

Accounting Support for Breweries

Wilde Child Brewing moves to new premises after securing Five-figure business enterprise fund investment

Nov 2017



Leeds-based brewery Wilde Child Brewing is relocating to new premises after advice from Garbutt + Elliott enabled the company to secure funding from the Business Enterprise Fund (BEF), as it looks to expand its beer production.

The brewery, which has recently secured key accounts with recognised pub chains, has relocated to a 2,000 sq ft commercial property in Armley to help it fulfil its ambitious growth plans.

The new premises will enable the brewery to increase its production by five times, from three barrels a week to 15, with the first beer brewed at the new facility expected to be available from February 2018.

Garbutt + Elliott advised Wilde Child Brewing founder and owner Keir McAllister-Wilde on the funding deal and experts at the firm have been appointed to provide a range of accountancy and financial services to support the development of the company.

Wilde Child Brewing owner, Keir McAllister-Wilde, said: "Since launching, the demand for our products has been extremely high and I have been looking at ways to expand the operation and keep pace with orders. The Start Up Loans investment provided by the BEF will allow me to fulfil my ambitious growth plans, which includes relocation to the new facility, employing more people and expanding our customer base outside of Yorkshire.

"As well as relocating I'm also considering the possibility of opening a tap room where customers visiting our new home can sample our products.

"The advice from Garbutt + Elliott has been vital in helping us secure the funding we needed to make this step and take the brewery to the next level. The ideas, guidance and expertise I've received from Matthew Grant, who really is an expert in the brewery sector, has been invaluable and his contribution will continue to help us achieve our ambitious aims of further development and growth in the future."

Wilde Child brewery was launched in 2016 by Keir McAllister-Wilde after he honed his skills as a homebrewer for four years before moving into the commercial brewing industry where he worked with two award-winning Yorkshire breweries.

Matthew Grant, partner and head of business services at Garbutt + Elliott, said: "This is a very exciting time for Wilde Child Brewing, with several key accounts with recognised pub chains secured, a new premises and the opportunity to increase production.

“We are pleased to have assisted in securing the funding. With our appointment to provide further business planning and accountancy services, we look forward to working with Keir and helping the business continue its impressive growth.”

The BEF is a not-for-profit social enterprise, set up to provide loans to SME businesses across the North East of England, as well as North and West Yorkshire, Humberside and North Lincolnshire that will help them thrive and grow when other lenders can't fully assist.

Andy Clough, investment manager at BEF, said: “It's fantastic to see another successful Yorkshire micro-brewery growing. Through Matthew's introduction, I'm delighted to have helped, and look forward to seeing more Wilde Child beer in bars and beer shops across the country.”

Garbutt + Elliott help UK's first wheat beer brewery on the road to success

Sep 2016



Garbutt + Elliott has been appointed by Leeds-based Eyes Brewing to help it realise its dream of opening the UK's first dedicated wheat beer brewery.

The brewery has also appointed Garbutt + Elliott to provide a range of services including accounts and tax compliance, payroll processing and business advice.

Chris Bennigsen, director at Eyes Brewing, sought out the expertise of brewery specialist Matthew Grant after

speaking with Ainsty Ales – also a client of Garbutt + Elliott's.

With access to his knowledge, contacts and expertise, Eyes Brewing is now set to introduce its first wheat beer to the market at this year's Northallerton Beer Festival.

Speaking on the appointment Chris said: “For a long time it has been our dream to become the UK's first ever wheat brewery and with Matthew's help we've been able to achieve this. Garbutt + Elliott has provided us with invaluable advice and we're very much looking forward to working with the firm in the future as we grow and develop our business.

“Matthew has a huge amount of knowledge in the brewing sector and we're grateful for his assistance in us breaking into the market. We love wheat beer and are really excited to see what the public thinks of it.”

Micro-brewing continues to grow in the UK with 160 breweries in Yorkshire alone; Eyes Brewing however will be the first brewery in the country to specialise in wheat beer, a drink that's very popular in northern European countries.

Matthew Grant, director at Garbutt + Elliott commented: “It’s great to be working with such an exciting client as Eyes Brewing because they are genuinely doing something out of the ordinary. Wheat beer has been popular on the continent for centuries and it’s very exciting to see someone specialising in it in the UK.”

“What’s also exciting is the fact that Eyes Brewery is making the first steps on its journey and I’m delighted to be helping them gather momentum and succeed.”

Not-For-Profit Brewery up and Running with Help from Garbutt + Elliott

June 2016



IGNITION BREWERY
LEWISHAM

Ignition Brewery, a new London brewery that provides fulfilling employment and training to people with learning disabilities, is running smoothly thanks to assistance from Garbutt + Elliott, specialist brewery accountants in York and in Leeds.

As part of the relationship Matthew Grant, director at Garbutt + Elliott and brewing industry specialist, assisted the Ignition team by explaining the complex setup processes, answering questions both from within the organisation and from third parties, plus advising on how to become an official not-for-profit company.

