

OGA Membership Secretary Report January 2023

I have continued to record memberships at the end of March and of October, as before. The table below shows total memberships by Area and Total memberships (the figures in brackets are total members including Family members).

Area	28th October 2021	31st March 2022	28th October 2022
Bristol Channel	48	44	51
Dublin Bay	89	114	119
East Coast	307	283	301
Northeast	16	14	15
Northern Ireland	32 (Area disbanded 2022, most members joined Dublin Bay)		
North Wales	39	32	35
Northwest	31	30	29
Scotland	33	33	33
Solent	285	255	263
Southwest	148	145	150
Overseas (not in an area)	19	12	19
Total memberships	1047(1304)	962	1015 (1249)

Members (or memberships!) who are interested in Small Boats (suitable for a trailer) events total 290 (360 including Family members). (I am unclear how many of these members are actually trailer sailors).

New members are still coming along at a healthy rate (thanks to website and social media) but we do have a sizeable proportion of older members, so inevitably our losses continue – but the diminution in members continues to be slow, though not (as I hoped it might be) reversed. However, the website and social media are responsible for the largest proportion of new joiners – thanks to Elly and others! – and we need to make sure that these posts are filled by members with appropriate skills.

Having GoCardless available to set up Direct Debits on-line has been very helpful indeed, (though it's been a steep learning curve!) and the day-to-day work in managing it is much less than with the traditional BACS system (still running in tandem with GoCardless at the moment) but we haven't yet got to the point of uploading the annual batch of payments – there were not more than I could cope with manually in January last year, but now we will have two databases of payments to check and upload – perhaps, by the time we meet, I will be able to report on this being successful and trouble-free, but at the moment we must wait and see. Tony has been looking into it, and hopefully.....

One important point to mention is that in January 2024 the post of Membership Secretary will be due for election (or re-election). However, I shall have been doing this job for seven years then, and I think I should stand down at that point (though I will be happy to make myself available as a resource for the new Membership Secretary). I plan to write something about this in a Gaffers Log later this year – no urgency yet! – but I would be happy to discuss it with anyone who might be interested in the job.

Mary Gibbs