

Sport, Play and Climbing the Walls

Talking to Tom Bunner from Eveque
SPE Member Profile



We recently had the pleasure of talking to Tom Bunner, Managing Director of Eveque, the educational sports equipment manufacturer and program developer. They've been a bright light in educational sports equipment and services since 1980. Synonymous with high-quality mat manufacture, school sports development and, more recently, climbing wall matting. Tom was kind enough to answer some questions and give us a small insight into the world of Eveque.

Can you tell me what you think has made Eveque so successful?

Eveque's success has been built primarily upon developing innovative sports programme and products.

What about Eveque makes you most proud?

The fact that over the last 40 years we have been a major influencer in the development of PE in schools and now nearly all schools in the UK have some of our equipment.

How are you feeling about the current UK trading environment?

Not too bad, although certain sectors we are involved in such as automotive have stopped spending. Others, such as climbing walls are doing very well. We are concerned about education, however, as secondary schools funding is constantly being squeezed.

What do you consider the main challenges that face British business?

The uncertainty surrounding Brexit. Most businesses look for stability as it is hard to plan when the goal posts keep moving.

If you could have one person (living, dead, real or fictional) in your team, who would they be and why?

It would have to be a top entrepreneur, someone had already made it and could help us access new markets and scale up the business.

Which of Eveque products or services are exceeding expectations at the moment?

The would be climbing wall matting. It is a nice industry to be involved in as nearly all wall operators are very passionate about climbing and their climbing centres.

What is your vision for the future?

To provide flexible manufacturing solutions across a range of industries.

If I could work with you for 12 months, what would I learn?

Good question! Hopefully a good deal about sports development and manufacturing.

What do you find most beneficial about being part of the SPE?

The SPE gives a voice to the sporting goods industry, allowing us to share best practice and develop the necessary safety standards to ensure consumers are kept safe.

How can the SPE best support the industry?

Telling government what the issues are. We have a serious funding problem in secondary schools yet nothing is being done to resolve it.



If you have kids, there's a good chance your little ones have used something supplied by Eveque. Mention Sportshall Athletics and school competition and you immediately think of them. But Eveque supply equipment for a huge variety of activities and they're a hive of innovation.

Tom mentioned that climbing wall safety matting was an area in which Eveque are enjoying considerable success and have also found to be rewarding in terms of engagement with clients. The supply and installation of climbing wall matting requires bespoke solutions which means the company get to work closely with customers.

"Here at Eveque, we have a passion for what we do and it's good to be involved with people who have a similar passion for their own speciality." Sport climbing is an increasingly popular activity - a trend set to continue with its inclusion in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The combination of physical benefits and problem solving give it a broad appeal that's different to some traditional sports. In many ways, climbing wall centres have become social hubs where enthusiasts meet and share a coffee, as well as taking part in an enjoyable pastime. It's just one of the areas in which Eveque provide custom-made solutions. You can see the full range of their products online at www.eveque.co.uk.