

# Club Survey 2025

*Insights from Squash Clubs Across Ireland*



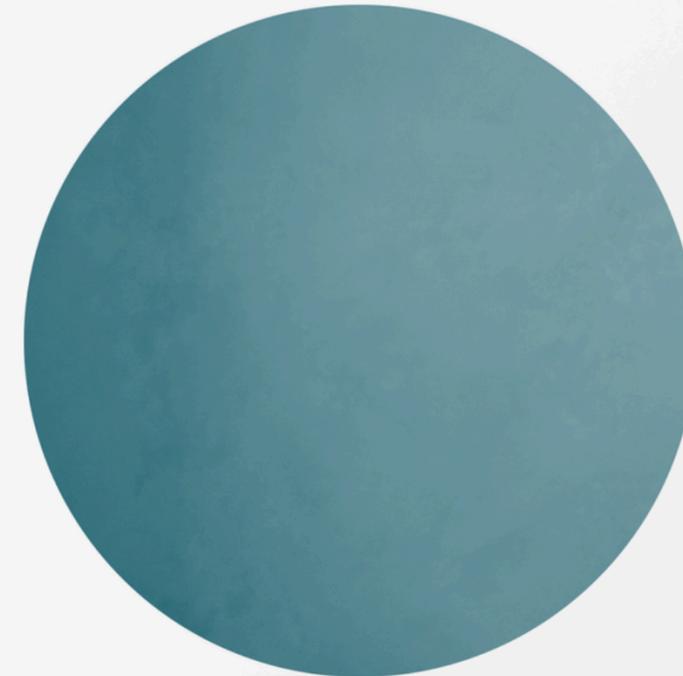
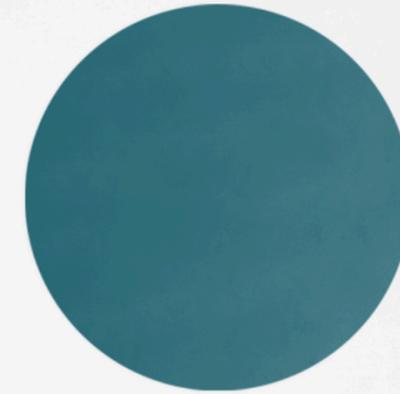
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# Disclaimer



The 2025 Club Survey reflects responses from affiliated squash clubs across the island and provides an overview of national trends and development priorities.

We consider this report to be a true and accurate representation of squash clubs across the island, and it should be interpreted as an overview rather than an exact census.



# Overview



**\*\*\*NB\*\*\***

*3rd Level Membership  
Data not included as too  
much fluctuation in actual  
playing numbers*

1. | 58 Clubs Responded

2. | 8 NI & 50 ROI

3. | Overall Numbers up slightly

4. |
- Strong response from clubs nationwide
  - Adult participation continues to grow
  - Female participation shows sustained upward momentum
  - Junior development remains a key national priority

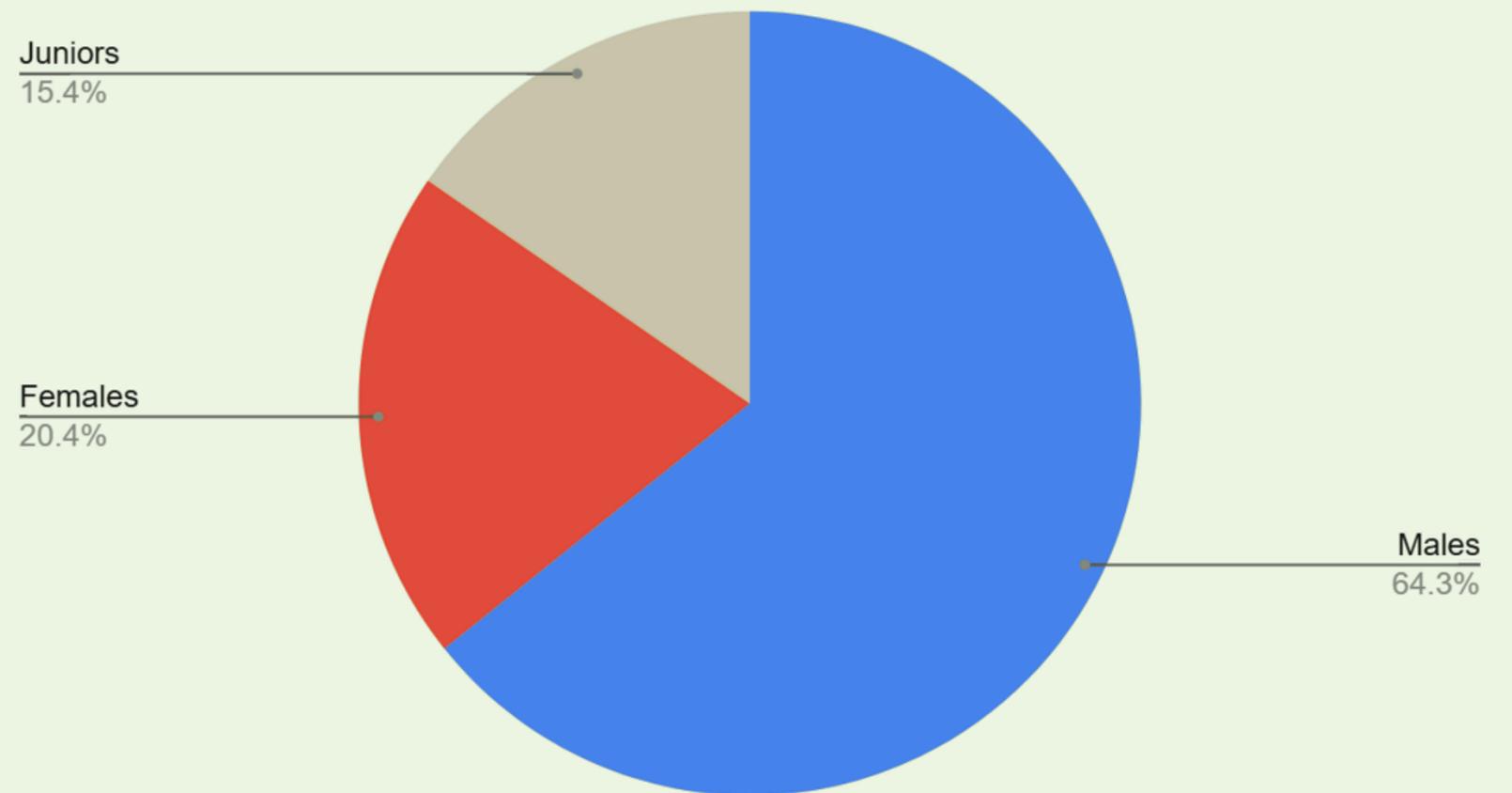


# Overall 2025 Picture

2025	
Males	3345
Females	1056
Juniors	810

- The national club network continues to support a strong adult player base, with growing female engagement and active junior sections across many clubs.
- Several clubs report increasing demand, with some operating at or near capacity, highlighting both growth and opportunity.
- 66.67% conversion rate to SI members

### 2025 Club Players Breakdown



# Membership Accessibility and Inclusion

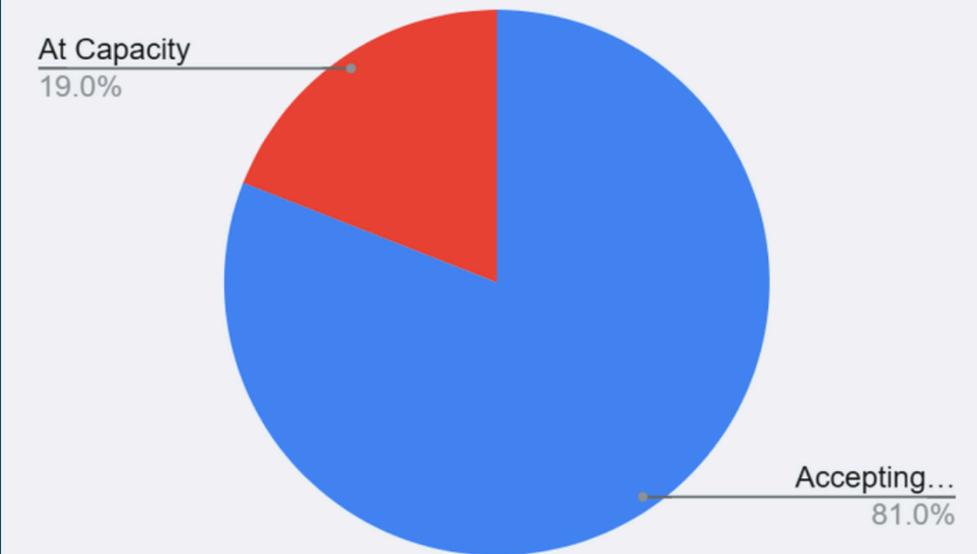


# Membership Accessibility and Inclusion

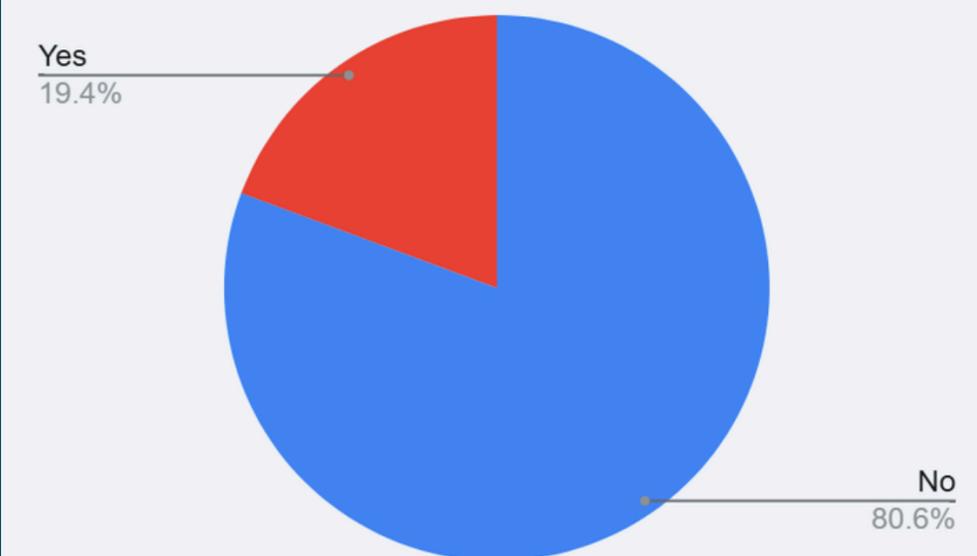
## Key Points

- 12 clubs now at capacity (up from 3 last year)
- Average membership price is €157.55
- There is growing awareness of the importance of accessibility and inclusive practices, with more than half of all clubs keen to broaden participation and inclusion initiatives

