

Facilities case study

Project: Blandford Forum Gymnastics Club
Type: Industrial/Commercial Unit conversion
Cost: £68,500

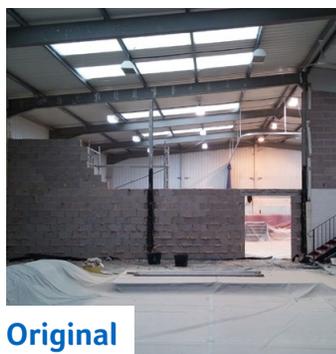


Blandford Forum Gymnastics club opened in 1998 where they operated within local leisure centres and village halls where they ran both club and satellite training sessions. The club built up their 'bank' of equipment over time before they even started to think about a dedicated venue and this was used across all of their sites. The club wanted to have one site as there were no further hours for training available within their current sites and they were expanding. Along with this, they wanted to make better use of their staff time (rather than travelling from venue to venue) and

pull their resources together. With this in mind, the club took on a project which would eventually see them develop a 6500²ft dedicated training space for recreational gymnasts.

Project overview

Following a two-year consultation period, which included the club completing a business plan and building up their own capital for the project, the club decided to work towards a conversion project that would see them take on their own dedicated facility. Once agreed, a building was identified and the club completed financial calculations to ensure that the project was sustainable. Once the unit was secured, it took just two months before the club was able to move and start training within the dedicated space.



Original



Developing



Complete

The project

There were a number of different phases the club moved through to achieve their current dedicated facility.

Phase 1 (June 2004) – Club converted the 1st unit (3250²ft) to become fit for purpose using club funds. Sponsorship from a local charity and commercial business to help with set up costs.

Phase 2 (July 2006) – Club took on the neighbouring unit (3250²ft) and used club funds to convert the space into a training area – at this point, the club introduced trampoline gymnastics into their programme as well as further training space for recreational gymnasts.

Phase 3 (August 2015) – dividing wall was taken down and used British Gymnastics funding and club funds to purchase a sprung floor, tumble track and refurbish equipment. The project was completed in February 2016.

Project cost

The project was mainly funded through Blandford Forum Gymnastics Club, but with other partners and sponsors throughout:

Club Funds £24,000 – Planning, start-up capital including health and safety, heating and fire equipment. Purchase of equipment (small items)

British Gymnastics Capital Funding £42,500 – demolition of middle wall, purchase of floor, tumble track and refurbishment of old equipment

Local Commercial Business £1,000 – set up costs for phase one of the project

Local Charity £1,000 – small apparatus for phase one of the project

TOTAL: £68,500

Monthly finances

Expenditure	£/month
Rent	£3,660
Rates	£1,596
Staffing	£8,000
Utilities	£550
Service	£850
Other	£367.50

Project impact

- From non-dedicated facilities to Phase one, an increase from 135 to 350 participants. This then increased to 618 after phase three.
- More classes introduced (11 general gymnastics including competitive squads, 1 adult gymnastics, 7 preschool, 3 competitive tumbling, 3 competitive trampoline gymnastics, 2 FreeG and 1 Display group). The club has always had an inclusive programme; however, the facility helps to cater for individual needs a lot more.
- New coaches – two Level 4, four Level 3, two Level 2 seven Level 1, six Award Scheme, four Disability AOM and four FreeG coaches have all developed / joined the club since the move.
- 16 new volunteers recruited and retained.
- Increased development opportunities for all coaches and volunteers.
- Competitive squads and groups at County, Regional and National level.
- School groups using facility in term times, increasing revenue and allowing the club to take on more paid staff.

The future

Blandford Forum GC are looking to work upon their entrance to make it more user friendly as well as focus upon their branding. This will include a new look for the club as well as the external walls of the facility. Continually, the club want to create a welcome area that is more customer friendly as well as a reception area to help with any questions or queries.

Top tips for other clubs

- “Plan and Plan Again” – Try to think about where you see the club in the future and if you achieve your first goal, what would you want to do next?
- Break your plan into a number of smaller/more specific phases to make it more realistic to meet – and not so daunting!
- Equipment = try to purchase/acquire as much as you can before you start the project so that it drastically reduces the costs when you come to move. Try to look at adaptable equipment that can be used in a number of different places in the training area.
- Build up your club funds and plan how you will reach your goal through this method.
- The club went into depth upon the dispersal of classes, busy times on the industrial estate as well as managing traffic in order to achieve the Change of Use.

