



## Creating a World-Class New Zealand Sports Centre on a Community Budget

The Selwyn District has seen the highest population growth in New Zealand over the last 10 years, and this drove the need for a major sport and recreation facility for the growing population. The timing of the global pandemic further highlighted the need for community-based wellness activities to improve peoples' physical, mental, and emotional health. Thankfully, the Selwyn District Council, through Major Projects Manager and ex New Zealand Cricket representative, John Reid, had undertaken an ambitious project several years earlier to build a world-class sports and recreation centre twenty minutes north of Christchurch.

### Bringing Together Fitness, Function, and Fun

Working on a fixed budget of only 21 million NZ dollars (about 14 million USD, 17 million EUR), Reid and the council developed a lofty vision for a facility that would include:

- Four full-size wooden courts
- Four polyurethane courts
- A 240-meter walking track
- A fitness room with kitchen
- A multipurpose room
- Tuckshop with full kitchen
- An administration area
- A spin suite with space
- A Lü Uno® interactive wall
- Administrative offices
- Sports House
- Changing rooms/bathrooms

In addition to providing the space for a wide variety of sporting activities, Reid and his team knew the centre would also play host to a monthly farmers' market, a regional car and motorcycle show, and an assortment of other community meetings and events.

### Designing a Successful Facility from the Floors Up

Combining this long list of disparate requirements with the already limited budget meant that the building's design and materials would need to focus more on functionality and durability than on appearance, especially when it came to the flooring systems. With up



Image courtesy of Chris Dennett, Action Floors

Flooring Contractor: Action Floors,  
New Zealand

“ Success is all about relationships. On this project, everyone worked together to achieve the end goal rather than just trying to make money. And we're all pretty proud of the result. ”

-Chris Dennett,  
Action Floors

## PROJECT PROFILE: SELWYN SPORTS CENTRE



to a quarter-million annual visitors expected, wear and tear would play a significant role in the floors' life expectancy and long-term performance. In addition, the facility would be a showpiece for the community and potentially host nationally streamed sporting events, so visual appeal remained a critical design consideration.

Iain Ansell, business development manager of Apollo Projects, the council's primary contractor for the centre's construction, knew that key to the project's success was determining the best flooring solutions for each space and then designing the building around them.

The design team knew that a roller hockey surface like Herculan RH was the right way to go for the four synthetic-floored courts because it's economical, tough, and easy to clean. The affordability of the Herculan products contributed to an additional, unexpected benefit: the cost savings allowed for the addition of an elevated two-lane walking track surrounding the four timber courts. Herculan MF (Multi-Function) Blue was the right choice for the elevated walking track. For the hardwood courts, exceptional playability and ball response were paramount, so the team went with the Action ProAir WBS floating system with a water-based mat finish.

### The Culmination of a Vision

Addressing big challenges like the exponential population growth to cater to the needs of the community requires more than just money; it requires a grand vision and the right dedication to carry it out. In this case, that's precisely what the people of the Selwyn district of New Zealand got, and the end result is a facility that not only meets the needs of the community, but will serve as a source of pride for decades to come.

Sadly, the man behind the vision of the Selwyn Sports Centre didn't live to see the building's completion, but there's no doubt he'd be honored to stand on the hardwood courts that now bear his name: The John F. Reid Courts.



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