**CHELMSFORD HOCKEY CLUB AGM – 23 JUNE 2017**

Report on pitch re-surfacing project

After a long planning period, involving Chelmsford City Council (CCC), the contracts for re-surfacing both pitches have been signed and were dated 8 June. The work is being conducted under separate contracts, albeit part of a single project.

After a competitive tendering exercise supported by CCC’s procurement and legal teams, and involving 10 potential contractors, we selected AstroSport Ltd to undertake the work and accepted their proposal to lay a Lano sand dressed carpet on both pitches.

AstroSport is a well-known company which specialises in artificial grass carpet replacement work. Based in Nottingham, they work all over the country, using their own in house team to undertake the specialised carpet laying work. You can see more details about them at [www.astrosport.co.uk](http://www.astrosport.co.uk)

Lano are Belgium based and an FIH approved Quality Programme Approved Supplier - [www.lanosports.com](http://www.lanosports.com) . As explained before, we are replacing the water by a sand dressed surface. We have chosen the Lano Revolution; and CCC the Lano Integration. Both pitches are FIH approved at national level i.e. for games up to and including EHL premier division and junior internationals. The look and feel of the two surfaces will be pretty much the same, though the turf structure of the Integration takes account of the football use of CCC’s pitch.

Work started on 19 June with the site set-up and mobilisation; on Tuesday the sand on the CCC pitch was removed and by today both carpets should have been lifted. Thanks to the contacts provided by Wendy Daden, we have been able to dispose of our carpet to a local Golf Company saving several £000s.

Next week will see the new gripper edge, providing additional stability for the carpet, installed and the shockpad tested for re-use. If the shockpad does not measure up to FIH and Lano technical requirements, or is unlikely to within the expected life of the carpet, we will replace it at an additional cost.

Laying the new carpet will commence in the week beginning 10 July with completion by 7 August, weather permitting. CCC’s pitch is expected to be completed on by 14 August.

My thanks go to Robert Nourse who has worked with me in getting to where we are now – his professional background has been invaluable. I should also record thanks to CCC who have been excellent partners and incredibly supportive of the club.

Spencer Wilcox

23 June 2017