



[September 2016](#)

Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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Attwood @ Menlo *Yet another year of outstanding footing!*



Middleburg, VA – Last week marked the kick-off of the 46th annual Menlo Charity Horse Show in Atherton, CA. Hundreds of competitors from all over the country, amateurs to professionals, come to ride for top honors in this historic venue never knowing that five short days before the show began, the warm up ring wasn't even there.

One of only a dozen horse shows in the United States (out of 2,600) to earn the prestigious designation of a Heritage Competition from the U.S. Equestrian Federation, the Menlo Charity Horse Show has gone from a small-town fundraiser to a world-class, AA-rated hunter/jumper competition with a waiting list of riders vying to compete.

Over the years, the Menlo Circus Club, one of the most exclusive private clubs in the country, generously opens its doors to the public for the show. The Menlo Circus Club is one of the few social clubs in Northern California with a premiere equestrian facility located on its grounds. Two of the three competition rings and the warm ups are located on the polo field.

Through the years, the polo field has taken a beating from the heavy use over the span of the show's ten day run. The show's organizers knew that this had to change in order to give their competitors a world-class venue. The idea was presented to install a temporary warm up area to be removed afterwards. The footing would be trucked in and taken away, leaving the polo field in good shape for the season ahead.

The first installments worked to a point but needed refinement. But it still wasn't the answer till the show's organizer Liz Crowell decided to call in the expertise of Nick Attwood of Attwood Equestrian Surfaces.

"We needed to create a surface that would be a fabulous warm up for the jumping, that would leave the polo field in near perfect shape. The first footing we put in there was some unevenness and slipping. What we really needed was Attwood's knowledge," said the organizer.

Five days before the first horse would step into the ring, Nick Attwood and his team started work creating the warm up area. The process required laying down 5,000 interlocking mats to create a base for the footing. Then

800 tons of footing was mixed to exacting specifications and trucked to the polo field. Then for the next two weeks the footing was tended to on an hourly basis so it would be as perfect as possible from day one to day ten.

“It’s really something that we could turn such a large area into what you could call a pop up warm-up in just five days. And then return it to pristine condition when it was all done. I have to say its has been one of the more interesting challenges we’ve faced over the years.” said Attwood.

This year the MCHS enjoyed a record turnout. The improvements to the warm up are just one of the myriad of reasons for the show’s long-term success. The Menlo Charity Horse Show is the biggest fundraiser in the year for the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.



For further information about Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, their products and services, please contact Andrew Camp at 888-461-7788.

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Walton Cup 2016 Attwood is the official Footing Partner



Congratulations to Walton Place Equestrian for a very successful fourth annual Walton Cup. We are thrilled to hear how much everyone is enjoying the footing.

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To check official photos from the event and the final standings, do visit [their website](#).

The Economist Asks: Does Olympic Horse-riding have a gender problem?



DROP in on a pony club camp somewhere in Britain this summer and, chances are, at least 90% of the children trotting around in jodhpurs will be girls. And so it continues in competitive riding up the rungs—until the very top. But in the Olympic eventing last week, where riders and horses locked hooves in the three disciplines of dressage, cross-country and show-jumping, nine out of the top ten places were taken by men.

This could be an anomaly; many of the most successful event riders over the last few decades have been women. It could also be a trend—led by the individual gold-medal winner in Rio, Michael Jung of Germany, who won in London four years ago and this year became only the second rider to complete the “Triple Crown” by winning consecutive Badminton, Burghley and Kentucky events. Whichever, it poses the question: does equestrianism really occur on the level field we want and believe it to? And if not, why not?

Tell us what you think!
Read more on this interesting debate [here](#).

Footing Facts

Equestrian Arenas around the World Part 2: India

In the first part of this mini-series we visited California and explored some of the idiosyncracies of the equestrian world there, particularly relating to arena footing. We found that the drought situation in California impacts on equestrian pursuit, both through arena maintenance and landscaping.



This month we travel to India, with a whole set of different considerations to California. Firstly the climate is more diverse, featuring four climatic groupings. The climate is dominated by the Himalayas, which prevent cold Central Asia winds from blowing in, keeping the country warmer than other regions at the same latitude. The Thar desert also provides the driving force for the moist wind blowing from the south-west, leading to the monsoon season between June and October.

Equestrian facilities in India therefore may have to deal with excessive rain, but also prolonged hot and dry weather.

India has a rich heritage of equestrian Sport, and evidence of horse games and equestrian activities has been found in inscription, carving and coins excavated in Mohanjodaro and Harappa. During the vedic period (2500 BC - 600 BC) a form of chariot racing was one of the most popular games and this continued into Ramayana period when hunting became a royal sport.

Today, equestrian sport is concentrated in a number of areas of India, such as Delhi, Meerut, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Kolkata, Chennai, Pondichery, Pune and Bhopal. The Equestrian Federation of India joined the FEI in 1971 and has been sending teams in all equestrian disciplines to the Asian Games since 1982. Eventing is the core discipline and the Eventing team has a proud record of winning team medals in almost all recent Asian Games.



Despite this success, the quality of riding arena surfaces is generally poor. This reflects the lack of professional domestic companies offering supply and installation services. Several European companies have attempted to serve the market, but this has been sporadic, and none seems to have gained a foothold in the country. No doubt this is in part down to the effort required to identify suitable local materials such as sand, textile additives, and coatings. Importation of footing is an option but shipping costs can be excessive.

However for those companies willing to put in the effort, good local silica sand can be sourced, along with suitable textile additives. Of course having a physical presence in India facilitates such background work, but also provides potential customers with the reassurance of a local contact.

Attwood is one of the few companies to have established such a physical presence in India, enabling us to offer extremely competitive arena solutions to the Indian market. Indeed our first project is currently underway, and we hope to be reporting on progress in the near future.

Our Social Media Channels



Continue to engage with us on the social media platform of your choice, [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#). We love to hear from you!

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

Download our previous newsletters from our [archives](#).

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

