

Facilities case study

Project: Ultima Trampoline Club
Type: Industrial/Commercial Unit conversion
Cost: £190,000



Ultima Trampoline Club were already offering trampoline delivery including recreational, disability and competitive, when they began looking for their own dedicated site. After nine months of searching, the club found an industrial unit to convert in the centre of Wickford, Essex. To add an additional complication, the roof height was too low for trampoline activity, but the club saw the potential and decided to go ahead.

Project overview

The challenge of building upwards can be overlooked when taking on a conversion project, but with a member of the club's management board working in structural engineering, the project was seen as attainable. Wickford local authority were also in full support due to a lack of community facilities for the areas growing population.

The project

Private investment was secured to part-fund the project which led to a partnership being formed between Wickford Trampoline Centre which holds the head lease, and Ultima, a company limited by guarantee with CASC status who sublease from the partnership.

In the summer of 2016 the extension upwards to 9.5m was followed by the installation of a mezzanine viewing area and podium.

From the outset, disability trampolining was a priority for the club. The centre was therefore designed around this need and a disability lift was installed to allow for easy wheelchair access to the trampoline floor.

Auxiliary rooms were then converted into an office, toilets and community space for people to watch classes through a streamed CCTV screen. The final stages saw the installation of the trampolines and matting, with the decorating completed by parents.



Original



Developing



Complete

Project cost

Club funds were minimal and focussed on keeping the club going. External funding was sourced by the following:

Private investment: £150,000

British Gymnastics facility funding: £28,750

Veolia grant, plus local fundraising support and many donations of furniture/services etc: £40,000

The above funding went towards the following:

Design: In-house/no cost

Structural engineers/planning: £2,326

Steel frame changes, including mezzanine: £31,420

Build work – structural (shell): £42,722

Scaffolding: £7,350

Internal works and fit out, including plumbing and electrics: £47,500

Trampolines and equipment: £11,386

Safety matting: £7,300

Disability lift (reconditioned): £3,400

Misc: £16,596

Lease/legal/rent in advance/operating cashflow: £20,000

Total: £190,000

Expenditure	£/month
Rent	£ 2,100
Rates	£ 167
Maintenance/equipment	£ 580
Insurances	£ 100
Waste	£ 50
Electric and water	£ 480
Accounts	£ 100
Miscellaneous	£ 590

Project impact

- Growth from 40 members (2015) to 430 (2017).
- Strong links with local schools means upwards of 150 pupils per week access the facility during the day. 20% of these pupils have joined the club.
- Around 30 classes per week run for disability participants, with all classes throughout the programme remaining entirely inclusive.
- 12 recreation classes added, helping to increase membership.
- Parent/toddler and pre-school classes are run daily. Adult classes are available twice a week.
- Increase of nine judges and eight coaches

The future

In 2017 the club have six people doing their level 1 course and have three existing coaches moving on to level 2 courses and another moving to level 3. The addition of new coaches will allow the club to open on Sunday's and be able to operate 52 weeks a year. The club also have nine members wanting to take their judging course this year.

Top tips for other clubs

- A clear project management structure with tight budget controls throughout.
- Plead and beg for everything you possibly can, negotiate every cost, find every parent who has a skill that could be used and use them.
- Make sure you have all your permissions including talking to your neighbours before you begin. Planning, building regs, licences, insurances etc.
- Know what everyone in your project team is good at and delegate across the team.