A REVOLUTION IN NEW HYBRID GRASS TECHNOLOGY

www.herohybridgrass.com
In my role as Arena Manager at the Melbourne Cricket Ground ("MCG"), I have worked with a number of reinforced turf systems, most recently and successfully with **HERO Hybrid Grass**.

**“HERO” Hybrid Grass** was introduced to me in 2015, and we trialled the product in 2016. After a successful trial period we installed HERO as part of our 2017 turf replacement program at the MCG.

**HERO** has improved the performance of our natural grass playing surface and created a superior growing environment for the natural grass.

The unique open foundation of **HERO** promotes excellent root development and drainage and ensures excess moisture is not retained or trapped in the playing surface. During the winter months these benefits were observed within our shaded areas on the playing surface, where the natural grass plant is not otherwise using the surface moisture given its limited growth and transpiration. The open foundation allows the excess moisture to pass into the underlying rootzone sand, thus enabling the surface to become more aerated. This creates a better growing environment for the natural grass, limiting its deterioration and assisting its recovery. The improvement in the quality and strength of the natural grass contributed to an improvement in the performance of the playing surface, and contributed to a reduction in turf replacement.

With the artificial grass co-existing with the natural grass, the artificial grass fibres protect the natural grass, resulting in less divots and shear of the natural grass. The footing of players is also good, even when the natural grass thinned in the middle of the oval from excessive wear. **HERO** continued to provide a safe and sure footed playing surface.

The installation of **HERO** into the playing surface at the MCG has reduced compaction. The open foundation of **HERO** creates a flexing structure that receives and returns energy from and to the player. It is important this energy can pass into the rootzone sand, rather than be captured in the surface, otherwise the surface can become hard.

Our busy event schedule at the MCG limits our opportunity to renovate the playing surface. Now that we have **HERO**, we can renovate frequently throughout the year, ensuring the playing surface remains in optimum condition. The unique knitting construction of **HERO**, where every fibre is anchored with a knot, gives us confidence that **HERO** is a lasting investment.

To date, our experience with **HERO** has been positive, and we have observed many benefits with this hybrid grass system.

Tony Gordon,
*Arenas Operations Manager, Melbourne Cricket Ground.*