Distribution of Accepting New Members vs. At Capacity



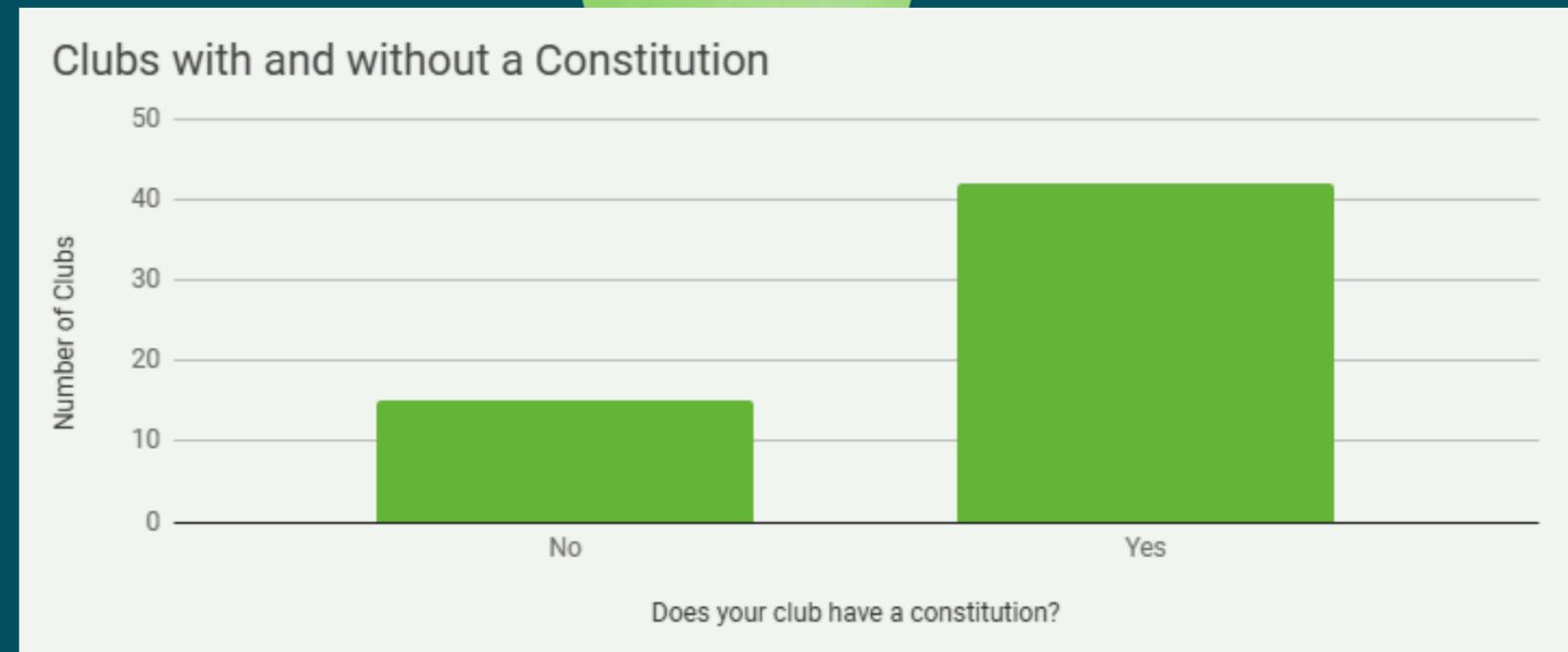
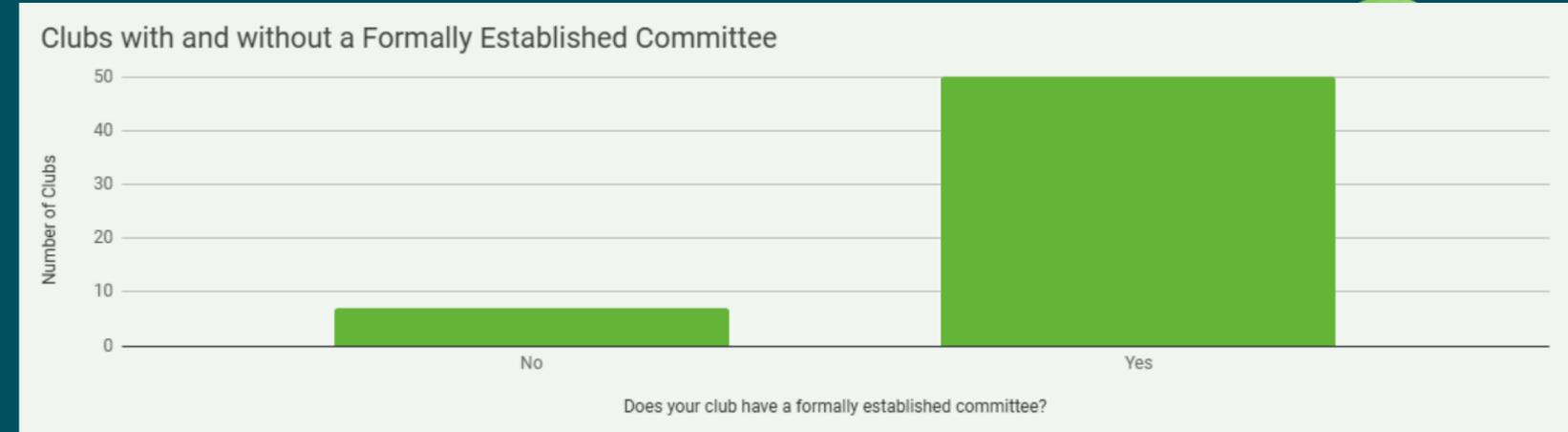
Number of Clubs with Members with Disabilities



# Club Structure

## Key Points

- 42 clubs reported have written constitutions
  - 50 clubs have established committees
  - All clubs that have a constitution also have a formally established committee, and vice versa.
- 
- **Clear governance frameworks are now embedded within affiliation requirements, supporting transparency and long-term sustainability.**



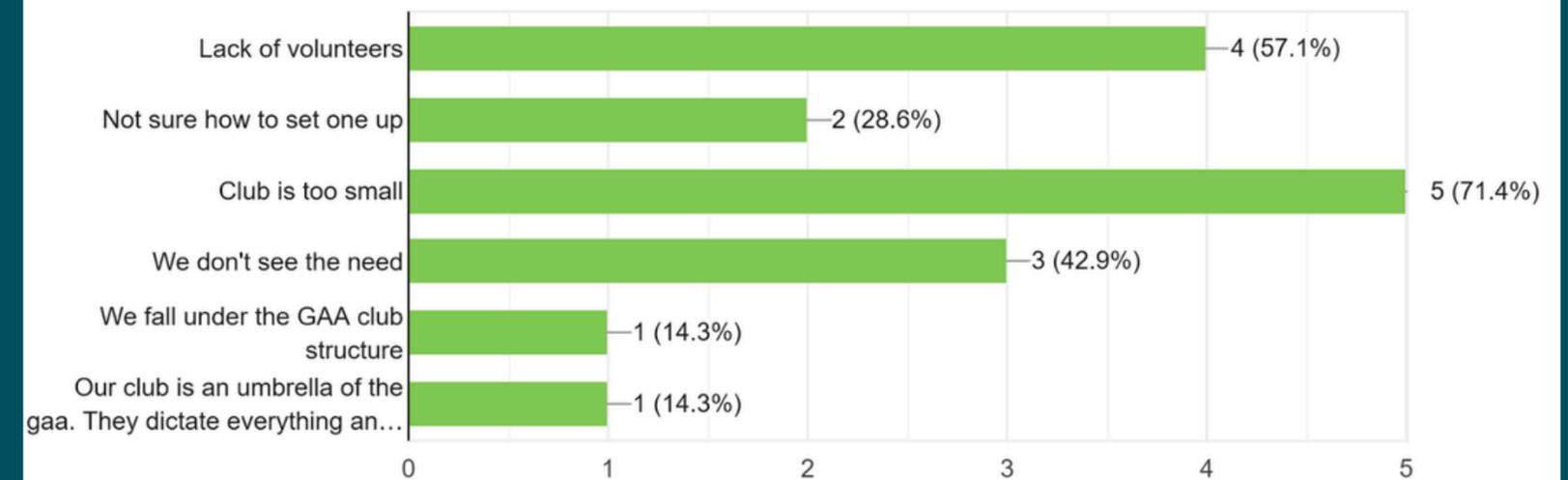
# Club Structure - Challenges

## Key Points

- Clubs face a range of challenges in establishing committees, including lack of volunteers, small club size, affiliation under GAA governance, uncertainty on setting up a committee, and a perceived lack of need.
- Volunteer availability and structural constraints remain the main barriers to formal governance.

What are the main challenges your club faces in establishing a formal committee? (Please tick all that apply)

7 responses

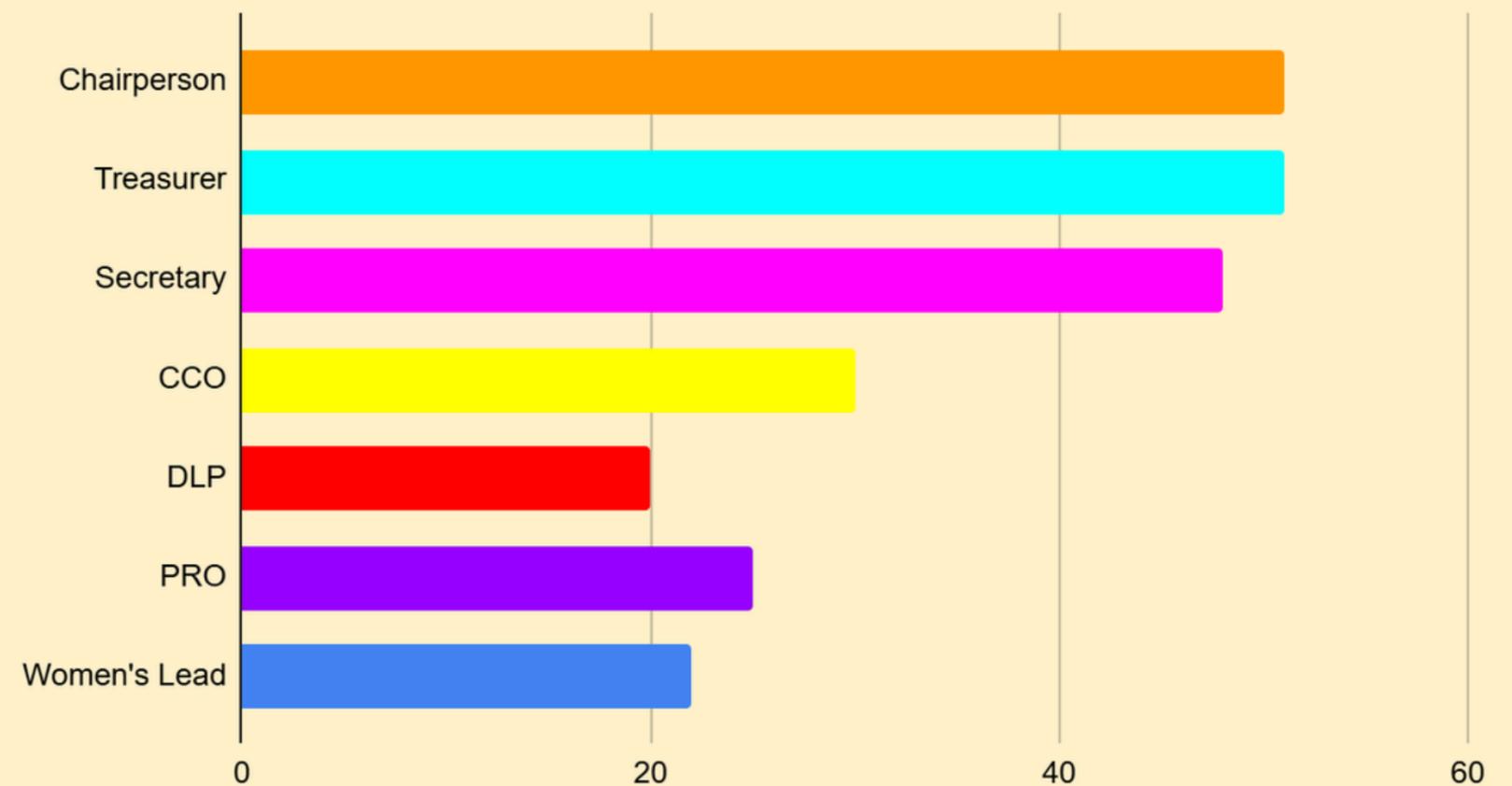


# Committee Composition

## Key Points

- Committees range from 3 to 15 members
- Average 7–8 members, with 7 and 9 being most common (18 clubs with 7, 8 or 9)
- Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary are almost universally filled, alongside safeguarding roles.
- Many clubs are expanding committee roles to support communications, development initiatives, and Women in Sport leadership.

Which of the following roles are filled in your committee?



# Committee Composition - Gender Balance

## Key Points

- Most clubs committees 42 (75%) are male-majority
  - 13 clubs are male only.
  - Some clubs are more balanced, while very few are female-majority
- 
- While many committees reflect traditional structures, there is clear opportunity to further increase female representation in leadership and coaching roles.
  - The continued growth of Women in Sport initiatives provides a strong platform for encouraging greater diversity at club level.



