



CITY OF NOTTINGHAM

OFFICIAL OPENING OF
REMEDIAL SUITE AND SPORTS HALL
at
VICTORIA LEISURE CENTRE

by

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Nottingham
Councillor Mrs. I. F. Mauhews, J.P.

FRIDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1975

BATHS & PARKS COMMITTEE

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HUGH McDOWALL LAWSON

City Baths Manager

GEORGE T. FEARN

Main Contractor

W. & J. SIMONS (CONTRACTORS) LTD.

FOREWORD

The official opening today of extensive redevelopments of the Victoria Baths, now renamed Victoria Leisure Centre, is one more important landmark in the history of Public Baths in the City of Nottingham.

This history goes back as far as 1850 when the first Public Baths and Wash-house was opened and it is on the site of that first bath ever built in the City that this ceremony takes place today.

The first building erected on this site was one storey high, it had separate swimming pools for men and women and a wash-house. An unusual feature of the men's swimming pool was that it was oval in shape. Records also show that a Turkish Bath was added to the building in 1861.

In 1894 the whole building was demolished and the bath, as we now know it, was re-built and opened in 1896. The only part of the original building retained was the Oval Pool and that pool remained in use until 1973. Today in its place we have this fine Sports Hall and this ceremony is taking place under the same roof that was erected in 1896.

The Baths and Parks Committee have always been aware of the need to keep abreast with modern trends and successive Committees have, over the past 125 years, improved or added to this establishment according to the demand of the times and the financial limitations on spending. The improvements now carried out are so designed as to make this building a Leisure Centre that can be used by all sections of the community.

The Committee would like to express their appreciation to all those who have been involved in the design and construction of this redevelopment, not only for the high standard of workmanship, but also for the way they have carried out their duties within the confines of the existing establishment, without interfering in any way with the daily use of the building.

REMEDIAL SECTION

This part of the redevelopment has been constructed within the curtilage of what was the Public Laundry and the Ladies' Private Baths.

The need for Turkish Baths in the City is one that has been acknowledged by successive Baths Committees since the former Turkish Baths in Parliament Street was closed down in 1939. The long delay had certain advantages because the scheme which was finally approved by the Baths and Parks Committee on 4th January 1974 was an improvement on former proposals and incorporates facilities which were not even thought of way back in 1939.

The successful tenderer was W. & J. Simons (Contractors) Ltd., the contract price being £141,478. The cost of professional fees amounted to £16,600 and furniture and fittings to approximately £18,000, giving a total cost in the region of £176,000.

ACCOMMODATION

The building is designed in such a way as to provide two separate units i.e. The Turkish Bath Suite and Sauna Bath Suite, thereby making it possible for both sexes to be accommodated at the same time.

The Turkish Suite accommodation includes

- Changing room with 32 lockers.
- Lounge area with 20 beds and 12 lounge chairs.
- Shampoo area with showers, plunge bath, massage tables and toilets.
- 3 Hot Rooms and 1 Steam Room.
- A special room fitted out with an Aeratone Therapeutic Bath.
- An Exercise Room.

The Sauna Suite accommodation includes

- Changing room with 22 lockers.
- Lounge area with 9 beds and 9 lounge chairs.
- Shower area with toilets.
- 2 Sauna Log Cabins.
- An Exercise Room.

Other ancillary accommodation includes

- A 4 unit Solarium situated between the Turkish and Sauna Suites, which can be used by patrons from either or both at the same time.
- A Refreshment Room for providing the normal refreshment services, with an attendants' room adjoining.

The entrance to the Remedial Section is from GedJing Street and the existing ticket office will be used for all bookings.

SERVICES

The heating of all areas, with the exception of the Hot Rooms in the Turkish Bath, is by Plenum warm air with mechanical extraction, plus some conventional radiators and fan convectors. All of the heating services are coupled to the part of the building that is served by the District Heating mains. The Hot Rooms are heated by steam from the gas-fired boiler plant.

FINISHES

Italian glass mosaics in pale bronze and gold have been extensively used as the permanent finish to the walls in the Shampoo and Hot Room areas. Brown vitrified ceramic mosaic is employed as the main floor finish. (All doors are formica faced). The Plunge Pool has walls also in glass mosaic but in a dark blue colour flashed with gold. The massage slabs are in white Sicilian marble supported on mosaic-faced piers. Concrete vaulted ceilings contain concealed lighting troughs and are finished in a specially textured "glassguard" paint.

