

Hamilton Academical Football Club - PROFESSIONAL CLUB AWARD (ESTO member company: TigerTurf)

In 2013, Hamilton Academical FC were approaching the end of their football season and facing another closed season of natural pitch repairs at the New Douglas Park stadium.

At this stage Hamilton decided to explore the possibility of having their stadium pitch replaced with a synthetic pitch.

Some years earlier Hamilton had already tried a synthetic surface as a stadium pitch but with less than favourable results and so were sceptical about what could give the level of playing performance and player experience needed.

After an exhaustive market review, Hamilton decided to enter into an agreement for the supply of their new synthetic stadium field.

It was identified that the versatile product was also suitable for IRB 22 certification when used in conjunction with the 23/130 shock pad system. This would help Hamilton grow their business revenue and support the community at the same time, by allowing training sessions to be held for the community teams, whilst still maintaining their FIFA field accreditation needed for ELITE level football.

With time running out before the start of the new season, the field was developed and manufactured and installed in 4 weeks including the all-important FIFA 2 STAR field test, with enough time left for Hamilton to feature in the filming of a new major motion picture, and still be ready for the 1st day of the new season.

With their new synthetic pitch Hamilton Academical FC have gone from strength to strength and are now promotion contenders in the Scottish Championship, but have also given something back to the form of an amazing stadium and pitch that is accessible to the local community.