

# **GLOBAL GOLF ADVISORS**



# EUROPEAN CLUB TRENDS & BEST PRACTICES

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## Presenters

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### Rob Hill / PARTNER

Manages GGA EMEA office in **Dublin**.

Directs GGA's **Institute for Best Practice**.

Previously: **Whitbread Plc, Marriott Hotels,**  
Managing Director at **Merrion Golf Management**.



### Bennett DeLozier / MANAGER

Manages GGA satellite office in **San Francisco**.

Executes GGA's **Data Collection** capabilities.

Specialties: **Marketing, Communications, Internal**  
**Market Analysis, and Membership Satisfaction**.



## Presentation Map

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01

### / GGA INTRODUCTION

Origins. Reach. Client support. Expertise.  
Approach.

02

### / CMAE RELATIONSHIP

From Strategic Planning engagement to  
Corporate Partner.

03

### / BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE

Inspiration. Description. Aims. Value.





## Presentation Map

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04

/ TRENDS SUMMARY

Attention-worthy trends.

05

/ KEY FINDINGS

Trends. Data. Impact. Significance.

06

/ ONWARD

Takeaways. Insights. Applications. Future contributions.



## Conversations & Resources



### Resource Library

[globalgolfadvisors.com/cmaeconference](http://globalgolfadvisors.com/cmaeconference)



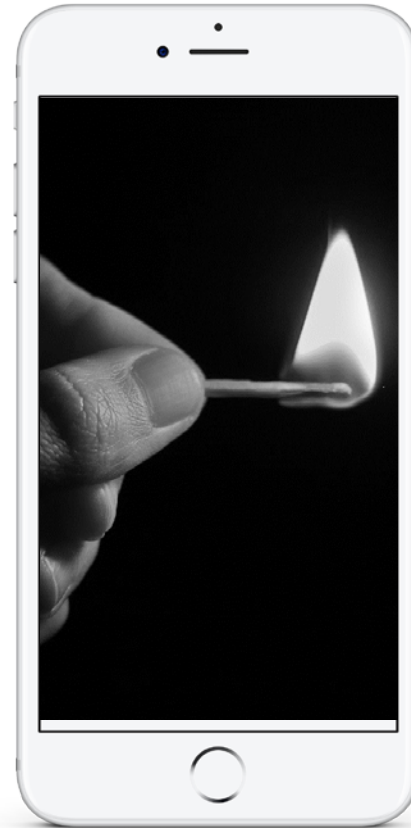
### Twitter

@GlobalGolfAdvis



### Conversation

#CMAEconference



[GlobalGolfAdvisors.com/CMAEconference](http://GlobalGolfAdvisors.com/CMAEconference)



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## GGA INTRODUCTION

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**“Effective leadership is putting first things first.  
Effective management is discipline, carrying it out.”**

**// Stephen Covey**

Author, educator, businessman, speaker

GGA is a **highly specialised consulting firm** focused on golf,  
private club, real estate, and resort businesses.





## Origins

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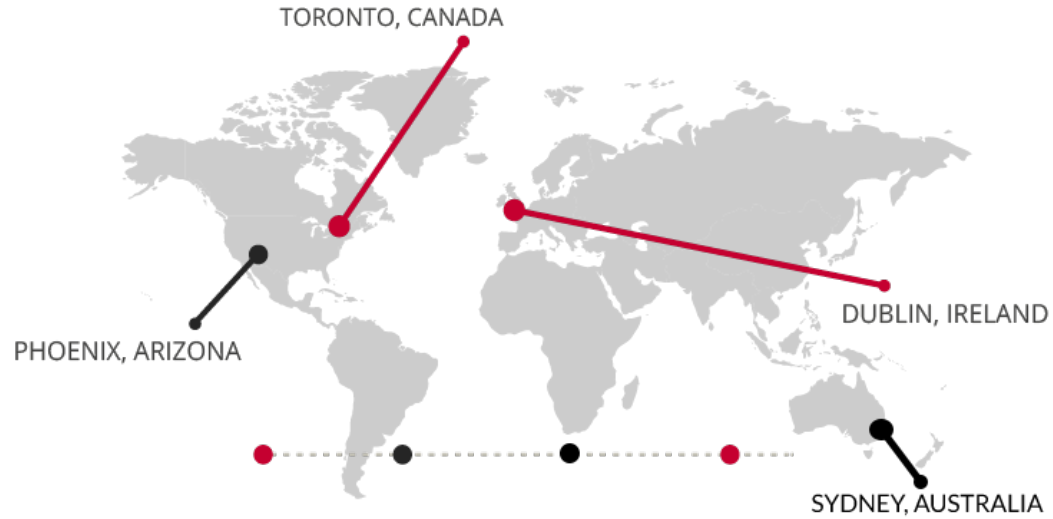
Established in 1992 as KPMG Golf  
Industry Practice



Conduct strategic planning for clubs of all  
shapes/sizes around the world



## Reach



Serving 2,900+ clients worldwide



Leading golf industry insight from  
4 global offices



WE DO **INSIGHT**



WE DO **STRATEGY**



WE DO **SUCCESS**



GGA researches and shares best practices amongst the world's top performing golf clubs with a view to improving the performance in an array of management disciplines.



## Expertise



APPRAISAL



ASSET  
MANAGEMENT



BENCHMARKING



BUSINESS  
PLANNING



CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP



FINANCE



GOVERNANCE



MARKETING &  
COMMUNICATIONS



OPERATIONS



SEARCH



TECHNOLOGY



TRANSACTION  
ADVISORY



## Approach





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## RELATIONSHIP WITH CMAE

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## GGA & CMAE

### CMAE STRATEGIC PLAN

GGA engaged to co-create a long-range Strategic Plan for the Association.



### CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP 2015

GGA becomes corporate sponsor to lend strategic guidance, advisory support.



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Helping to meet demand for consolidated educational and professional development.





