

A SchoolAdvisor Case Study

20 years satisfaction: why Selborne College rates their Synsport astro “superb”

SchoolAdvisor sat down with Tony Godding, an experienced hockey player and current manager of the hockey facility at Selborne College. In 2000, Synsport, one of the oldest suppliers of synthetic grass, laid a hockey turf for the school.

Synsport’s extensive knowledge in the industry has left Tony with only great things to say:



When considering building a synthetic sports surface, where should one start?

Research is key. A first-time user should do independent research to acquaint themselves with at least the basics of the vast subject of laying an artificial hockey pitch. Doing this at Selborne has enabled us to have informed conversations with suppliers when making decisions about our options.

To my knowledge, too many schools start with “we want a turf like school XYZ where we played last week, only better” without knowing whether that fits their circumstances; ending up with something that isn’t entirely suitable.

Why did you choose Synsport as your preferred supplier & installer of sports surfaces?

In 2000, we looked at all the available options and chose Synsport because of their open and honest communication and ready provision of any information requested. Further, they were willing to go the extra mile to provide the most suitable product according to the customer’s needs rather than to rely upon an established name.

What lifespans have you achieved with your original facilities prior to having to re-surface?

Our original surface lasted for 11 years. The current carpet is in its 8th year and looks good for at least another 4 years.

How were you able to re-use that carpet 12 years later for a multi-sports court?

The original carpet was in adequate enough condition to be sold off piecemeal to second-hand users in its entirety. This netted us R200 000.

What should schools be wary of when buying on price only?

When looking at quotes, make sure you are comparing apples with apples and that bidders are not forcing their price down by cutting out necessary items. Have a clear idea of what you need.

What are the main benefits you’ve seen from using Synsport’s shock-pad turf in terms of performance?

The turf laid by Synsport, together with the Enkadrain shock-pad, provides an exceptionally smooth, flat and quick ball-roll without any excessive bounce. It compares favourably with any sand-dressed surface I have seen elsewhere.

What has your experience been working with Synport? How is their after-sales service?

Superb! Their after-sales service has been excellent and any problems have been sorted quickly and without fuss. They have always combined an ultra-professional approach with a friendly and approachable manner in their relationship with us. It has always been a pleasure to do business with Synsport.