

Case Study - Facility Development Synthetic Training Area



Unity in the Community



Main image: Complete 60x40m Synthetic Training Facility

Inset: Removal of the red ash surface

Pollok United Soccer Academy, originally established in 2009/10, was set up by the community to ensure the children in and around the Corkerhill and wider Pollok area had the opportunity to participate in regular, well run youth football sessions regardless of their background or current situation. Initially teams would meet, train and play on any available piece of grass found in the south of the city – with affordability and the love of the game the only objective.

Capitalising on an Opportunity

Despite being spread out at various pitches across the city, the passion and desire that united the various teams under the Pollok United Soccer Academy banner proved popular with the community and soon the Club were involved in delivering football coaching in the surrounding schools and as part of a Friday Night Youth Initiative Project, in partnership with the SFA and Glasgow Life. The desire to train and play together at a single location was never far from the thoughts of the coaches but it wasn't until a series of complaints were received by the local Housing Officer about an unsightly and derelict red blaes football

pitch in the Corkerhill area, that the opportunity arose for the Club to become involved in the regeneration of this land. With Glasgow Housing Association also seeing the benefit the redevelopment of this area would provide to its own residents they offered to lead the project and carried out various community consultations through the local estate action group which all came back in favour of developing the site into a state of the art football training facility which would be open and accessible by the whole community.

Empowering the Club

Financial support was provided from various different sources including Cashback for Communities, Scottish Football Partnership, Glasgow Housing Association, Glasgow City Council and sportsotland. However taking on the responsibility to manage a facility of this nature is a challenge for any organisation and the Club had to rely on the willingness of the community to get involved including the recruitment of a local resident as a caretaker to help from the Community Safety Team to carry out some of the more labour intensive work.

With affordable access to a high quality facility the Club has able to grow and develop beyond expectations and now boasts football teams at every age group, including several girls teams, a disability team and walking football. Open to the public outwith club usage the facility aligns with the club's aspirations to provide opportunities for the community beyond just football. Further developments such as an outdoor gym and cycling club have created a vibrant area for activity and reduced the fear of crime and anti social behaviour.

Key facts

- **Club:** Pollok United Soccer Academy, Corkerhill, Pollok, Glasgow
- **Project:** 60x40m floodlit synthetic pitch training area with container changing.
- **Project value:** £282,480
- **Principal funding partners:** Cashback for Communities, sportsotland, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Housing Association, Scottish Football Partnership

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Design and construction

At 75x45m, the FIFA 1* 3G Synthetic Grass pitch is larger than what would typically be recommended for short sided football games and training facility. However, with the focus of the club firmly on the development of its youth academy it was agreed that the ability to accommodate an additional short sided pitch across the pitch would increase the playing capacity of the facility.

The pitch is constructed made up of a 55m 3G rubber and sand filled synthetic grass carpet with a pre-formed shock pad, installed on a open grade tarmac engineered base.

The facility benefits from 4no. 200lux floodlighting which have increased the amount of usage of the facility by the club and the community. These can be switched are set using a timer to allow for community access outwith club usage.

The club were also able to secure three Scottish Football Partnership changing containers to complete this high quality facility and provide its teams with a safe training facility to be proud of.

Key outcomes & lessons

- Identifying and taking advantage of possible opportunities with governing body and national initiatives.
- Opportunity to strengthen relationship and partnerships with senior club to complete player pathway
- Ambition to develop and achieve SFA Legacy Level Club Mark
- Ambition to expand and provide more sport opportunities for the community
- Establishing a quality workforce of qualified coaches, both full time and volunteers, to inspire and deliver programmes.

sportscotland support

- Expert design advice.
- Facilitating project development and viability.
- Sustainable operational advice
- Funding advice and support.

Sports Development : Teams

Children Academy:

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Under 7s	Minikickers
Under 8s	
Under 9s	Under 9s
Under 10s	
Under 11s	Under 11s

Youth Academy

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Under 12s	
Under 13s	Under 13s
Under 14s	
Under 16s	Under 16s
Under 19s	

Schedule of Areas

Pitch Area (total) 33,75m²

Accommodation

Individual Pitch dimensions 75 x 45m including safety margins

Pitch Type 3G Synthetic Grass

Pitch Construction

55mm Synthetic Grass Carpet
Pre-formed shockpad
Tarmac finishing layer
Sub-base

Procurement

Contract Start April 2012
Contract Completion August 2012