

Membership Secretary Report – August 2024

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1. Membership summary

The membership database for the BSG is currently being completely re-evaluated and aligned with data from the payment databases (PayPal and GoCardless) to ensure that the society has an accurate record of active members. Previous analysis (see report from April 2024) revealed conflicting numbers of total members and how they were partitioned between the various membership options. Initial harmonisation across the payment and membership databases suggests that the active membership for the society is 457 (294 opting to pay via PayPal and 163 paying via GoCardless as a direct debit). The majority of members hold a *Springboard* or *Postgraduate* membership (205 individuals), with *Full* members being slightly less (193 individuals) and *retired* or *student* members making up the remaining 55. As the database is harmonised further, the breakdown of *Postgraduate* and *Springboard* members and *Retired* and *Student* members will be split into their individual quantities. Historic membership trends are displayed in Table 1, although the data for 2023- present should be treated with caution, since inaccuracies in the active membership appear to have been propagated since 2020. For this reason and those described above, membership breakdown and net changes have been omitted for 2023-2024.

A major weakness of the existing member database is the way in which it interfaces with the client side of the website. Members are shown that they have an active membership when they may have not paid fees for up to several years. This arises because of the disconnect between payment and membership databases. Once these databases have been harmonised, they should be easy to maintain with regular checks, thus minimising these occurrences in the future. Another aspect that would improve member engagement around holding active memberships is a warning or reminder system in the member area of each user's account. This will be explored with the web officer.

Type:	Sep-21	Nov-21	Apr-22	Sep-22	Nov-22	May-23	Sep-23	Apr-24	Change
Full	182	186	185	202	212	258	278	327	49
Springboard	16	17	15	14	20	22	23	25	2
PhD	178	147	153	158	179	196	209	237	28
Student					18	25	27	28	1
Undergrad	10	13	5	7					0
Unwaged	4	5	4	5	1	2	3	2	-1
Masters	10	10	11	11					0
Retired	29	30	31	31	35	37	38	39	1
TOTAL	429	408	404	428	465	540	578	658	80

Table 1: Long-term membership breakdown 2021-April 2024

2. Problematic Areas and Recommendations: progress updates

In the April report I outlined several challenges with the database that limited our ability to perform meaningful analysis on the membership. Here, I outline the progress made in addressing those challenges.

- **We need to collect more data**
As part of the society's aspirations to establish EDI benchmarking and capture information about the society's demographics, Chris Hackney and I have circulated an EDI survey to the membership to help develop a more informative database for the society. This data will be non-identifiable but will provide crucial benchmarking data to monitor how fair and equitable the society is in its activity.
- **There are uncategorised members currently registered with the society**
An overhaul of the membership database is underway and will ensure each active member is identified and classified with a role.
- **15 members have one or more duplicate accounts with the society.**
The database overhaul will ensure each member only has one active account at a time. Dual accounts will be deactivated with permission from the member.
- **Inability to change membership username**
This is still to be investigated with the web officer(s) and will be updated on in the next report.