

Membership Secretary's report for ACM

I took over the role of Membership Secretary from Mary Gibbs after the AGM last year, and she has been very patient and generous with her time to ensure that I have understood everything that is involved in the role. So I owe a very big thank you to Mary.

I have initiated some changes on GOLD – we now have a field called 'Mailing Label' which is used by the printers for posting out Gaffers Log – it means that we can address envelopes to both people in a family membership rather than just the primary member. We also have two new values of Status – 'Deceased' and 'Not renewing' – the latter is useful for me when I know that someone won't renew their membership at the end of the year, but they are still a paid up member for the rest of the year.

Since 2021, direct debits for new members have been managed by GoCardless, a popular company specialising in collecting direct debit payments and other financial services for various associations and businesses. However there were over 770 members still on the old direct debit system with Barclays, which was difficult to process when the payments came in in January. So it was decided to transfer all the members on the old system onto GoCardless. We managed to do this during December, just in time to get all their subscriptions set up ready for the 2nd January payments to be taken. Despite numerous explanations about this to members in Gaffers Log and by email (and post to those without email addresses), a large number of members appear to have been confused and concerned about the change, which resulted in many mandate cancellations. Most of these have been reinstated, but it has created a lot of extra work. Part of the problem has been that the direct debits are shown just as 'GoCardless' on members' bank accounts, rather than 'OGA', so some members were suspicious and didn't realise that it was for their OGA subscription. So we have now opted to pay an additional amount each month to have our direct debits badged clearly as 'OLD GAFFERS ASSOC' which should dispel members' confusion.

Membership statistics for 2025

At the end of 2025 we had 1046 memberships, comprising 1211 members.

The North East Area (15 memberships) was merged with the East Coast during 2025.

Associate memberships are not included in the following tables about Areas as they are not associated with an OGA Area.

Overseas members are mostly in France (5) and the US (5), then Australia (2) and one in each of Netherlands, Canada, Hong Kong and the British Virgin Islands.

Number of memberships per Area at the end of 2025



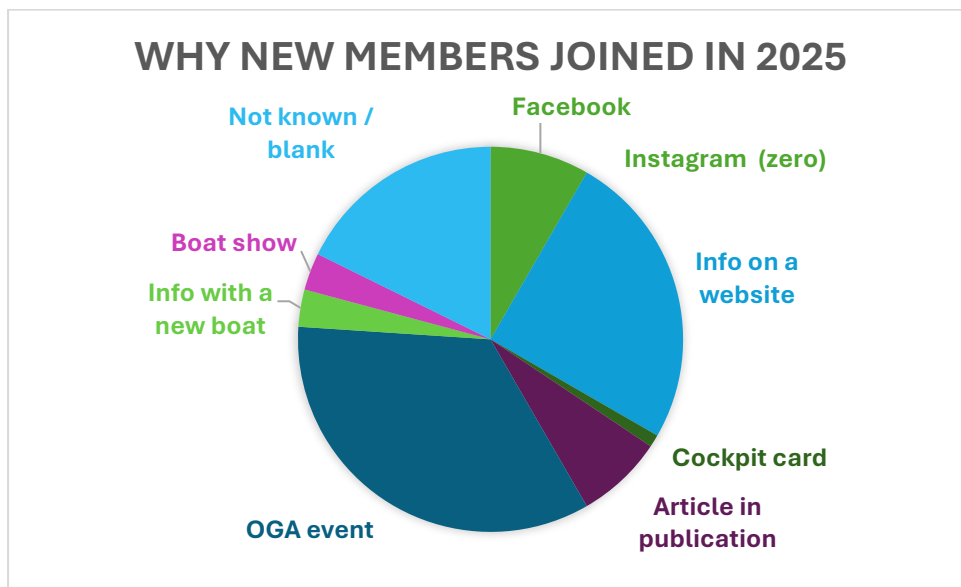
Change during 2025

Area	Number of memberships at end of 2025	New memberships during 2025	Resignations	Deaths	Change
Bristol Channel	47	4	2	0	+2
Dublin Bay	84	4	1	0	+3
East Coast	335	33	23	5	+15
North Wales	41	4	2	0	+2
North West	44	6	3	5	-2
Overseas	18	3	2	0	+1
Scotland	40	4	3	0	+1
Solent	260	27	28	5	-6
South West	161	10	13	5	-8

Type of memberships

Type	Number of memberships
Individual	730
Family	283
Junior	3
Honorary	14
Associate	16

Reasons for joining



Interestingly, two members who joined during January 2026 have cited Instagram as the reason so this looks very encouraging for the future.

Yearly Trend

Area	2023	2024	2025
Bristol Channel	49	47	47
Dublin Bay	118	105	84
East Coast	315	297	335
North East	17	17	0
North Wales	37	39	41
North West	34	42	44
Overseas	19	18	18
Scotland	35	33	40
Solent	267	259	260
South West	160	164	161
TOTALS	1051	1021	1030