



[November 2015](#)

Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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Attwood delivers lecture at Chinese Taipei Equestrian Association (CTEA)





Taipei, Taiwan – Attwood Equestrian Surfaces was invited to Taiwan to deliver a short presentation on the properties of good footing. The session was held at the Hannover Equestrian Club in Taipei. The CTEA is very keen on improving the standard of the sport in Taiwan, and is forging a relationship with Attwood to improve footing in the country.

Nick Attwood addressed the equestrian community in the country, and spoke at length about how to construct world class arenas, and how to get the most out of them. The speech was followed by an interactive session where Nick fielded questions on a range of technical issues pertaining to arena design and maintenance.

In recent years, equestrian sport has become popular in Taiwan, though the Taiwanese won't mind saying that the quality of footing leaves a lot to be desired. On a 3-day tour of the country, we had the opportunity to interact extensively with leading stakeholders in the equestrian community, and discuss how to improve their facilities.

We also carried out a comprehensive workshop on how to maintain arenas and increase their longevity.

We will be back in Taiwan in the coming months to carry forward the good work that we have started in collaboration with the CTEA.

View our presentation to the CTEA on [our websites](#).

New Attwood Installations this month

This month we installed our highly acclaimed footing for two very interesting and diverse projects on either side of the Atlantic.



The View from Master Frisky

The first was a training gallop at our long time client - Boyd and Silva Martin's facility at Windurra in Pennsylvania. Attwood began their relationship with Windurra USA when they installed the dressage ring at the new farm on Gibble Rd in 2011. The relationship has continued with the installation of the new jumping arena, in 2012. Boyd and Silva have been thrilled with the quality of their ring arenas and the level of service that they have received from the Attwood Team.

Boyd proceeded to spend a day teaching several young riders from the area on the new training track and cross country course at Windurra USA! Three of the four girls are active members of the Brandywine Hounds Pony Club and were treated to this day by their DC, Beth Bradley-Johnson, who wanted to reward members for their fundraising efforts throughout the season.

Check out our [Youtube channel](#) for some videos of [Silva martin putting the gallop through its paces!](#)

To read more about the gallop, visit [Boyd Martin's blog](#).



The other interesting installation was at The Jockey Club Estates in Newmarket in the UK, where we installed our dust free Pinnacle footing. This news is hot off the press, and we'll have more information on this exciting development next month. Watch this space for more information.

FEI Nations Cup

Ireland wins at Boekelo, Britain clinches series title



Ireland scored their first ever win in the FEI Nations Cup™ Eventing in superb style at Boekelo (NED), final leg of the 2015 season, after four fine Cross Country performances over an influential track. The USA finished second, which was also their best result since the FEI Nations Cup™ Eventing began in 2012. New Zealand was third and, as a result, beat Japan in this Asia-Pacific Olympic qualifier to secure their ticket to Rio 2016.

Great Britain, the only nation to contest all seven legs this year, finished fifth at Boekelo after half the team completed the competition, but they easily sealed their place at the head of the FEI Nations Cup™ Eventing final leaderboard by seven points over Germany.

Ireland's team manager Nick Turner said he was "absolutely delighted" with the win. "We had a young rider competing in his first CCI3* and some exciting young horses and everyone pulled together and focused," he added. "It's a great note to finish on this season and it sets the team up in good spirits for Olympic year."

FEI Nations Cup™ Eventing Leaderboard 2015

1 Great Britain 52 points

2 Germany 44

3 Australia 40

4 France 39

5 Netherlands 32

6 Ireland 27

7 Belgium 17

8 New Zealand 17

9 USA 17

10 Sweden 11

11 Spain 6

12= Poland 4

12= Canada 4

13 Japan 2

14 Brazil 0

Read the [FEI coverage](#) on the event for more.

Footing Facts

Arena Drainage

One topic we often refer to when discussing footing is drainage. What we mean by this is the rate at which water travels through the footing from the surface, and through the base material to whatever lurks below this! Below the base material there may simply be the ground surface, or there may be some kind of drainage system either below or within the base material. In this edition of Footing Facts we take a quick look at the types of drainage commonly encountered, and discuss the pros and cons of each type.



Whether or not to have a drainage system beneath your arena is an easy question to answer. In the case of an outdoor, uncovered arena, we would always advocate having a drainage system. For a covered arena, there is no need for drainage unless there is a chance of significant rain incursion, for instance, where the roof overhang is minimal and the climate dictates high rainfall. Obviously for an indoor arena drainage is not required.

When looking at a drainage system let's first consider the base. Types can vary quite widely, particularly from one country to another. In Europe, a porous tarmacadam/asphalt base is popular, whilst in the United States compressed stone dust, drain rock, or other hard particle is commonly used.

A second aspect is the slope or grade of the base, which sets the grade for the top surface also. Again, a variety of types are used. In dryer climates it is possible to use a flat surface, i.e. one without a grade, provided the base is porous enough to allow sufficient vertical flow of water. Preferred for wetter climates is a slope of between 0.5% and 2% depending on the size of the arena, the lie of the surrounding land, and typical rainfall for the area. Which way the slope goes is also a consideration, again depending on the size of the arena, surrounding land, and where the run-off is to be managed.

The drainage system is usually pipe-based, but some rely simply on a soak-away. Specifying the right amount, type and placement of pipe-work is important or the arena could drain well in one part, and flood in another.



Becoming more popular, but an expensive option is a water management base system which provides for a reservoir of water beneath the footing, that supposedly donates water to a dry footing, and removes water from an excessively wet footing.

Of course, the base is only partly responsible for the drainage rate of the arena. You might have an extremely fast draining base, but your arena could still flood if the footing or surface is poorly designed. Understanding what determines the drainage rate of a footing is important know-how. At Attwood we understand this, and go even further. We measure the drainage rate of our footings in litres per hour per square metre so that we can compare this to maximum rainfall rate and average daily rainfall figures for the customer's area, to be sure the proposed footing has adequate permeability.

[Other News](#)

William Fox-Pitt, Get Well Soon!



The Olympic eventer has been in hospital in France since Saturday 17 October, when he fell at Le Lion d'Angers. He suffered a head trauma in the fall. William fell at fence 20, an owl hole, on the cross-country with Reinstated. The pair were competing in the seven-year-old CCI2* class at the FEI/WBFSH world championships for young eventing horses. The horse, whom William first competed with in May 2014 at Chatsworth, was not injured in the fall

Some promising news now coming in from France. "Today (Monday 26 October) William is conscious, breathing on his own and communicating with his family and doctors, however he is still very ill," read a statement from British Eventing.

Update, 30th October 2015 - "William's condition has improved enough for him to be moved out of the intensive care unit. He remains in hospital in France,"

Fox-Pitt is GB's most successful rider with 20 major championship medals.

Read more [here](#).

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You can also contact us at info@equestriansurfaces.com, info@attwood.in and enquiries@aesurfaces.co.uk.

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*Attwood Equestrian Surfaces provides
meticulously engineered surfaces that benefit both the horse
and the rider*



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