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## BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE

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## Inspiration

# Strategy relies upon intelligence.

In Europe, a historic **lack of available data** to inform strategic thinking.

CMAE and GGA believe that **informed and intelligent planning** increases likelihood of success.





## Visualisation

# Intelligence visualises the future.

Managers face **significant and increasing pressure** from members and owners **to make the right decisions** for their club's future.

Managers require **reliable insight and guidance** to do so.





## European Club and Golf Benchmarking Study

**CMAE OBJECTIVE:** Promote best practices in club management throughout Europe, Middle East, North Africa. This commitment inspired the most comprehensive club benchmarking initiative ever undertaken in Europe.



## European Club and Golf Benchmarking Study

**GGA OBJECTIVE:** Generate comprehensive and reliable performance metrics that will lead to a better-informed European Club Industry, and provide club managers with a vital decision-making tool.





## Aims & Value

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### Support Managers

Support club managers and a more informed industry.



### Track Changes

Track trends over time and monitor changes.

### Forecast Trends

Identify trends which will impact clubs throughout Europe in the years ahead.



### Identify Success

Identify successful strategies and tactics.

### Inform Strategy

Inform strategic and business planning.



### Define Roadmap

Identify what success looks like and how to get there.



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## SCOPE

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## Scope

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### Immense Volume

Diversity. Variety. Range.



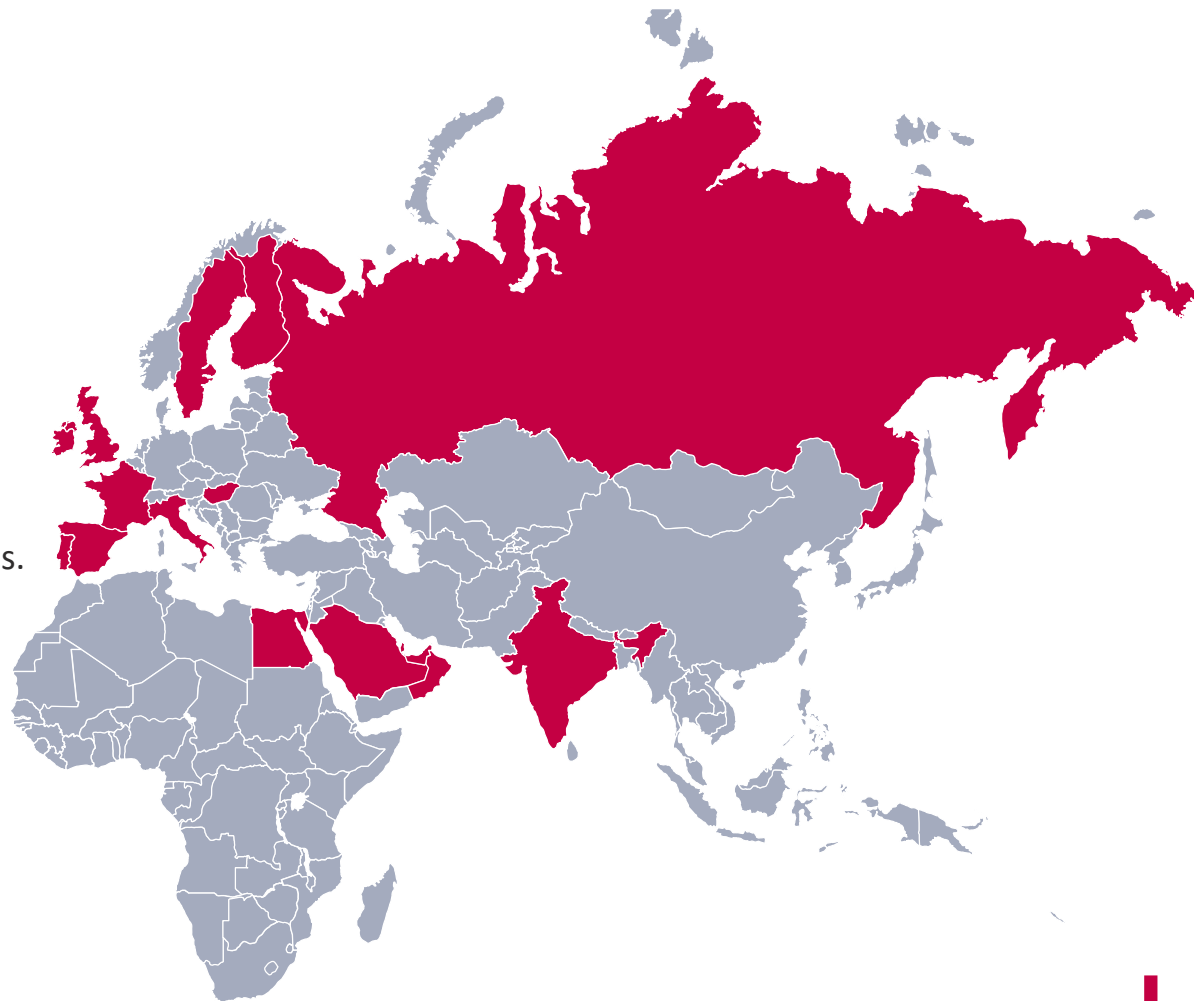
### Substantial Detail

Topics. Trends. Questions. Metrics.



### Vast Array

Regions. Club types. Statures.





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## TRENDS SUMMARY

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## Trends Considered

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Respondent Profile



Membership



Staffing



Governance



Capital



Finances



Golf Facilities



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## RESPONDENT PROFILE

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Significant diversity among respondents, not evenly distributed or represented. Survey reach mirrors combined reach of GGA and CMAE with a heavy focus on UK, Western and Southern Europe, with several 'lone outlier' countries.