# Juniors



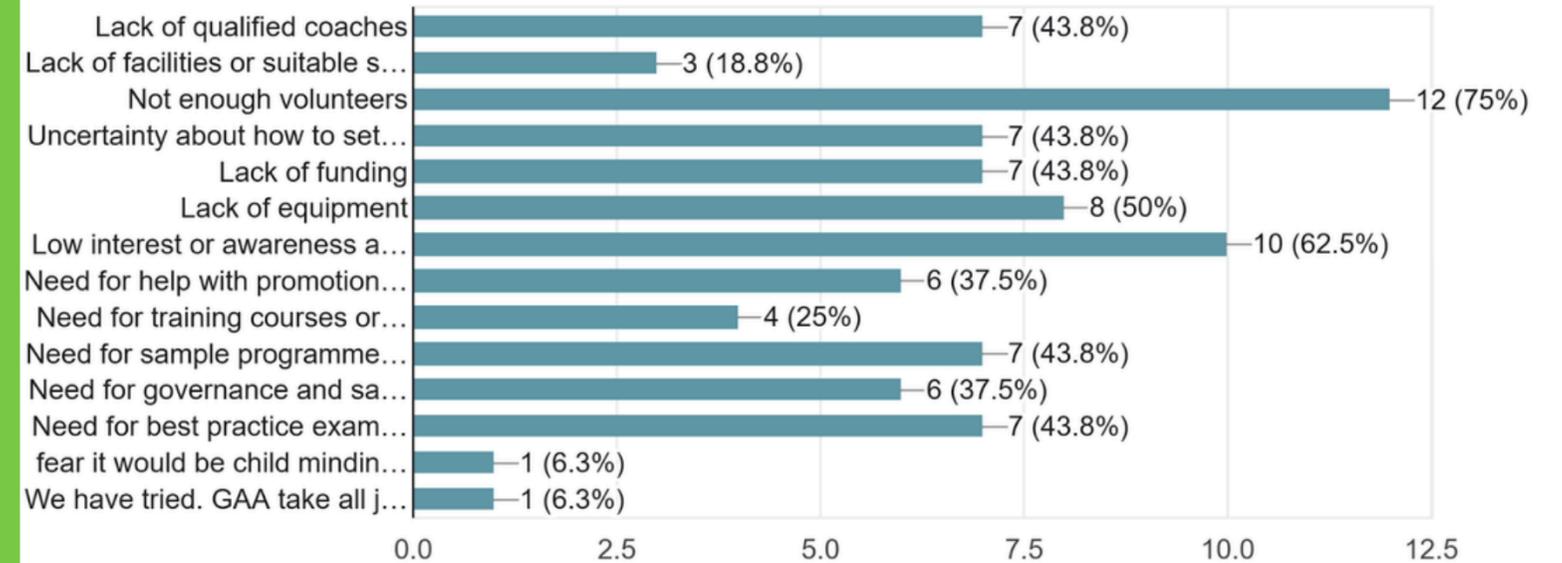
# Junior Programmes

## Key Points

- 30 clubs currently run a junior section, up 1 from last year
  - 53% of clubs without a junior section (15/28) plan to start one.
  - For those clubs wishing to start a new junior section, 40% (6) clubs said they had someone willing to lead the rollout of a junior section
- 
- The growth of junior squash continues to depend on strong local leadership and volunteer engagement, alongside clear development pathways for young players.

What challenges have prevented your club from starting a junior section, and what assistance would help you overcome them?

16 responses

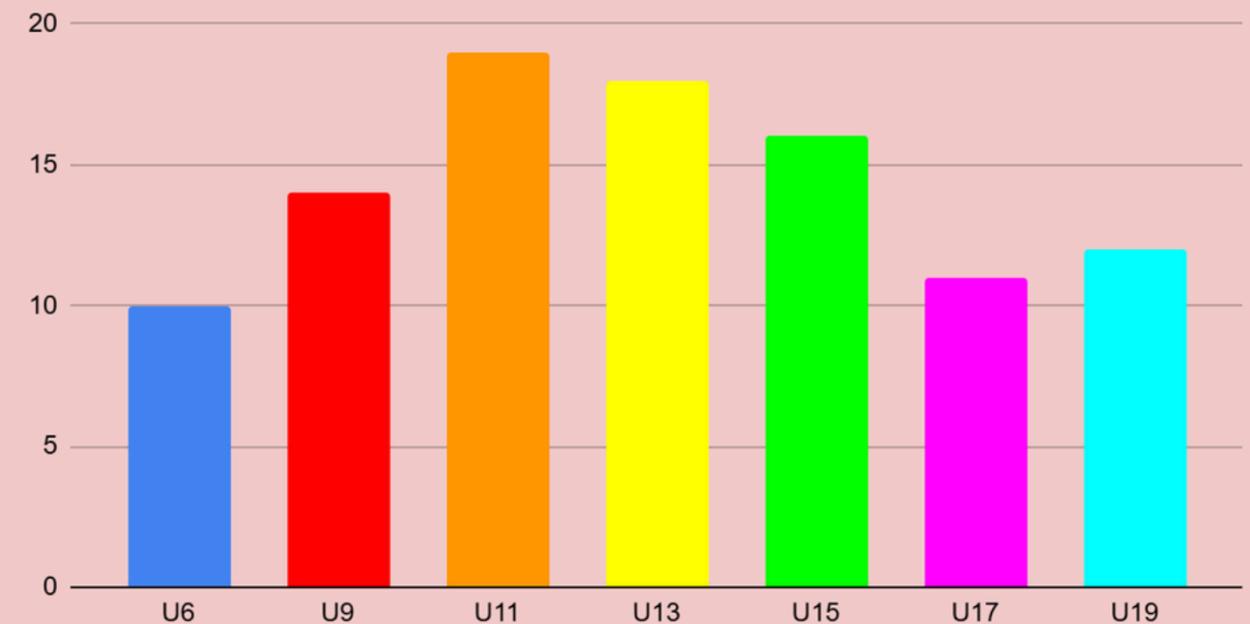


# Junior Programmes - Coaching

## Key Points

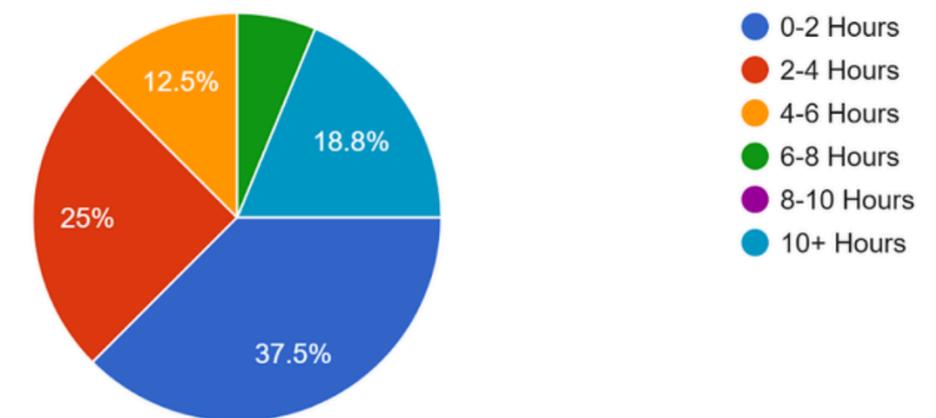
- Over 50% of clubs run programmes for U11–U15 players and over 30% offer activities spanning U6 to U19.
  - Coaching for juniors leans to under 4 hours p/w with 62.5% providing 4 or less hours p/w
- 
- Clubs are delivering coaching across a range of age groups, particularly at introductory and early development stages.
  - Sustaining engagement into teenage years and expanding coaching availability remain important areas as clubs continue to strengthen their junior pathways.

Which age groups does your club currently run initiatives, programmes, or activities for?



How many hours per week of coaching is given these junior programmes?

32 responses

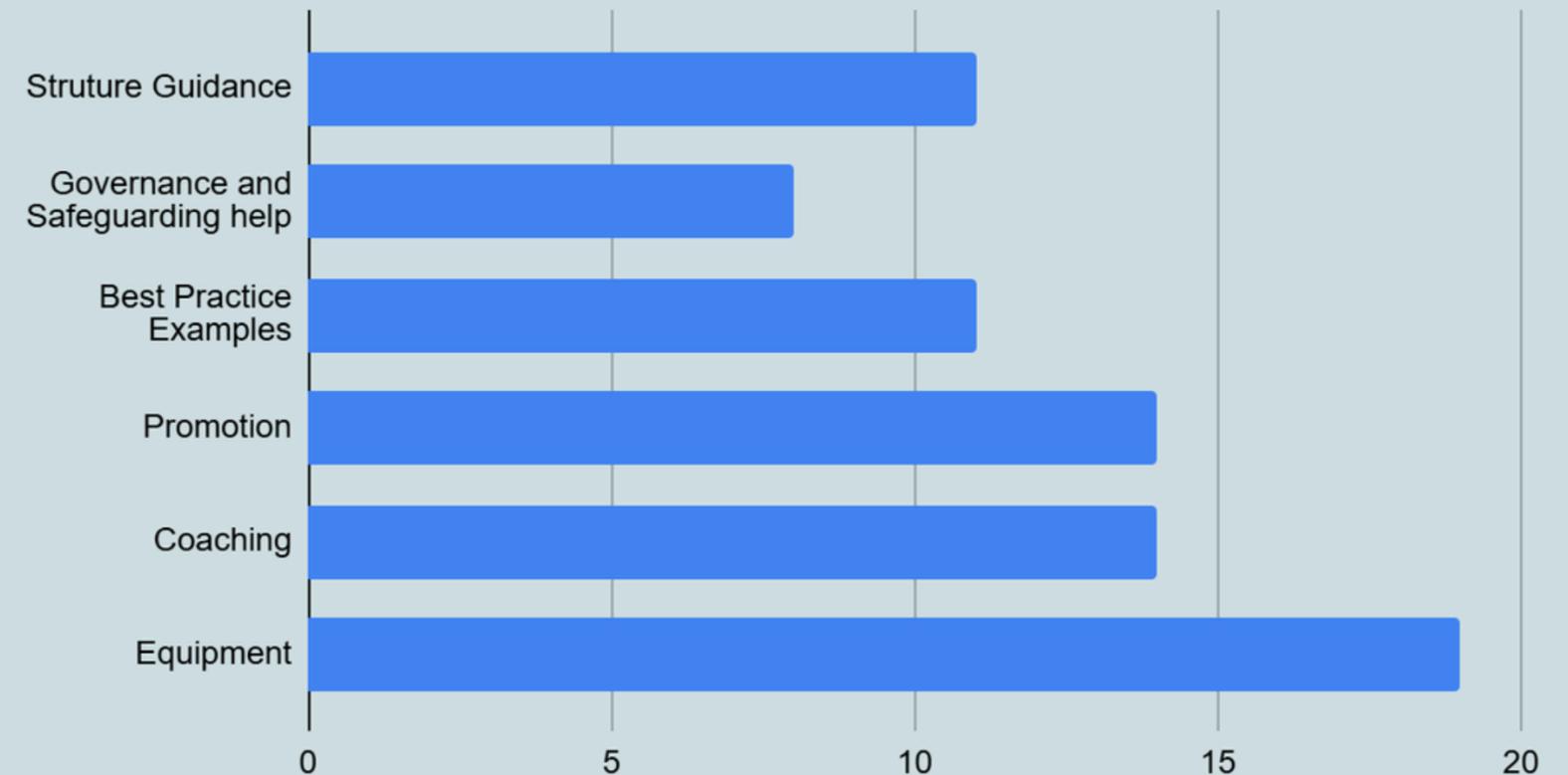


# Junior Programmes - Supports

## Key Points

- Clubs highlighted the importance of structured frameworks, age-appropriate coaching, and engaging programme formats to grow participation.
- Initiatives such as camps, girls' programmes, and one-day events are increasingly being used to attract and retain young players in a positive and enjoyable environment.

What assistance can we provide to help support your club's junior section?



# Coaching



# Coaching - Key Numbers

## Key Points

- 40 clubs have a qualified coach
- 37.5% of clubs (15) have 4+ coaches internally
- 25% of clubs provide 8+ hours of coaching p/w
- 40% of clubs provide 2 or less hours of coaching p/w
- 40% (16) of clubs' coaching is all voluntary, 25% (10) is all paid and 30% (12) is a mix of both
- Coaching provision varies depending on club size and structure, with many clubs continuing to expand their internal coaching teams.



