

Centre for Sports and Exercise, University of Edinburgh – Pleasance Campus

Reinforcing Edinburgh's reputation for sporting excellence

£3.1m

/ Project value

May 2009

/ The build commenced

May 2010

/ The duration

Endorsed by All Blacks' Strength and Conditioning Coach Nick Gill as "the best facility we've ever had", the Pleasance Sports Complex involved the construction of a new 1900m², three-storey extension to an existing listed building. The conversion of two underground vaults, last used as war-time air raid shelters, represented further unique features of our 53-week build programme. Successfully handed over on time, with zero defects, the new facility has significantly enhanced an already world-class venue for sports science and performance in the service of some 16,000 members.

The Brief

As Scotland's top sporting University, the University of Edinburgh commissioned us to reinforce its prestigious reputation with the ambitious £3m extension of the Pleasance Campus's 'Centre for Sport and Exercise' within a one-year redevelopment programme.



**"We're always on the road
and this is the best facility
we've ever had"**

Nick Gill
New Zealand All Blacks Strength and
Conditioning Coach

"I suspect it is rare for you to have to balance so many challenges within one single project. It is a credit to GRAHAM that you delivered our project exactly on time and budget. This is a great achievement and we thank you for it"

Jim Aitken
Director of Sport and Exercise, University of Edinburgh

The Challenges

The Pleasance extension presented a plethora of challenges, particularly the requirement to develop a listed building of architectural significance embedded with notable structural nuances. Operations had to be conducted within an extremely restricted site and necessitated stringent planning in coping with the tight access/egress arrangements, including the height restrictions of the Pleasance venal. Additionally, the Sports Complex, the biggest and busiest multi-sport club in Scotland, remained fully operational.

GRAHAM's added value solution

Recognised for "the quality of the end product" by the University, the new iconic three-storey build, with access to the unique sub-basement vaults, delivers around 1900m² of additional state-of-the-art sports and physical activity space for over 16,000 members. Demonstrating our ability to deliver on time, within budget while minimising disruption, the £3m project innovatively provided much-needed sporting area for the University of Edinburgh without increasing the extension footprint. The sub-basement level encompasses a 40-station weights area, complemented by the basement level, which boasts a new performance gym, plyometric exercise lane, rebound wall, bench area and staff base. A state-of-the-art conditioning gym is the centrepiece of the ground level and the first floor is an open plan studio to support dance and exercise classes. Close liaison with the Estates Team, was essential to the project's success, and ensured the effective sequencing of works programming to maintain services to over 350,000 people.

Outputs & Benefits

- / **Limiting Disruption:** Effective sequencing of works programming maintained services to over 350,000 people throughout the 12-month programme
- / **Heritage Construction:** The project involved developing and extending a listed building of architectural significance
- / **Tight Turn-around:** The ambitious project was completed within 53-weeks
- / **Restricted Development:** Work was completed within a constrained site with severely limited access/egress arrangements
- / **Creating Space:** Delivered 1900m² of additional space without impinging on the site's overall footprint



For more information on how we're delivering lasting impact:

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