# Respondent Profile



126

MANAGERS

~18

CLUB TYPES

19

COUNTRIES

9

CURRENCIES

~8

REGIONS



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## MEMBERSHIP

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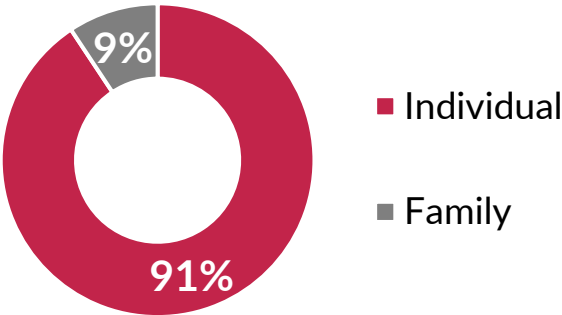
**Indecision.** Many managers sense that a change is needed to move away from ‘traditional’ membership structures defined by take-it-or-leave-it type offerings which leave up-front money on the table.

However, many are uncertain what the membership changes are or should be, most aren’t doing anything new and the ones who do have seen it be effective.

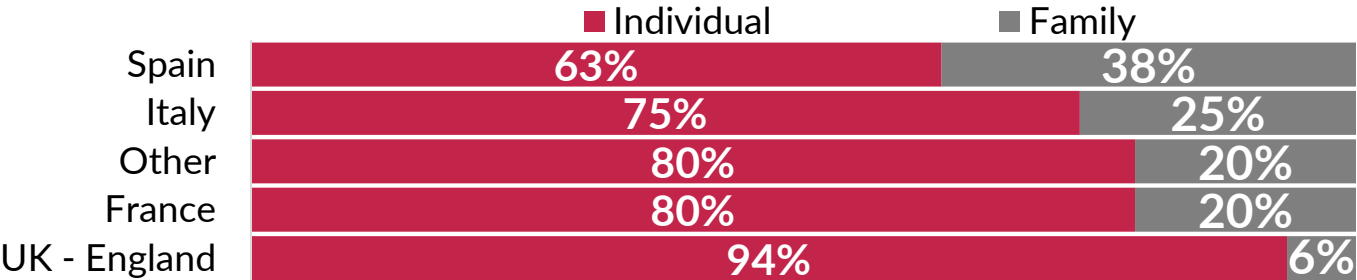
**More confidence to lead change is needed for new membership upswing to materialize.**

# Extension of Membership Privileges

At more than nine out of ten European clubs membership privileges are localised to the individual.

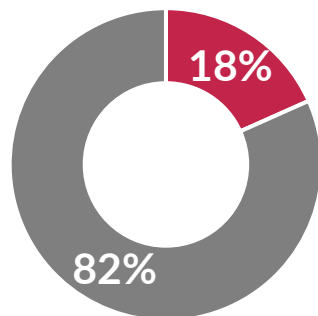


Only 9% of clubs extend membership privileges to the immediate family, a practice more common in southern Europe and the Middle East.

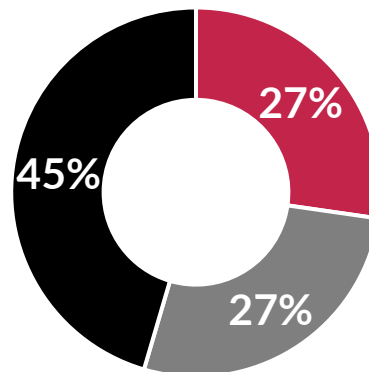


## Cost to Join – Equity Share

Less than one-fifth (18%) of clubs require new, full-privilege members to purchase an equity share.



- Yes
- No

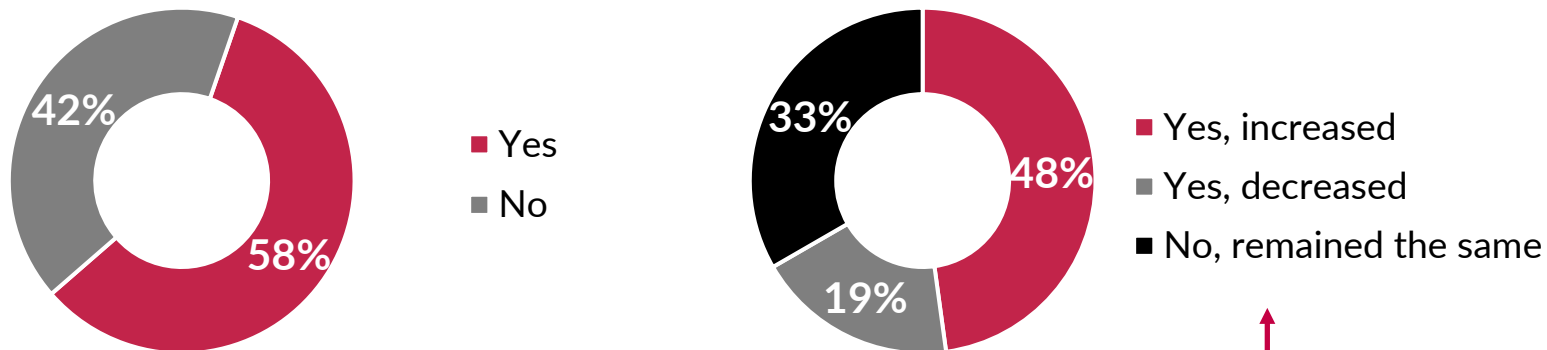


- Yes, increased
- Yes, decreased
- No, remained the same

Change in Equity Share Cost - Last 5 Years

## Cost to Join – Joining Fee

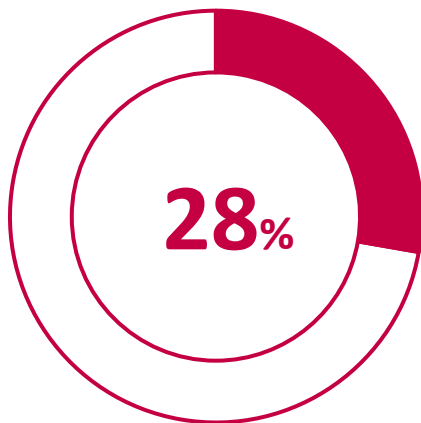
Six out of ten (58%) clubs require new, full-privilege members to pay a non-refundable joining fee.



