

18th January 2023

Taraflex® triumph for Gerflor at Axminster Leisure Centre.

Specifying and installing 650m² of Gerflor's world class Taraflex® Performance vinyl sports flooring in 'Light Cherry' would turn out to be a pivotal decision for Axminster Leisure Centre in East Devon. The refurbishment project to replace the existing flooring in their main sports hall would yield spectacular results for both the operators of the facility and the end users. The indoor sports surface solution that was specified would need to be of the utmost quality and readily available, considering how short the timescales were for the project and would need to be competitively priced for the funds available for this iconic renovation.

Axminster Leisure Centre is part of the LED Community Leisure group, which is run as a charitable trust with 12 facilities across East Devon. LED's aims are to provide facilities for recreation, sport, and cultural pursuits which are of the maximum benefit to the community and accessible to all – improving physical and mental health, building stronger communities, and enabling people to reach their full potential.

A recent study showed that the social value generated across LED sites was worth a total of £8.9million, with £678,000 coming from Axminster Leisure Centre alone. So, having a main sports hall that can really deliver in terms of performance forms part of the overall picture!

Chris Pursey, Gerflor Area Sales Manager at the time, Southwest & Channel Islands commented, "East Devon Council contacted Gerflor for advice on replacement sports flooring due to the existing sheet rubber floor failing. Steve Parker was our main point of contact, as he is a Surveyor at East Devon Council. Leisure East Devon (LED) are the Leisure Trust that runs a number of similar sites for East Devon Council, and they have specified Taraflex® on other sites, so they had full confidence in our systems. We also introduced Biddle Sport for the line marking element of the project and they also did an outstanding job."

On installation Chris Pursey said, "There were some critical subfloor issues to be resolved and we introduced Ardex who provided a specification for the preparation including smoothing compounds and adhesive. This gave peace of mind to the end user as they had a full specification from both Gerflor and Ardex."

The installation of the Gerflor Taraflex® Performance flooring by Plymouth-based Roberts Flooring would need to be of the highest quality to meet the exacting standards set by East Devon Council.

Roberts Flooring was founded in 1989 and has gained an enviable reputation for quality, expertise, and extensive knowledge of the flooring trade. As a long-established company, they can advise and source the best products. Their friendly team of experienced CSCS approved fitters are committed to customer care and are members of the Contract Flooring Association providing a free estimating and advice service.

Dave Moran, Managing Director, Roberts Flooring said, "The project was issued through a Main Contractor (Jones Group) direct from the Council. The Gerflor Taraflex® sports flooring was specified as part of our tender documents, Gerflor had already been contacted by the council to put forward the best system."

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Commenting on the more challenging aspects of the installation Dave Moran went on to say, “The sports hall had numerous historical changes in floor coverings, that made the uplift extremely hard work and challenging for our guys. In addition to this, there was the heat wave, our installation team had to work in an environment with most days topping 30 degrees centigrade. The project itself presented several challenges, as well as the extreme weather (heat), other requirements such as large amounts of heavy material removal and labour shortages through the summer holiday period, which is always very busy, also potentially could have impacted on the delivery of this critical project. Despite this, our team really pulled it all together and showed great commitment, through their hard work and efforts from the start to finish of the project and it really does show in the end result.”

On final outcomes Dave Moran went on to comment, “We are extremely delighted with the end finish. The project had the potential to be very challenging also due to the unknown condition of the asphalt subbase which if found to be in poor condition, would have required a complete removal and reinstatement of a more modern subbase system, this would have put a massive strain on the programme. Luckily, the existing asphalt screed was in good condition with only a couple minor cracks repaired by the Jones Group.”

Steve Parker, Area Building Surveyor, East Devon District Council said, “Blisters had formed in the previous rubber-based floor covering which could potentially cause trips and falls. This was a health and safety concern for Leisure East Devon who manage the leisure centre.” On specification Steve Parker went on to comment, “I found an advertisement for Gerflor in a building products construction magazine which recommended Taraflex® for sports hall floors.”

On the performance of the new Gerflor Taraflex® sports floor Steve Parker said, “Leisure East Devon have recently commented that the new Taraflex® floor is ‘outstanding and first class’ and ‘much nicer than what they had before. At East Devon District Council, we are also extremely pleased with the new Olympic pedigree Taraflex® sports flooring.”

In conclusion Steve Parker finally commented, “I’d like to thank Chris Pursey from Gerflor for his helpful specification advice and support throughout this project. We would definitely specify Gerflor flooring products again.”

Dave Moran ended by saying, “Although this project already had Gerflor specified, we have carried out several sports floor installations using Gerflor products, one of which included Torquay Grammar School for Boys, this project had both Roberts Flooring and Gerflor nominated in the CFJ Flooring Awards in 2020. I believe that the client and end users are overjoyed with the new Gerflor Taraflex® sports floor.”

Product overview of Taraflex® Performance

Taraflex® Performance is a synthetic indoor sports flooring that can be specified for a wide range of sports applications, in a variety of sectors. It delivers optimal safety, comfort, and performance for users, as well as being available in an extensive choice of vibrant designs, making it the ideal choice for a host of locations. Taraflex® Performance is perfectly suited for a variety of applications, including most sporting and leisure activities, and is also a popular choice for sports halls in education and leisure buildings, as well as the go to preferred option for many prestigious elite and elite sporting events. In fact, Taraflex® sports flooring has been fitted at every Olympic Games since 1976 and is approved by many National and International governing bodies as a world class sports surface.

Taraflex® Performance easily meets the rigorous demands of a vast array of sports activities, it provides excellent coefficient of friction, this means twists, turns, stops/starts can be carried out without the fear of slipping or gripping and subsequent injuries from physical activity. The shock absorption qualities of Taraflex® Performance, also helps players gain even more enjoyment from sport. It offers a P2 category shock absorbency of 35% to 45%. Taraflex® Performance is available in 18 colours and 4 wood-effect designs as standard, with an addition of 110 solid colour options available.

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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® is ideal for new build projects and refurbishments and is extremely durable and cost effective to maintain. The Triple Action ProtecSol® surface treatment ensures that no polish is ever required for the lifetime of the floor, it also saves on both water and energy consumption, as part of a cleaning and maintenance regime, excellent news for the planet and future generations. Taraflex® is manufactured with a minimum of 30% recycled vinyl content and is also 100% recyclable.

Taraflex® meets the EN 14904 Standard, which is the minimum performance requirements to be met by indoor sports floors. Its objective is to draw attention to the necessity of installing safe and comfortable floors that will reduce the risk of injuries. With a complete range of outstanding sports surfaces that can meet specification requirements for compliance with P1/P2/P3 shock absorption Taraflex® sports floorings are perfect for delivering optimal safety and protection for users, regardless of their age and sporting ability.

The combination of D-Max™/D-Max™+, CXP™HD foam, ensures that Taraflex® sports floorings are durable, high-performing and stand the test of time. The exclusive Taraflex® technology ensures that the sports floors are longer-lasting ...a massive boon, when long-term planning and budgeting are perceived as being two key considerations for specifiers.

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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