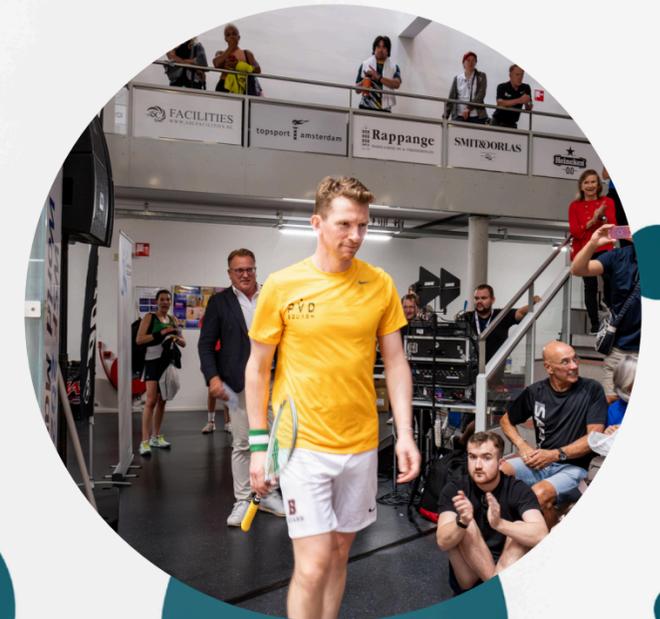
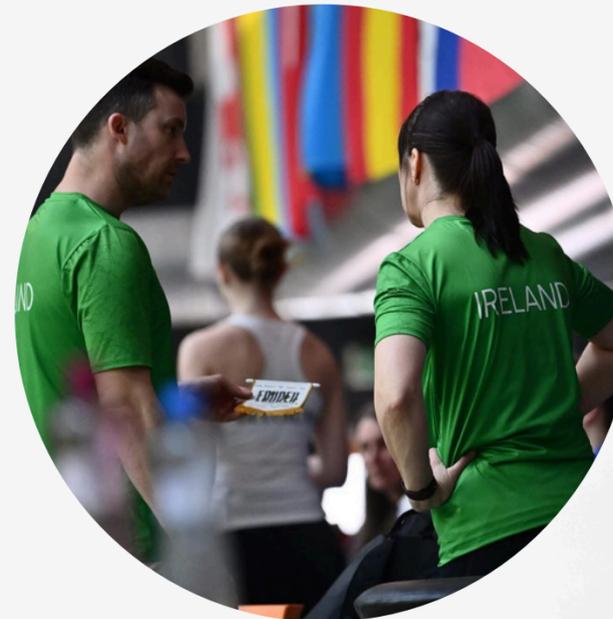
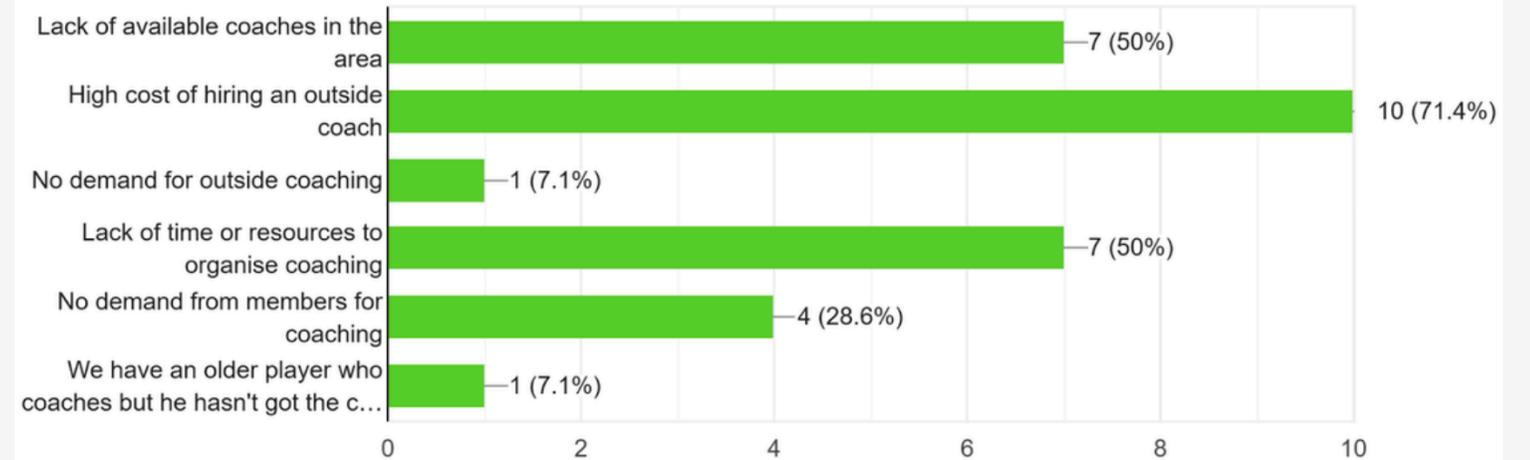
# Coaching - Clubs without a coach

## Key Points

- A small number of clubs currently rely on external coaching arrangements, and there is clear interest in strengthening access to qualified coaching support.
- Expanding coaching availability, particularly for junior, women's, and beginner sessions, remains an important area of national development.

What are the main reasons your club does not have access to an outside coach? (Please select all that apply)

14 responses

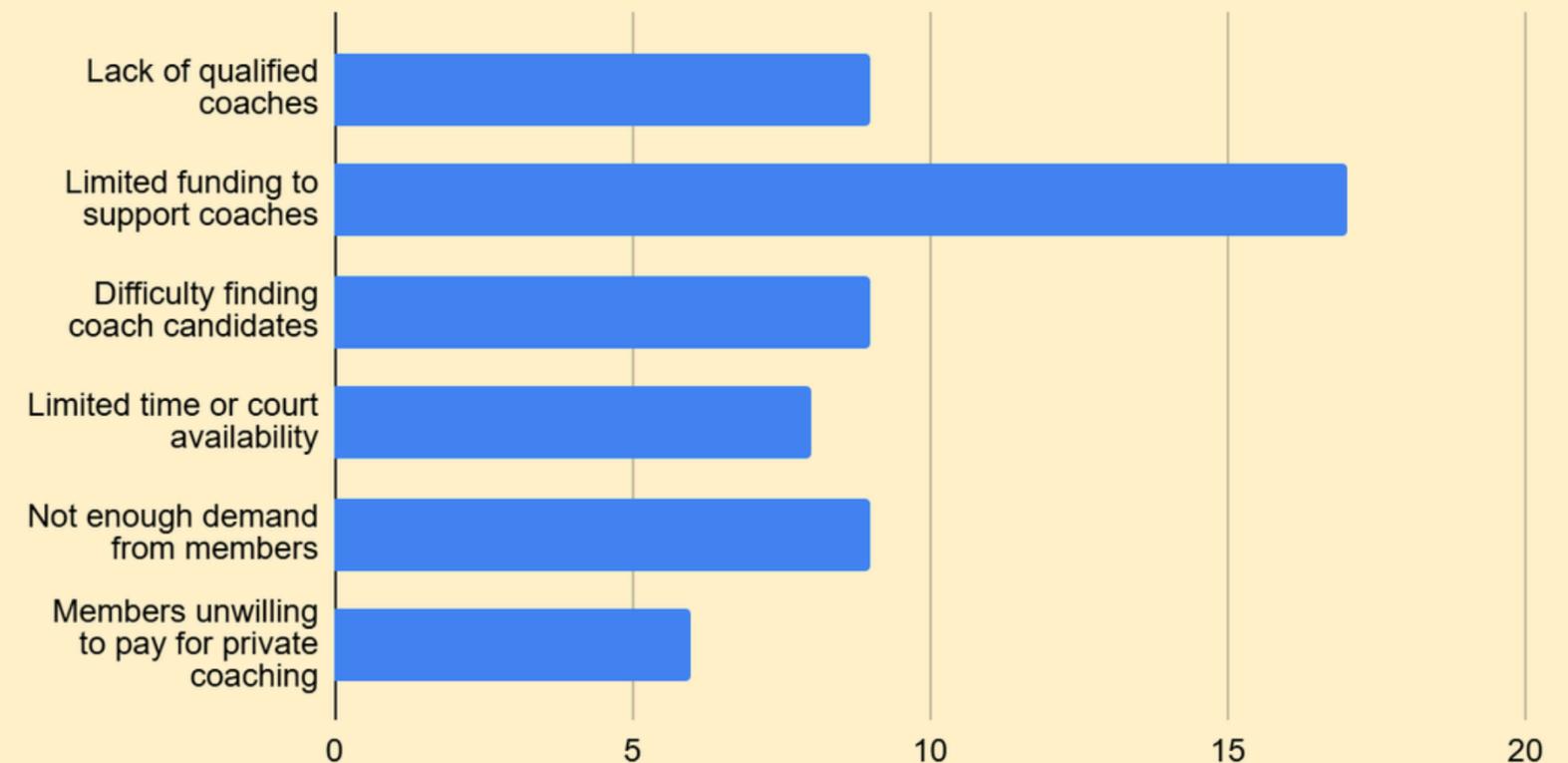


# Coaching - Supports Requested

## Key Points

- Clubs consistently highlight coaching as central to participation growth and long-term sustainability.
- Engagement with schools, parents, and local communities continues to be a key driver in strengthening grassroots coaching environments.
- Engagement of volunteers and parents, along with school collaborations, was seen as key to growing membership and participation.

What are the biggest challenges your club faces regarding coaching?



