More than half a million people play golf regularly in Sweden. The country may not be blessed with an ideal golfing climate, but it is one of the game’s rising stars. The prowess of Sweden’s top professionals is more than matched by its technology, especially in the provision of training: witness the new Halmstad Golf Arena, with its all year round facilities. Last April work began and handover is due later this year.

What is pleasing to the British golf course industry is that one of our major sports turf contractors, Souters Sports, and its irrigation division, Souters Irrigation Services Ltd, has played a major part in its development alongside main contractor Irish-based SOL. What makes the Arena unique is that golfers will be able to play each green from different positions and there are ten different angles for tee-off positions.

Project Architect, Christian Lundin, said that the idea was to create a links character for the state of the art training complex, and he was very much inspired by Scottish courses. Cumbernauld and Knutsford based Souters Sports has worked successfully on many a Scottish course so its involvement in the Halmstad project was entirely appropriate.

The focal point of the 17 hectare site is a 365-metre range flanked by grass tees. Surrounding the range is a short game area where golfers can hit balls up to 140 metres. In the centre is a 2170 square metre green.

There is also a practice hole with four greens and nine tees. A sports academy building includes high tech swing studios, and adjacent to this are a 1579 square metre putting green and a 1950 square metre chipping green with bunkers to suit all levels of ability.

Some of the greens have under soil heating, and teeing areas are sheltered and heated. It was apt that Souter’s 10th anniversary year was marked by its first European venture.

For further information, visit www.souterssports.co.uk or visit the Halmstad Golf Arena’s website: www.halmstadgolfarena.se