

Boys from the black stuff

HA takes a trip to Paris to see how a UK contractor is setting high standards in Road Carpeting.

Although the television series centred on Geordie lads working in Germany there were strong echoes of their fictional exploits in the real life experiences of four Midlanders dispatched to Paris for a month this year. Not the least the small fortune they were charged to exit the seedy nightclub on the Follie Bergere where they had already paid an exorbitant £20 a pint for the beer. The real interest surrounding the activities of SPV's intrepid quartet however concerns their installation of Road Carpet on the pedestrian bridge across which sports or music fans flood

fitted to a Bobcat to complete the task in the time allowed: there was basically a four week break in the programme of events at the Stade during the August holiday. In fact it took just a week to prepare the bridge deck; removing the 35 mm of epoxy coatings and even the flaking rust where corrosion had occurred as the coating had delaminated. Then addressing areas of up to 300 square metres at a time, SPV's men treated the steel decking with a bituminous primer and then put down the underlayer to the Road Carpet. This being a self-adhesive sheet material, with

found employed on the upper levels and vehicle ramps to hundreds of multi-story car parks across Europe.

Back in the UK, SPV Special Projects is building a reputation for carrying out large-scale refurbishment contracts covering the entire outer envelope of the building. SPV Special Projects was founded this year when a consortium of like-minded companies decided to join forces to create a specialist technical and design service for working with cladding, roofing, glazing, asbestos removal, renovation, concrete repair and maintenance, renders and architectural services. In any one given project, the main contractor comes under the umbrella as the SPV Group; other partners include St Germain Weber, Ash and Lacy, FDT Design & Technology and Satellite Architects, among others. Driven by a desire to go back to 'old fashioned values' by way of championing the importance of communication and collaborative working, the team draws on the different companies' individual areas of expertise to address specific project requirements. The group specialises in the commercial sector, typically renovating hotel, leisure and office buildings. As well as offering the above services, it is able to undertake landscaping, car parks, shop fitting out and interior design, plus decoration and even planning permission and costing consultancy. Basically, the group offers every conceivable service surrounding buildings, but impressively, it also offers a full after sales maintenance package.

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- Howard Evans, Managing Director of SPV

every time there is an event in the Stade de France. The 185 metre long elevated steel walkway had already been resurfaced once – unsuccessfully – with a resin system, and rather like 'Les Bleu' confronted with the likes of Andrew Sheridan or 'Raging Bull' Phil Vickery, the locals really didn't fancy having another go. A big part of the problem, according to Howard Evans, Managing Director of the SPV Group based in Walsall, was the perceived need to close access to the public for the duration, in order to clean the deck back to bare metal. He recounts: "As soon as I looked at the job I realised we would need a road planer,

release films on both faces. From an extensive range that offers a choice of colours as well as variations in thickness and grade of aggregate finish, the client opted for the Black finish. Unusually for a waterproofing membrane, Road Carpet is butt jointed with additional bitumen and aggregate being poured along the interfaces. Howard stresses: "We do not have any problems with leaks, even if broken glass gets trodden in; and the absence of overlaps means there are not trip hazards. With the extra aggregate over the joints they very quickly disappear as the surface is trafficked." So tough is the product in fact that the coarser grades can be



SPV's Road Carpet has been successfully employed in relaying the walkway leading to the Stade de France.

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