

Heating system passes first test

WYCOMBE Wanderers' new £500,000 undersoil heating system passed its first test on Sunday – but only after a late scare.

The switch tripped off early in the morning forcing a shutdown of the system for almost an hour.

But after two pitch inspections, Wasps' Parker Pen Challenge Cup quarter-final first leg against Stade Francais got the go ahead.

The pitch looked white but the heating had done its job underneath the surface and the ground took a full stud.

And Wanderers were delighted that the match did get the green light. If it had been called off, they would have been saddled with the bill for stewarding the match because that is part of their contract with Wasps.

Wanderers groundsman Jim Gardner said: "The system passed the test with flying colours. There was nothing wrong with the pitch. It played perfectly.

"The only problem was that a couple of so-called expert television pundits sitting in a studio in London saw that the pitch was white and decided to panic. But it was nothing to panic about, just a bit of leaf frost."

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