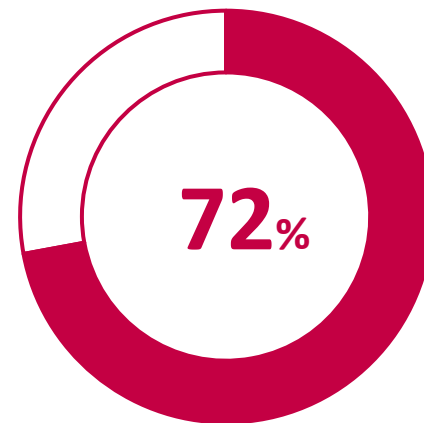
Change in Joining Fee Cost - Last 5 Years

## Cost to Join – Joining Fee

Of clubs without a non-refundable joining fee requirement for new members (42% of overall respondents):



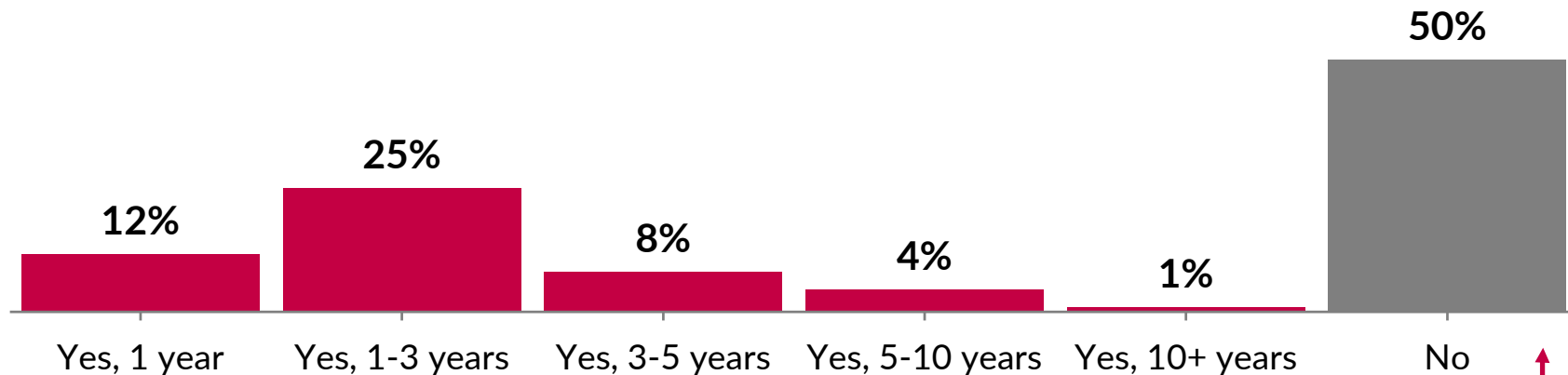
Had one but removed it within last 5 years



Neither have one now, nor had one in last 5 years

## Cost to Join – Payment Options

Clubs evenly divided on how join costs/shares are paid: lump sum vs. payment over several years

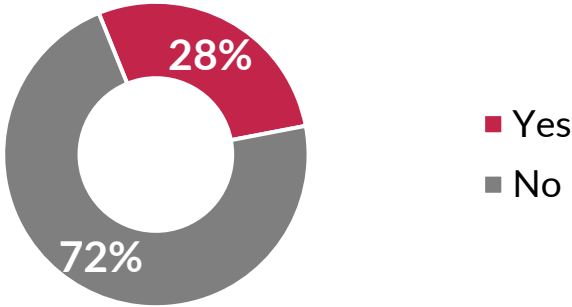


Extended payment options for joining costs typically allowed for **2.7 years** on average.

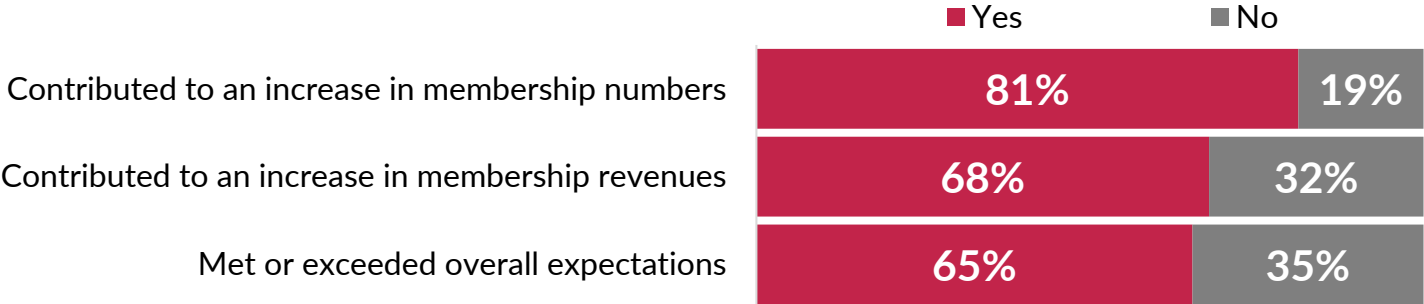
Half do not offer any payment options

# Flexible Membership Offerings

72% do NOT currently provide a 'Pay-Per-Use' or 'Flexible' membership category



Most clubs (65%+) with such a category have found it effective in supporting membership growth



