

27th October 2025

Headingley Cricket Ground 'bowled over' with Gerflor's Taraflex® Performance SL Sports Flooring!

Headingley Cricket Ground has been home to The Yorkshire County Cricket Club (YCCC) since 1890 and has hosted Test Matches since 1899. The world-renowned stadium is one of the few grounds in the world to feature two international venues on one site.

When Headingley required a major refurbishment of their indoor cricket training facilities, the design team led by GCP Chartered Architects introduced Gerflor, the international flooring expert, to deliver the ideal sports floorcovering solution for this critical and much needed facility upgrade. Taraflex® Performance SL (Sustainable Looselay) Olympic pedigree sports flooring was specified on this iconic project. The renovation was completed ahead of the England vs India Test series to deliver performance, precision, and pace thanks to the innovative looselay solution, which reduced installation times and cost on site.

Commenting on the project, Wayne Andrews, Gerflor Key Account Manager for Sport and Education said, "This highly prestigious project came to us via The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and their longstanding advisor GCP Chartered Architects. The Taraflex Performance SL flooring that was installed was the natural choice for Headingley, as it is approved by the ECB and meets their rigorous requirements on performance. They were seeking a world class sports surface that would ensure players can perform at their best while staying protected."

Taraflex Performance SL can withstand high impact ball bounce, support quick movement and repeated use, whilst keeping athletes safe and comfortable with all the benefits of:

- True and consistent ball bounce, essential for realistic play and skill development
- Excellent shock absorption, reducing stress on joints during batting, bowling, and fielding drills
- Durable and high-performance surface, built to handle intensive play and heavy use across all levels

To meet the stringent criteria set by both YCCC and the ECB, the installation of the new Taraflex® Performance SL vinyl sports floor needed to be both innovative and completed to a very high standard. Established in 2008, Durant Cricket specialises in the design, manufacture, and installation of cricket facilities including scoreboards, ground equipment, non-turf pitches, and netting systems.

All installations are carried out by their expert in-house team, managing projects from planning through to completion.

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Cristian Durant, Owner, and Managing Director explained, “This project was delivered on behalf of Construction North Group Ltd CNG and GCP Chartered Architects. Our role focused on surfacing and safety within the stadium’s high-performance zones. The programme began with over 800 m² of sub-floor remediation, including extensive grinding and profiling to create an optimal base for new finishes. It was critical to get this stage right, ensuring the surfaces would perform to elite standards over time.”

Inside the indoor training facility, Durant installed 351 m² of ECB-approved Gerflor Taraflex® Performance SL in ‘Mint Green’, a durable and striking option for cricket training and was complemented with 153 m² of ‘Clay’. Taraflex® Performance is also available as a fast track loose lay solution, and with it being specified in this format for the project, no adhesives were required on site, which simplified the process and significantly reduced installation time and cost.

Cristian Durant went on to add, “As a finishing touch, we marked out fresh crease lines, making the space fully compliant and match-prep ready. These upgrades don’t just modernise the space, they support a broader health and safety strategy by aligning with the latest ECB technical guidance.”

The colour scheme was developed by GCP Chartered Architects’ Matt Bonney with specialist input from YCCC coaching staff and the ECB. GCP Chartered Architects have worked with the ECB for over 15 years setting the standard for indoor training facilities, which include the development of design guidance. The goal with this project was to deliver the most inclusive flooring solution in the country.

This was achieved by testing the contrast of 17 colour options against the red, white, and pink ball and with consideration given to the three most common forms of colour-blindness. The testing process culminated with a site review at the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club Bristol Cricket Centre indoor training facility, also remodelled and refurbished by GCP in 2019, demonstrating performance under similar LED-ECB compliant lighting.

Matt Bonney, Project Architect and Sustainability Lead at GCP Chartered Architects, explained that “Health and safety are primary concerns for the ECB within indoor cricket centres. From considering LED light flicker to material reflectivity, being able to track a ball travelling at 90 mph is critical. Historically, players with red/green colour blindness have had difficulty picking up the red ball on a green floor. Through analysis of the Gerflor colour range we could ensure that the Headingley facility achieves the highest standards for all users.”

Headingley is no stranger to iconic cricket moments, such as the dramatic 1981 Ashes comeback when England, led by Ian Botham and Bob Willis, overturned 500/1 odds to beat Australia. This legacy, combined with its modern facilities, cements its reputation as one of the most famous cricket grounds in the world.

