

# BASES COVERED

Stade des Alpes hosted France's first outdoor hockey 'Winter Game' in the middle of their grass pitch atop a Terraplas turf protection system and set a new national attendance record.

**S**tade des Alpes, in Grenoble, hosted France's first ever outdoor hockey 'Winter Game', which saw home side, Grenoble Brûleurs de Loups, lose its Ligue Magnus game against Briançon Diables Rouges, 5-4.

Played in the middle of the grass pitch – that had been covered by the stadium's *terratile* turf protection system – the teams were welcomed onto the ice by

a 100-strong gospel choir, as well as cheerleaders and mascots.

With a crowd of 19,767, this was not only France's first ever outdoor hockey Winter Game but also a record-breaking crowd; smashing the old attendance record of 13,364 that had been recorded at the 2011 French Cup Final at the Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy, one of the host venues for the 2017 IIHF

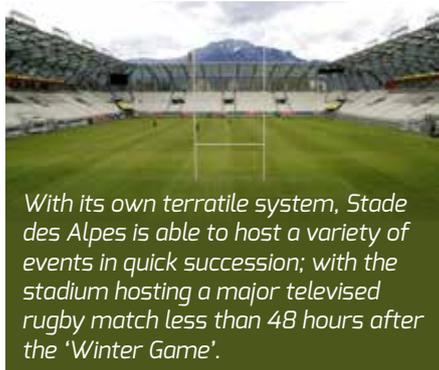
Ice Hockey World Championship.

The fact Stade des Alpes has its own *terratile* system at its disposal was a significant factor in the venue being able to host such an event. In addition, it meant the temporary ice rink could be quickly and easily installed and removed, with the stadium made ready to host a major televised rugby match no less than 48 hours later.



Grenoble's Stade des Alpes hosted France's first ever outdoor hockey 'Winter Game' in front of a record-breaking 19,767 spectators.

## REVENUE-GENERATOR



With its own *terratile* system, Stade des Alpes is able to host a variety of events in quick succession; with the stadium hosting a major televised rugby match less than 48 hours after the 'Winter Game'.

The *terratile* ensured there was no damage to the pitch, which meant there was no need for repairs, and so the stadium was able to optimise its revenue-generation by accommodating these two major events in such quick succession, and all with no 'down time'.

Speaking after their hosting of the Winter Game, Christian Veyret, Technical Manager at Stade des Alpes, reported

the following: "Saturday 14th December 2013 at 10pm: Fitting 2400m<sup>2</sup> *terratile*, just after football play, 14 people, 4-hours. Monday 16th to Sunday 22nd: construction of the temporary ice rink, then hockey training and play. Sunday 22nd evening to Tuesday 24th: removal of the ice rink. Tuesday 24th at 3pm: lifting *terratile*, 10 people, 2.5-hours.

So, after 10 days covered:

### The positives

- ▶ The turf is green (more than where it was not covered) and blades of grass are vertical
- ▶ Turf has only minimal compaction
- ▶ Turf is not frozen (Protected by *terratile* from 4-5 days with -2°C to -3°C)
- ▶ Turf well protected during handling the ice rink floor (fitting and lifting)
- ▶ Turf protected from the white paint used in the water to make the ice

### The negatives

- ▶ Nothing to report. ■

Multi-purpose stadia hosting more than two or three events a year can achieve considerable returns by investing in their own turf protection system, as opposed to renting. Stade des Alpes is just one such example, with others including Wembley National Stadium, BC Place, Marlins Ballpark, Donbass Arena, NSC Olimpiyskiy, FNB Stadium, Moses Mabhida Stadium, and many more. ■



# THE SMART WAY TO RECYCLE



## Terraplas outlines their innovative approach to 'recycling'.

The Georgia Dome in Atlanta, USA, first purchased a terracover turf protection system from Terraplas plc in 2003. It was used to cover their FieldTurf artificial grass field whenever the facility was being utilised for non-sporting events, such as concerts, exhibitions and the SEC Basketball Championship.

Between 2003 and 2012, the venue employed the system on literally hundreds of occasions, and duly reaped substantial returns on their investment.

After ten-years of extremely successful usage, the facility decided the time was right to invest in a new terracover "V" system; which offers the same strength and flexibility as terracover but comes with the addition of a unique vertical locking cam feature that holds the system perfectly tight when forklifts and cranes are being driven over it.

The question then became, what to do with the old system, which, despite

being 10 years old, was still perfectly serviceable. Made from HDPE, the terracover is capable of being fully recycled, however, with at least another 10 years life expectancy that option seemed wasteful.

### RE-USE, RECYCLE AND MAKE MONEY

Instead, the system went into storage at Terraplas USA's warehouse in Texas, was offered for sale and, not long after, the Players Paradise Sports Complex in Stoney Creek, ON, Canada, purchased it.

As the only venue in the locality with the potential to host large-scale events, the Players Paradise Sports Complex needed a cover for their artificial turf (Tru Bounce 3rd Generation) and, since delivery, it has played host to the three-day Hamilton RV Show & Sale and will host the three-day Hamilton Home & Garden show this March. ■

### ANOTHER PERFECT EXAMPLE!

When BC Place, in Vancouver upgraded to the current generation of Terraplas' terracover "V"®, they sold their original terracover® system to the City of Surrey, who continue to use it for events.



When the Georgia Dome invested in a new terracover "V" system, their original terracover system had another 10-years' life-expectancy. So, rather than recycling the system, the novel concept of offering it up for re-sale was decided upon and it was duly purchased by the Players Paradise Sports Complex.

Players Paradise Sports Complex uses their terracover system to protect their artificial turf (Tru Bounce 3rd Generation). Since delivery, the venue has played host to the 3-day Hamilton RV Show & Sale and will host the 3-day Hamilton Home & Garden show this March.



This illustrates how, with a high-quality Terraplas turf protection system at your disposal, not one but two venues can benefit from a return on their investment. It also proves that there is a better way of recycling a turf protection system – but only if you have one with a 20+ year lifespan! ■