

BFA Membership Secretary Report for April 2022 AGM

At the time of the Membership Secretary Report for the last BFA AGM in April 2021, we had 80-84 members (some membership statuses were still being finalised as the renewals process was not complete).

We have gained 17 new members and one who has re-joined.

We welcome:

Bernie Heaney, Luke Farren, Kate Doran, Maureen Murray, Heather Tetley, Isla MacDonald, MaryLou Morris, Catherine Flynn, Claire Owen, Rachel Hendron, Sky Hawk, Julia Brammer, Adriana Dorsett, Edit Selmeczi, Sonia Galucci, Jane Sharpe and Rene Veugelers

And welcome back, Martin Langsdon

My deepest apologies if I have missed anyone out or used an incorrect version of your name!

Our current membership is around 97 people (this is still approximate due to renewals/memberships in process).

Membership Secretary Role

In the first year of being in this role the amount of work it took to process all of the membership renewals and the duration of time this happened over seemed extensive – hats off to Elizabeth for doing it this way for so many years! In my second full year we automated the process, and this also took a lot of work figuring out and adapting to this new way of doing things. Transferring people over to the automated system took quite a bit of time and this was still ongoing in this third renewals period I have undertaken. I'm pleased to say that almost everyone is now using the automated system where your membership renews automatically through your web profile and direct debit, so this will be less work for the membership secretary in future. Overseas members however still need to pay manually so this process does take some time as well as the ongoing work of receiving enquiries about membership and doing the necessary to set up new members, authorise their profiles etc. Now that the bulk of the work on the initial adjustment to automation has happened, there is still some work to be done on getting clearer about how some of the new processes work and refining them. There will also be some work involved in adjusting to our somewhat expanded (or at least clarified) remit of accepting overseas members on certain conditions.

Buddy system

Two or three of our existing pool of Buddies are taking a break and we have just made a successful call out for some new Buddies. Each time a new member joins they are paired with a Buddy and can have a phone call where they are welcomed to the BFA and have an opportunity to make personal contact with an existing member. The buddy can also serve as a point of contact for future queries, and we hope is helping new members to feel part of BFA.