



News Briefing Autumn 2015



Photos: Main & Top Right - Royal Holloway University of London. Right - Battle Abbey School

The View from Here

Sport and physical activity are more highly placed on the national social agenda than ever before. S&C Slatter are firmly placed at the forefront of a committed drive towards increased numbers and improved quality of sports pitch facilities. As a business we have aligned ourselves with National Sports Governing Body requirements, establishing an enviable reputation for the delivery of high quality sports pitch facilities and best value.

This service level is exemplified by the projects we are completing, in partnership with FieldTurf, under the Football Association, Football Foundation, Rugby Football Union, Sport England, English Hockey Framework.

We are regularly being selected as the go-to company for external sports facility developments, be it with architects, bursars, stadium managers or club chairmen; our reputation for excellent service and attention to detail is recognised and in demand.

Our in-house team of industry sector leaders has consistently proven an appetite and capability to provide the best possible sports facility solutions for our clients. Our complete package approach for project delivery helps you take your project from an idea to reality, supported by professional advice and first-class service at every stage.

We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about your sports pitch project requirements. Please feel free to contact us on **01635 345210** or **info@sandcslatter.com**

Building for the Future

This summer has seen a record amount of business being managed and delivered to plan by S&C Slatter. At any one time, some fifteen to twenty major artificial sports pitch projects have been constructed by the company for clients throughout the Country.

The scope of works undertaken has featured complete new build, complete or partial refurbishment, change of use and enhancement, and or re-surfacing.

Over the last two years, S&C Slatter has developed an outstanding range and depth of in-house resource, covering all operations - customer service, design, estimating, specialist construction and installation machinery and project management. This has given the company the capacity and skills to manage a large, diverse and growing business portfolio.

However such is the continuing growth in demand, with a record level of forward orders already booked for 2016, the company has committed to a major £750,000 investment programme in construction equipment to expand its technical capacities and enhance operational efficiencies.

In the first phase, five advanced technology Hitachi ZX135US excavators have been purchased along with Twaites 6 tonne power swivel dumpers and Hamm HD120 tandem rollers. The Hitachi ZX135US delivers real on-site benefits with increased productivity, greater manoeuvrability and very importantly, reduced fuel consumption. This means state-of-the-art performance with a low impact on the environment.

The first three excavators have just arrived; typically being delivered straight to site to start work on new artificial turf pitch projects. The remaining two are scheduled to be with the company early in the New Year.



Sutton United insight

A new 3G Pitch for Sutton United FC

Sutton United is a proud and long established non-league club that currently plays in the National South Division. One of its major success stories is beating Coventry City in the FA Cup, when Coventry was an equivalent premier side, in front of 12,000 people. It's the only non-league side to have achieved this in the world's most famous cup competition.

Moving to the future the club as every other non-league team has had to find ways to compete against the never ending premier league football on the television. We realised that as a club only playing once a fortnight and seeing numerous games being called off due to water logged pitches, we had to look at other forms of income to survive and prosper.

We had a close look at the Maidstone model, where they had installed a 3G pitch. Their club was prospering on the basis that the pitch and club were being used seven days a week by the local community, and hosting many of Kent's cup finals as the pitch was always in perfect condition.

The obvious way forward for us was to install our own 3G pitch, so we made contact with Jason Douglass at S&C Slatter. His advice and confidence in his company's ability to build the pitch in a very short time frame convinced the club to go immediately for planning permission and start the exciting journey of planning for the future.

We formally instructed Jason, and asked him to complete the programme in just seven weeks, as we needed the old pitch till mid-May for much needed income from hiring the stadium, and had already organised a prestige friendly against Premier league opposition in Crystal Palace on July 10th.

We needed very good weather to hit this tight schedule and for once the English summer was kind to us with very little rain to halt the progress.

It was fascinating watching the century old pitch, be transformed from a poor grass surface into what we have now. After arduous toil from Slatters, we were delighted when the carpet was laid to present a magnificent looking pitch, finished a day ahead of the Crystal Palace game!

During the seven weeks of the pitch being built, we had massive media coverage, and a huge amount of enquiries to hire the pitch when complete.

On the back of this we entered into two ground share agreements with Sutton Common Rovers, on alternate Saturdays to Sutton United first team, and AFC Wimbledon ladies and girls teams who play on Sundays and train all their age groups on a Thursday evening.

As a club we also had 28 junior teams that trained and played elsewhere in the Borough and beyond, and now all those teams are able to play and feel part of the club now they can all train on the pitch.

The stadium is now open seven days a week, and is full every evening of the week, with hundreds of people using the facility.



The first team train on the pitch, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and we have seen an increase in the number of new supporters as those who use the pitch start watching Sutton United.

Whilst there is plenty of hard work left to do, we have recently employed two full time members of staff, to make sure the facility is working to its maximum capacity whilst also offering excellent customer service.

The feedback from teams we have already played, has been brilliant and our firm belief is that most non-league teams in years to come will embrace this surface and business model as the only way forward.



Paul Doswell
Sutton United 1st Team Manager

Maintenance

Do you need to improve your sports pitch facilities?

We are offering a FREE On-Site Consultation to assess the condition of your artificial sports pitch. You will receive a no obligation written report highlighting pitch performance and recommendations for improvements and maintenance.



S&C Slatter understands that each and every facility is different, with diverse user groups, types of sports played, frequency of use as well as more site specific factors. Therefore the maintenance regime has to be tuned to address these variables.

With the onset of Winter Weather it's best to make sure your artificial pitch is in the right condition to maintain the required performance and accessibility.

