

Facilities case study

Project: Blandford Forum Gymnastics Club
Type: Industrial unit conversion
Cost: £68,500



Formed in 1998 Blandford Forum Gymnastics Club 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. The club wanted to have one site where they could increase training time and make better use of their staff.

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 6500ft² dedicated facility.

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 (3250ft²) 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 (3250ft²) 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.

Impact

- Increase in members from 135 to 618.
- More classes introduced, including general gymnastics, competitive squads, adult gymnastics, preschool, tumbling, FreeG and display groups.
- New coaches – two Level 4, four Level 3, two Level 2 seven Level 1, six Award Scheme, four Disability AOM and four FreeG coaches.
- 16 new volunteers recruited and retained.
- Competitive squads and groups at County, Regional and National level.

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

Running costs

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

The future

Blandford Forum Gymnastics Club is 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

- “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!
- Purchase as much equipment as you can before you start the project so that it reduces the costs when you come to move. Focus on adaptable equipment that can be used in a number of different places in the training area.



Do you require support with a facility project?

Contact us at: participation@british-gymnastics.org