

# News Briefing Spring 2016



Photos: Main - Cheltenham College Hockey and Multi-use Pitches, Top Right - RHUL Tennis and Netball Courts, Bottom Right - Sutton United Football Club

## The View from Here

The arrival of Spring is always a good time of year. The longer warmer days give us more time, and usually better ground conditions, for what is always an extremely busy period. Preparations for the start of the cricket season and other Summer sports provide a special impetus and ensure our project teams move seamlessly and continually from one project to the next. We hardly ever see them at Head Office!

Indulge us for moment when we say, 'We've done pretty good. Happy Birthday to Us!'



However, this year April takes on an even greater significance for us. It's our 25th Birthday!

25 years ago Steve and Caroline Slatter founded our company as a landscaping and sports contractor working for schools and clubs in West Berkshire. It was initially a small operation, but one with a big and brave objective. We wanted all customers, regardless of their project size, complexity and budget to receive the same, exceptional level of service.

But even more than that, we wanted to deliver projects that embodied quality, value, inspiration and integrity. We wanted to be, and were committed to be, different.

This objective and these values have become our company culture and the basis of everything we do - our DNA.

And we feel that this DNA, and the determination within our team to uphold the vision of Steve and Caroline, is what has driven S&C Slatter to the position it enjoys today - the leading Sports Construction Specialist, not just in West Berkshire, but in England.

## The First FIH Certified Field Builder

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has confirmed that S&C Slatter is the first FIH Certified Field Builder.

An FIH Certified Field Builder is defined as a company which specialises in building hockey fields and provides a holistic service to their clients. They must have a proven ability to construct fields to the standards required for hockey, have appropriate in-house civil engineering expertise for the design and construction of hockey fields, operate quality management systems to ensure consistency in their work, and provide comprehensive maintenance advice to their customers.

David Slatter, our Managing Director, confirms:

“S&C Slatter is delighted to have been awarded FIH Certified Field Builder status in recognition of our high quality facility delivery, attention to detail and exceptional client service.

*As a business which has been at the forefront of the sports pitch construction industry for many years, this recognition by Hockey's governing body places S&C Slatter in a unique and elite category”.*



The FIH Certified Field Builder designation is an important part of the FIH Quality Programme for Hockey Turf, which is designed to ensure the sustainability, affordability and accessibility of hockey turf worldwide.

This internationally recognised quality-assurance programme recognises that a new hockey field is a major investment which demands that it meets the expectations of all stakeholders – hockey players, associations, clubs and schools. It looks to help in ensuring that good quality hockey fields are built for all levels of play from elite competition through to community development.

We're currently working with a number of clients in developing plans for new artificial turf hockey fields. In the recent past, the company has completed new hockey facilities for leading clubs such as Reading and Holcombe, whilst Royal Holloway University of London, Cheltenham College, Bryanston School and Dulwich College are among our many customers in the education sector.

## University of Kent invests in a new 3G pitch

As part of an on-going programme of expanding its sports facilities, the University of Kent has commissioned S&C Slatter to build a truly exceptional new 3G artificial turf sports pitch.

Situated at the University Sports Centre in Canterbury, the 127m x 80m pitch provides students with even more opportunity to participate in sport.

The design specification enables back-to-back fixtures and training for rugby, football and American football; delivering optimal playing conditions for matches from recreational play to top-level rugby and football.

The pitch is certified to FIFA 1 Star, World Rugby Regulation 22 and IATS performance standards.



Preparation of the site centred on a balanced cut and fill operation and the use of soil stabilisation technology. SST has enabled the existing ground to be modified in order to create a stable and firm base, providing achieving greater California Bearing Ratios (CBR) and reducing the amount of aggregate required in the base structure. This methodology can be an effective insurance against poor or inadequate ground conditions.

The need for less base aggregate, and the consequently reduced number of vehicle movements to and from the site, have also generated commercial and environmental pay offs. Equally the lateral, perforated pipe drainage system also includes a Pozidrain drainage blanket, which offers a sustainable, environmental alternative to traditional filter stone.