# DEI

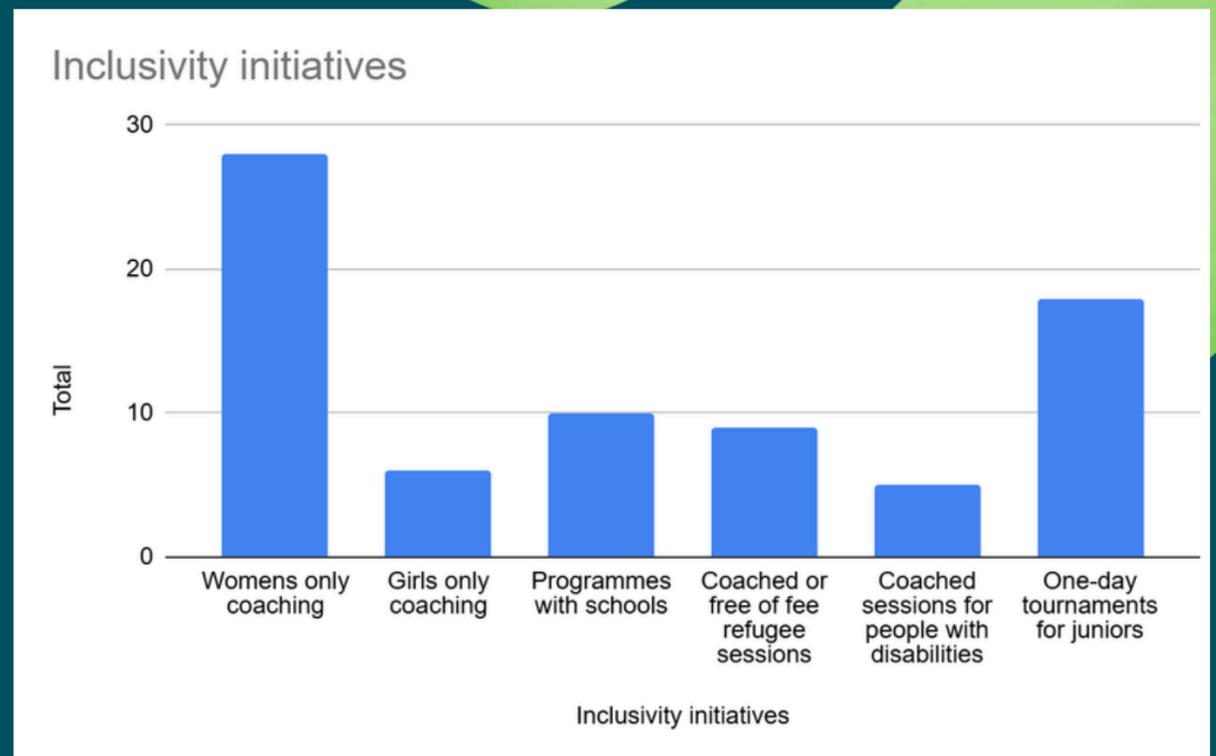
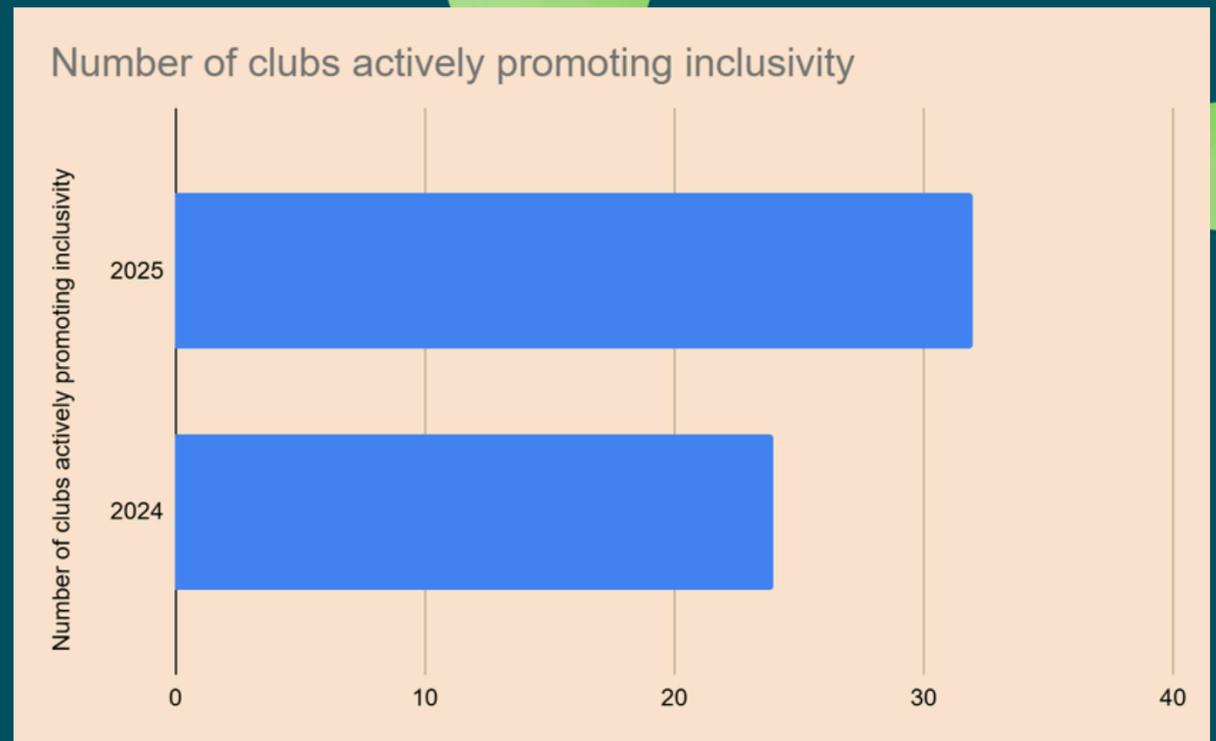


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# DEI - Inclusion

## Key Points

- More than half of clubs (52.5%) actively promote inclusivity up from 40% last year.
- Women's-only sessions and one-day junior tournaments have emerged as the most effective and popular inclusion initiatives
- School engagement continues to play an important role in widening participation opportunities.
- 60% of clubs running inclusivity initiatives have not tapped into external support.

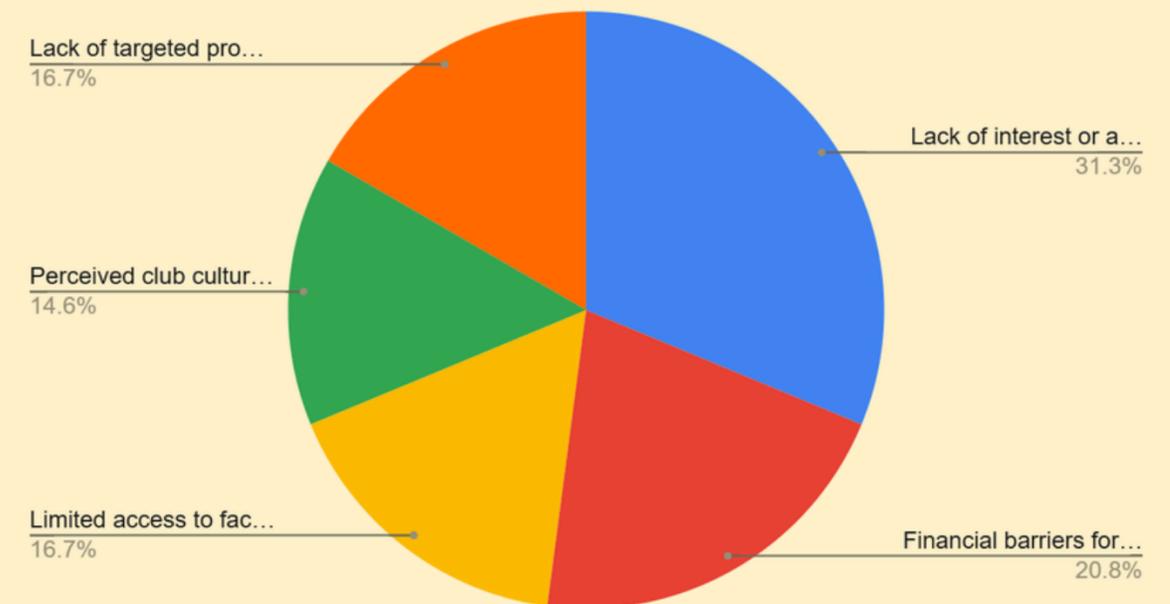


# DEI - Barriers

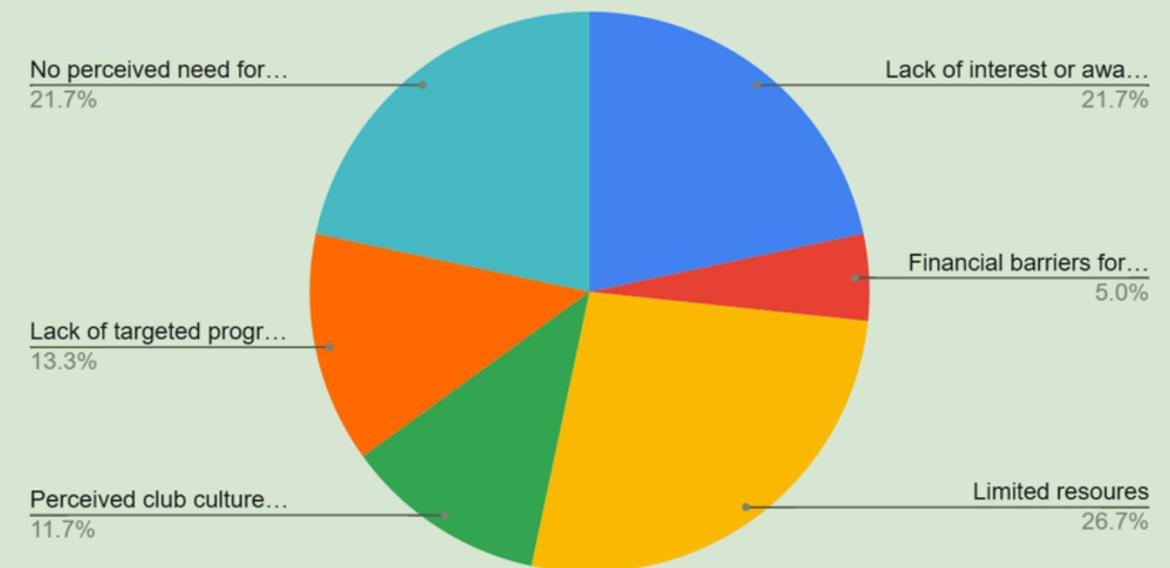
## Key Points

- Funding and awareness are among the biggest barriers.
- Among clubs not currently running programmes, 21.7% cite low interest or awareness
- 25 of 29 clubs (86%) expressed interest in implementing inclusion initiatives in the future.

Main barriers to increasing inclusion within your club?



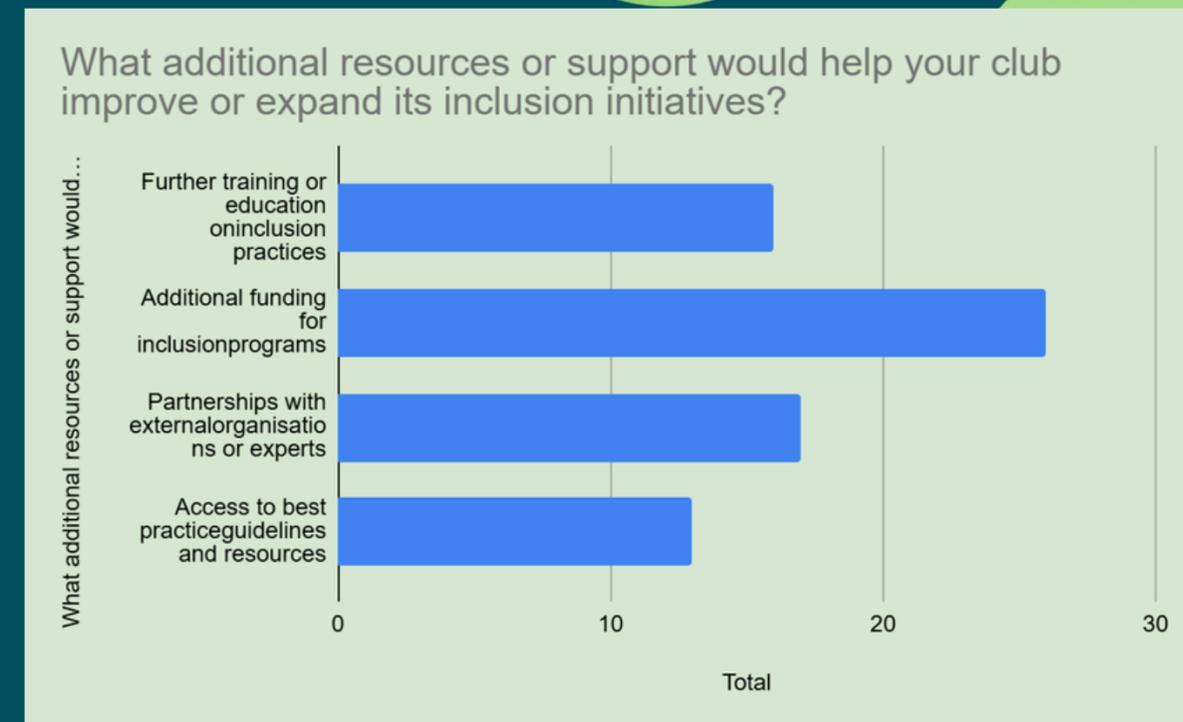
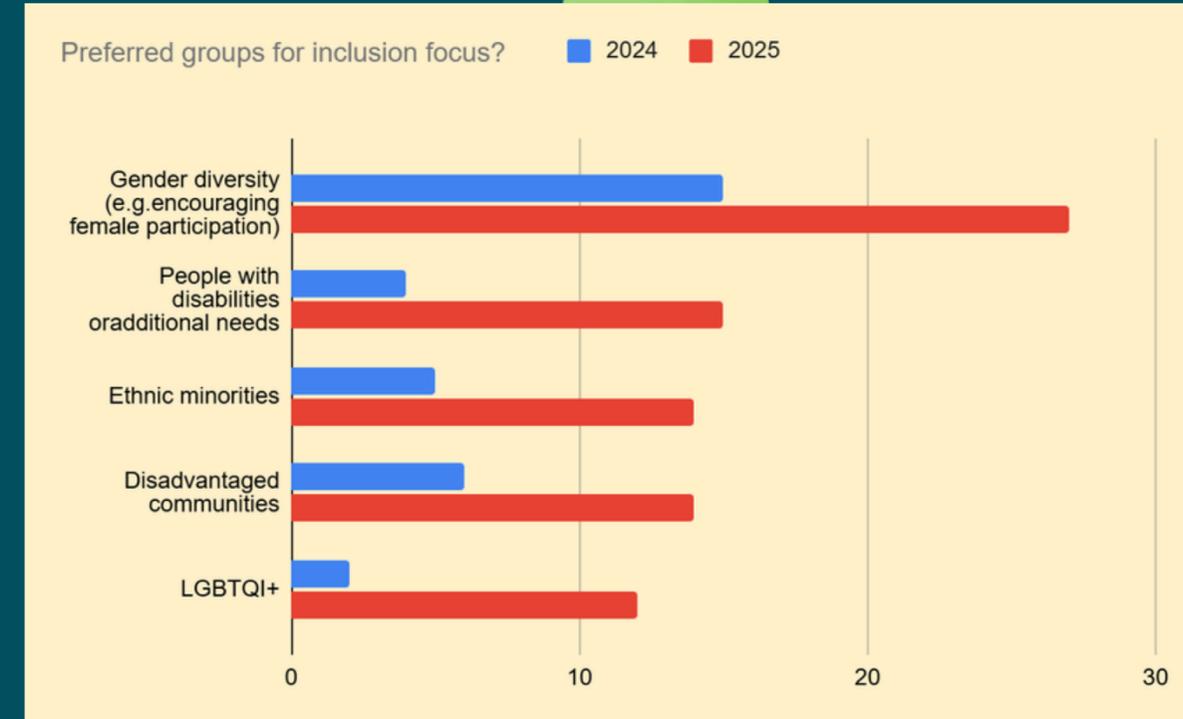
Main reasons your club does not currently have any inclusion initiatives in place?



