

18th December 2023

Friar Park Millennium Centre Wednesbury specify Taraflex® sports flooring from Gerflor.

The Friar Park Millennium Centre in Wednesbury was in dire need of a fast-track refurbishment for their leisure facility. The existing Linoleum was unsafe and not fit for purpose for the various activities that needed to take place in the sports hall for the local community. It was also beyond economical repair and would need to be replaced with an alternative and affordable solution. Gerflor's Taraflex® sports flooring would be specified for this prestigious project.

The client chose Taraflex® Evolution in 'London Light Blue,' thanks to it being extremely durable and hard-wearing, whilst not compromising on delivering the necessary safety and comfort for facility users. Over 300m² of Taraflex® Olympic pedigree sports surface was installed, providing a solution to all the needs for the specific project specification.

Friar Park Millennium Centre was built for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Friar Park neighbourhood, the town of Wednesbury and the wider area of Sandwell. The charity manages, maintains, and develops the community centre to ensure that the building provides a welcoming, accessible, and safe environment for all sections of the community.

The charity that runs the centre aims to be responsive to the changing needs of the community by maximising the use of the recreational facilities which are open to everyone, and by providing activities which promote health and wellbeing, lifelong learning opportunities, economic opportunities, regeneration, and community safety.

The Sports Hall has a multi-purpose mission, this includes providing activities for younger generations such as youth clubs, sports & dance. There are also other services supplied for the locally retired/vulnerable people in community, who wish to participate in other forms of exercise and leisure, as well as holding social networking and entertainment events such as Bingo.

Julie Jones, CEO of Friar Park Millennium Centre commented, "The existing linoleum floor in our sports hall was lifting and not fit for purpose. I wrote a bid to Sport England and was successful, which enabled us to have the renovation work carried out."

Chris Newey, Gerflor Area Sales Manager, West Midlands said at the time, "The Friar Park project came about because the linoleum floor covering that needed replacing, was beyond economical repair and it was becoming a potential hazard and dangerous for the Leisure Facility Users."

Julie Jones, CEO of Friar Park Millennium Centre also added, "When looking at what was available in the market for a sports surface that would meet the stringent requirements of our facility, and when getting the quotes together, Gerflor were timely and professional in their responses. They demonstrated to me well, that the Taraflex sports flooring is world-renowned for its hard-wearing and durability qualities. It was important for the specification, that the chosen indoor sports surface was able to also perform in a multi-purpose hall for the various activities that we hold. The sports flooring would also need to consistently deliver safety and comfort for all our users, regardless of their ages and ability when participating in various sporting and leisure activities in the Leisure Centre. Taraflex meets all these requirements."

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The installation element of the Friar Park project was undertaken by Birmingham-based Pinnacle Flooring Ltd, who are an accredited flooring specialist in commercial flooring and hygienic wall cladding. Working directly with leading manufacturers, they know the market inside out to bring customers a range of flooring solutions for a vast range of projects. With a wealth of experience across a wide range of sectors such as school flooring and sports flooring, they have an unrivalled reputation amongst their clients for quality, trust, and expertise.

Commenting on the Friar Park installation Aaron Jennings, Estimating Manager, Pinnacle Flooring said, "The project came about as we have an exceptionally good working relationship with Gerflor, and we are proud to have installed Taraflex in many sites across the UK. We are familiar with the product range and its' ease of install. The installation itself took only about one week using two of our highly experienced fitters."

On specification and specific challenges Aaron Jennings went on to further comment, "As on most refurbishment projects, there is always uncertainty with floor preparation, which can always bring a challenge. However, on this occasion there were no hiccups, and everything went according to the plan."

Aaron Jennings finally said, "Our client 'Friar Park Millennium Centre' are extremely delighted with the final result. The installation of Gerflor's Taraflex sports flooring has surpassed the end users' expectations. We would certainly specify Gerflor products on future projects due their high levels of quality and extreme durability."

Chris Newey concluded. "The customer is really pleased with their new Taraflex sports floor, which has totally transformed the hall giving it a fresh and contemporary look that will last for many years to come."

Julie Jones, CEO of Friar Park Millennium Centre, ended by saying, "This iconic refurbishment was absolutely necessary for all the users of the facility today and also the future generations of tomorrow. We are confident that our choice in selecting Gerflor's Taraflex sports flooring will future proof our building interiors and we would definitely specify Gerflor products for other future projects."

Taraflex indoor sports surfaces overview

Taraflex® sports flooring has been fitted at every Olympic Games since 1976. Approved by many National and International governing bodies as a world class sports surface, it is also widely installed within the education, community, leisure, health, and fitness sectors. Taraflex® is ideal for new build projects and refurbishments and is extremely durable and cost effective to maintain. Over 6 million pupils everyday enjoy the benefits of Taraflex® sports flooring as it delivers a versatile range that can be used for various multi-specialist applications.

Taraflex® Evolution is available in 17 all over colours and 4 wood-effect designs as standard, with an addition of 110 solid colour options available. The improved Taraflex® Evolution product is now even safer, better performing and offers even more protection than before. The greater protection has been obtained thanks to a total re-engineering of the CXP-HD™ foam technology that provides cushioning for exercise and sports play. Gerflor's Taraflex® Evolution continues to be the market benchmark in sports floors with outstanding durability, improved comfort and protection offering a P1 category shock absorbency (25% to 35%) and a new 7.5mm thickness.

Taraflex® Evolution offers maximum hygiene with bacteriostatic and a fungistatic treatment and comes with the Triple Action ProtecSol® surface treatment which provides easy maintenance, friction protection and 'intelligent' sliding coefficient. The surface reinforcement which delivers durability and abrasion resistance is provided by a unique D-Max fibreglass grid. Taraflex® sports floorings are available with a complete range of shock absorption P1/P2/P3 ratings, so that the right solution can be specified every time, whether it is for exercise or play or both and for all ages and ability.

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The family of Taraflex® sports floorings are sustainable solutions thanks to their unique product construction:

Indoor air quality - Meeting ISO 16000 standards, some of the lowest VOC emissions on the market.

Energy saving - A colour selection with high light reflectance values assists with lighting energy saving.

Reduced maintenance costs – the ProtecSol® surface treatment is the most durable on the market. It ensures minimal maintenance and exceptional sustainability of the product.

Proactive post manufacturing waste management - Use of recycled content in product design and the PVC is also 100% recyclable.

A second life programme for post installation waste - Re-use of post installation waste and redundant materials is possible.

Selected and responsible raw materials - NO heavy metal, NO solvent, NO formaldehyde, NO substance potentially subject to REACH* restrictions.

*REACH is the European regulation on registering, assessing, and authorising chemical products within the European Union.

Learn more about Gerflor solutions, ask for a free sample or contact us to speak to a specialist today by calling 01625 428 922, emailing contractuk@gerflor.com, or visiting gerflor.co.uk for the latest innovations.

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