**Are you a Groundhopper yourself?**

My friend Lars-Erik and I – we do this as a team – have turned into groundhoppers after we started developing this App. Now we sometimes compete: Who has more grounds? Who has seen more matches with HamKam? This spring we went to München, to Allianz Arena and Garching. We met some German Groundhoppers there. They all knew the App.

**How did you get the idea to develop the App?**

We are some friends who use to travel to watch football once, twice a year. To Manchester, London, Milano, Barcelona. After a while we struggled to remember which we had been to, and when. So we looked for an App to keep record. But since this app didn’t exist, we had to make it ourselves. It all went from there. Lars Erik and I had already made another app called Rockspots, so we were looking for a new project. We could never guess it would grow into this.

**How much time do you spend developing the App? Is it a full-time Job?**

It’s not our day job. But definitely a full-time job. It takes every single spare moment we have. Every day. Developing, bug fixing, mail answering, logo adding, ground images uploading, fixtures and results. It can never really be perfect enough. And we do most of this manually.

**How big is the team around the App?**

Well it’s me and my friend Lars-Erik. But we have grown close with contributors all over the world, in England, Germany, Netherlands, Brazil, Italy... They inform us when logos are changed, grounds have changed, matches have been moved, etc. We have lots of eyes all over the world. That keeps the App updated. We try to work as personal and as close as possible to our users and collaborators.

**How did the App develop?**

It has been developing for 5 years now. From the simple idea of “What ground have you been to and not been to?” The simple graphic idea is still there - that the ground is lit up when you have been there and not lit, when you have not been there. That’s the main structure. And then we decided to build a database of results and fixtures. Then we got the idea that the users could find a match nearby with the app. I think that was our breakthrough, that this app could actually be a tool and not just an Excel-sheet. And when we had that, you could also check-in at the match.

And then we thought; how about adding 10.000 more grounds and clubs and leagues and logos and photos and Twitter accounts. And of course, all the league updates. Every summer. We do that manually. So there goes another summer holiday. It has grown over our heads. We have created a monster (laughing).

**How many hours a week do you spend for the App?**

It’s not the same every week. But the average is 2-3 hours a day. It could be like 20 hours a week. In busier weeks it could be 40 or 50 hours.

**What type of work needs the most time?**

For Lars-Erik it is the technical stuff, programming. And between seasons it is the league updates. We both do that. And the content part. Answering the mails, messages and tweets. We receive a lot of photos and ground requests. Adding takes time. Not adding takes time ,too. Explaining (and discussing) why we can’t add an requested ground. At the moment the app can’t handle a larger amount of new grounds in Germany. It creates time-outs on some smartphones, causing the app to crash. And we really try to get around that, because we hate to say “No!”, when Groundhoppers have requests for new grounds in the App. Because that’s what the App is about: A lot of grounds. And there are still plenty of nice grounds that deserve a place in the App.

**Do you plan new features?**

Plenty! The handiest tool for all football fans should become even handier. It should play a vital part in the planning process. And we want to develop the social part of the app, uploading of your own photos and so on.

**User-question: What do you think about a chat function in the App?**

This is one of the main features we would love to develop into. It would – NO IT WILL - be a nice Add-On when you can get in contact with other Groundhoppers on the ground, and chat with your friends when they check in. And adding your own photos. So you can see lots of photos of the ground. That would be a nice development.

**How far have you already gone with these ideas? Are you already working on it?**

Basically we’re almost ready. We just need to get the app to work with a larger amount of grounds. Now that the league updates are ready, we can be more focused on this. But I can’t give you guys a certain date when we come around with these new features. We would love this to happen as much as you do.

**User Tobias Winterrott: What databases do you use to feed the App with informations?**

I understand the questions but it’s a various. But we don’t want to go into these details.

**Is that a secret?**

No it’s not a secret. But we like to focus on descending the App. And hopefully people are happy with what they get.

**Userquestion BuhTzi: What is the best way to communicate with you? eMail? Facebook? What language**?

The best would be eMail in English. I can read Deutsch ganz gut, but prefer to answer in English. Lars-Erik has been living in Germany, and speaks German fluently. But he is also busy on developing the App. I handle more of the daily contact with the users. Mainly I do this via eMail. But also Twitter and Facebook. But the number of people contacting us is growing, so I have to say I’m sorry to all the people who have not gotten an answer yet. I try to answer everyone, but they might have to wait. Especially during busy periods, like the summer.

**User Mark Zwing: Which criteria exist, that an indicated Ground will be added to the App?**

There you go. The mother of all questions. Depending on the country. Again – I have to say I’m sorry to the German users. They are our biggest group of users. We have respect for every ground that the people wish to be added. But unfortunately we have this capacity issue in some countries like Germany, and try to keep it down to grounds somehow connected to clubs we have in our leagues.

Generally, there are no perfect answer. You cannot say, it has to be a stand of a certain size, or there has to be played a huge game there, or they have to serve beer and bratwurst. Real turf or artificial turf? There are big teams using small grounds, and there are small clubs using big fields. What we try to restrict is, that if there are two grounds connected - one with artificial turf and one with grass, we don’t add both but handle the complex as one. I have to explain that daily to the users. There is really not one criterion. If a team has a lot of followers we want to have all the grounds they are playing on. Also friendlies, testimonials, cup games and so on.

**User Manuel Sponheimer: Is there a number of grounds included in the App at the Moment?**

Finally a simple question: 12.000.

**How many people use the App?**

We don’t have an exact number. We have been No 1 in the App Store Sports in several countries, like Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Argentina, Uruguay, Portugal, Norway, Sweden and Czech Republic. And we are No 2 in England at the moment. The numbers keep growing fast, especially in Germany.

**User: Jean-Christoph de Aranjo: Will the 7th League Grounds in Germany be added?**

There you have that silly ground capacity issue again. Add that to another one; our personal capacity. Since this is a job we do manually. And so far as a hobby. A 7th level simply would be too much for us. We could only do this if this was our main-job. Then we would have to look at the economy in this.

**User-Question Mike Berg: When a new stadium is built on the area of an old one? When does a ground count as new?**

Another good question well known to us. We have a lot of discussions whether a ground is brand new, new or just quite new. Some cases are clear, like Wembley. We might have added two where we should have kept one, and one where we should have split in two. Which cases these are, I’m sure I will be informed by mail over the next few days…