



Rubb aims to combine quality with versatility in its sports halls



Hall of fame: Rubb Buildings has built up an impressive CV of sports hall projects over the last four decades

Rubb Buildings has more than 40 years' experience in the design and manufacture of permanent and relocatable fabric engineered buildings. Based in Gateshead in north-east England, the company has carried out numerous projects to design and construct sports halls.

A prime example of the company's work in the sporting sector is the state-of-the-art Meadowbank Sports Arena in Magherafelt, Mid-Ulster. At 70m-wide and 145m long, with sidewalls of 9m, the complex is the largest of its kind in Europe and can cater for an extensive range of indoor and outdoor sports activities. The arena's indoor synthetic surface measures 137m x 70m and provides a consistent playing area where a number of sporting activities can take place simultaneously. The space can be quickly divided by rebound boards, which are removable at court positions. This means it can be converted into a full-sized

hockey/soccer pitch and four mini-pitches, all badminton court-sized. The electrical netting system also allows the court to be expanded so that the full hall can be used. Alternatively, it can accommodate a 300m indoor track, which is complemented with seating for 450 spectators on a first floor gallery.

Rubb also recently undertook a project at the Blue Flames Sporting Club at Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne. The client came to Rubb after viewing the company's sporting complexes at Newcastle United and West Bromwich Albion Football Clubs. Blue Flames' reverse curved roof provided a construction challenge, with Rubb having 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. This natural lighting not only saves on energy costs, but also provides a lighter, brighter and more appealing sports

activity environment than other structures. The 47m-wide x 66m-long Blue Flames Sport and Leisure building was built adjacent to the Newcastle United Indoor Football Centre – another one of Rubb's structures.

Erins Own Lavey GAC in Gulladuff, Northern Ireland, is another example of Rubb's ability to provide effective sporting solutions. This special BVE building features a 35 x 60m sports hall, with high-volume inner walls. Rubb worked closely with McGurk Chartered Architects to deliver a suitable environment for Gaelic football, hurling and camogie competitions.

Challenging project

Rubb has also recently designed and delivered a project at Stourport Sports Club. This proved challenging because of the overhanging eaves and verge features specified by the architects, but working alongside Oakworth (builders/civil engineers), Rubb successfully produced a 42m x 39.5m BVC sports hall.

Rubb was also on hand for a job at Taunton Vale Sports Club. The team designed and manufactured a hi-tech indoor sports hall around the specifications for indoor courts stipulated by England Netball. The company used its expertise to ensure that the 24m x 35m BVE sports hall can also be used for other activities such as badminton, basketball, soccer and hockey.

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