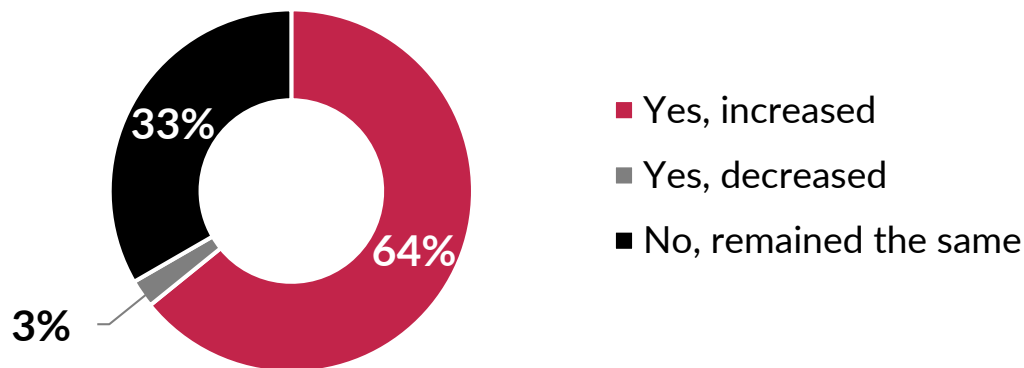


## Cost to Belong – Annual Subscription/Dues

Overall cost to belong, primarily focusing on Annual Subscription/Dues cost has continued to rise in recent years – nearly two-thirds (64%) reporting YOY increases within the last 2 years alone while one-third (33%) reported cost stability.

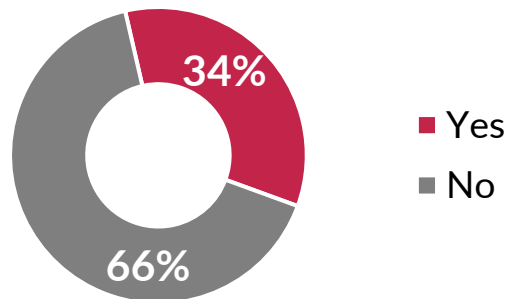
Only 3% of respondents reported cost decreases in the same 2 year period.

### Change in Annual Subscription/Dues Cost – Last 2 Years

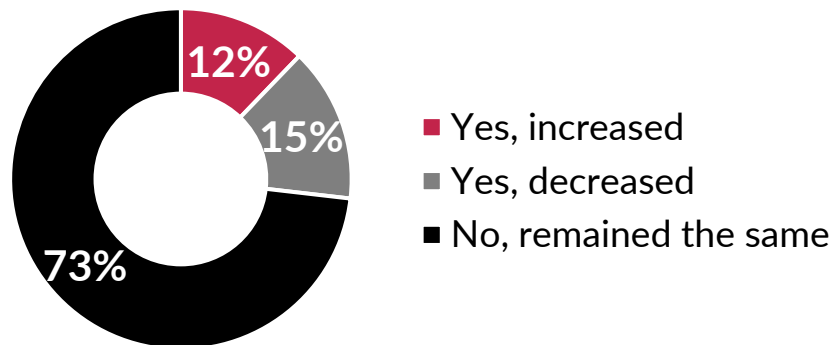


## Cost to Belong – F&B Levy

One in three clubs require new, full-privilege members to pay a F&B levy.

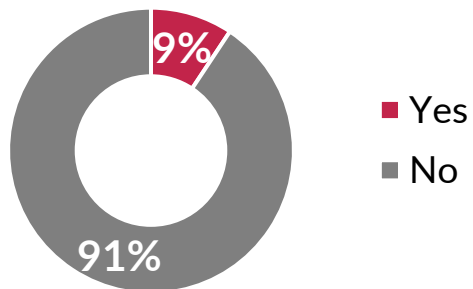


Change in Food & Beverage Levy Cost – Last 5 Years

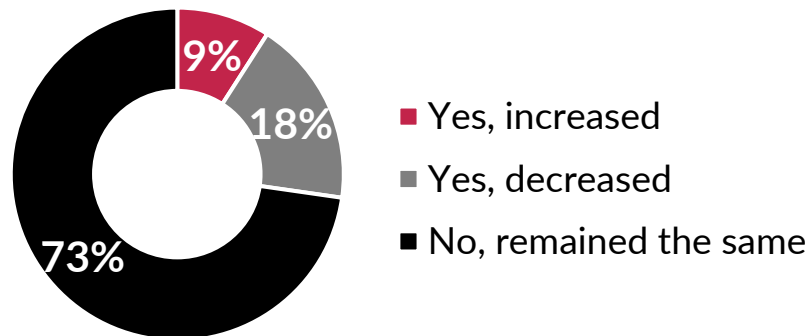


## Cost to Belong – Capital Levy

Only 9% require new, full-privilege members to pay a capital levy/contribution

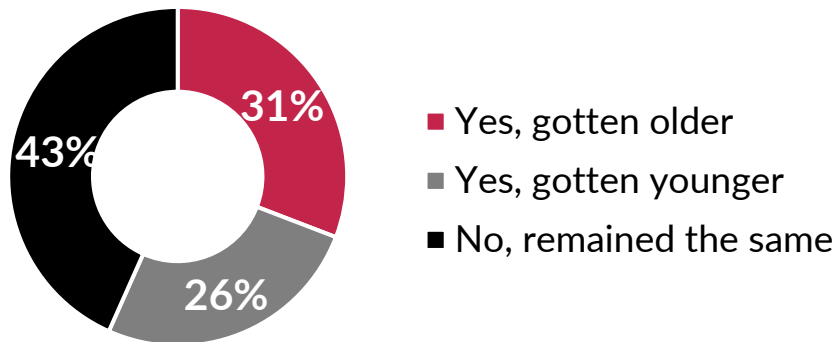


Change in Capital Levy/Contribution Cost – Last 5 Years



## Changing Member Demographics – Age Profile

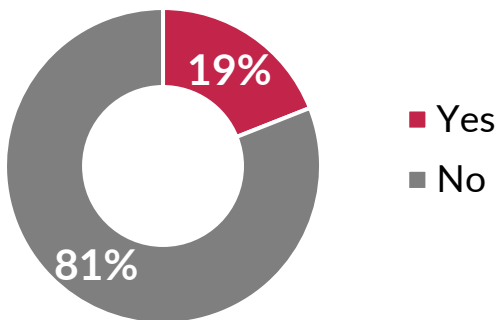
More than half (57%) of clubs have experienced a change in the age profile of their membership base in the last 5 years.