Hence the project design has produced some genuinely valuable, and practical, environmental solutions.

Because of the use of SST, the pitch sub-base could be constructed to an overall depth of just 150mm, comprising of a 125mm stone foundation with a 25mm blinding layer. Onto the sub-base we have installed a 25mm in-situ bound rubber shock pad.

The 3G artificial turf selected for this project is the high-performance 60mm Vertex RGF, developed by FieldTurf, the World's leading producer of artificial turf, and our manufacturing partner. Vertex RGF utilises two state-of-the art fibres tufted together to create a turf system which combines the best properties of each fibre.

- Outstanding resilience with whole life high performance
- Excellent durability
- Optimum player comfort
- Increased infill stability
- Superb appearance – look like natural grass

The playing surface is line marked with permanent inlaid lines for a full size rugby pitch in accordance with World Rugby guidelines and three cross-court football pitches. Painted lines are used for a full size football pitch to FA guidelines and a full size American football pitch.

Floodlighting, fencing, spectator hard standing and access paths are all elements of the overall scheme provided by S&C Slatter.

## 5000 reasons to have a 3G football turf pitch

In the first two months since we built the new 3G football turf pitch at Connah's Quay Nomads Academy, it has been used by over 5000 local players.

Located at Connah's Quay High School, which also benefits from the new facility, the new 3G pitch establishes a real community sporting hub for the area.

Jay Catton, The Nomads' Academy Director, says:

“The facility provides an exciting future for all at the Club, the Academy and the local community in Deeside”.

At 7429m2 the pitch features 42mm FieldTurf 360XL artificial turf installed over an in-situ bound shock pad and is designed to allow hockey and touch-rugby also to be played.



## New stadium for Leatherhead Youth FC

We have enjoyed a major role in the new development at River Lane, constructing both the artificial pitch and stadium infrastructure.

The principal feature is the 7420m2 3G football turf pitch for which 50mm Prestige XM6 artificial turf with a 25mm E-layer shockpad was selected as the surfacing system. This has been supplemented by two 60-seater grandstands, floodlighting and rigid panel perimeter fencing. In addition, we have built a tarmacadam car park and access road.

The scheme has been funded through the Football Foundation, Football Association, Rugby Football Union, England Hockey and Sport England Framework. S&C Slatter is currently engaged in a number of Framework projects in partnership with FieldTurf.



## Latest Projects

### A pitch for all seasons

Over the last few months we have been very busy extending our already impressive portfolio of artificial turf pitches. These new projects have varied in size and complexity, and some have brought significant practical and engineering challenges. It has been particularly satisfying to design and deliver proposals which address such issues and present genuine solutions. Here is a brief overview of a few projects nearing completion and some shortly to commence.

#### South Bromsgrove High School

We've been building a major new pitch facility at South Bromsgrove High School. A 60mm 3G engineered base artificial turf pitch for full size, 9, 7 and 5 a side play. Complete with high spec weld mesh perimeter fencing, floodlighting and support infrastructure including spectator areas, footpaths and mowing margins.



Ready for Modular Buildings

#### Cranford Community College

Our existing association with a 2971m<sup>2</sup> artificial sports pitch at Cranford Community College has been continued. Some years ago we re-surfaced the area since which we have been providing specialist regular maintenance. Now we are installing a new 50mm 3G artificial football turf with inlaid lines for 4no small sided pitches.



Existing Surface Prior to Uplift

#### Wycliffe College

Our project with Wycliffe College was to extend and resurface an artificial sports pitch. A high performance 18mm sand-dressed hockey turf was selected for the new footprint which provides a full size pitch and two small game pitches. Also included is a linked 30m x 18m training area.



College Crest Inlaid into Artificial Turf

#### Eastbourne Borough FC

S&C Slatter is to build a new state of the art 3G football turf pitch for Eastbourne Borough Football Club. The club will join fellow National League South members Sutton United and Maidstone United as proud owners of a 3G stadium pitch constructed by our team of sports construction specialists.



