if prior reference is made to the RVBA Greens Committee with full details, and if possible, submit a sample of the material for consideration and approval if it is deemed to be appropriate.