The walls of the Turkish lounge area are papered in sculptured wallpaper and separate cubicles have been formed round the lounge beds with overhead aluminium tracking and 100% dralon curtaining. The floor of the lounge is covered with a patterned dark blue equerry Wilton carpet in 80% wool 20% nylon mixture. The raised ceiling over the central lounge area is lined in cedar boarding.

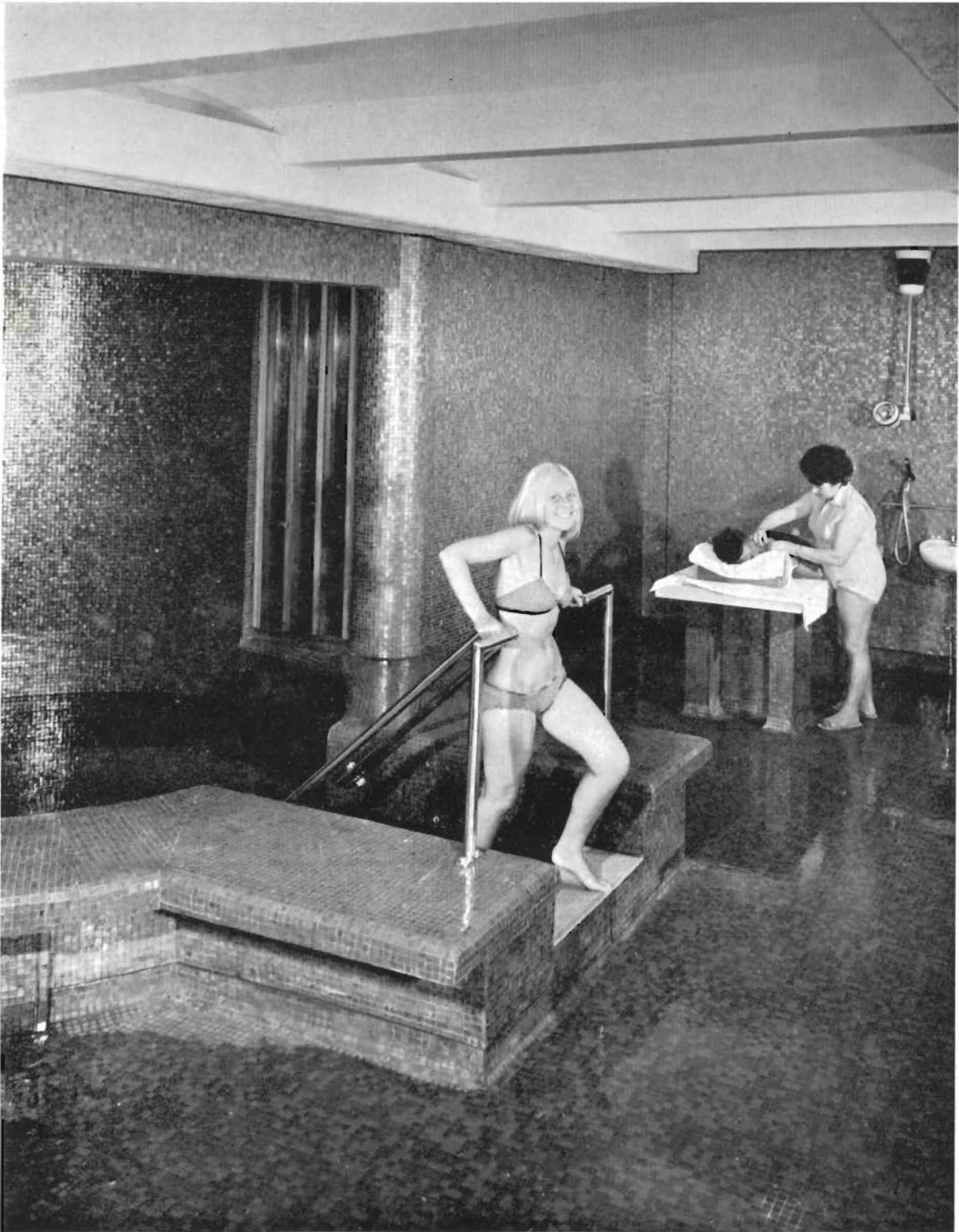
The 2 Sauna Cabins are constructed in tongued and grooved soft wood "log" sections and are manufactured by Rantasalmi Ltd to the traditional Finnish design. Circular shower cubicles including a needle shower are adjacent to the Sauna cabins and the cubicles are lined inside with white earthenware glazed tiles and outside in red glass mosaic. The main walls of this area are finished in white and coloured Dutch glazed ceramic tiles.

In the Sauna lounge and Solarium the walls are faced in pre-treated elm veneered panelling with contrasting "Muraweave" hessian wall covering in brown and ivory beige. The floor is covered in wall-to-wall pure wool tufted carpet in donkey brown colour.