Wayne Andrews concluded, “The client is extremely pleased with both the performance and the aesthetics of the Taraflex Performance SL sports flooring that was installed at Headingley Cricket Club. It’s worth noting that this facility is where the England Cricket Team also train. Being specified for this elite training venue underscores the speed, resilience, and high-performance standards that Gerflor sports flooring consistently deliver.”

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Cristian Durant ended by saying, "It was an honour to help raise the already high standards at such a prestigious venue and to deliver it on time for a historic Test series. We are proud to work in collaboration with Gerflor and GCP Chartered Architects and specify Taraflex sports floorings, thanks to their sporting surfaces being of exceptional quality and their reliability when it comes to performance for cricket play and other sporting applications."

To prove compliance with ECB standards, GCP commissioned Labosport, international testing consultancy via the main contractor CNG.

Supporting Information

Gerflor Company Overview

Gerflor is a leading manufacturer of contract interior flooring solutions, offering vinyl, linoleum, carpet, and rubber options. Their products are designed to enhance safety, accessibility, and sustainability across sports, leisure, and education environments.

Overview of Gerflor products installed at Headingley Cricket Ground

Taraflex® Performance SL

A new member to the Taraflex® Olympic pedigree sports flooring family, a sustainable choice down to its unique sustainable attributes including its product construction, recycled content, ease with which it can be reused and recycled at end of life, as well as reduced cleaning and maintenance requirements for the lifetime of the floor. The Taraflex® range of products continue to be a popular choice for Community Centres, Sports, and Leisure facilities, as well as Education Sports Halls across the UK, Republic of Ireland and worldwide. Taraflex® is the Name Under the Game... It's where Champions Begin, Learn, Train, and Play.

Environmental Commitment

Taraflex® Performance SL combines sustainability with high-quality standards. Its adhesive-free installation eliminates the need for glues, improving indoor air quality and laying comfort while reducing installation time. The flooring's P2 category ensures safety and performance, making it ideal for clubs, competitions, and educational facilities.

Sustainable Design

Crafted with eco-friendly materials, Taraflex® SL features textile fibres made from recycled plastic bottles. Easy to install and remove with Tarafix® SL holding strips, it can be reused or recycled. Manufactured in Europe with a low CO2 footprint, it meets stringent environmental standards, including 100% REACH compliance and formaldehyde-free composition.

Unmatched Quality and Performance

Taraflex® Performance SL delivers superior quality and performance, comparable to traditionally adhered Taraflex® flooring. Its reinforced textile backing and Tarafix® SL strips ensure exceptional durability and dimensional stability, avoiding common issues like inflations and extra thickness.

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Time-Saving Benefits

With a 25% reduction in installation time compared to adhered installations, Taraflex® Performance SL saves time and ensures high-quality performance durability. At the end of its lifecycle, the flooring can be reused or recycled, preserving the slab for future use.

Versatile Application

With a legacy of use in every Olympic Games since 1976, Taraflex® is trusted by national and international governing bodies for its world-class quality. Ideal for new builds and refurbishments, it offers exceptional durability and cost-effectiveness for various sports and leisure applications.

Hygienic and Safe

Treated with ProtecSol®, Taraflex® ensures easy maintenance, anti-friction burn, and optimal slide/grip. Bacteriostatic and fungistatic treatment enhances hygiene, making it suitable for all ages and abilities.

Overall Taraflex sports flooring range summary

Taraflex® sports flooring has a long-standing legacy, having been fitted at every Olympic Games since 1976. Recognised and approved by numerous National and International governing bodies as a world-class indoor sports surface, it is also extensively utilised within the education, community, leisure, health, and fitness sectors.

Ideal for both new build projects and refurbishments, Taraflex® boasts exceptional durability and cost-effectiveness in maintenance. Over six million children benefit from Taraflex® sports flooring every day, enjoying its versatility for various multi-specialist sports and leisure applications.

With a complete range of shock absorption P1/P2/P3, Taraflex® sports floors from Gerflor, deliver the right solution every time whether it is for exercise or play for all ages and ability.

It's noteworthy that Gerflor offers a diverse range of sports flooring solutions beyond the Taraflex® range. With first-class leading sub-constructions for increased shock absorption or linoleum playing surfaces such as the DLW Sports range, there is no facility that cannot be improved with the introduction of a sports surface from Gerflor.

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.

- END -

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