

# FACILITIES CASE STUDY

**PROJECT:** REGIS GYMNASTICS  
BOGNOR REGIS, WEST SUSSEX

**TYPE:** INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL UNIT CONVERSION

**COST:** £148,500



**R**egis Gymnastics opened in 2010, running their sessions within a local leisure centre and small satellite clubs. The club's hours were under pressure from being cut at one of their main sites, so they looked for their own space in order to offer a more diverse range of activities and to increase opportunities of competitive development for participants and Disability Gymnastics. With this in mind, the club took on a project which saw them develop a 3500<sup>2</sup>ft industrial unit in West Sussex.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Following three years of consultation and business planning the club decided to work towards a conversion project that would see them in their own dedicated facility. Once agreed, a building was identified and the club completed financial calculations, confident that the project was sustainable. Once the unit was secured, it took just two months before the club had moved in.

## THE PROJECT

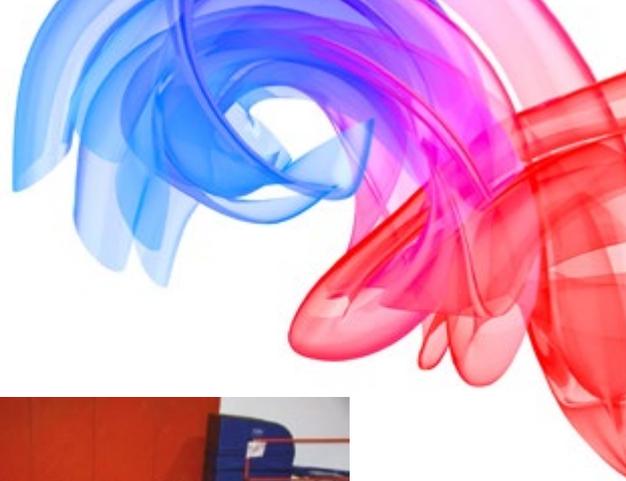
As part of the club structure, a CIC (Community Interest Company) was set up before work began on the three phase project.

**Phase 1** (February 2014) Moved in to empty shell, removing old offices. Applications put forward for Sport England Inspired Facilities funding and other small funding pots.

**Phase 2** Work to get mezzanine level for pits, trampoline and sprung floor completed. All equipment for main gymnastics area ready. Veolia Landfill Funding also applied for.

**Phase 3** Mezzanine viewing platform built as well as a new reception area and downstairs toilets. The project was completed by March 2016.

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## PROJECT COST

The project was jointly funded by Regis Gymnastics and several other partners, including:

### Bank Loan: £15,000

Planning, legal fees, stamp duty and deposit. Start-up capital including health and safety, heating and fire equipment.

### Inspire Facilities Award: £49,000

Phase two of the project – equipment including part of a sprung floor, building work and services.

### Club Funds: £5,000

Additional set up costs and advertising.

### West Sussex Social Enterprises: £30,000

Foam pit and sprung floor.

### Veolia Environmental Site: £35,500

Mezzanine floor – viewing area, reception area and toilets.

### British Gymnastics: £9,000

Joint funding for freestyle equipment, matting and blocks.

### Sussex Police and Community Foundation: £5,000

Freestyle equipment.

### TOTAL: £148,500

### Monthly finances

Expenditure	£/month
Rent	£ 2,190
Staffing	£ 2,200
Utilities	£ 250
Service	£ 100
Other	£ 82

\* The buildings insurance is included within the rent for the facility.

## PROJECT IMPACT

- Now 250 members, up from 80 two years ago.
- More classes introduced (two general gymnastics, one adult gymnastics, two FreeG, one I'M IN disability, six pre-school and three floor & vault specific).
- One new level 1 coach, one new level 2 coach and a disability add-on module completed.
- 10 new volunteers recruited and retained.
- Increased development opportunities for all coaches and volunteers.
- Improvement in gymnast performances at regional grades.
- School groups using facility in term times, increasing revenue, allowing the club to take on more paid staff.

## THE FUTURE

Delighted with the work that has been done to date, Regis Gymnastics are continuing to look forward. They are aiming to recruit and grow more coaches in-house so that they can cater for more gymnasts within current classes, as well as start-up more classes further down the line.

## TOP TIPS FOR OTHER CLUBS

- Once the building was secured it was easier to gain a bank loan
- Try to work with other sports clubs or businesses in the area to see how they gained their dedicated facility, and if there were any problems with the council or planning permission
- Focus on parking, noise and gaining letters of support from local residents
- Make sure you know the hard facts about your local area and if any of these work in your favour