

Bespoke training centre

Rubb Buildings helps to deliver the first indoor training facility for Sunderland Association Football Club, which is vital to the development of young talent.



SUNDERLAND Association Football Club's stars of the future have been testing their skills at the club's first indoor training facility.

After years of planning and proposals, the facility was officially opened by the Football Association's director of football development, Trevor Brooking, who said indoor football training facilities are key to the development of young and up and coming players.

Designed by architects Red Box Design Group, the indoor training facility sits sympathetically alongside the vernacular architecture of the academy and is respectful of the site's Green Belt location.

Rubb Buildings worked with the architects and Tolent Construction to deliver the project. 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 measuring 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.

Peter Weymes, facilities manager at Sunderland Association Football Club, described the venue as fantastic. "It is currently being used by the Academy youngsters and has been described as the best facility at club level in the country. It provides cover and protection for our players when the weather is bad and offers a safe and comfortable environment when training. The steel frame and translucent PVC roof 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," he said.

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SPECIFICATION

Type: BVC

Span: 82.4m

Overall Length: 65m

Clear Area: 5356sq m

Eaves Height: 7.7m

Overall Height: 12.2m