



Case Study:

London Irish Rugby Club

“We consider ourselves fortunate to have Cloud Business as part of the team. Why? Because, like us, they know what they’re doing and take pride in what they deliver.”

London Irish Operations Manager,
Richard Watton

London Irish Rugby Club was formed in 1898, founded by a group of Irishmen to offer their countrymen a home away from home in London. It became a professional rugby club in 1996 and currently competes in the English Premiership.



London Irish

Snapshot

- Professional sports club
- 60 + users
- Modern IT infrastructure for new headquarters and training centre
- Flexible and agile approach to a dynamic and complex project
- CAT5 and CAT6 cabling, and provision of on pitch and premises Wi-Fi
- Migration to Office 365
- End user computing solution moving many users from desktops to laptops
- Resulting in increased mobility and the freedom to work between different locations
- Cloud Business’ Managed IT services delivers a high performance, reliable and scalable network to support all operations

What did London Irish want to achieve?

Over the years the club outgrew its former spiritual home at The Avenue, Sunbury, and while home matches are well catered for at the Madejski Stadium, it sought a new headquarters and training centre that better aligned with the Club's ambitions, both on and off the pitch.

From the start, the visionaries behind the Hazelwood project recognised that architecting a state-of-the-art building was only part of the story. The elite rugby performance relies heavily on technology for performance monitoring and improvement, while the offices need technology to enable productivity, efficiency and collaboration for the massive job of coordinating professional and amateur players, coaches and supporters.

Richard Watton, Operations Manager at London Irish explains:

"We needed an IT provider that really understood our needs, our culture and our ambitions. Not only that, Hazelwood was a fast-paced and complex project – we were looking for a partner that would be agile enough to meet the inevitable changes to specification and timing and Cloud Business have provided that."

How did we help them to succeed?

The new infrastructure involved the deployment of both underlying CAT5 and CAT6 cabling, together with the provision of on pitch and premises Wi-Fi.

The sixty or so staff running the club were migrated from primarily desk-bound machines and systems to a cloud-based environment, using key Microsoft tools, including Office 365.

Were London Irish happy with the outcome?

Operations manager at London Irish Rugby Club Richard Watton explains how the new IT infrastructure is already having a huge impact on the club.

"The cloud-based platforms we've gone for have been liberating. Staff can now easily work between the training facility in Hazelwood, Surrey, or at the club's ground, with access to key information, whenever required."

"For example our ticket office personnel, who previously didn't have a connection to the older server, are now in the position where they can access shared drives and documents from any location," he explains. "This is streets ahead of where we were before, where we had to use a data transfer website, which was clunky to use."

Richard goes on to say, "While in the past the majority of staff had desktops, and the minority laptops, this has now switched around. HP 650 ProBooks have been given to staff who are regularly on the move, while HP ProDesk 400 and ProDesk 600 machines are used for the remaining static machines. This shift to new hardware has also allowed the Club to move away from its old Windows XP machines. Cloud Business did a great job in transferring all our data, including emails, to the new environment, which is something we may have struggled with."

When asked about the security aspect of the hybrid cloud configuration, Richard's response was, "we're confident that it's safe, we're confident that Microsoft is looking after our data. It's ultimately a trust issue, so importantly we trust Cloud Business to have referred us to the best option available."

The platform, together with Cloud Business managed services, delivers a high performance, reliable and scalable network to support all operations – whether pitch-side or office based.

A final word about Cloud Business

We create transformative IT technology solutions that give our customers the protection and freedom to become the business they want to be.

Over 20 years of experience in the delivery of IT Support and project services to recognised UK and global brands on a 24 x 7 x 365 basis.

Highly accredited to SDI4* (one of only two companies globally), ISO 27001 and ITIL standards.

Learn more about us at www.cloudbusiness.com.

For further information on how Cloud Business can support your migration to Office 365, please contact us at hello@cloudbusiness.com, or talk to us on **0845 680 8538**.