Clubs experiencing age profile changes are more likely to see members ageing than growing younger.

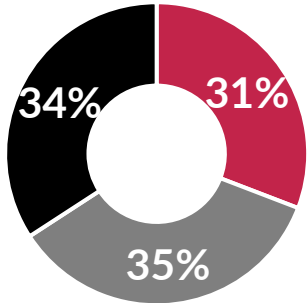
It is noteworthy that the largest concentration of respondents (43%) reported an unchanged age profile.

Only one in five clubs had a waitlist in 2016.



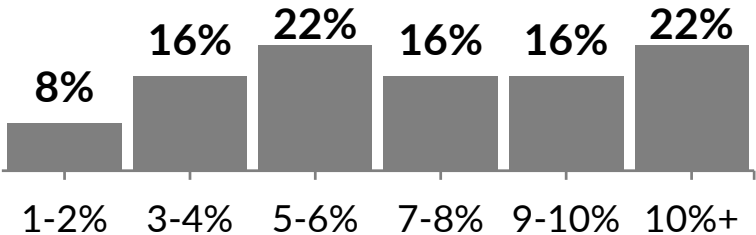
# Changing Member Demographics – Membership Size

69% have sustained (35%) or increased their total number of members (34%) in the last 5 years.



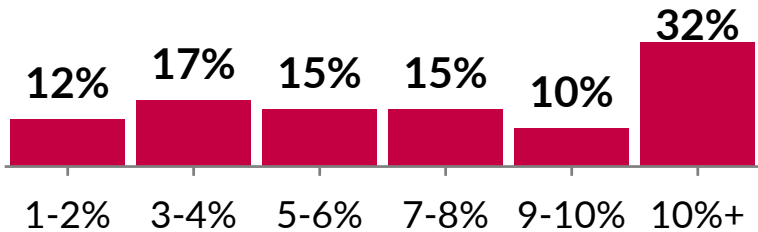
- Yes
- No, remained broadly the same
- No, increased

Membership Decline (% of membership)



**-7.1%** average decline

Membership Increase (% of membership)



**+7.3%** average increase

## Sustainable Membership Strategy

### Key Factors Influencing a Sustainable Membership Strategy

Factor		Average Rating (5=Highly Influential)
1	<b>Quality:</b> improvement in quality of amenities	4.26
2	<b>Personalisation:</b> provide more tailored and personalised service	3.79
3	<b>Connectivity:</b> further enhance club's platform for connecting its membership	3.75
4	<b>Technology:</b> embrace modern technologies to complement modern lifestyles	3.75
5	<b>Family:</b> expand appeal to families	3.74
6	<b>Brand/Image Realignment:</b> addressing market misconceptions	3.57
7	<b>Variety:</b> expand amenities to offer greater variety and reason to engage	3.47
8	<b>Flexibility:</b> provide more flexible, tailored, accommodating membership offerings	3.26
9	<b>Security:</b> provide greater commitment to security	2.77



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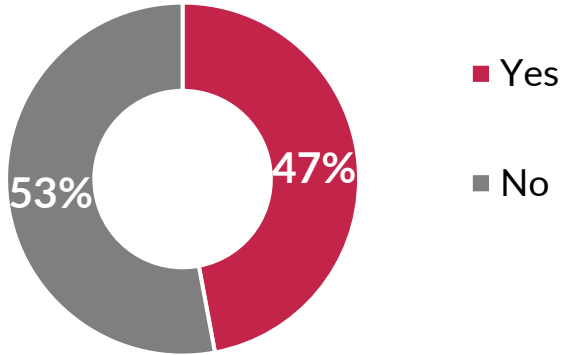
## STAFFING

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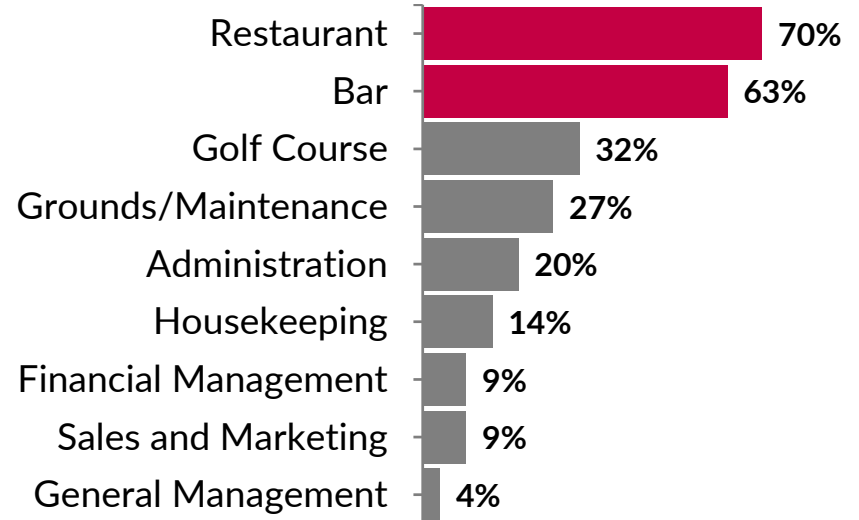
Half are challenged to source suitable staff in last 5 years, predominantly for Food and Beverage and Facility Maintenance. Primary reason for club managers is limited supply which has increased both demand and expectation of competitive remuneration

## Recruiting Staff

47% have had difficulty sourcing suitable staff over the past 5 years



Dining/F&B Departments have experienced the greatest difficulty to recruit new staff





