



OLYMPIC AND SPORTING STARS: Maeve Kyle (pictured above left) and young athletes (above right)

Rubb arena goes for gold at Irish athletics championships

The impressive Meadowbank Indoor Arena scored top points as the venue for the 2011 Woodie's DIY Irish Juvenile Indoor Championships.

This March saw the championships come to Meadowbank, in Magherafelt, Northern Ireland, for the second time and was met with approval from former Olympians, competitors, coaches and guests alike. More than 1000 athletes competed over March 19th and 20th at the top-class juvenile competition, showcasing their talent in a wide range of running, jumping and throwing events. Boys and girls competed in eight different age categories for national medals and titles.

Pioneering Irish Coach and Athlete Maeve Kyle was full of enthusiasm for the event and its venue. The inspirational octogenarian, of Ballymena and Antrim Athletics Club, has paved the way for Ireland's female sprinters having competed in three Olympic Games and by winning a bronze in the 400m at the 1966 European Indoor Athletics Championships in Dortmund. She also gained 58 Irish caps while competing for Ireland in hockey.

Maeve said: "I love this facility. It is a marvellous indoor sports arena which shows that, with the right surface, both hockey and track events can take place under the same roof. It can be used for a wide range of sports. It has a lovely café, beautiful changing rooms – I like coming here – it has a nice atmosphere.

"There is a track and field outside, so it is great for indoor and outdoor events. I think every province should have one of these. We didn't have anything like this in my day and if we did I would've thought I'd died and gone to Heaven."

John McClaughlin, Chief Executive Officer of Magherafelt District Council, added: "It is very satisfying to see sports associated with different political and religious backgrounds played here side by side.

"We find one of the strongest facets of the building is its versatility. It facilitates a wide range of sports: athletics, tennis, badminton, volleyball, netball and basketball. Its principal use is for soccer and training for Gaelic football and hockey. The facility has obviously raised the profile of the district which at the end of the day is a small, rural area – but Meadowbank Arena is now seen as a regional and national facility."

The event was organised by Athletics Ireland and supported by Magherafelt District Council, Ulster Athletics Council and Rubb Buildings Ltd.

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Building Specifications

- **Span** 70m (229.65ft)
- **Length** 145m (475.7ft)
- **Clear area** 10,150m² (33,399'²)
- **Eaves height** 9m (29.5ft)
- **Frame** Hot Dip Galvanised steel
- **Outer Membrane** White translucent PVC coated polyester fabric with PVDF top layer

Notes to Editors

About Rubb Buildings Ltd

Rubb Buildings Ltd is a world leader in the design and manufacture of custom made relocatable engineered fabric structures.

Highlights include ground-breaking military buildings (aircraft hangars, shelters, storage facilities), specialist sports buildings and structures for a variety of sectors including aviation, ports, construction, bulk storage and environmental (waste and recycling).

All products are designed and manufactured at Rubb's UK plant in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. The company was founded in 1977 and has a proud history of delivering innovative and quality structures to a wide range of clients.

The Rubb Group has plants in the USA, Norway, Poland and China.

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