

## SYNTHETIC SYSTEM SOLUTIONS – RENEWED INTEREST IN “HIMALAYA CONCEPTS”

The acceptance of high-quality synthetic turf solutions in the golf industry is gaining more and more traction. EIGCA Silver Partner Southwest Greens Construction leads the way with its 15+ year track record, creating a wide portfolio of synthetic turf systems that each serve a purpose of their own.

We currently see a revival of the Himalaya putting concept. Multiple clients have shown interest in a project inspired by the “classic” St Andrews Old Course design. The renewed interest stems from multiple trends in the industry, courses looking for younger golfers and extending their range of offerings to clients or family based promotions. Other great examples are the POPSTROKE facilities in the USA and the initiative from Pdraig Harrington at Dublin’s Marlay Park.

We like to refer to this concept as “Putting Course” whereby the skill of the golfer is more important than “luck” to get the ball in the hole, which makes a Putting Course different from the Adventure Golf facilities that we see as a leisure activity.

A Himalaya putting course being a putting course without a direction of holes and whereby the golfer can use its imagination to putt from pin to pin. Another putting course option is that a second synthetic turf product divides the holes to give the golfer direction on the surface. We refer to this as a Championship Putting Course and the fun of this is that all players face the same putts and that makes it measurable and makes a competition possible.

SWG Construction introduced a product specifically tailored for practice putting greens at academies, range facilities and golf courses. In the past this type of product would be replaced with a nylon putting surface that would have issues with turf contraction and expansion on hot summer days or a sand filled synthetic putting product that would “get fast and require more than average maintenance” than the expectations of the club. Although both products have been satisfying to a certain extent to their respective clientele, we felt we could find a better solution. Our Southwest Greens PURO21 practice putting green, introduced in 2020, is also a fantastic solution for Championship Putting Courses or Himalaya style putting courses.

Technically speaking the difference for us as an installation company is the more intense basework – The FINAL GRADING – finishing, before installing the pin positions and some extra skill required to install the synthetic turf over the many undulations. Two jobs our installations teams are extensively trained for.

Furthermore, partnering with many architects and building their drawings to scale and slope and being the preferred supplier for Puttview C1 and C2 Tailormade Greens require the same skills, just different slopes.

Breaking up the conventional golf into different concepts and then looking at how we can make improvements to support investors with their facilities is a strategy that we believe adds genuine value to the golf course industry as our synthetic systems require little maintenance and the new PURO systems can handle the traffic much better than in the past.

For more information go to [www.southwestgreens.eu](http://www.southwestgreens.eu)