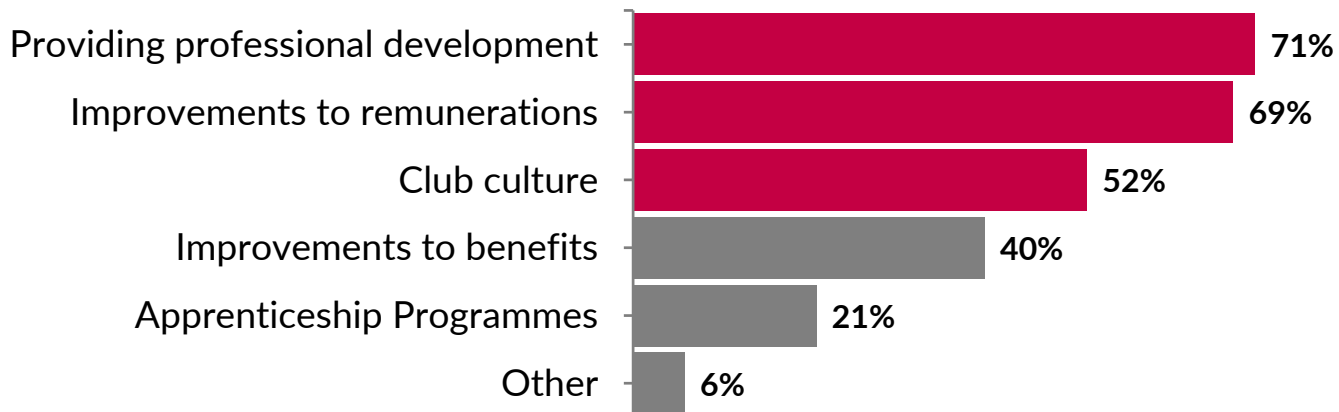
## Recruiting Staff

### Factors Most-Influencing Difficulty to Source Staff



## Retaining Staff

### Critical Factors to Retain Existing Staff



Training

Compensation

Work Environment



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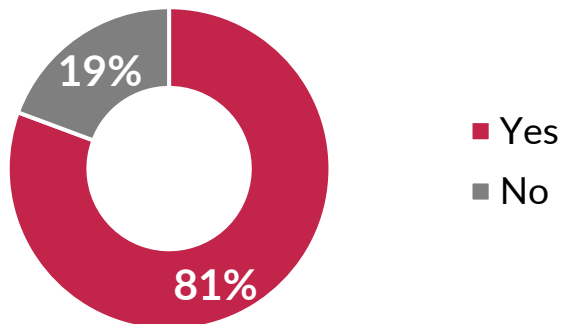
## GOVERNANCE

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Governance structure is generally consistent with global findings and not an issue. Number of committees slightly smaller, which may lead BoD to lean toward more tactical focus. Unusually high reports of Strategic Plan usage indicates that definitions of what a Strategic Plan is vary significantly among sample.

## Strategic Plan Utilisation

Four in five clubs are currently employing their Strategic Plan.

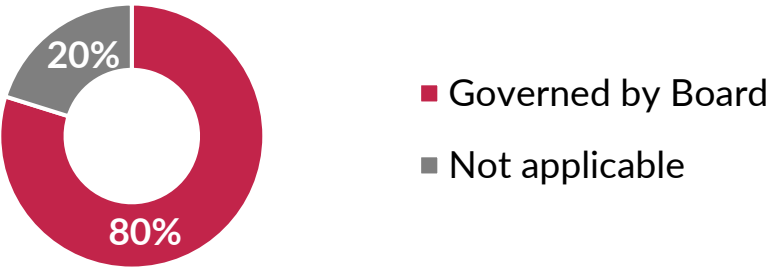


### Most Expansive Planners:

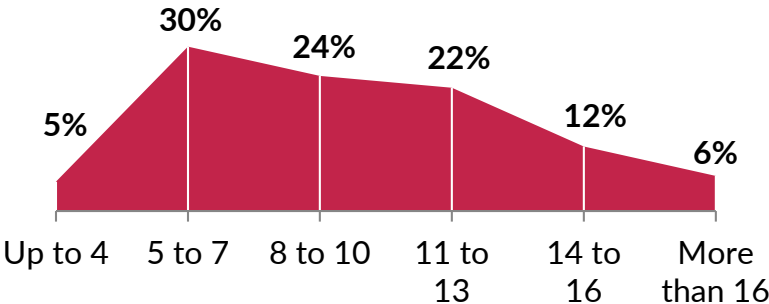
1. United Kingdom (particularly England, N.Ireland)
2. Middle East (particularly UAE)
3. Western Europe