# DEI - Future Supports

## Key Points

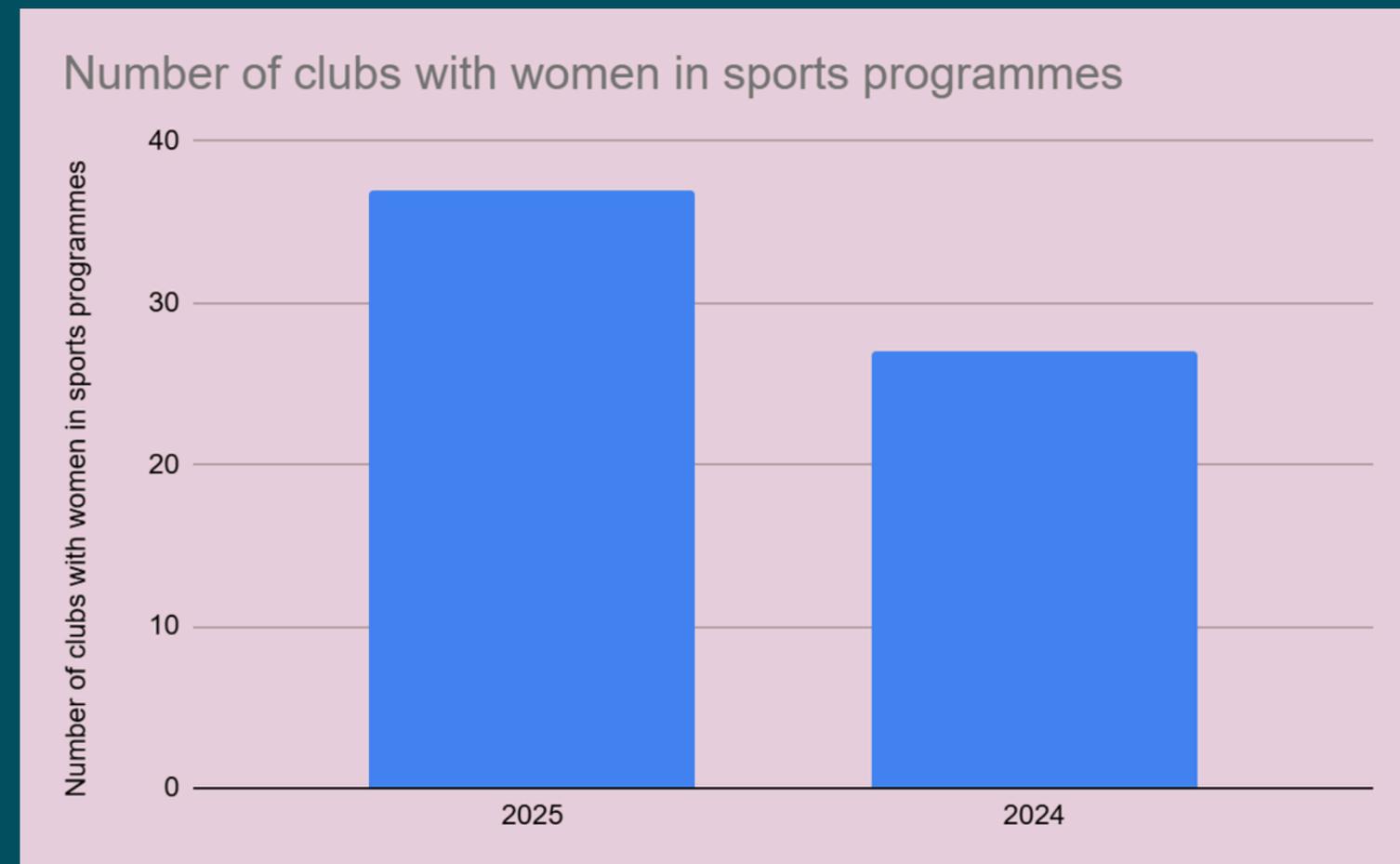
- Clubs are increasingly focused on embedding inclusion within their core operations rather than treating it as a standalone initiative.
- Ongoing education, leadership development, and shared best practice will continue to strengthen inclusive environments nationwide.
- WIS remains the most sought-after option



# DEI - WIS

## Key Points

- Women in Sport programmes continue to expand across clubs
- Many clubs are embedding female participation into leadership roles, coaching pathways, and competitive teams.
- 60.7% (37) of clubs currently have women in sports programmes up from 28% last year
- Activity sustained through dedicated sessions, structured coaching, and social activities, while embedding women into club leadership and competitive teams.
- Female-led coaching has major positives



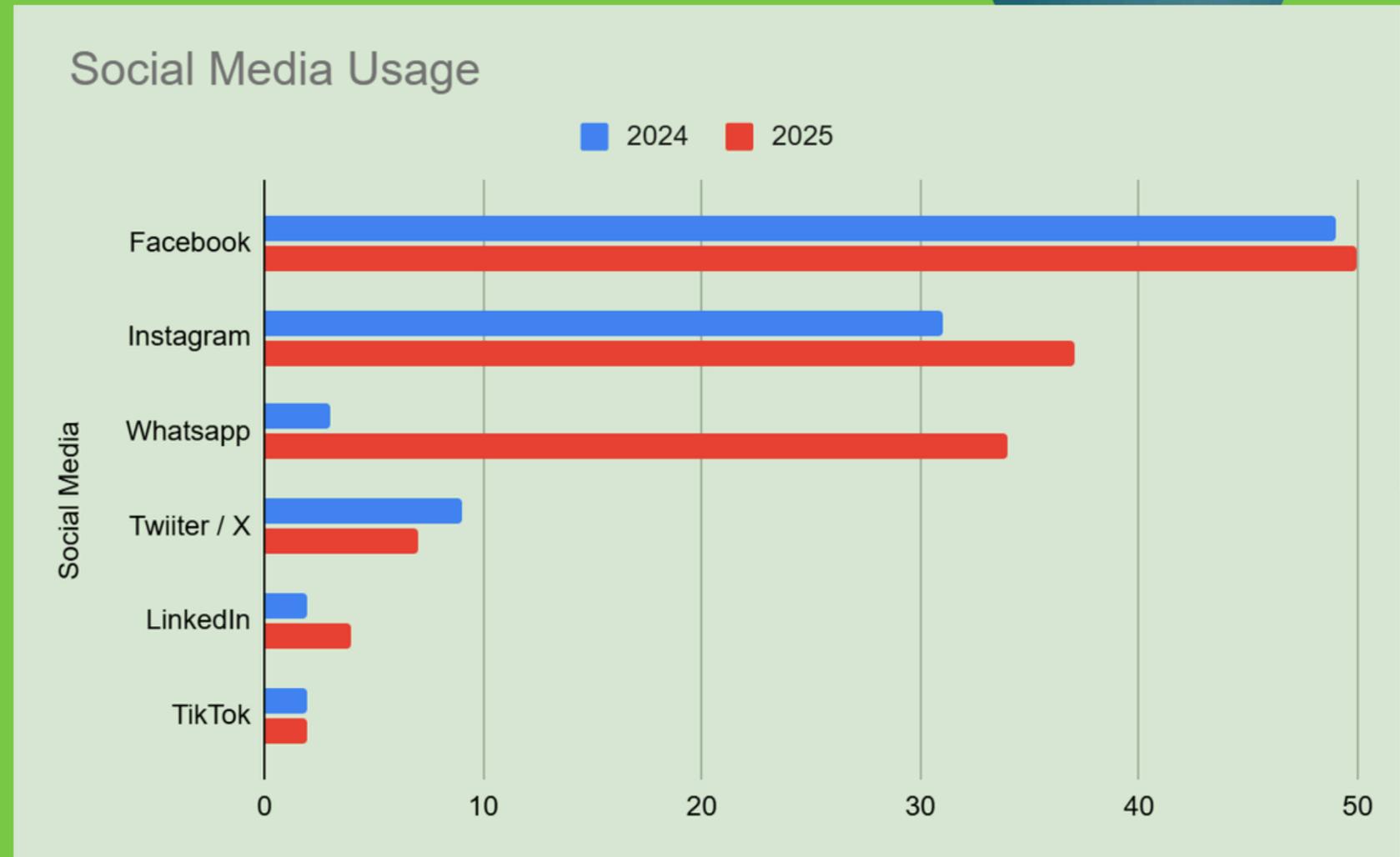
# Communications



# Communications

## Key Points

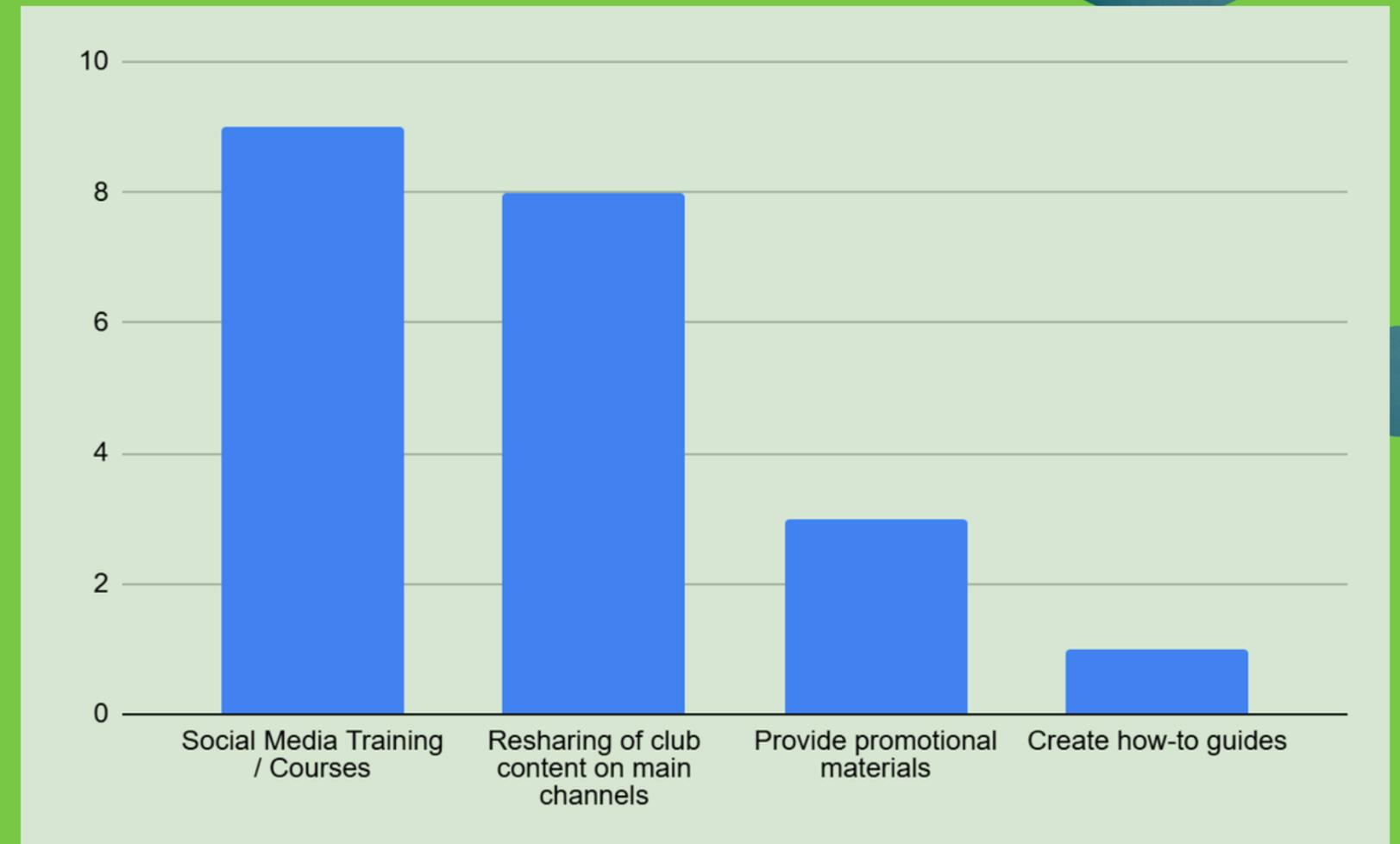
- 83% of clubs are active on social media.
- WhatsApp has seen a significant rise as a preferred method of club communication,
- Facebook remains by far the most commonly used platform among clubs, while TikTok is rarely used
- Digital visibility is increasingly recognised by clubs as an important tool in attracting new participants.



