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Gerflor provides world class playing surface and cash savings

Abbey Park is a thriving badminton club with 350 members, including some playing to county and national standard.

But despite the club's popularity, its management committee was facing a long term headache; the gradual decline of the traditional wooden playing surface, which had become slippery, hard and uncomfortable for players.

At the same time as its deterioration, the surface was costing an increasing amount to maintain.

Committee member Dave Wilkinson said: "The scheduled maintenance for our existing sprung maple floor was beginning to cost somewhere between £6,000 and £7,000 every time we had it done, which was every three or four years.

"Therefore over the next 20 years, the maintenance of the existing floor would have cost the club somewhere in the region of £30,000 to £40,000, which is why we considered more than the 'headline' price when we came to a decision for a replacement."

After evaluating the options, the club chose Gerflor's Taraflex™ Sport M Evolution as the solution. Available in 17 colours and two wooden designs, it offers P1 category shock absorption and meets EN 14904 Standard for indoor sports surfaces.

The club also opted for Gerflor's Eco-Fit™ System, an innovation ideal for renovation work on dry surfaces. The free-floating system can be laid over existing surfaces, reducing installation costs and the length of time the facility is closed for.

Taraflex™ is the preferred surface of Badminton England and is on the approved list of the World Badminton Federation and Abbey Park's club coach Alex Marritt can see why. He said: "Apart from the quality of the playing surface, the hall has excellent fit and finish, which gives the club a real 'wow' factor and I have received endless compliments on the club's revamp as a whole."

Mr Wilkinson added: "The old floor was also affected by atmospheric conditions and at certain times was very slippery, making it a health hazard. The new floor is not slippery at all. Additionally, the Taraflex™ is much better to play on and it looks fantastic."

The eye-catching appearance, low maintenance and improved performance has another tangible benefit. Mr Wilkinson said: "It has attracted new club members and the additional income from membership was factored in to the equation when considering the affordability of the new floor."

As well as the endorsements from badminton's ruling bodies, Taraflex Sports Flooring has received 'approved' and 'preferred' status from more national and international sports federations than any other supplier.

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