# Size of the Board

Eight in ten clubs governed by a Board of Directors



## Board Size Distribution



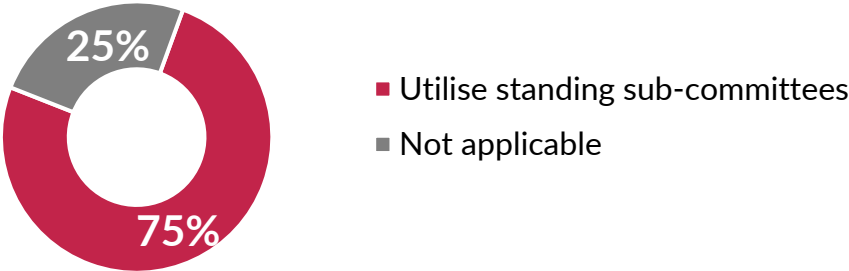
## Average Board Size

Average Board size

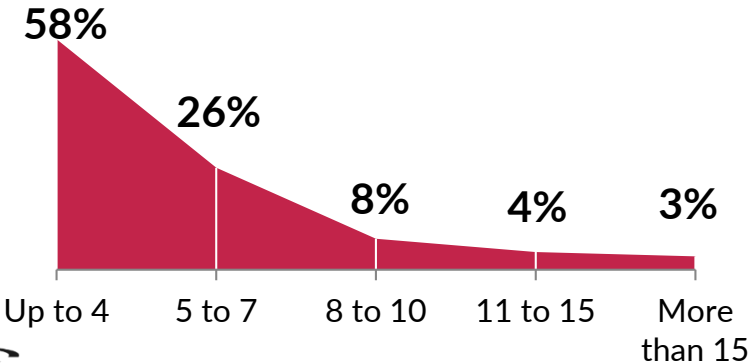


# Standing Sub-Committees

Three-quarters of clubs support governance with standing Sub-Committees

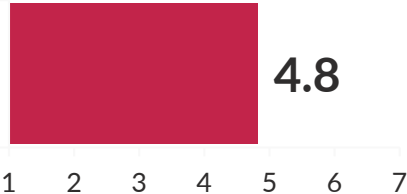


Sub-Committee Size Distribution Chart



Average Sub-Committee Size

Average Number of Standing Sub-Committees





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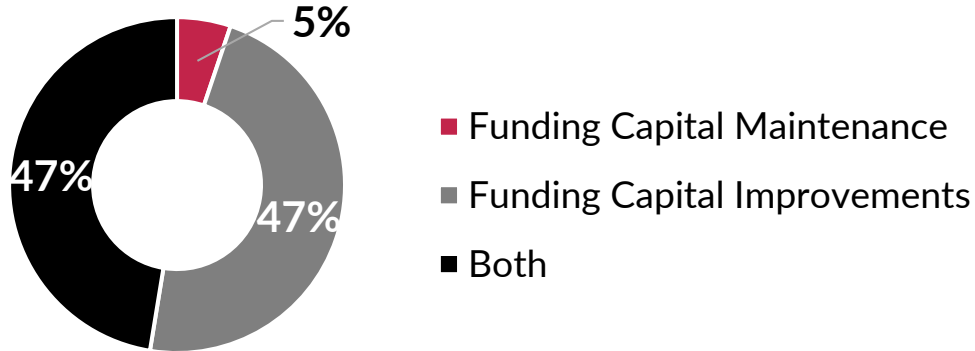
## CAPITAL

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Effective management of capital resources for recurring maintenance costs, on par with global benchmarks. Challenged to fund new CapEx, improvements, development, etc. Long-range financing plans likely not as diligent as capital maintenance planning.

## Greatest Capital-Related Challenge

Capital Funding Challenges Chart



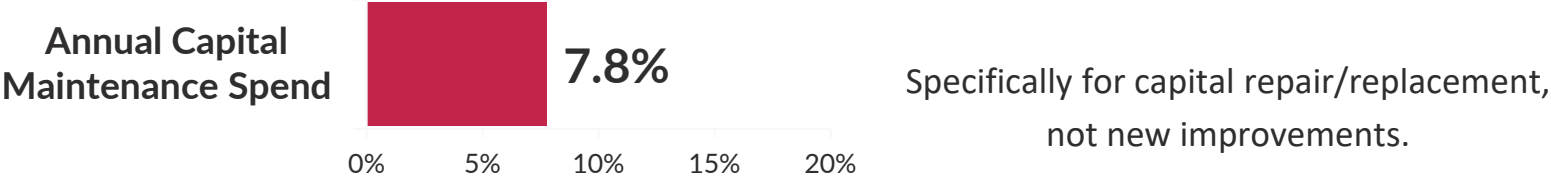
Dual allocation required to fund both will, of course, will always be tougher from a quantitative standpoint.

Funding capital maintenance rightfully prioritized, capital improvement funding harder, likely lacking the same planning for new CapEx as for maintenance.

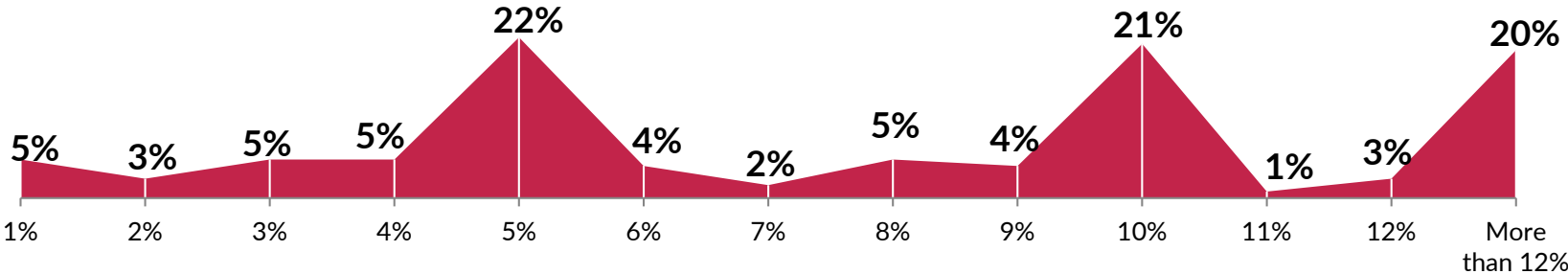


# Capital Maintenance Spend

## Annual Capital Maintenance Spend % Scale



## Annual Capital Maintenance Spend Distribution Chart



Right on par with **benchmark of 6% to 9%** of gross revenue.  
Benchmark has been creeping closer to 7% recently.



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## TAKEAWAYS & APPLICATIONS

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## Strategising Success



### PLAN FOR SUCCESS

*Plan your work. Work your plan.*

Anticipate difficulties to attract the best staff and to accommodate ageing members with evolving member attitudes.

Face governance weaknesses and lack of capital surplus candidly and head-on.



## Data-Driven Decision-Making



### LET DATA DRIVE DECISIONS & PLANS

*Often the best plans need confidence.*

Let reliable intelligence, best practices, and thorough knowledge of your clientele guide the development of your plan. Next, rely on experience and passion to complement the data embedded within the plan.





## Strength in Numbers



## SHARE DATA FOR STRENGTH

*Clubs are starving for leadership.*

If you want to change your for the better, you can. Be strategic about change by leveraging informational resources. Members will follow informed leaders.