

Irrigation of 6 football pitches at The University of Warwick



During May 2010 James Ellis called our Brian Buttler to the Sport Campus to discuss the provision of irrigation to the existing sport pitches. Avonmore Associates name was given to James Ellis from Mark Freeman of Loughborough University where we have had a long association undertaking irrigation contracts and providing a service to all the Universities irrigation systems.

With the close relationship between James and Mark, Brian was given the brief to design the irrigation system in-line with similar systems at Loughborough University.

By July designs and contracts had be agreed and work commenced!

Due to the nature of the sub-surface of the pitches, being predominately clay and to protect the comprehensive drainage system it was agreed to open trench the complete works ensuring constant pipe depths.

The Irrigation System of the pitches in general consists of Toro 855S valve in head rotors around the pitch perimeter. The pitch centres are irrigated Toro TS-90's installed with Turf Cups and operated via Toro P220 solenoid valves located at the pitch perimeter. To control the entire system which initially was for 5 football pitches a Heron Ti-240 was installed within Head Groundsman Charlie Yeomans office.

The system was commissioned in Early September 2010 and has been extensively used during the spring and summer of 2011.

At the latter end of August, Avonmore Associates was again called in, to discuss the addition of pitch 6 to the system. The addition of pitch 6 was commissioned and supervised by Lee Penrose of the STRI on behalf 2012 Olympics, due to the fact that the University of Warwick has been awarded the privilege of hosting a number of the 2012 Olympic football teams. Due to the late addition of pitch 6 to the system, it was not only agreed to open trench all of the pipework but this time all trenches had turf cut, lifted, trenches excavated and spoil removed from site, trenches backfilled with drainage material and rootzone before being re-turfed. The entire operation was completed in less than 8 days, with the pitch being back in play within a month.

Phil Buttler our contract manager could not speak highly enough of the complete installation team. September - October is our busiest period as we move into our renovation period and to think the team fitted in the complete installation of a full football pitch irrigation system before moving onto the autumn renovation of well over 100 Bowling Greens is amazing!! Phil also added a word of praise for our suppliers – we actually mobilised before a written order was either given to ourselves or them and yet they still came up with the products!



DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION • IRRIGATION • MAINTENANCE

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