

Seicom gives top Rumanian sporters a treat

Sports complex in Rumania gets transportable floor

Many large sports centres are becoming more and more versatile. They are being used not only for sports, but also to accommodate events, meetings, and conferences. This may seem an unlikely combination at first, if only because sports floors are subjected to extremely specific demands. However, this apparent problem has been solved in masterly fashion by means of a transportable sports floor which Seicom has developed for the Antonio Alexe Sports Centre in Oradea, Rumania. This sports centre can now be transformed into a meeting room in no time at all.

Versatile infrastructure

Sports complexes are increasingly becoming more versatile, especially when they are built by order of some form of government agency. The accommodation has to be suitable for different activities, partly to save space and partly for economic reasons. This is quite logical and we often see existing sports accommodation used to house festivals, concerts, and conferences, whilst, on the other hand, existing event venues can be converted to accommodate sports events. In view of such versatile demands, it is undoubtedly the sports floor which causes the most groans. Elsewhere in this edition, there is a detailed account of the requirements which sports floors have to meet. That article makes it quite

clear that not all floors are suitable for any and every sport. For example, it would be completely unthinkable to organise a dance on an expensive sports floor which should normally be trodden on only by those wearing suitable footwear. The solution? A mobile floor, of course, but that is easier said than done. One essential expectation is that it must be possible to fit such a floor and dismantle it again in a very short space of time. To meet this requirement, Seicom has developed the 'transportable Bormio wooden floor panels', a fine specimen of wooden floor artistry.

The transportable sports floor

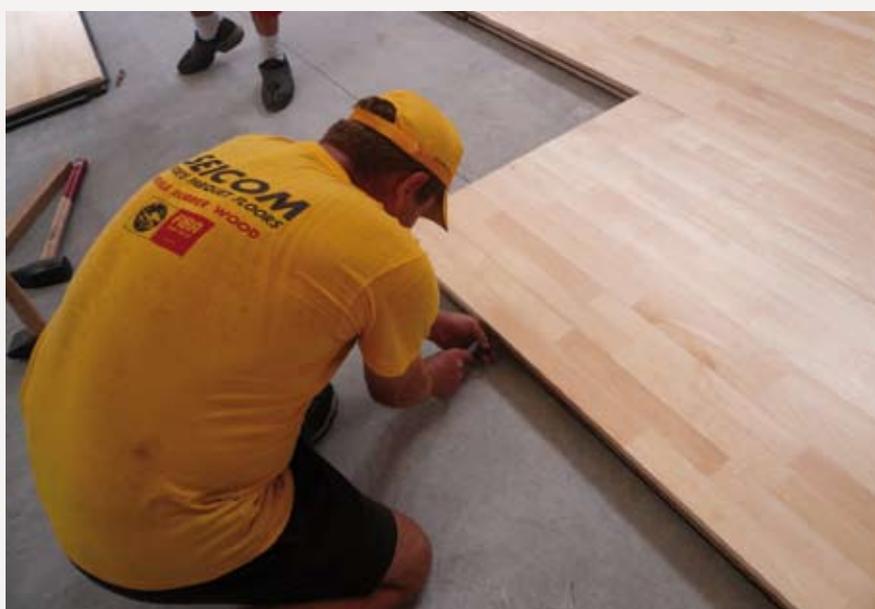
These Bormio wooden flooring sections have been used, for example, in the Oaka

Arena where Italy played the basketball final against Argentina at the Olympic Games of 2004. Since then, this sports floor has been re-examined and improved constantly by the Seicom engineers. Technically, these floors constitute a fine specimen of human ingenuity. The sort of wood used for the panels is hevea rubber wood. This light, creamy coloured sort of wood comes mainly from South-East Asia and is very often used to make toys. The scientific name for 'rubber wood' is 'Hevea Brasiliensis'. The panels used to produce this sports floor are 22mm thick and they are joined to each other by a metal locking system. It usually takes no more than 4 hours to fit a normal 600m² basketball floor. The floor in the Oradea Sports Centre was completed in 12 hours.

Technical details

As we have already said, this 'system floor' is the result of years of expertise and improvements by the Seicom engineers. As regards versatility and durability, the Bormio panels score very highly.





Seicom conquers Europe

Seicom is an Italian company from Sondrio. Ever since the company was formed, it has specialised in manufacturing and fitting wooden floors, for which only top quality solid wood is used. Seicom has a whole shopping list of satisfied clients. The company enjoys an excellent reputation and is renowned for its innovative products. The health, safety, and comfort of sporters are absolutely primary concerns in the quest for better floors. It is therefore no surprise to learn that Seicom has been an official partner of FIBA since 1966. Nowadays, Seicom has dealers in various Central and Eastern European countries, including Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Russia, Rumania, and Serbia.

Oradea/ Rumania

Oradea ("Nagyvarad" in Hungarian) is a city in the province of Bihor, in Western Transylvania. Oradea lies 7.5 miles (12km) from the Hungarian border and in July 1997 its population was about 221,000. The city lies on the River Crisul Repede and is the capital of the province of Bihor. It is an important economic, social, and cultural centre. It has some industry (chemical-machinery construction), a new technical university, and attracts some tourism (the Baile Felix spa resort is situated nearby).

Fitting

The most important element of this transportable floor is the connecting element (locking system) which joins the panels together. This system facilitates a perfect joint in no time at all. As soon as the panels are laid next to each other, all you have to do is give the locking system half a twist using the key specially provided for this purpose. Fitting such a floor into the ground is not difficult. However, so that nothing is left to chance, Seicom provides specially trained fitters in various countries (e.g. Hungary and Rumania). These fitters operate under the supervision of Italian technicians who make site visits to check that the floors are fitted perfectly and also to ensure that the rules of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) are observed in full. In the case of Oradea, the work was supervised by Aldo Cammarata from Seicom. No fewer than 1100 panels were joined together to construct the floor in Oradea.

A durable floor

When the floor had been fastened together, the basketball court lines were applied using a waterborne polyurethane paint. This paint has been developed by Seicom in collaboration with an Italian company which specialises in waterborne paints. The paint is top quality. It is clear that the floor in Oradea will enjoy a very long lifespan. Its thickness of 22mm means that it can be lightly sanded on a very frequent basis and completely renewed each time.

