



## Ladies Meeting

Without Question we can say that the course has been in as good a condition over the last 2 years as we can remember. This is a testament to the years of hard work carried out by the Greenkeeping teams since 2014. Under the leadership of Jonathan and his team this year our greens were the envy of every other club in the county.

The directors last year were able to provide Jonathan a further increased greenkeeping budget, also extra staffing resource was provided, and additional machinery was purchased and further investment into machinery has been agreed this year. We have ordered a new rough mower and tractor which are being delivered any day now. We also access external contractors every year who carried out the major earth works so as not to impact on greenkeepers time. This only comes from prudent and sound financial management and maximising all income streams.

Over the last few years the increase in costs to the golf club have been significant not just the impact that the government made last year with the Ni and living wage increase which added over 20k to our staff costs , the general impact of the cost of living has also massively hit the golf club , the increase in gas electricity and water has been immense, along with huge price rises in everything we purchase, nothing we buy as a club has not significantly increased, this coupled with our desire to continue to invest in the course has seen the subs rise this year.

Whilst membership is a 12-month contractual agreement the practicality of the situation is golf clubs in the uk work on the breakeven business model and we have realistically 6/7 months where we generate income to survive the 5/6 months where we lose money and if we can make a little more than we spend then we can further invest in the course.

As stated last year we saw a reduction in the number of members from the peak of the covid boom, this year we saw the membership as a whole grow fractionally and the underlying feeling is that 2026/7 will see another year of membership growth which is bucking the industry trend.

The only section where growth is stagnating is in the Ladies section, even with the 1million pound women in golf legacy funding given out last year in Wales, there was still an overall reduction in membership number in the ladies and girls categories in North Wales.

Currently the Ladies section makes up 4.8% of the total club membership, but the Ladies section has between 15 and 20 % of Saturday morning tee times also 25% of the board of directors are Ladies, this shows the value that I and the club place on the Ladies section and our desire for this section to grow.

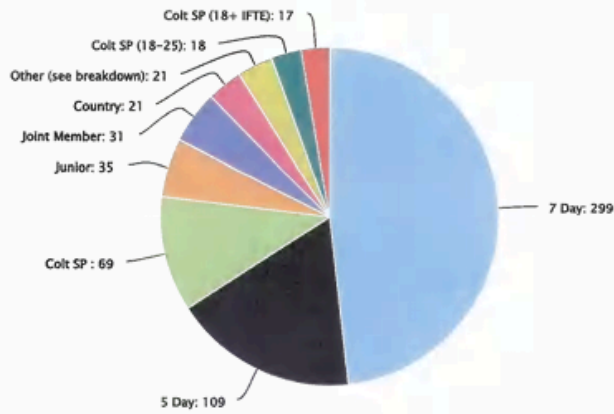
Recent surveys carried out by England Golf shows that only 2% of registered female golfers are under the age of 50, this is disconcerting to golf as a whole and something needs to change. We need to look always of bucking this trend and have innovative solutions to the age-old question what can we do to attract and retain more ladies?

We will be carrying out the New 2 Golf lessons again , but we as a whole need to look at the Ladies section and formulate a plan to grow, the men's section will continue to grow and if the ladies does not keep pace the pressure on the club to reduce things like Saturday tee time will only grow, and I have no wish for this to happen



## Northop Golf Club

### Member Categories



## All Active Members

Created: Wednesday 04 March 2026 08:41  
by: Matthew Pritchard

[Download PDF](#)

	# All	# Male	# Female
All Active Members	620	581	39
New to Golf	2	0	2
Social Corp	2	2	0
7 Day	299	288	11
7 Day Honour	5	4	1
Joint Member	31	17	14
5 Day	109	108	1
Colt SP	69	68	1
Colt SP (18-25)	18	17	1
Colt SP (18+ IFTE)	17	17	0
2nd Club	2	2	0
4 Day Weekender	0	0	0
Country	21	20	1
Junior	35	31	4
STAFF	10	7	3

This coming year again looks set to be record breaking for us in terms of green fee income but if we have a poor summer weather wise then we can kiss goodbye to all our plans and that is the reality of the situation, we as a business are weather

dependant. We as a club and me in particular are always looking at cost savings measures so we can spend and invest in the course. We have had solar panels installed, new wash down areas for the greenkeepers, water saving measures put in place, this is coupled with very tight management of staffing costs.

I run the golf club with only 5 full time staff, all other staff are part time or seasonal, most golf clubs will have that in the office and shop, but we have it to run the whole club and course. We do have casual and part time staff but in essence we run the club with 5 staff and the support of the directors , and not wanting to identify people but without Steve Bowden on the Greens and Carol supporting me we would not be able to function as we do , personally the work Carol does for free can never be overestimated and all of it is unseen.

We are continuing to learn as we grow and have now got effective committees across the board in Ladies, Nobs, Comps and Handicap and Greens , having a Lady on the greens committee in Caroline gives a Diverse range of views and this is only positive. Hopefully you can recognise the value we place on the ladies' section and try and build all practical requests into the greenkeeping programme. The last Greens meeting we conducted a course walk with the committee to discuss upcoming plans and engage in constructive dialogue to always have the membership at the heart of our thinking'

The course changing round has proved a major success and has achieved its goal of being a massive health and safety success

The ladies section continues to be fantastically well run and a thanks must go to the Ladies committee for this, without the support of volunteers on committees Golf clubs just would not be able to continue. At this time, I would like to congratulate Pam on her year and under difficult circumstances hope you had a great time as Lady Captain, also Yvonne thanks for stepping in when Pam was away and I hope you have a great year in 2026

To our great credit as a club we are fortunate to have 2 Lady Directors in Carol and Denise and it is only with the guidance from the board that we are able to continue in our long term goal of making the club the Best Member club in the county we are applying for the women in golf charter to recognise the great importance that we do place on ladies membership and that whilst you all might not always think that but I and the club do support and recognise the importance of the Ladies section

As with everything none of our success is down to one person it is a team effort and that includes all the clubhouse staff, Greenkeepers volunteers committee members and directors it only through working together we can continue with our continued growth as a club.

Thanks for all your support as always

Matt

Matthew Pritchard

General Manager

[mattpritchard@northopgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:mattpritchard@northopgolfclub.co.uk)

Northop Golf Club Ltd, Sinclair House, Northop Country Park, Flintshire, CH76WA

Tel 01352 840440 [www.northopgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.northopgolfclub.co.uk) Email [admin@northopgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@northopgolfclub.co.uk)

Co Registration 8916271 VAT GB 294 4847 55