

RUBB constructed the leisure building on land adjacent to the Newcastle United Indoor Football Centre, featuring another of its structures.

At 47m wide x 66m in length with sidewalls of 8.5m, the facility comprises one large sporting arena that can be quickly divided by netting into four separate courts, allowing the space to be used for a range of different activities. The Blue Flames Sporting Club is home to the Tyne and Wear

Netball Association and as well as running a regional netball league the centre is used by a range of tennis and cricket clubs, with the indoor cricket nets providing a much needed modern sports resource for the area. It is also used on a regular basis for indoor soccer coaching for children.

Roof design

The club is available to hire by the general public for sports use and for a variety of functions, with the reverse curve roof design creating the space to accommodate

a reception area, fully licensed bar, changing rooms, toilets and treatment facilities within the overall structure.

The reverse curve roof provided a challenging construction problem according to Rubb, which had to ensure a seamless curve on both the steel framework and the PVC cladding. "One of the key features of these indoor facilities is the natural light allowed in through the semi-translucent roof," explains the company. "This natural lighting not only saves on energy costs but also provides a lighter, brighter and more appealing sports activity environment than provided by other structures."

The building comprises a galvanized steel frame with a PVC translucent membrane. Postproduction hot dip galvanizing of all welded components ensures that steel surfaces inside and out are protected from corrosion. The semi-translucent membrane is made from heavy weighted, architectural fabric. Rubb's truss frame system allows for clear span space and high vertical walls to suit many sports activities. The sports buildings can be insulated, heated or air-conditioned.

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A new leisure and conference facility has been created for the Blue Flames Sporting Club at Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Adaptable structure for sport

