



Northop Golf Club 10th Year Anniversary 2024



2024 brings a double celebration for Northop Golf club, it's the 30th anniversary of the club opening in 1994, with the course being owned by Steve Morgan, the founder of Redrow and then owner of St Davids Hotels Ltd.

Mr David Llewellyn, a multiple European Tour Winner and Golf World Cup winner was the club's first Head Professional and Northop quickly developed a reputation for being an outstanding course and layout. It was quickly recognised by National Golfing Unions, the PGA, and the European Tours when they chose Northop to host national tournaments.

Perhaps even more significant is that this year is the 10th anniversary of when the members took control of all aspects of Northop Golf Club in April 2014.

This represented a huge leap of faith taken by the newly appointed board directors. Our initial membership stood at 178 members, and it was certainly questionable whether it was a financially viable proposition to continue with Northop Golf Club.

However, the directors at the time Tony Godden, Graham Harrison, Andy Scott, Andrew Sinclair, Neil Wilson along with myself took on the running of the golf club.

The drive, passion and financial support provided by the late Mr Andrew Sinclair was pivotal to our progress and without his vision and determination we certainly would not have the club that we have today. Thank you, Andrew.

We initially committed to a 5-year lease and have subsequently negotiated an additional 25-year lease.

The hurdles to overcome initially were immense, this included a fleet of tired and ageing machinery, a neglected course, a dwindling membership, and not forgetting that we no longer had a clubhouse!

We were effectively starting from scratch and had to establish all operating processes and register a new limited company. A major step was achieving CASC status, this was a difficult and time-consuming process ably navigated by Tony and Graham, this community charity status was and still is vital to our financial sustainability.

We (Neil) successfully built the new clubhouse which was opened in Dec 2014.



The board members have changed to now include Steve Bowden, Carol Clough, John Dennan, David Evans, Colin Sullivan, myself, and the ever-present Tony Godden.

Without the time and efforts of all the directors over the last 10 years the financial sustainability of the club would never have been achieved.

We weren't expecting a global pandemic, so this brought additional challenges of lock downs, social distancing rules and differing national restrictions. Clearly this was an extremely difficult time for all our members and staff. The club made use of the available covid business support and took the decision to give account credits to members to partly compensate for lock down subscriptions.

Golf Club membership numbers have grown steadily every year, we have seen a strong post covid influx and are comfortably above 600.

The Club employed up to 20 employees during last year and their dedication and enthusiasm has been key to the progress that we have seen on the course and in the clubhouse.

There are more than 30 members who volunteer on a regular basis whether that be on the various committees, as a director or working on the course: their efforts in making Northop Golf club what it is today should not go unrecognised.

Personally, I started at Northop as a 21year old in the Spring of 1994. I have witnessed both the massive initial positive reaction when Northop Country Park GC opened and the sad decline through poor ownership in the darker periods. We are now seeing the resurgence once again with Northop Golf club being one of the preeminent members clubs in the area.

This success story proves that through the hard work of many people great things can be achieved. We are now in the position to continue to develop the course year on year, which in in turn will hopefully see our club and course recognised again by the National governing bodies, members and visiting golfers alike.

This will again prove that Northop Golf Club is a club that everyone can be proud of. A true members club: run by members for the members.

Wishing you all the best for the season ahead, Matt.

With the first signs of Spring now appearing it's going to be a very busy time for our both greenkeepers and our clubhouse staff. Everyone is looking forward to making this another year for our club.

Tom Hall (2nd from the right) joined us last week and it looks like he's already getting stuck in!





The building of the clubhouse represented a huge achievement and it was a clear statement of intent that this was completed with our 1st year of trading.

The 4 pictures show the progression from the old driving range and the initial foundations for our luxury portacabins complete with our VIP lounge! to the erection of the steel work and finally the clubhouse that we have today.

The clubhouse is now a major asset for the club enjoyed by members, visitors, and the local community. We have held all types of functions ranging from Christenings, Weddings, Birthday parties, Funeral wakes and even book launches, these all help finance our running of our golf course.





Our fleet of machinery has been steadily upgraded during the last 10 years.

Our greens have improved dramatically in the last few years and the new pins are a nice addition.

New summer tees on the 2nd and 5th holes coupled with new winter tees on all 18 holes represents the first step towards improving this area of our course.

The course looked great last summer, and we have had plenty of positive feedback. With the golfing season approaching we are confident that this progress will continue in the year ahead.

