



GLASGOW LIFE: SUSTAINABILITY IN PITCH CONSTRUCTION



CONSULTING DEPARTMENT

Sports Labs had the privilege of working with Glasgow Life where we advocated for recycling on 4 sites: Glasgow club Donald Dewar (pictured above), Glasgow Club Milton, Greenfield Football Centre and Toryglen Regional Centre.

Our role in the process included assisting step by step through assessments, budgets, designs, various documentation, evaluations, quality control and performance testing, all to ensure that the project was completed professionally and sustainably.

3 STEPS TO THE PROJECT

IN-SITU SHOCKPAD RETENTION

Offering a considerable cost saving to the Client. Sports Labs in house Field Team prior to Procurement and Technical Design,

carried out testing on the existing in-situ pads to determine their current performance in accordance with FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf. The shockpad was retained at every venue saving circa £260k combined for disposal and installation of new.

EXISTING 3G SYNTHETIC TURF

Fairway Sports Grounds were awarded all four contracts and provided a cost for removal and offsite disposal of the existing turf. There is a huge drive within the industry to identify an End-of-Life use for the turf. Uncommon within the industry Sports Labs managed to facilitate another competitive contractor Sportex Group working alongside the Main Contractor and providing a sustainable/ environmentally friendly solution for the turf. Sportex invested in a closed loop recycling process for End-of-Life turf, which can produce Recycled Plastic kickboards. The kickboards were installed at two of the venues which demonstrated a closed loop process. The Sportex Recycling Process descriptive PDF is attached for some additional information.

"It has been great to work in partnership with Sports Labs, Fairways and Sportex on this project. Not only have they helped us maintain high-quality 3G pitches at our venues, but also made sure that the old turf went to good use."

Alan Milner, Head of Sport at Glasgow Life

PROJECT DELIVERY

Delivery of the four projects happened during the winter months which is challenging even more so in Scotland. We managed the project through this time as smoothly and seamlessly as possible.

SPORTEX'S ROLE

Sportex Group Ltd recently launched UK's first 100% closed loop recycling facility for end-of-life synthetic turf sports fields.

This world leading development combines unique and innovative recycling processes to provide a fully traceable and environmentally licensed recycling solution to ensure that all components from old synthetic turf pitches can be separated, thoroughly cleaned, and most importantly reprocessed and recycled into new condition to be re-used immediately in the construction and refurbishment of new synthetic turf sports fields.

LEGISLATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RECYCLING

- Any synthetic turf field that is deemed "end-of-life" is classified as waste under the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) which UK environmental law continues to operate under.
- The 'Duty of Care' is a legal requirement for those dealing with certain kinds of waste to take all reasonable steps to keep it safe and is set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA). It applies to anyone who is a holder of household, industrial and commercial waste, known as controlled waste. Those persons to whom duty of care applies must take all such measures as are reasonable in the circumstances of:

HOW IT WORKS

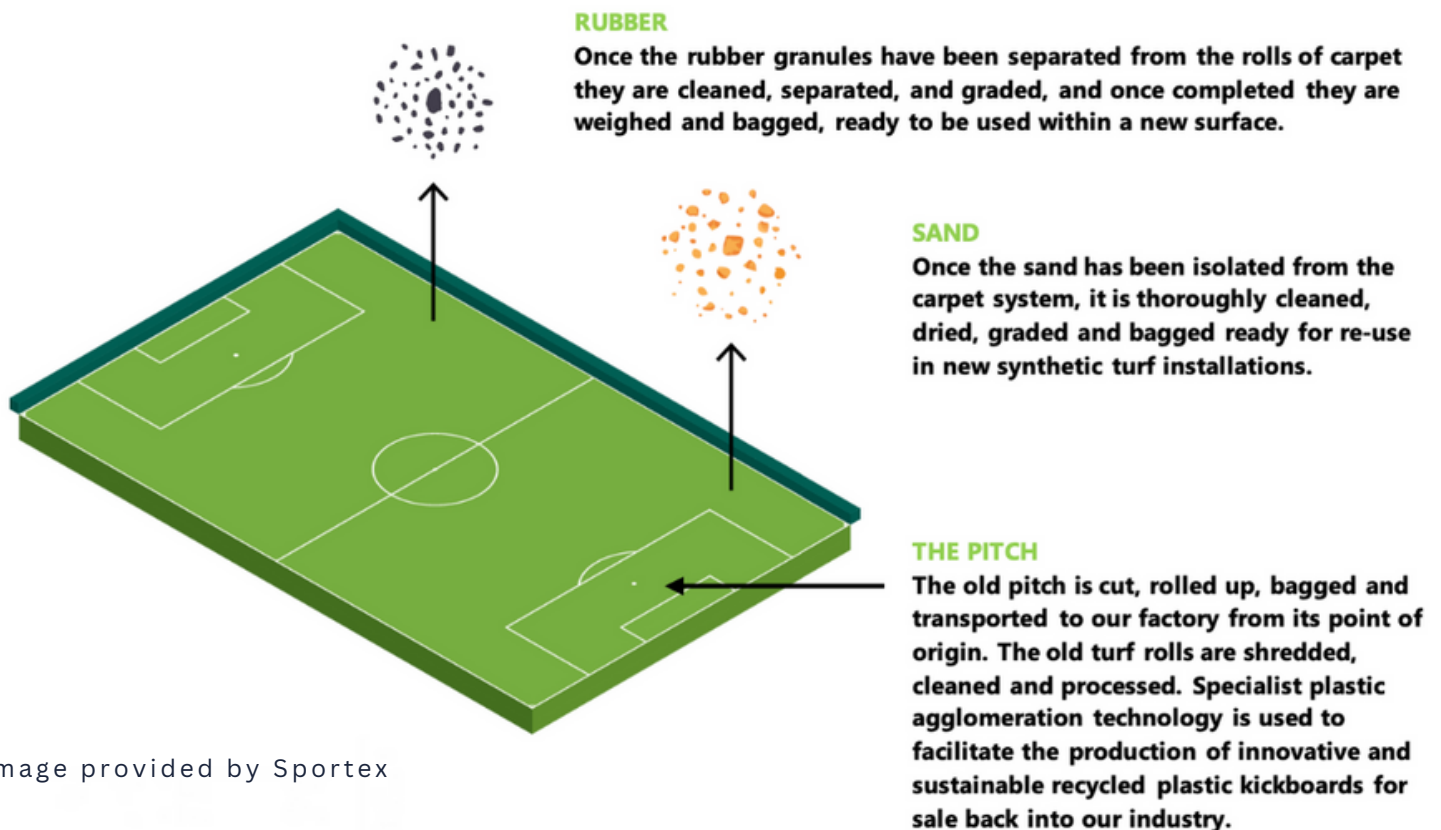


Image provided by Sportex



SPORTS LABS' ROLE

There are nine critical roles that need to be fulfilled to ensure a successful outcome.

- The first role is the condition assessment and feasibility study, which determines whether the project is feasible and identifies any potential issues.
- Next, budget and cost planning are crucial to ensure the project stays within budget.
- The design specification comes next, which outlines the project's design requirements and objectives.
- The tender documentation must be prepared, including all necessary legal and technical documents.
- The tender evaluation then takes place to determine the best contractor for the job.
- Project management is essential throughout the project, ensuring it runs smoothly and efficiently.
- The contract administrator ensures that the project is completed in accordance with the contract.
- While quality control conducts key stage inspections to ensure everything is up to standard.
- Finally, performance testing is conducted to ensure that the project meets all the necessary requirements and specifications.

Each of these roles is critical to the success of a sports field project, and they must be executed with precision and care to ensure the project's success.

WORDS FROM OUR PARTNERS

ALAN MILNER, HEAD OF SPORT AT GLASGOW LIFE

“Glasgow Life is responsible for an extensive portfolio of synthetic turf pitches which require constant refresh and we are always looking at ways to reduce waste and be sustainable. This was made possible with the support of Sports Labs and our partner contractors, as it has allowed us to adopt a circular economy approach and recycle materials. Two of our venues now have plastic kickboards made from this recycled turf.”

DAVID DICKINSON, HEAD OF SPORTS LAB CONSULT

“This project really fits in with everything we are striving for at Sports Labs in terms of sustainability and environmentalism. We are very proud of this project and we're hoping to continue to advocate for and champion this sort of technology and ecological activism for our future projects.”

