



▲ On the ball... Gateshead based Rubb Buildings Ltd helped SAFC score a new indoor training facility at the state-of-the-art Academy of Light in Cleaton.

## Academy's new football training facility

RUBB BUILDINGS LTD WAS A KEY PLAYER IN THE TEAM TASKED WITH COMPLETING A NEW INDOOR TRAINING FACILITY FOR SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB.

**Sunderland's stars of the future began using the Rubb training hub at the Academy of Light, Cleaton following the official opening on December 7, 2012.**

Local manufacturing SME Rubb pitched in with Tolent Construction Ltd and architects Red Box Design Group to make SAFC's long awaited training facility plans a reality.

The sports building features Rubb's largest building span width to date at 82.4m.

The facility measures 64m long with sidewalls of 7.75m and a central internal clearance of 10m high.

The structure stands 12.5m high at its apex and comprises a galvanized steel frame, a white PVC clad roof, a large gutter system, a Fullflow syphonic drainage system and four large vent roof cowls along the apex. The translucent roof allows natural daylight to illuminate the interior which includes a full size indoor 3G football pitch.

The sidewalls and gables are constructed with stone filled gabion cages up to 3.8m high with the upper part clad with Larch timber.

A large roller shutter door (7.6m x 3.8m) provides access via the south gable of the building along with three personnel doors.

Two additional personnel doors complete the north gable.

Technical Sales Engineer Ian Mackley secured the project with construction company Tolent and SAFC on Rubb's behalf before his retirement in June 2012.

Rubb General Manager Ian Hindmoor said: "We are delighted to be associated with such a prestigious project in the north east of England.

"This is our largest span building to date and our third training facility for a premier league football club. We are looking forward to seeing our clients use and enjoy their new venue."

Peter Weymes, Facilities Manager at SAFC, commented: "It is fantastic. It is currently being used by the Academy youngsters and has been

described as the best facility at club level in the country. At the launch, Sir Trevor Brooking (the Football Association's Director of Football Development) said such indoor football training facilities are key to the development of young and upcoming players.

"They provide cover and protection for our players when the weather is bad and offer a safe and comfortable environment when training. The steel frame and translucent PVC roof provided by Rubb Buildings Ltd also lets the natural daylight through, promoting the atmosphere of an outdoor environment without players and staff having to contend with the wind, rain and snow.

"Rubb Buildings provided a solution that is bespoke to our requirements, architect's designs and the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. The company's flexibility facilitated changes in the overall facility footprint and height in accordance with planning conditions to ensure the available space was maximised. The team stepped outside their comfort zone in terms of the overall finish of the building, which shows the diversity of the product and service that Rubb provides."



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