Latest Projects

A pitch for all seasons

Over the last six months we have delivered over fifty major artificial turf pitch projects ranging from full new build construction through to re-engineered and refurbished existing facilities. The following are just a few examples of our work.

Cheltenham College

We were appointed to complete a significant improvement programme, including the refurbishment of two full size hockey pitches, with new shock pads and artificial turf, tennis courts, cricket nets and sports infrastructure.



Beneden School

A new artificial turf pitch for Hockey, conforming to FIH National Performance Standard, and Lacrosse. Featured extensive cut and fill groundworks and the installation of a 1.75m high pre-cast concrete retaining wall.



University of Kent

Designed for FIFA 1 Star and World Rugby Regulation 22 Performance Standards, this new build 127m x 80m 60mm 3G artificial turf pitch will host football, rugby and american football. Floodlighting, Fencing, Spectator Areas and Pathways were also part of the contract.



Holcombe Hockey Club

One of the English Premier League's leading clubs, Holcombe appointed S&C Slatter to build two new full size artificial turf pitches – a Water-based system to the FIH Global Performance Standard and a Sand-dressed surface to meet the FIH National Performance Standard. The existing sub-bases were re-engineered to new specifications, introducing a macadam layer and an in-situ bound rubber shock pad, in preparation for installation of the new artificial turf systems.



Queens Park Rangers

The Cranford SuperDome, a joint project between Queens Park Rangers Football Club and Cranford Community College, is the largest (5624m²) indoor sports space in Hounslow and will be used by the club's Academy players as well as students from the College, other schools in the area, and organisations in the wider community. S&C Slatter has installed a 3G artificial turf pitch for Football and Rugby.



Bryanston School

The School required the existing Hockey Pitch to be refurbished together with some athletic facilities. The pitch received a new shock pad and Sand-dressed artificial turf producing an FIH National Performance Standard for full size match and cross pitch play. Set into the pitch is the School logo tufted in artificial grass giving a superb extra finishing touch to an impressive new facility.



Engineering Spotlight

While the company is well known for its expertise in artificial turf technology, perhaps less well appreciated until now has been its substantial engineering experience and abilities. The company has a team of highly skilled and qualified specialists in design, construction technologies and sustainability, which has 'learned its trade' not only through delivering a portfolio of significant sports facilities but also within the wider building industry on major infrastructure and leisure projects.

Recently S&C Slatter has been working on artificial turf pitch projects for schools where these resources have been fully utilised in addressing specific construction issues and finding practical and affordable solutions, without compromising sports performance, the local environment or the user experience.

Retaining structures have been an essential element of the facility designs at two of these locations. At The John Lyon School, a low profile timber crib structure to retain earthworks, with minimum foundations to prevent damage to an adjacent protected treeline, has been incorporated together with an additional timber sleeper wall over a 160 linear metre run.

An extensive cut and fill was also part of the groundworks at Benenden School together with the installation of a 1.75m pre-cast concrete retaining wall, bedded and backfilled. Surplus excavated material was used to create a landscaped bund within the grounds.

The scheme at Farleigh School has involved the company building a new car park with integral drainage system, access roadway and footpaths, while using surplus stripped materials from the cut and fill pitch construction to build a new natural turf cricket outfield with 6 lane square and 4 bay artificial grass practice nets. S&C Slatter has worked closely at all times with the School's Project Consultant Neil Boddington of Boddington Planning.

At The John Lyon School the advising consultant was Alistair Moore of Agility Sports Facility Development again showing the benefit of being able to create a partnership approach and culture to delivering high quality facility provision.



A Groundsman Speaks



So who are Groundsmen? They are the ones that put out the sign that says, "keep off the grass", yes, the one you trip over as you run on to the pitch.

They are also the ones that shout at you for going on areas that they have, or are just about to work on.

Oh, they are so much more. They are the hidden heroes the ones people never see, the ones who no matter what the weather are working meticulously to get their job done.

Or they could be the ones, like so many in the world think, who just cut the grass. If that is the case I have spent over half my life training to MSc level to drive a lawnmower and a tractor!

The above poses the puzzle why be a Groundsman out in, lets be honest, rubbish weather most of the time?

The answer is very easy, we just love what we do working at the cutting-edge, (excuse the pun), of science and technology. We work with nature the true boss. No matter who shouts at us if nature says 'no' its game over simple.

We will spend hours plotting our work routines, planning future works and watch as Mother Nature changes everything on us. By doing so she teaches us how to react to a given situation fast so we can do pre-planned work and reactive work all in one.

There are few jobs in this world where you can feel the pride we feel when we enable a living thing to thrive and stand back and watch as those around wish their lawn would look just a fraction as good as the Groundsman's work. As we leave after a hard day we can look back at what we have done and know we did a great job.

Clive Liddiard Head Groundsman, Hampton School. S&C Slatter has installed 12500m² of artificial turf at Hampton School for Rugby and Football plus natural turf pitches and athletics facilities.

Team News



Peter Fowler
Contracts Manager

Continuing growth in both the numbers of clients with whom the company works, and the range of artificial turf pitch facilities being delivered, has resulted in the appointment of Peter Fowler who joins S&C Slatter as Contracts Manager.

Peter has settled into the in-house contracts management team very quickly and is already proving to be an important asset as he uses his substantial construction experience to supervise contracts within our works programme.



Sally Gore
Senior Bookkeeper

Recent arrival Sally's 'Get things done' attitude means she fits well into our very busy Accounts Team. Managing a range of responsibilities including client billing, supplier payments and day to day banking issues, Sally has a highly professional approach which reflects the ethos and standards of the company.

A Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians (MAAT), Sally's experience and all round skills are well appreciated by colleagues and clients alike.