



Arun Leisure Centre's sythentic pitch before treatment and (main pic) after

Maintenance is key

CHRIS BASSETT talks to **Jonathan Gunn**, Technical Director of synthetic surface maintenance company, **Technical Surfaces**, about the economic importance of looking after your facility correctly

AS the economy continues to slow down and the realities of the credit crunch impact more and more on our everyday lives, we all look for ways to cut costs.

But with each cost cutting measure, we run the risk of creating a false economy, sacrificing other equally important considerations for the sake of saving a few pounds.

It is very important for clubs to strike the right balance between running a cost effective synthetic sports facility and offering a quality playing surface for customers.

TIP ONE Make do and mend . . .

WHEN a synthetic sports surface ages, it is common to see a weakening in the playing and draining characteristics of the carpet, as the unavoidable need for replacement approaches.

However, a regular maintenance programme does help to delay the inevitable, adding valuable years of life to an

artificial sports surface, generating additional revenue and enjoyment from the facility.

A recent example highlighting the benefits of a consistent maintenance regime is the synthetic pitch at Arun Leisure Centre, Bognor Regis. Instead of replacing the 15-year old facility when it started to display signs of a slowdown in its draining capabilities, centre staff were able to resolve the issue by bringing in Technical Surfaces to carry out a deep-cleaning Rejuvenation which, when complemented by a renewed maintenance plan, should see the centre gain an extra five years of use from their sports pitch.

A regular client of Technical Surfaces since 1996, Arun Leisure Centre has long reaped the benefits of the company's continuing maintenance and repair works (combined with their own in-house efforts), with the result that the surface has remained in good condition and outlasted its projected life expectancy

by many years.

Even with regular care and attention, however, the effects of age and usage do catch up with a facility, and whilst resurfacing was considered, the cost of such an undertaking was too prohibitive for the centre, so an alternative solution was required.

Technical Manager Dean Sheller explains his satisfaction that the pitch has now been restored to its former condition: "The recent Rejuvenation works that have been carried out have improved the overall condition and improved the drainage of the surface. This has offered a great alternative to the high costs of resurfacing".

Rejuvenation is a specialist process offered by Technical Surfaces to help combat issues such as standing water and mud / silt on the surface, which are symptomatic of poor drainage and deeper-seated contamination problems.

As long as regular mainte-

nance continues to be carried out on the surface, Arun Leisure Centre can now expect to receive at least an extra 5 years' worth of life from their facility as a result of the Rejuvenation.

TIP TWO If it's broke, fix it!

AT Technical Surfaces, establishing long-standing relationships with clients has always been the key to their success.

They view synthetic pitch maintenance as a philosophy, a continued effort throughout the life of an artificial surface, and it is satisfying to see the many leisure centres, schools, sports clubs and universities they work with generate maximum use from their facilities.

Equally, it is important for their clients to know they can rely on them to act quickly to resolve more immediate issues such as emergency repairs, when their sports surface is in danger of posing a health and safety hazard to users.

One such client, Oldham

“a great alternative to the high costs of resurfacing”

Dean Shelfer, technical manager, Arun Leisure Centre

Community Leisure Ltd, are in charge of a number of synthetic sports surfaces in the Manchester area, for which Technical Surfaces complete 'responsive' works in the form of regular pitch inspections, tailored maintenance plans to suit the individual requirements of each facility, and repair works as required.

As new and resurfaced sports facilities enter their remit of responsibility, Oldham Community are keen to involve Technical Surfaces at an early stage, and together with Synthetic Pitch Manager, Anthony Pauls, they work to provide the best possible care for all their synthetic sports surfaces.

As Anthony explains, "Oldham Community Leisure has used Technical Surfaces for many years now, for maintenance and repairs on our five synthetic pitches, and we have been pleased with their service and professionalism over this time period. We have recently had one of our pitches replaced with a 40mm 3G carpet at Royton & Crompton School, Oldham, and we immediately turned to Technical Surfaces for them to plan the annual maintenance schedule."

As well as Oldham Community Leisure Ltd, the company enjoy working relationships with many Councils and other organisations that look after a number of synthetic facilities. In their experience they find that their clients realise the importance and benefits of a solid base of contact, and appreciate the way in which the company tailor their regular and remedial works to suit the clients own budgetary and maintenance needs.

TIP THREE Grab a piece of the 'PIE'

IN these credit-crunching times of economic difficulty, it is vital that the right amount of time and effort is invested into maintaining a synthetic sports surface from as early a stage as possible.

As the UK's leading synthetic pitch maintenance spe-

cialists, Technical Surfaces, has for a long time, worked closely with the industry's foremost installation companies to help ensure that each and every artificial sports surface can realise its potential life expectancy.

One such facility to reap the rewards of this 'Partners In Excellence' (PIE) relationship between contractor and maintenance provider is Round Diamond Primary School in Stevenage, Herts. Following the first-rate installation of a 3rd Generation rubber crumb pitch, the school was introduced to Technical Surfaces by the contractor, McArdle Sport Tec Ltd. A pitch inspection was carried out by an experienced Technical Manager, whose report outlined the company's recommendations for maintenance on the facility.

Such recommendations not only take into account the client's own budgetary requirements, but also the amount of use a facility receives and the level of in-house maintenance that can support any specialist works.

By customising their maintenance packages, Technical Surfaces provides options for all types of clients, at both ends of the economic scale.

Natalie Hoseason, Premises Manager at Round Diamond Primary School, was pleased with the outcome of the initial inspection, and the recommendations put forward by Technical Surfaces: "Our All Weather Pitch is a great facility that benefits both children of the school and many local community based clubs.

"We are confident that the



Split seams in a synthetic surface is an important health and safety issue

maintenance package offered by Technical Surfaces will keep our synthetic surface to

its optimum, prolonging its life enabling all to enjoy it for many years to come."

FACT: Over a third of all major injuries reported each year are caused as a result of a slip or trip.

Call Technical Surfaces NOW for a FREE Synthetic Pitch Assessment and Safety Report

We can help to remove the hassle with many Health and Safety issues.

Contact us without delay if you have any concerns.

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