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Rubb Buildings Design Versatility wins Sporting Expertise Acclaim

Established over 40 years ago, the Rubb Group (Great Britain, Norway and the United States) have proven their pedigree for high quality designed and engineered build systems in many locations throughout the world.

In recent years, this expertise has gained an enviable reputation within the Sports Arena/Build System sector. The demand for new and additional Stadia facilities, be they Professional/Academy, Sports Community or College/School, has meant all areas have had to adapt and provide for many external market changes.

Professional teams both in Europe and the United States, either needing to supplement, redevelop or new build their Sports facility, led the move towards indoor facilities. The requirement to maximise practice time and to be 'game ready' was a critical need to insure success in league play with indoor practice facilities being seen to provide an advantage to those teams that had them.

Secondary education institutions, universities, communities and the private sector also recognised the advantage of being able to practice and play in inclement weather. Indoor sports facilities provided real value and allowed greater participation by their constituent groups. The trend toward indoor facilities has been driven by economics and the limitation imposed by traditional structure technology. Professional teams led

the way because they were less constrained by economic concerns and were more open to changes in structure technology.

Pre-engineered steel buildings as well as bricks and mortar have been the traditional answer for sports facility construction. In recent years, however, the use of non-traditional structures has been on the increase. Air supported and frame supported membrane (fabric) structures are gaining wider acceptance as candidates for alternative forms of sports facilities. Frame supported tensioned membrane structures feature a steel or aluminium frame, over which is tensioned an architectural membrane. These structures bring a number of attractive attributes to the sports facility arena.

Rubb Buildings continue to expand their growing reputation in the design and construction of sports halls. The company's successful entry into the market has been based on two key points – the first Rubb's experience in pioneering the design and manufacture of permanent and relocatable buildings over the last 40 years and the second – the quality of Rubb's product itself.

Rubb Buildings frame supported tension membrane structures provide a number of positive features. Each sports building comprises a galvanised steel frame with a PVC semi-translucent membrane. Post production hot dip galvanizing of all welded components insures that steel surfaces inside and out are protected from corrosion – thus the customer is guaranteed low lifetime maintenance, superior structural integrity and enhanced performance. The semi-translucent membrane is made from a high strength architectural fabric, which creates a light and airy interior.

The structures, relocatable or permanent, give the owner a degree of flexibility not found with traditional facilities. The buildings can be easily lengthened or shortened as needs change and readily accept standard door and window treatments. Lighting, heating, ventilation and other mechanical systems readily interface with the framework and membrane. To date, frame supported structures have been installed with free span widths of 270ft (82m), giving sports organisations plenty of space for multiple field sports venues.

Frame supported membrane structures feature enhanced life safety attributes in the event of a fire. The membrane's self-venting properties (heat and smoke) mean less damage to the structure as well as safety for the occupants. Because the membrane is self-venting, fire-fighting personnel can remain safely on the ground and do not have to scale the building to vent the roof.

From an initial cost standpoint large membrane structures are also less costly to acquire than conventional structures. This has opened up the possibility of indoor stadia either supplement to redevelop previous facilities to an even greater number of organisations and institutions.

Rubb have continued to win acclaim and be awarded projects due to their growing portfolio of Sports Stadia achievements.

Professional Football Clubs in the UK, such as Newcastle United, West Bromwich Albion and Soccarena in Durham, are among only a few of the Rubb Group's recent impressive sports project completions.

A new state of the art Meadowbank Sports Arena, at 70m x 145m and with sidewalls of 9m, one of the largest of its kind in Europe, was built by Rubb. Designed to bring sports facilities into the 21st Century, this top regional venue, situated in Magherafelt in the heart of Mid-Ulster now provides the widest range of indoor and outdoor sports activities available.

The arena's indoor synthetic surface measures 137m x 70m and provides a consistent playing surface on which a whole host of sporting activities can take place simultaneously. The space can be quickly divided by use of rebound boards which are removeable at court positions, for example it can cater for a full size hockey/soccer pitch, plus 4 mini-pitches (all 4 badminton court sized). Rubb's sophisticated electrical netting system allows the court to be expanded so that the full hall can be used. Alternatively it can also accommodate an indoor 300m track (flat). All of which are complemented with seating for 450 spectators on a first floor gallery.

Another very specific project was the construction of the Indoor Tennis Centre for Chesterfield Lawn Tennis Club. Based in one of Rubb's BVE buildings, the centre included three full size courts, is 50 metres in length with a 38 metre span and 5.25 sidewalls. The Club had been looking for a covered centre for some time; with a specification formulated by a consultant appointed by the Lawn Tennis Association a tender document was prepared and subsequently Rubb were awarded the contract. In

addition to meeting the LTA specification for ventilation and lighting, and providing all services, the centre has been constructed with steel clad sidewalls, special firewalls and curtain walling. Periphery curtains and dividing nets separate the individual courts. A feature of particular interest is a partially-glazed gable end wall, however the real versatility of the Rubb structure is that it has been built as an extension to the existing Clubhouse, which itself was renovated during construction.

Also York University's state-of-the art sports centre extension has been of great benefit to the University and the community. As part of a massive sports expansion programme at the university, Rubb Buildings were commissioned to construct a high-tech, BVE type building, which has been built on the side of the existing sports centre at the Heslington Lane campus. Measuring 55 metres in length, spanning 40 metres wide and sidewalls of 5 metres high. The hall is fitted out with a high spec dehumidification system, which cuts down on the condensation in cold weather. The multi-purpose building is accessible to the people of York as well as the university's students.

The multi-sports arena is equivalent to three sports halls and also houses a dance studio and a 47 station fitness suite. One of the major benefits of this type of structure is the ability to run a number of different activities simultaneously. The hall can easily and quickly be divided into thirds by demountable rebound boards and netting. Each third can accommodate indoor football, futsal, indoor hockey, netball, basketball, tennis, volleyball, badminton and martial arts.

Outdoors, the new arena offers a 400m, 6 lane synthetic athletics track, facilities for associated field events, sand based soccer and gaelic/rugby pitches, outdoor Astroturf/2 tennis courts, children's play area and pavilion, along with additional car parking. All outdoor facilities are floodlit and offer a secure setting with excellent provision for spectators and visitors.

In addition, other Sports Stadia projects delivered by Rubb in 2009 include new sports facilities in the UK at Taunton Vale and Stourport and also Gulladuff, Northern Ireland.

In the United States, Rubb's associate company, Rubb Inc of Maine, has been equally successful in diversifying its product range of Building Systems for the sports hall market. Recent major contracts have been completed at Portland, Maine for an indoor multi-sports facility; Andover, Massachusetts for indoor horseriding arena; Acton, California for a gymnasium; Brooklyn, New York for another multi sports facility.

The Rubb Organisation, with production facilities in Great Britain, Norway and the United States is recognised as a world leader in the design, development and manufacture of relocatable structures and is quality certified to ISO9001:2000.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

For further information please contact Mr Ray Colby, Sales Manager, Rubb Buildings Ltd., Dukeway, Team Valley Trading Estate, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE11 0QE, UK.

Tel No: (0191) 482 2211 Fax No: (0191) 482 2516

Or you can find us on our website: www.rubb.com

MEDIA CONTACT:

Denise Gibson/Jeff Smith
Stewart Hindmarsh Advertising Ltd., Cedars Lodge, The Cedars, Ashbrooke,
Sunderland, SR2 7TW, UK
Tel No: (0191) 564 0300 Fax No: (0191) 564 0301