What are the ideal weather conditions for a rugby game?
The ideal weather conditions for a rugby match at Twickenham, I think from a playing point of view, the players prefer dry and not too windy. So I think that satisfies them, it gives them a nice fast surface then and handling conditions are fairly good. From a spectators point of view, it depends on the spectator, but I think ideally you would like the sun to be out and feeling warm, also encourages them to drink a little bit more beer that way so it adds to the excitement of the day.

How does the weather affect your planning?
How does the weather affect our planning? It affects it in a number of ways, it’s obviously a key factor that we have to consider in planning any event, whether it’s during the winter or during the summer. What the outcome of it is is different between different conditions. In winter, we stand here today and it’s very cold and we’ve just come through the snow and so we were very much considering the impact of the snow in terms of the pitch and being able to get the game on and put our contingency plans in place but we also have to look outside the stadium to ensure that it’s safe for people to get here so there’s a lot of arrangements that we then put in place with the local authorities, the transport and the police. Looking at a different scenario, during the summer where the conditions are obviously we hope very much hotter, we are a 365 day venue now so we experience all different types of conditions. We then have to look at the impact the sun might have, whether it’s in terms of keeping people hydrated or for people sitting in the sun for long periods of time.

What weather conditions would lead to a game being called off?
Well I’d like to say hopefully there aren’t any weather conditions that would lead to a game being called off, since I’ve been here we haven’t lost a game. We have various contingency plans in place that will enable us to cover the pitch as we have done over the most recent period where we had heavy snow. But I think, if there were any conditions that were the most concern to us it is actually snow, particularly a heavy downpour of snow on the day of the game would be very problematic for us.

What are the worst weather conditions you’ve seen at Twickenham?
The worst weather conditions we’ve seen here at Twickenham are probably twofold, one is where it’s extremely hot and we’ve had various Sevens tournaments that the sun has been out and I’ve really pitied the players because Sevens is hard enough in normal conditions but where its very hot conditions you really saw how physical the game was and how tired the players were and then the other extreme is I think really heavy downpours of rain where once again it really affects the players from a playing point of view it affects the handling conditions and you certainly see the team sort of adapt their game in those sorts of scenarios.

How do you maintain the grounds throughout the year?
Well we’ve got expert groundsmen here first and foremost so they very much know what they’re doing. We’ve got excellent draining in the pitch and we go through different phases, so during the winter we actually put some lights on the pitch to help it to grow and recover when it’s been used and then very much at the end of the season we do a complete renovation of it. So it’s an ongoing programme.

**What type of forecast do you look for leading up to a game?**

We get a very comprehensive forecast on a regular basis. We tend to start looking at it seriously a couple of weeks out from the event. It’s a very localised forecast, so we know it’s very specific to Twickenham. We continue to review it in the lead up to the event and that allows us to then adjust our plans and make sure we get good information out to people and spectators beforehand and then come the day of the event we know exactly what the weather conditions are going to be, we can advise the players because it’s important for them as well in terms of their planning for the game, but ultimately we want to get here knowing exactly what the weather conditions are and making sure that we’ve got all our contingency plans in place no matter whatever the weather throws at us.