

# Real challenges reap real rewards for Paul ...

**Real Madrid Head Groundsman, Paul Burgess, shown huge respect by the players and the Spanish press**

THE headline reads **“Paul must go to Cibeles with us if we win La Liga”**, referring to Paul Burgess, former Head Groundsman at the Emirates and now the man in charge of the Bernabéu stadium pitch, home to Real Madrid.

Cibeles is the famous waterfall in the city centre where Real Madrid go to celebrate their triumphs with their fans. The article goes on to say that “all the players think the pitch is amazing, some commenting they have never played on a pitch so good”. It is the players that have requested Paul goes on the open top bus with them to Cibeles should they win La Liga.

Real Madrid have won every home league game this season and are currently vying for top spot with equally famous rivals Barcelona. The players feel that the pitch has played a big part in this

season’s success and many believe that it is the best pitch the stadium has ever had. They say that it is one of the best in Europe.

The article also mentions the changes made to the pitch last summer and details Paul’s career to date.

With the Champions League Final being played at the stadium, UEFA have already commented that they are “very happy with the grass cover”.

In typically modest fashion Paul says that “It’s a bit OTT, but the pitch is doing really well, and there really is no comparison to what they have had in the past. I have been getting quite a lot of publicity recently, but I knew nothing about this article, so was very surprised!”

In the run up to the game against Barcelona, Paul already had three television interviews lined up and was expecting more on match day.

It all seems a far cry from how the British media treat our profession and, on top of a realistic and decent salary, there is total respect for the work that groundstaff abroad carry out.



**The Spanish press have heaped praise on Real Madrid Head Groundsman, Paul Burgess**