

= KCOM Stadium =

The KCOM Stadium is a multi @-@ purpose facility in the city of Kingston upon Hull , England . The stadium was previously called the KC Stadium , but was renamed as part of a major rebrand by the stadium 's sponsors , telecommunications provider KCOM , on 4 April 2016 . Conceived as early as the late 1990s , it was completed in 2002 at a cost of approximately £ 44 million . The stadium is owned by Hull City Council and operated by the Stadium Management Company (SMC) , who are looking to expand the stadium up to 32 @, @ 000 .

The bowl @-@ shaped stadium contains a continuous single tier of seats with a second tier on the west side . Its current capacity is 25 @, @ 400 . The stadium accommodates fans of its two tenants , association football club Hull City A.F.C. , which moved there from Boothferry Park , and rugby league football club Hull F.C. , relocated from the Boulevard . The ground also hosts international association football and rugby league football competitions and acts as a venue for concerts by musical artists , such as Elton John and The Who .

= = History = =

The idea of a new stadium for Kingston upon Hull , whose professional football club Hull City had played at Boothferry Park since 1946 , was first mooted in 1997 , but funds to finance such a project only became available when the city council sold a portion of its holdings in Kingston Communications . The council provided most of the funds , more than £ 42 million , with the rest stemming from government single regeneration budget grants and from the Football Stadium Improvement Fund .

The council appointed John Topliss to head the stadium construction project . He and his team partnered with consulting firm Drivers Jonas to explore preliminary issues such as stadium location , seating capacity , and facilities offered . Stated Mr. Topliss : " We had a totally blank canvas and , working with consultants , made a thorough assessment of what was needed . "

The project team considered over a dozen sites , inside and outside of the city , before settling on The Circle in West Park . Factors contributing to the decision include transport guidance , central government planning guidelines , existing athletic facilities , isolation from residential areas , and council ownership .

The final recommendation of Drivers Jonas included additional facilities for both indoor and outdoor sports for the people of West Hull in addition to the main stadium , planned to seat from 25 @, @ 000 to 30 @, @ 000 spectators . Professional services firm Arup Associates provided initial concept proposals for the stadium . The Miller Partnership , an architectural and interior design firm , adopted these proposals during the stadium 's design .

In spite of obstacles during the course of the project , including Hull City A.F.C. ' s receivership in 2001 (just after the granting of planning permission) , the stadium complex was completed on time (in fourteen months) and on budget (at approximately GB £ 44 million) . The stadium opened its doors on 18 December 2002 . Hull City beat Sunderland A.F.C. 1 ? 0 in a friendly match to mark the occasion . Steve Melton scored the goal , the first at the KC Stadium .

= = Structure and facilities = =

The all @-@ seater stadium consists of a single @-@ tier , asymmetrical bowl that can seat approximately 20 @, @ 000 , with a second tier on the Cranswick plc West Stand that can seat approximately 5 @, @ 000 . Current capacity is 25 @, @ 586 . Plans provide for future expansion to a capacity of approximately 30 @, @ 000 by the addition of a second tier on the Ideal Standard Community East Stand . Each stand has a name for corporate sponsorship purposes . On 4 July 2011 , Hull City revealed that the stadium 's west stand would be sponsored by the local Cranswick plc under a two @-@ year agreement , which was extended on 26 July 2013 . On 10 July 2013 it was announced the east stand would be sponsored by Ideal Standard and become known as the Ideal Standard Community East Stand .

Corporate hospitality is provided by 28 executive boxes located between the two tiers of the Cranswick plc West Stand , while security of the stadium is handled using 57 closed @-@ circuit television (CCTV) cameras that cover the stadium . Over the summer of 2007 , SMC installed an LED screen in the Smith & Nephew North Stand to replace the old electronic scoreboard . The screen has an area of approximately 40 m ² (430 ft . ²) and displays such content as live home game feeds , match highlights , interviews , and action replays .

The stadium 's seats are mostly black , with a band of white and amber seats around the circumference . White and amber seats form the word Hull in the north and south stands . In the Ideal Standard Community East Stand , the seats form an image of a coronet , a symbol of the city that also appears in the club crest for Hull and in the coat of arms of the city council . Black , white , and amber were chosen to remain neutral toward the colours of its two tenants : black and white for Hull and black and amber for Hull City A.F.C. The blue and gold of owner Hull City Council appear in the stadium 's four external columns .

The size of the playing surface is 114 x 74 metres (125 x 81 yd) and made of rye grass with a 3 % additive of artificial grass . This provides ample room for a FIFA @-@ regulation association football pitch of 105 x 68 metres (115 x 74 yd) and a standard rugby league football pitch of 100 x 68 metres (109 x 74 yd) . The playing surface has an automated watering system and below @-@ surface heating .

Set within Hull 's West Park , the stadium is the first in England to be built in a parkland setting . The stadium complex also includes the 1 @, @ 500 seat Bonus Arena , a skate park , two multi @-@ use all weather pitches , a community learning zone complete with classrooms , a health & fitness suite , a cyber cafe , and a library .

The KCOM Stadium has received several honours . It was named the chief new development in Yorkshire at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Pro @-@ Yorkshire Awards . It was also on the shortlist for the Prime Minister 's Award for Better Public Building and received a high commendation in the British Construction Industry Awards in the Best Value category . In a 2005 poll that was carried out by Drivers Jonas and decided by football fans from across the country , the KC Stadium was rated highest in comfort , services and view among all grounds in the Football League and was also rated the most @-@ improved venue .

On 13 August 2013 a Goal Decision System by Hawk @-@ Eye was installed in the ground ahead of the 2013 ? 14 Premier League season which requires the use of goal @-@ line technology to indicate if a goal is scored .

