User Analysis

# Challenges autism presents to the users

Autistic people struggle to understand expressions of speech; for example, “curiosity killed the cat”. This can be confusing to autistic people. This also applies to jokes and sarcasm, to an extent paralinguistic features like intonation can prove difficult for an autistic person to understand. Processing language is a major setback for autistic people.

Another problem is that autistic people struggle to visualise pretend things. Similarly, focus can be a problem for people with autism, and losing focus after a short period of time can make social interaction difficult.

# Challenges autism presents during play

People with autism prefer to play alone, for example, individual games such as golf are much more appealing than team sports such as football. Problems can occur during play between autistic and non-autistic people, as autism can cause problems in communication. During play, autistic people can struggle to visualise imaginary or pretend things. This can make games that require an element of imagination particularly problematic. The flow of the game can suffer due to lapses in focus and concentration, or the inability to comprehend the imagination-intensive parts of the game. A lack of empathy for other people can affect decisions during play, having an impact on play sessions with non-autistic colleagues. A poor awareness of things such as danger can leave games which require strategy or thought to be unenjoyable for autistic children.

Some games can cause great difficulty between autistic and non-autistic players. Autistic people perceive the world differently, and this can have a big impact on games which do not follow a simple