# Communications

## Key Points

- Clubs are increasingly focused on enhancing their digital presence through improved content creation, storytelling, and promotion of participation benefits.
- National campaigns and shared promotional initiatives continue to support visibility and showcase activity across the country.
- Several clubs demonstrate strong in-house communication capabilities, contributing to the broader profile of the sport.
- Club have requested further support to enhance their digital visibility



# Facilities

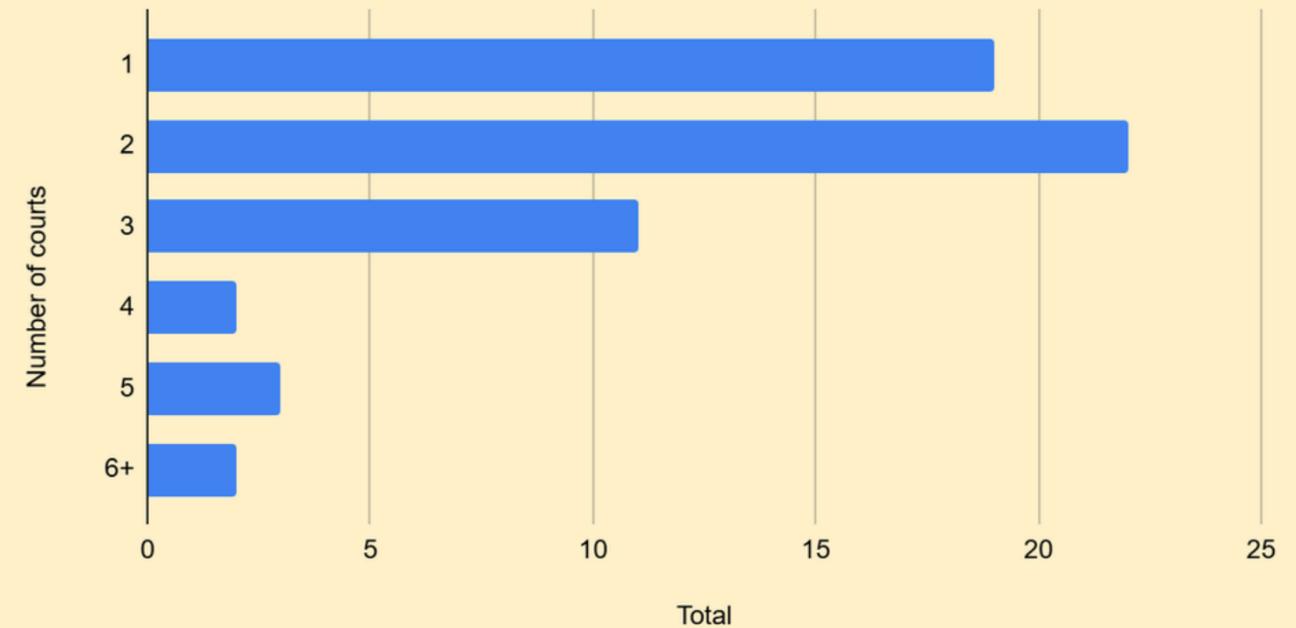


# Facilities - Courts

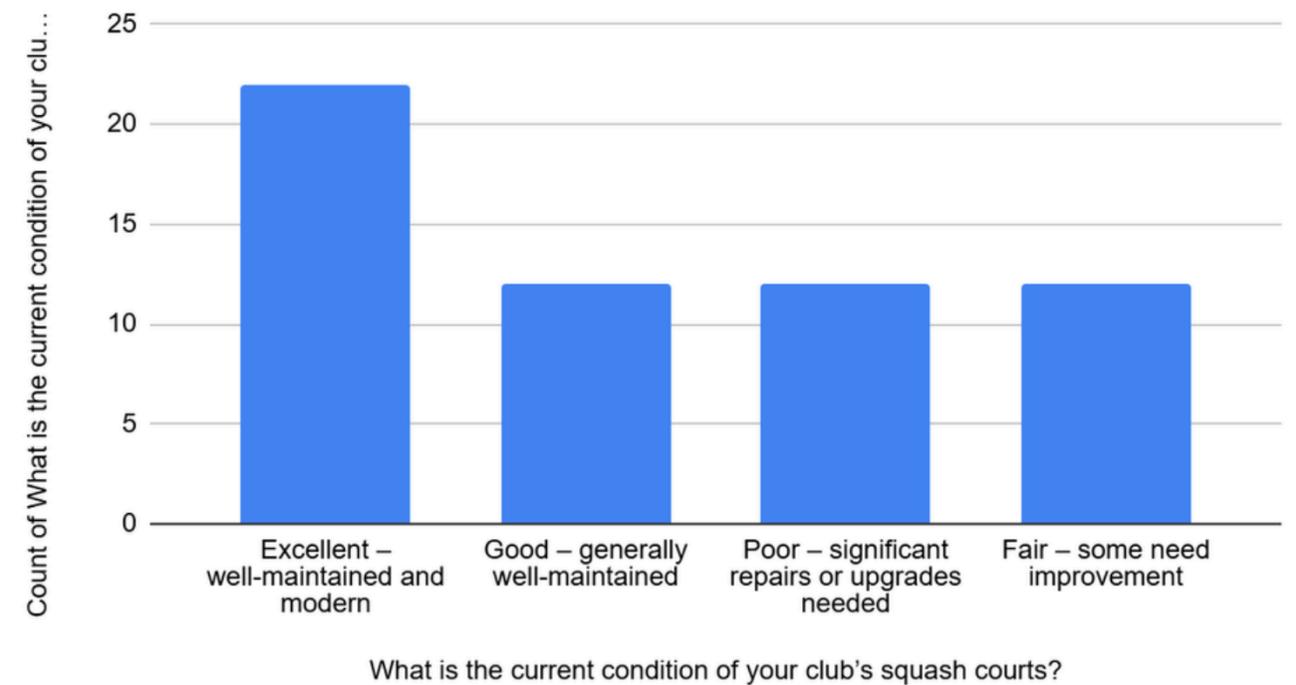
## Key Points

- Majority have 1 or 2 courts
- Clubs operate across a range of facility types, with many investing in upgrades and modernisation.
- There is growing ambition among clubs to enhance court quality, improve player experience, and develop venues capable of hosting competitive events.

How many squash courts does your club have?



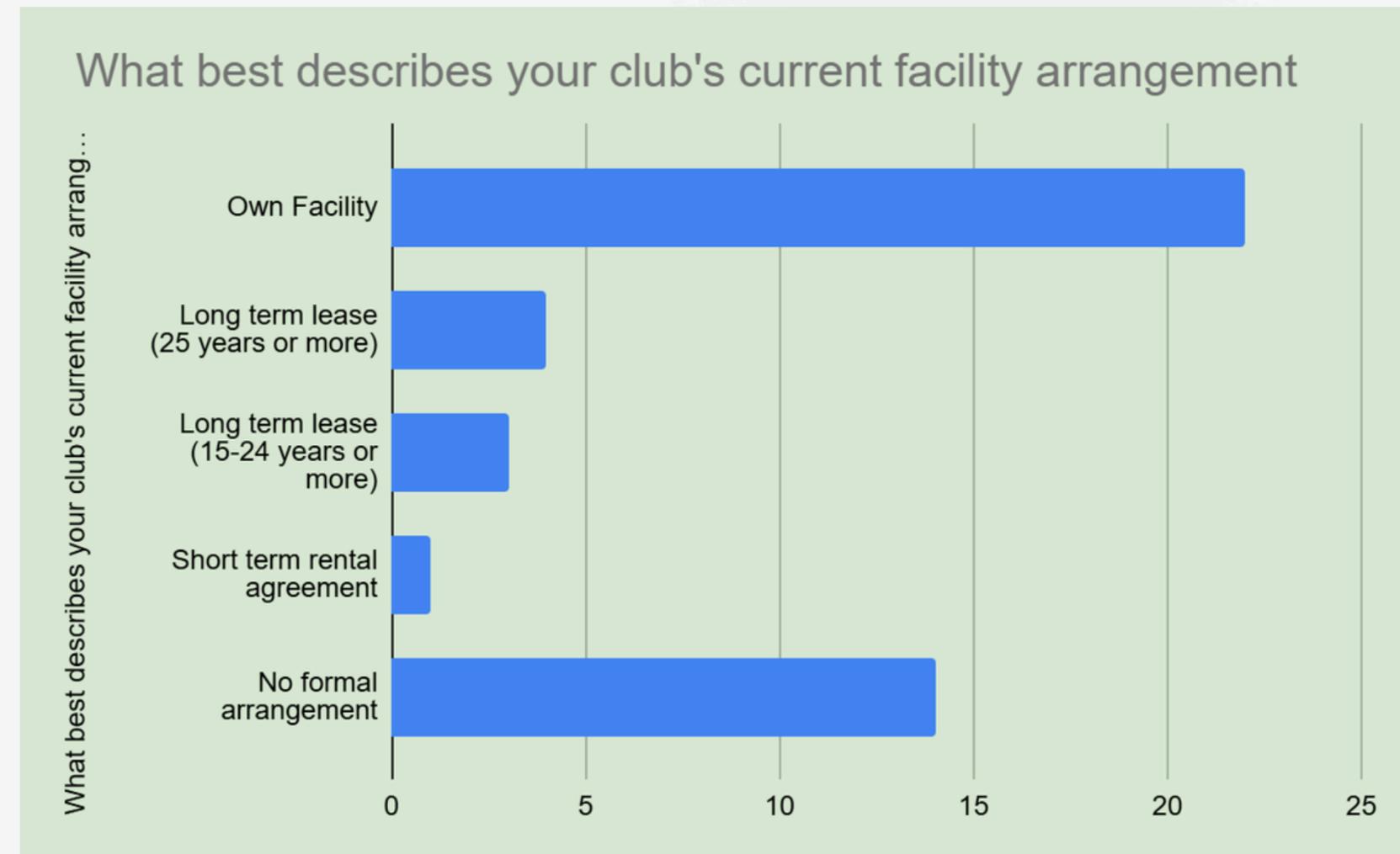
What is the current condition of your club's squash courts?



