

## WINNING WAYS ON THE PITCH

Hidegkuti Nándor Stadion, home stadium of MTK Budapest, is named after one of Hungary's best football players.

The 5,322-seater stadium located in Budapest's Józsefváros district was entirely renovated in 2016 by Garden Group Kft with a top of the range football pitch including the Desso GrassMaster and TerraCottem technology.

"The pitch was built according to a sand dominated root zone over gravel carpet specification. Fifty grammes of TerraCottem went into the lower root zone layer (-20 to -10cm) and 60g/m<sup>2</sup> into the top root zone layer (-10cm to 0cm) in order to increase the water retention capacity of the sand-based root zone.

Gábor Kárpáti, director of Garden Group commented: "Due to the extreme weather conditions and the microclimate caused by the stadium's high concrete walls we were facing some challenges to create and maintain good grass growth. So we were keen to try out TerraCottem as it would aid the sward composed of 100 per cent English ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), resist drought stress and increase the root zone's cation exchange capacity. Very early on we observed a more consistent, stronger and deeper root development. Since then we have used TerraCottem in all our sports pitch constructions."