

A Better

In the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff (Wales/UK), live commentators and their guests have an unobstructed view of the playing field because coated "Amiran" made by Schott Desag prevents distracting reflections.

Not all balls are round. In rugby, the ball is oval as is the shape of Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, where this sport is played. It opened its doors in October 1999, just in time for the Rugby World Cup held there that year. The stadium is a sports palace of superlative proportions. The arena is 222 meters long, 181 meters wide, and can seat 72,500 spectators. Apart from sports, there is enough room for seven restaurants, 22 bars and 16 retail spaces. Thus, even after the match has ended, there are plenty of reasons to stay on and have a good time.

"Amiran" for the press booth

To ensure that sports commentators can accurately follow the jostling that is so typical of rugby, the stadium builders decided to use coated "Amiran" in the construction of the press boxes for the Millennium Stadium. The functional glass reflects less than 1% of the light as opposed to the 8% reflection seen in



Imposing and ultra-modern: The newly built Millennium Stadium in Cardiff/Wales offers an additional advantage for rugby fans – when the weather is good, the roof opens up.

normal window glass. Four windows, each about eleven millimeters thick and with a total area of eight square meters, allow an unobstructed view of the playing field. Neither awnings nor irritating reflections caused by the opening of the stadium roof during good weather narrow visibility, thanks to Amiran anti-reflective glass. In this case, EG Glass from West Yorkshire/UK supplied the coated "Amiran" for the glazing, which was installed by Denver Aluminum of Cardiff.

Sports journalists and their interviewing partners are not the only ones profiting from the "Amiran" glazing. The players are no longer

distracted by the illuminated press boxes. Because there was no need to plan for any awnings or similar light-protecting structures, architects had more creative freedom.

Traditional, yet modern

The builders kept an important objective in mind while the project was being completed. The sports stadium not only had to offer a view back to the old century but at the same time had to provide an outlook towards the new millennium. The dual objective was successfully accomplished: Past,

present and future were joined together in the Millennium Stadium.

Built with about 40,000 tons of concrete and 12,000 tons of steel, a new structure boasting state-of-the-art facilities



View



has been created on top of an old, historical sports stadium. Cardiff's Millennium Stadium is one of the few stadiums with a roof that can be pulled back when the weather is good, allowing sports fans to see the blue sky. Since rugby is the national sport of Wales, its fans are numerous and passionate. The new Millennium Stadium finally gives them the opportunity to see international competitions, reflecting the prestige that the game of rugby has always enjoyed with the Welsh ■

Coated "Amiran" allows reporters and guests watching the match from the stadium's press box an unobstructed view of the playing field, free from any distracting reflections.



From the round to the oval ball

Rugby is a type of football "invented" by William Webb Ellis in 1823 in the English college town of Rugby. During the match, Ellis suddenly broke the rules when he took the ball in his hands and started running away from the other players, who were baffled by this. Thus, a tactical game for two teams was born whose objective was to lay down the ball on the field of the opponent. However, since it is against the rules to throw the ball forwards, the 15-player team had to find an easier way to carry the round ball while running with it. The oval ball was the ideal solution. A rugby match consists of two 40-minute halves.