



WIMBLEDON CENTRE COURT

Mapei in the grandstand at the home of tennis

Wimbledon is arguably the most recognised name in world tennis – the leafy suburb of London where the oldest and most prestigious tennis event is competed for. The Championships are the third tournament of the annual Grand Slam, which also includes the Australian Open, the French Open and the U.S. Open. Mapei is proud to have played a leading role in the rebuilding of the hospitality areas and terraces for visitors to centre court.

While the famous Championships have been held here every summer (excluding the war years) since 1922 and the rest of the courts are used for other matches and Club fixtures, Centre Court is preserved purely for the Championships themselves.

Indeed, playing on this 'hallowed' surface is forbidden even to members of The All England Lawn Tennis Club (the historic body which owns the complex and organises the tournament). Access to the court is only for the Head Groundman and his team who keep the court in pristine condition. So when the Championships were over for another year in July 2007, Mapei, being world leader in adhesives for ceramic tiles and one of the most well known companies of its kind in the sporting world, took an active part in the modernisation of the areas of the Centre Court used by the public.

From Screed Laying to Tiling

As often happens, the schedule to

carry out the work was very tight. Therefore, substrates made using rapid-drying screeds had to be laid for the successive installation of the terraces in the VIP area. Tiling Contractors Wilson & Wylie Contracts appointed CSC Screeding to undertake the substrate preparation, and install more than 2,000 m² of TOPCEM – a special hydraulic binder for normal-setting, fast-drying, controlled-shrinkage screeds – on top of the old waterproof membrane in the terraced area overlooking the Centre Court, which is subject to heavy pedestrian traffic: over 500,000 spectators came to watch the famous Championships this year.

TOPCEM screed was also installed in the area of the Centre Court open to



Photo 1. The Centre Court at Wimbledon.

Photo 2. The main entrance area to the Centre Court after the modernisation operations.

Photo 3. A view of the self-service area upon completion of the work.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

TOPCEM

It is a special hydraulic binder which, when mixed with graded aggregates and water, can produce mortars that can harden in approximately 24 hours, and dry in

approximately 4 days. It is used for the formation of bonded, unbonded and floating screeds on both existing and new concrete prior to the installation of wood, PVC, linoleum, ceramic tiles, natural stone, carpet or any other flooring where rapid drying is required for short installation times. It is suitable for indoor and outdoor use.



Photo 4. Casting the screeds in the external areas, made using TOPCEM.

Photo 5. Detail of the entrance area to the lifts; the tile joints were grouted with ULTRACOLOR PLUS (medium grey).

Photo 6. One of the access stairs where tiles supplied by Domus Tiles were laid on the risers and treads using the KERAQUICK+LATEX PLUS flexible cementitious system.

Photo 7. The external terrace after laying the tiles with KERAQUICK+LATEX PLUS.

the general public.

Award winners* Wilson & Wylie Contracts then used a wide selection of Mapei products to install Domus Minerali bush hammered tiles and finely-polished tiles, to the hospitality areas, external terraces, internal restaurants, kitchen areas, bar areas and the most prestigious 'Debentures' entrances, where reserved seats bearing the owners name are located. They were also used to cover the risers and the treads of the steps.

In total 3500 m² of tiles were installed using an initial layer of ULTRAPLAN ECO ultra fast hardening, self-leveling and smoothing compound. This was followed by KERAQUICK high-performance, rapid-setting, deformable cementitious adhesive, for ceramic tiles and stone material. In the white color KERAQUICK was mixed with LATEX PLUS elasticising latex to increase the flexibility of the cementitious adhesive system. The covering material was finished off by grouting the tiled areas with ULTRACOLOR PLUS (medium

grey) high-performance, anti-efflorescence, fast-setting and drying mortar, water-repellent with DropEffect® and anti-mould with BioBlock® technology.

At Wimbledon, Mapei has demonstrated its commitment and interest in the world of sport, dedicating its wide experience to the spectators by providing technologically advanced products beneath the tiled surfaces to support the overall aesthetic finishes to the new terraces and visitor areas.

We would also like use this occasion to remind our readers that Mapei is also actively involved in the supply of technology and solutions for the construction, modernisation and extension of the sports complexes and infrastructures which will play host to the athletes, the events and the spectators at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

**Wilson & Wylie Contracts were presented with the 2009 TTA (The Tile Association) Award for 'Best Use of Tile in a Large Construction Contract' for Wimbledon.*



TECHNICAL DATA

Centre Court, Wimbledon, London, UK

Year of Construction: 1922

Period of Intervention: July – August 2007

Intervention by Mapei: supplying products for the preparation of the substrate and for laying ceramic tiles in the hospitality areas (public areas), steps and external terraces.

Client: The All England Lawn Tennis Club, London

Main Contractor: Galliford Try

Tiling Contractor: Wilson & Wylie Contracts

Screeding Contractor: CSC Screeding

Laid Materials: Domus Minerali bush hammered tiles and finely polished tiles supplied by Domus Tiles

Mapei Co-ordinator: Alan Pepper (Mapei UK)

Mapei Products: the products mentioned in this article belong to the "Products for Ceramic Tiles and Stone Materials".

The technical data sheets are available at the web site: www.mapei.com.

Mapei's adhesives and grouts conform to EN 12004 and EN 13888 standards.

Mapei adhesives have been awarded the CE mark in compliance with Annex ZA, standard EN 12004. Almost all the Mapei products for laying floors and walls are also GEV-certified. Mapei pre-blended mortars for screeds and smoothing and levelling compounds conform to standard EN 13813 and have been awarded the CE mark in compliance with Annex ZA, standard EN 13813.

Keraquick (C2FTS1, EC1, becomes S2 when mixed with Latex Plus): high performance, deformable, rapid-setting cementitious adhesive with no vertical slip for moisture stable ceramic tiles and stone material.

Latex Plus: latex admixture inducing elasticity to be mixed with Keraquick.

Topcem: special hydraulic binder for normal-setting, fast drying (4 days) and controlled shrinkage screeds.

Ultracolor Plus (CG2, EC1): fast-setting and drying, high performance, anti-efflorescence, water-repellent mortar grout for joints from 2 to 20 mm. With DropEffect® and anti-mould with BioBlock® technology.

Ultraplan Eco (EC1, CT C25-F7 A2, CE EN 13813): ultra-fast hardening self-levelling smoothing compound, with very low emission of VOC for thicknesses from 1 to 10 mm.

