

Facilities case study

Project: Nottingham City Gymnastics Club
Type: Community building conversion
Cost: £25,000



The club started in 2009 with 17 members training out of one badminton court. Over the next five years the club expanded its classes and grew to around 200 members training in four venues; three schools and a leisure centre. The club is 100% non-competitive; focusing on providing all their members an inclusive fun opportunity to participate in gymnastics.

Project overview

The club searched for their own facility for around 18 months, initially looking for an industrial unit, but were rejected for planning on two facilities. Looking for support, they emailed their local councillor to explain their vision and to ask if they knew of any facilities or spaces around the area, they pointed the club in the direction of the City Council communities team, and the following day an under-utilised community centre a mile away from where their main venue was identified.

The Project

The Club set up as a community interest company limited by shares and negotiated a 25 year peppercorn lease for the building. The council supported the club to ensure the building was fit for purpose and all outstanding maintenance and upkeep jobs were completed pre transfer at no cost to the club. They initially spoke to the council in November 2014 and got the keys for the facility in April 2015. Building work started in June 2015 and they started running sessions from July 2015.

Impact

- In less than 12 months they have increased from 200 members to approximately 420 with a further 50 or so taking part in weekly drop in sessions.
- Their coaching staff has grown to 16 coaches, 24 young leaders, 3 volunteers, and a management committee.
- They have increased their offer to preschool drop in sessions, boy's freestyle sessions and home school sessions as additional day time usage.

Project cost

Structural Improvements £8,000 – Walls knocked through and viewing area installed

Electrical Works £2,000 – Lighting upgrade and security doors (mag locks) installed

Equipment £13,000 – £15,000 fast track and floor mats

General Improvement Works £2,000 – Building clean and internal painting

Running costs

Expenditure	£/month
Staffing	£4,500
Utilities	£0
Service	£0
Content Insurance	£12
Rates	£0
VAT	£0

The future

They are in communication with the council and have started having discussion around using the same model in another facility. They aim to continually develop their coaches and give their Level 2's more responsibilities and develop new coaches to meet demand. In the future they aim to keep growing as a club, at their current site and new sites across the city.

Top tips

- Get organised - ensure you have the operational structure in place. Research club management systems, you'll need one as you grow.
- Utilise volunteers - Parents like to help! Ours got involved painting, cleaning, fundraising, and lots more!
- Engage the community - we ran over 30 free taster sessions throughout the summer, giving the local people a chance to sample the sessions before signing up.



Do you require support with a facility project?

Contact us at: participation@british-gymnastics.org