Priory Lane Stadium

#### Tamworth United FC

Tamworth FC has become our first National League North customer. We are to build a 3G football turf stadium pitch at the Lamb Ground ready for the 2016/17 season. In addition to first team and academy play the new facility will also be available to the wider local football community.



National League North

#### Haringey Borough FC

Ryman Isthmian Senior Division North side, Haringey Borough Football Club joins our other new non-league football clients in asking us to construct a 3G football turf pitch. It will be built at their Coles Park Stadium, White Hart Lane, in time for the beginning of the new season.



History Goes Back to 1907

## There's way more to SuDS than plastic crates

The first thing that surprised our colleague Ben O'Connor when he recently attended a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) training programme was that the vast major of delegates were from local council planning departments. He was pretty much the only "contractor". Does that mean the contracting sector at large believes it has nothing more to learn?

Or could it be that there's a current tendency in contracting to just think of SuDS in terms of plastic crates, and not consider if there are other options and methods?

SuDS can make a key contribution to managing local flood risk and water quality. At the same time improvements can be created for biodiversity and amenity in both new schemes and remodelling. Awareness is in fact steadily increasing, knowledge and experience is improving.

It's certainly important that good practice is adopted and shared. Only in this way can we promote better understanding and deliver high quality SuDS that offer multiple benefits.

We know that SuDS is as much as about creating new environmental opportunities and benefits as it is solving 'water problems'. It's not about a single product application; it's about accepting and working through a holistic thought process which considers the merits of a range of applications.

SuDS can mean bioretention, swales, infiltration or detention basins, ponds, wetlands, soakaways, rainwater harvesting and more. It's not just about plastic crates.

Photo right: Swale Balancing Pond  
Sports Pitch Project at Swanmore College



## Still batting at the top of the order

With its growth into major sport infrastructure projects bound to grab most of the headlines, the importance of S&C Slatter within cricket should not be overlooked. As a provider and installer of artificial cricket facilities since its formation in the early Nineties, the company has become a byword for outstanding technical ability and quality.

This reputation has been driven by a complete commitment to service delivery, supported by a highly experienced and skilled in-house workforce, and a continuous investment in best-in-class technology and equipment.



Photo: Wellington College Cricket Practice Facility

Working closely with the Notts Sport range of ECB-approved non-turf cricket pitch systems for matchplay and practice/coaching, S&C Slatter has developed long term relationships with clients throughout Southern England. Clubs of all sizes and standards, Universities, Colleges and Schools often look to our Cricket Specialists as an extension to their own sports or grounds team.

This consistency generates a sense of understanding and ownership for our installation colleagues and they feel they are making a genuine contribution to the client's club or school.

Just recently one of our team, Shaun Meager, has felt real pride in working on the refurbishment and remodelling of a three lane cricket practice area at Shipton-under-Wychwood Cricket Club. Shaun was actually part our installation crew when we built the original facility. And that was sixteen years ago!

## Team News



**Ben O'Connor**  
Estimator

Ben has successfully completed an intensive training programme called 'Designing SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems)' run by CIRIA – the Construction Industry Research and Information Association.

SuDS make a vital contribution to managing local flood risk and water quality as well as providing opportunities for biodiversity and amenity in new developments and redevelopments.

This training extends Ben's existing knowledge and experience still further, fully equipping him to design, plan and manage SuDS schemes.



**Matthew Thompson**  
Contracts Co-ordinator

Welcome to Matthew who has just joined our team as Contracts Co-ordinator. With a background in Sales and Operational Management, Matthew will be an integral part of our Contracts Department, responsible for administration, logistics and the general co-ordination of project management activities.

This includes operating and maintaining our ISO 9001 quality management programme and the preparation of project O&M manuals.

Matthew is a keen sportsman and enjoys playing squash and following Crystal Palace FC.



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