= = Tenants = =

= = Hull City A.F.C. = =

The stadium replaced Boothferry Park as home to Hull City Association Football Club , and was the backdrop for the club 's recent climb through the English Football League . It first hosted the club 's home games during the second half of the 2002 ? 03 season ; the first competitive match was against Hartlepool United , a game that Hull City won by a score of 2 ? 0 . Hull City , nicknamed the Tigers , attracted an average attendance of almost 17 @, @ 000 in their first full season at the KC Stadium , 2003 ? 04 . This figure is more than three times the average Third Division attendance for that season , and was only matched or exceeded by clubs in the Premier League and the First Division . However , the level of support was not matched by on @-@ field performances ; the Tigers finished 13th in their first season at the KC Stadium . However , in 2003 ? 04 (their first full season at the new ground) , Hull won promotion as Third Division runners @-@ up , securing their place in the newly named League One (previously the Second Division) . A second successive promotion to the Championship , again as runners @-@ up , followed in 2004 ? 05 .

Attendances for Hull City 's league games at the KCOM Stadium have averaged above 16 @, @ 000 in each full season they have played there . The stadium hosted Premier League football in the 2008 ? 09 and 2009 ? 10 seasons , with all 20 @, @ 500 available season tickets selling out shortly

after Hull City 's Championship play @-@ off victory at Wembley Stadium . The record attendance for a Premier League match is 25 @,@ 030 set on 9 May 2010 for the last match of the season against Liverpool beating the previous record of 25 @,@ 023 set on 13 March 2010 against Arsenal . While playing in the Championship , the record stood at 24 @,@ 350 on 26 April 2008 for the visit of Crystal Palace , beating that of 24 @,@ 311 on 30 January 2007 for the visit of local rivals Leeds United . Segregation between home fans and away fans prevents the stadium 's stated capacity from being reached .

Plans have been prepared for the potential extension of the stadium following Hull City 's promotion to the Premier League . 4 @,@ 500 seats could be added in a second tier to the east stand , and 2 @,@ 000 seats each in the north and south stands , giving the stadium a capacity of approximately 34 @,@ 000 . In 2011 , the club 's owner Assem Allam announced that he wanted to buy the stadium freehold so he could develop , as he stated , " a sports park " on the site .

After Hull City Council refused , Allam stated " I had in mind £ 30 million to spend on the infrastructure of the club , to increase the stadium by 10 @,@ 000 and to have commercial activities around the stadium ? cafeterias , shops , supermarkets ? to have all this to create income for the club so that in the future it can be self @-@ financing and not relying on me . "

On 9 August 2013 , Allam announced that the club will discard its 109 @-@ year @-@ old name and , henceforth , be " marketed " as Hull City Tigers locally and Hull Tigers to national and international audiences . Announcing the change in the Hull Daily Mail newspaper , he said : " ' Hull City ' is irrelevant ... it is common . I want the club to be special . It is about identity . ' City ' is a lousy identity . ' Hull City Association Football Club ' is so long . " The club 's Managing Director Nick Thompson urged supporters " to judge it in the fullness of time . " The announcement stated that all references to " AFC " on club branding will be phased out , although they will remain on the shirt crest during their first season back in the Premier League .

Allam justified the name change as part of his plans to create " additional sources of revenue " for the club . He dismissed fans ' protests against the name change , stating " nobody questions my decisions in my business . "

= = = Hull F.C. = = =

Professional rugby league 's Hull Football Club play their home games at the KCOM Stadium , having relocated from the Boulevard . During their time at the KCOM Stadium , they have consistently ended each season on a high note : in 2003 , the team just missed play @-@ off qualification ; in 2004 , the club finished third . They finished fourth in 2005 , and enjoyed even greater success in the Challenge Cup , in which they beat the Leeds Rhinos in the final . Hull FC reached the Super League Grand Final in 2006 . Attendances average around 14 @,@ 000 , but are often well above that figure when the club hosts local rivals Hull Kingston Rovers , this local derby producing a record crowd of 23 @,@ 004 for 2 September 2007 fixture .

= = Other sporting events = =

It hosted four England under @-@ 21 internationals . The results were as follows .

The KCOM Stadium is now also a regular venue for international rugby league games , and has hosted Great Britain matches in both the Tri @-@ Nations and the Ashes competitions . The stadium hosted the 2004 Tri @-@ Nations match in which New Zealand lost by a score of 26 ? 24 . The stadium also hosted the Tri @-@ Nations game between Great Britain and Australia in 2005 ; the final score was 26 ? 14 to Australia .

On Saturday 9 November 2013 , the stadium hosted the England versus Fiji Rugby League World Cup match , in which England won 34 ? 12 in front of an attendance of 25 @,@ 114 . Before the match , there was a minute 's silence , followed by spontaneous applause , to mark the early death of former England International Steve Prescott .

In 2009 , the KC Stadium was shortlisted as a possible venue for games at the 2018 FIFA World Cup should England win the right to host it , but when the list of venues was announced on 16

December that year , the KC Stadium was not included .

It has also played host to two exhibition Twenty20 cricket matches between Yorkshire County Cricket Club and Lashings World XI .

= = Concerts = =

As well as serving as a sporting venue , the KCOM Stadium also hosts musical events , including such artists as Sir Elton John , Bryan Adams , Neil Diamond , R.E.M. , Bon Jovi , and The Who .

JLS have also performed here in front of 20 @ , @ 000 fans as part of their 2010 JLS Tour .

Rod Stewart performed at the stadium on 14 June 2016 .

= = Rugby League Test Matches = =

List of test and International tournament matches played at KCOM Stadium since its opening in 2002 .

= = Gallery = =