# Facilities - Arrangement

## Key Points

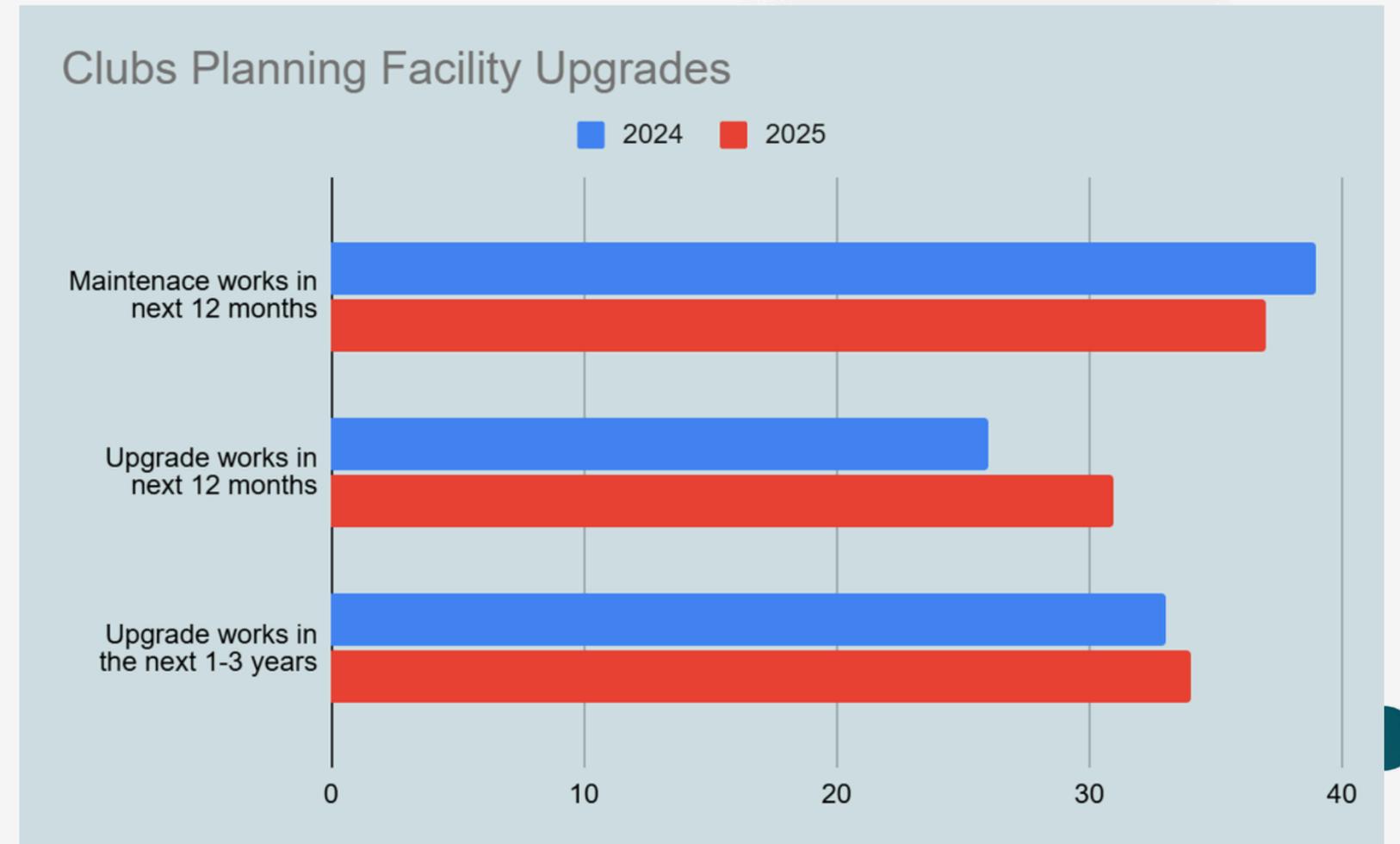
- 22 clubs own their own facility
- In some cases, long-term formal agreements are still evolving, which can add complexity to future expansion or upgrade plans.
- Strengthening facility security and governance structures will be important in supporting sustainable infrastructure development across the network.



# Facilities - Works

## Key Points

- 37 clubs plan to carry out maintenance works in the next 12 months, down slightly on last year
- Notable increase in planned facility upgrades both in the coming year and over the next few years
- Investment priorities include court refurbishment, improved lighting and heating, and enhanced player and spectator spaces.



# Facilities - Works

## Key Points

- Wide range of facility needs:
  - Court Maintenance
  - Heating upgrades
  - Major structural challenges
  - Full-scale renovations
- Costs vary widely:
  - €500–€3,000 for minor works
  - Tens of thousands for major refurbishments, with several clubs expecting substantial fundraising needs

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## Plans cited:

- Several clubs are planning or undertaking major renovations including:
  - Changing rooms and showers (€20,000–€50,000)
  - Court upgrades such as floor replacement, wall replastering, glass backs, and new courts (€50,000–€100,000+)
  - Heating and insulation improvements (€1,000–€100,000).

## Long term plans:

- Clubs are planning new courts, facility renovations, and feature upgrades such as glass backs, gyms, and live cameras. Costs range from €500 to over €700k



# General Feedback

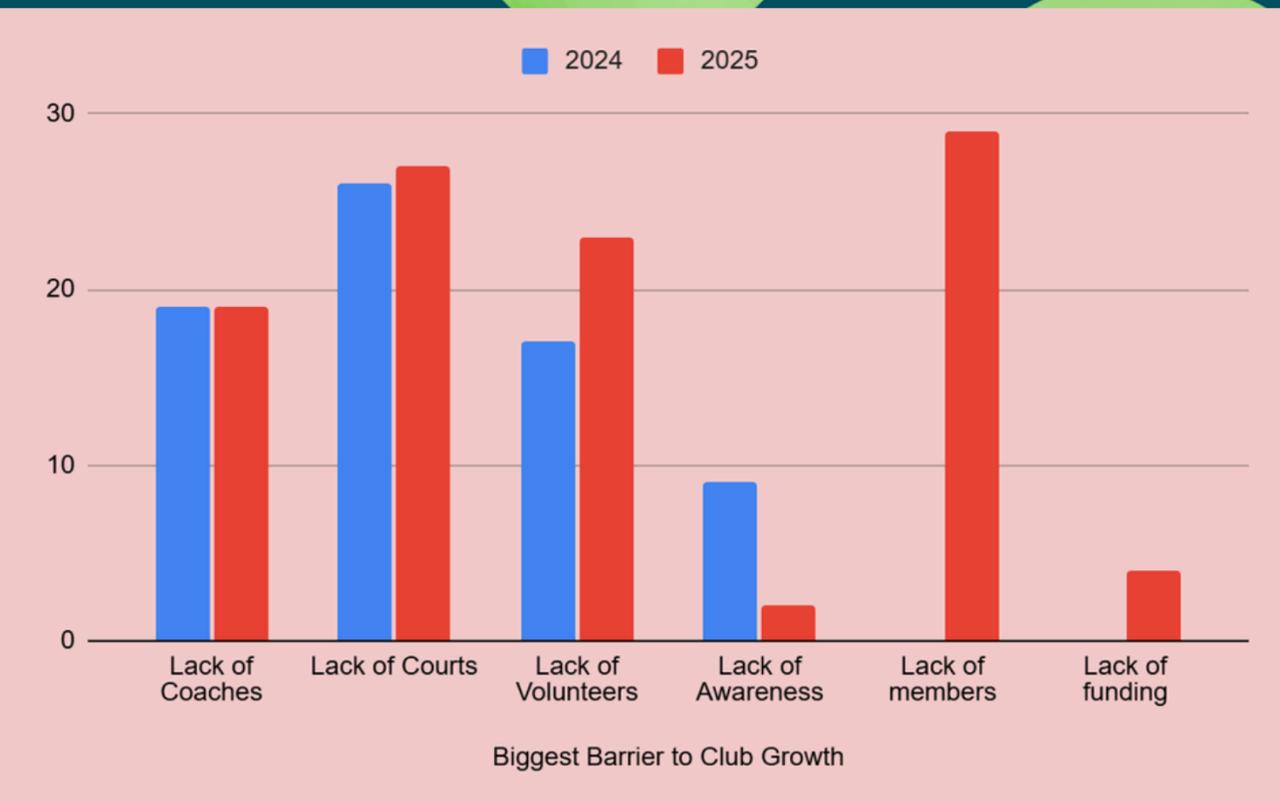
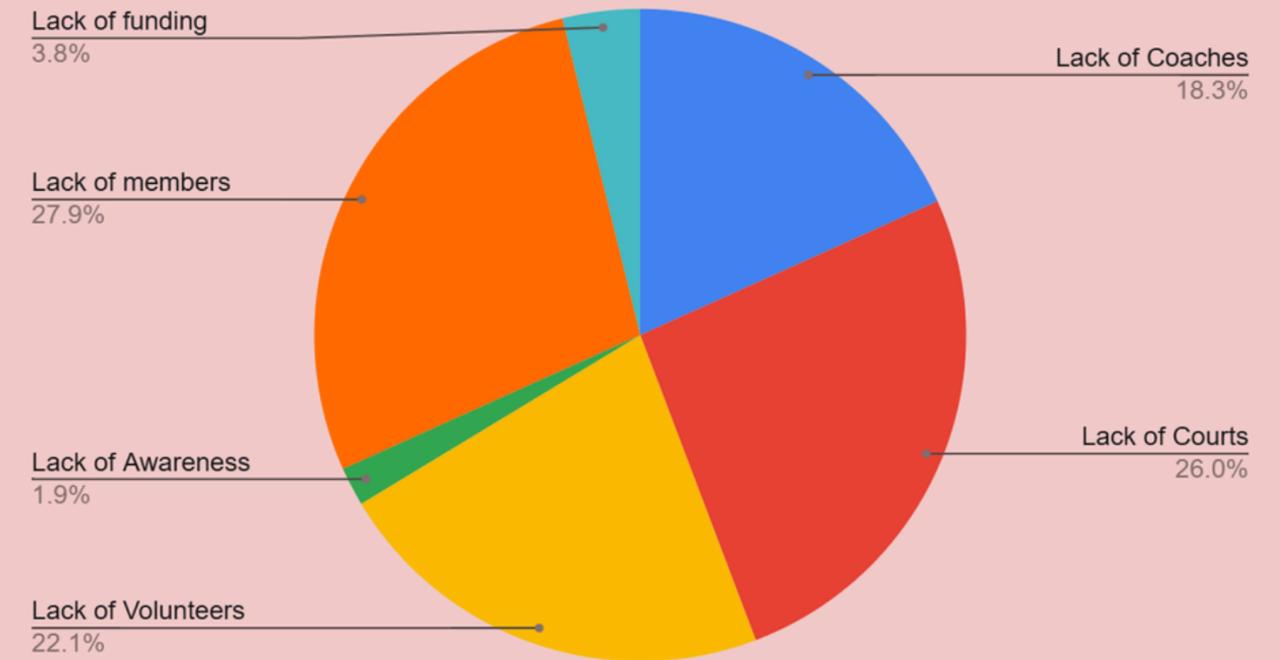


# Further Feedback

## Key Points

- Clubs highlighted the importance of sustained membership growth, alongside the continued development of coaching capacity, volunteer engagement, and court availability.
- As participation demand increases in certain areas, facility access and leadership capacity remain important considerations for long-term growth.

What is the biggest barrier to your clubs growth?



# Further Feedback - Key themes & Growing Squash Nationally

## Key Themes

- Three consistent themes emerged from club feedback:
  - Strengthening sustainable funding pathways
  - Expanding coaching access and education
  - Supporting membership growth, particularly among female and junior players
- These priorities reflect a shared ambition to build long-term, resilient club structures.

## National Growth Priorities

- Clubs emphasised the importance of schools engagement, grassroots development, and increased visibility for the sport.
- Expanding local coaching presence and creating accessible entry points for beginners were consistently identified as key drivers of long-term participation growth.



# Summary

Squash in Ireland continues to demonstrate strong underlying demand, with growing adult participation, expanding Women in Sport initiatives, and ambitious facility development plans.

Clubs across the island are focused on strengthening coaching pathways, developing junior structures, enhancing inclusion, and improving infrastructure to support long-term sustainability.

The 2025 survey highlights both progress and opportunity, reinforcing a clear national direction centred on grassroots growth, leadership development, and increased visibility for the sport.