Speaking about the partnership Nick O’Shea, Director at Ignition Brewery, said: “After working as a volunteer with the Lewisham branch of Mencap I realised that a key objective for many people with learning disabilities was to find a fulfilling job. With that goal, we set up Ignition Brewery to help our members find fulfilment, make great beers and to earn fair wage.

“The reality of setting up an organisation such as Ignition Brewery was not as easy as one may expect. There were numerous questions that needed answering and requests for information that we were not able to give. Fortunately Matthew Grant and his team were able to take the pressure off us and advised on a huge range of issues whilst we got to grips with starting the business.”

Ignition Brewery has just started commercial production and hopes to employ up to ten people with learning disabilities by the end of the year. They will be paid the London living wage.

Matthew Grant commented: “We’re delighted to have been able to work with a business as societally active as Ignition Brewery. The company not only makes excellent beer, it substantially contributes to the local community and beyond. I look forward to working closely with Nick and his team in the future as they continue to grow and take on more staff.”

A new Darlington real ale brewery has been launched, with the support of leading accountants and business advisers Garbutt + Elliott

March 2015



A new Darlington real ale brewery has been launched, with the support of leading northern accountants and business advisers Garbutt + Elliott.

The School House Brewery, based on the Cleveland Industrial Estate, Darlington, is run by Graham Gannaway and is already selling beers to pubs, clubs and restaurants across the Tees Valley.

He explained: "Having worked at senior level for a major retail company and then as CEO for a UK charity, I felt that I

was ready to face the ultimate business challenge of running my own business.

"As any entrepreneur will tell you 'there's real thrill to working without a safety net'. The difficult decision for me was not should I run my own business, but what business? My epiphany moment came in the shower, when I decided that a brewery would be the perfect challenge.

"Once I had spoken to my family and got their support, the next 18 months were given over to a process of planning, training and research before I was ready to start brewing commercially.

"From a standing start, I'm now regularly selling beers to pubs, clubs and restaurants across the Tees Valley and I'm currently in negotiation with a national pub chain and sports arena to supply their bars," said Mr Gannaway.

A love of beer provided the link with Garbutt + Elliott.

Mr Gannaway explained: "I had just been let down by an online accountancy firm when I was introduced to Craig Snaith of G+E at a beer festival. That chance meeting was quickly followed by a visit to my brewery by Craig and his Garbutt + Elliott colleague Matthew Grant.

"I felt that they understood business, my vision for the future but more importantly they didn't try and sell me a service that I didn't need. I found that refreshing.

"So far G+E have completed my annual accounts and are currently in the process of setting up new nominal codes and posting adjustments that will facilitate the completion of next year's return.

"Craig and Matthew have done exactly what they said they would do, they have made themselves available to me and are genuinely helping to grow my business," he added.

Matthew Grant, a director at Garbutt + Elliott and a member of CAMRA in York, and a respected accountant, said: "It is an absolute pleasure helping Graham. He is enthusiastic courageous and passionate – and he loves his beer. I think that's the perfect combination of characteristics to make a great brewer".

Garbutt + Elliott Lend a Hand to York Micro-Brewery

June 2014



A York real ale micro-brewery is to be launched in the Autumn with the support of leading Yorkshire accountants and business advisers, Garbutt + Elliott.

Ainsty Ales, which is owned and run by ex-York policeman, Andy Herrington, is planning to unveil a Trial Brew to the public at the Copmanthorpe Carnival on the 28th June, ahead of the official launch in the Autumn.

Mr Herrington is being supported by Garbutt + Elliott, who have offices in York and Leeds.

He explained: "I've known Matthew Grant, director of Garbutt + Elliott, since childhood. Garbutt + Elliott have worked with a number of other local breweries and Matthew himself is a senior member of CAMRA in York, so they ticked all the boxes.

"Garbutt + Elliott have provided advice on tax and all financial aspects of starting up a business. The advice has proved invaluable. It's daunting starting up a business, particularly if you're doing it alone. The support I've received from Garbutt + Elliott has enabled me to move forward with real confidence," said Mr Herrington.

Ainsty Ales is also being supported by the Brass Castle Brewery in Malton, where Ainsty Ales trial brewing is taking place.

"The Brass Castle Brewery is allowing me to do some Cuckoo Brewing, whereby I pay to use the spare capacity at the brewery whenever it's available. As a start-up, this is incredibly helpful," explained Mr Herrington.

Matthew Grant commented: "It's an absolute pleasure helping Ainsty Ales. Andy is enthusiastic, courageous and passionate and he loves his beer, which I think is the perfect combination of characteristics for a great brewer.

"Once Ainsty Ales is fully up and running, we hope Andy will take part in the Growth Accelerator programme, which provides financial support and business coaching to help ambitious businesses to achieve rapid and sustainable growth.

"Garbutt + Elliott has a number of accredited advisers for the programme, which provides tailored support to individual businesses by identifying their needs and teaming them up with proven experts in their field," explained Mr Grant.

Mr Herrington commented: "I am extremely encouraged by the breadth of support I have received from Garbutt + Elliott. I really feel I can now turn my dreams of making Ainsty Ales a successful micro-brewery into reality."