The cubicle curtaining around the lounge beds is in 100% Courtelle fabric. The ceiling of the lounge is lined in cedar boarding.

The floors in the changing rooms are covered in "Flotex" which is a dense pile 100% nylon floor carpet on an expanded p.v.c. base.

The walls in the waiting area and corridors are papered in vymura vinyl wallpaper and the floors are covered in Brinton Bell loop 80% wool 20% nylon Wilton carpet.



SPORTS HALL SECTION

This part of the redevelopment has been constructed within the curtilage of what was the old Oval Pool plus the land taken up by some derelict shops which used to front on to Gedling Street.

The old Victoria Baths had a long history of indoor recreation apart from swimming, and at one time it was the custom to lay a floor over the Oval Pool and the Exhibition Pool for 6 months out of every year. Records show that the Oval Pool was so converted up to the 1956/57 season and at that time it was used for a number of activities including Badminton and Indoor Bowls.

At the time the Oval Pool closed in April 1973 it had developed a serious leak and, consequently, the decision to convert it into a Sports Hall came just at the right time.

The scheme, approved by the Baths and Parks Committee in November 1973, provided for the conversion of the Oval Pool into a multi-purpose Sports Hall, coupled with the provision of Squash Courts, Bar and Cafe adjoining the Hall.

The successful tenderer was W. & J. Simons (Contractors) Ltd., the contract price being £137,265. The cost of professional fees amounted to £18,000 and furniture and fittings to approximately £9,000, giving a total cost in the region of £160,000.

ACCOMMODATION

The Sports Hall has a floor area of 120' X 60' which is the standard recommended size for what is known as a type 'A' Sports Hall. The floor has permanent court markings (up to tournament standard) for 4 Badminton Courts, 1 Basketball Court and 1 Volleyball Court). In addition temporary court markings will be provided for other sports such as 5-a-side Football.

Provision has been made for spectators in the form of portable bleacher seating which will seat 480 spectators. There is, in addition, spectator seating in the form of linked polypropylene chairs, thereby giving a total spectator capacity for events such as Wrestling and Boxing of 1,000 people.

Adjoining the main Hall the following ancillary accommodation is provided

- Store for Sports Hall equipment.

- Toilets and changing rooms for both sexes.

- A cafe at ground floor level and a bar at 1st floor level.

- 2 Squash Courts with viewing galleries at 1st floor level.

All normal hirings will use the existing entrance on Gedling Street, thereby using the existing ticket office. In addition a new entrance direct on to the Hall has been provided, also from Gedling Street, and this entrance will be used for events attracting large numbers of spectators.

SERVICES

The heating is Plenum warm air with mechanical extraction plus some conventional radiators and fan convectors. All of the heating services are coupled to the part of the building that is served by the District Heating mains.

FINISHES

The floor finish in the main Sports Hall is Granwood tiles in the colour Maplewood buff and the inlaid court lines are blue for Badminton, black for Basketball and green for Volleyball. The walls in the Sports Hall have been renovated and existing poorly decorated brickwork has been treated with a paint spray application of "Spraylux" in a Sports Council approved background colour of "Ecru". This forms a functional finish from a playing and maintenance point of view. The ceiling has patent glazing at the ridge and this has been modified to conform with current safety standards. The existing cedar boarding has been cleaned and treated with "Pyromors" which is a flame-retardant solution.

The changing areas have the extract fans and Plenum system embodied in the ceiling, and finishes are designed to withstand damp and humid conditions. The floor is Granwood in natural oak and the walls are tiled with white tiles with Asbestolux tiles on the ceiling, which are treated with anti-condensation paint.

The entrance lobby and stairs have Granwood tiles on the floor in a beige colour. The suspended ceiling is a self-finish "Danum" tile manufactured by Formica, and the walls are finished in vinyl wallpaper. The natural timber finishes to the stairs and balcony are Afrormosia and the stair treads are covered with a nylon carpet by Nylflor in a dark brown colour.

The ground floor cafe continues with the same type of suspended ceiling as the entrance hall; the floor is Granwood in a persian grey colour and the walls are finished with contemporary wallpapers.

The licensed bar servery is finished in white laminate with black vinyl push rail and Afrormosia slatted roller shutter housing. The floor has the same nylon carpet as the staircase with contemporary vinyl wallpapers on the solid walls.

The two squash courts have timber floors finished in Hard Rock Maple strips. The walls are finished with a specialist squash court plaster application "Proderite'S' ". The ceiling is natural pine timber clear sealed.