

HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Annual General Meeting – 12th April 2025

Membership Secretary's Report

Thank you to all of you for renewing your membership in 2025 it ensures that HRGB continues and grows.

Most of the renewals this year were done online using the website and the renewal link that was sent to all correspondents. It is the best way to renew the membership even if you wish to pay by BACS or cheque later. Once we receive the payment, the membership status then just changes from "pending" to "current." By going into the system and renewing, you are able to amend any of the details we have for you or members of your team and saves a vast amount of time for me as Membership Secretary. Any changes are on the system straight away bringing everything up to date.

On 12 December 2024, John and I did a webinar explaining the online membership renewals process for 2025 and a few people joined us. We hope this has helped them renew their membership online. This process is still new for some members so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any issues when using the system. Details of renewing online are on the HRGB website if you want to take a look as is guidance about using the website.

The vast majority of renewals were sent out to correspondents of teams and to Independent members by email, with just a few (49 in fact) having to be posted out. This is a vast saving on postage for HRGB and workload for me. There have been a few problems for members using the online system but most of these were ironed out quickly and sorted. John Willis, the WebAdmin administrator continues to make sure that things run smoothly for all of us. I can't thank him enough for all the help he has given me. Please don't worry if, for whatever reason, you are unable to go online as we are always able to deal with membership another way.

Membership figures are at present slightly better than at this time last year. I am still getting renewals in by a few a week and we have new teams and new members joining which is wonderful. We welcome them all to HRGB.

This year is the last year that Membership cards have been sent out to members that had requested them. This has saved HRGB quite a lot in regard to postage and with postage costs going up yet again this year will save us greatly in the future. I know a few of our members liked having a membership card but we are moving forward to 21st century and we need to be more aware of our carbon footprint on the world.

If you know of any team or ringers that are not members of HRGB, please encourage them to join so that we can look forward to even better things for HRGB in the future.

Happy ringing!

Diane Holt

Membership Secretary