

BRITISH WOMEN PILOTS' ASSOCIATION LTD



BWPA Chairwoman's Report to the BWPA 2022 AGM

Welcome to the AGM of the British Women Pilots' Association Ltd in this our 67th year as an Association. I would like to thank our new Secretary, Bronwyn Fraser, for preparing the notices and documents for the meeting and for all 'on' & 'off' committee members for helping with the preparation of this annual report.

2022 has been an unusual year whereby we are all having to return to a 'new normal', and many businesses have suffered 'post Covid lockdown periods' while adapting to hybrid work solutions, staff shortages and the need to retrain. With so many people returning to a fuller work and social schedule some volunteers have been unable to assist quite so much during this period which has inevitably impacted upon the Association, which still achieved significant growth during 2020 and 2021, and has needed to engage more volunteers to enable the sustenance of that growth and continue to engage all BWPA members.

As a resolution we are preparing a volunteer platform on the website for members to apply to assist us. Committee member Roisin Meleady-White has taken responsibility for setting this up, as part of our five-year strategy.

Bronwyn, who succeeds Nicky Rowan, is enjoying her new role as Secretary and has appreciated Nicky's guidance during the handover process. As Secretary she has been instrumental in helping the Committee make the BWPA a professional organisation, agreeing and implementing several new processes to facilitate the smooth and efficient running of the association (including giving guidance for potential partnerships with the BWPA) and ensuring our decisions are clearly linked to our five-year strategy. These have led to increasingly efficient Committee meetings, better documented processes and increased focus in what we deliver.

Recognising that the BWPA is entirely run by volunteers, the Committee has also shown enthusiasm for becoming a more agile organisation that offers members more opportunities to give back, with proposed changes to the BWPA Rules making it clearer and easier for members to join the Committee and get involved in the running of the BWPA.

Deputy Chair Annabel Cook aims to be a consistent point of contact for our volunteers, providing support and assistance to all on and off Committee members and helping them get up speed. This has already proved invaluable, not least for the new Events Coordinator, Aleksandra Nitecka, in helping her organise this weekend's activities.

For existing volunteers, Annabel wants to make sure they get what they want out of volunteering too – in whatever form that is, from experience they can take back to their day job to being part of the BWPA's future. She is also providing ongoing reviews with the

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volunteer team, for example to identify any areas where individuals might need more support.

Annabel stood down as Communications Lead in March this year, after almost nine years in the role, to concentrate on what she could offer to the team as Deputy Chair and the focus towards caring for the volunteers that was added to the job description, besides acting as a general backup for my role.

Many members' first point of contact with the BWPA will be Claire Hatton, our Membership Coordinator. Claire's role suits her well as she understands and recognises the difference between those members who stand outside of the main regional groups or are unable to attend scheduled events to those that regularly meet up either online or in person and become more involved. Claire's report includes membership statistics for the last year which are attached as an Appendix A to my report. The current membership (from the report date) stands at 455 members with a wide range of age groups and improving geographical reach.

On joining the BWPA members have the option to be in touch with their preferred regional group and may belong to more than one. If you have not done this then please get in touch with Claire who will organise the introductions.

The BWPA currently has seven regional groups: Scotland, North East, North West, Midlands, South, Essex & Herts and South West. There are still areas of the UK which do not have a regional group and the intention is to start new regional groups in these areas as soon as it is possible to do so. The existing groups are very active, with in person and online events being held regularly. In addition, all the groups have a WhatsApp group, enabling the regional members to communicate with each other daily, to seek advice from each other and to celebrate each other's successes. The Regional Representatives also share a WhatsApp group, which allows information to be shared between the members in each region. While keeping in touch is a popular theme for our members, the BWPA Communications Team keep us informed with regular updates. For 2022 Maeghan Sheehan took on the role of Communications Lead, with Annabel monitoring the handover and available to give advice.

The website has seen some changes, including regular updates to the members' homepage to keep everyone informed. The website has grown and developed and continues to be a key feature in the day to day running of the Association, allowing you to update your personal details, print your membership card, and book events.

The Membership Retention working group, led by Annabel and part of our five-year strategy, has also contributed some changes to the website, including launching the BWPA Members Forum, which encourages members to connect with each other and allows a space to share news and achievements, and ask questions of other members. They have also arranged many new discounts, including free landings and money off aviation products and experiences, and BWPA branded clothing. The input from a

membership survey by the Membership Retention Team has been responsible for many of these changes which had been requested by members.

The Communications Team goal of averaging one or two news articles per month continues, with 15 articles published so far this year. Daily social media content is posted by Steph Smith and e-news is created by Gemma Jeffries. Both have continued to maintain positive engagement from our members and helped contribute towards a successful scholarship campaign.

There were 23 scholarships offered this year to the value of £44,881.95 with individual awards supporting members to achieve goals, including covering partial or full course costs. 16 of the scholarships have been provided from external sponsors: CATS, Bristol Ground School, EasyPPL, 624Squadron.com, Oriana Pepper's parents, SkyDemon, Wings Alliance, Flight Deck Wingman and Helicentre Aviation. We remain grateful to our sponsors for allowing these opportunities to be available to our members. Once the initial announcement of the winners is made we track their progress which in turn enthuses next year's applicants.

Our partnership with Aetheris Publishing led to the BWPAs involvement with the ATTAGIRLS Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship (AMRPS) which was awarded to Georgia Pescod after a day of flight checks, simulator assessments and interviews for the short-listed candidates with myself on the panel of interviewers in May this year. This was for the full cost of the PPL which she has now successfully completed. Delighted with our help and involvement, Aetheris have invited us back for 2023.

Events this year have mostly been organised by the Regional Representatives who offered opportunities local to them and kept them open to all members who wished to attend, with the Careers Day at Brize Norton being a popular choice and some of the gliding club visits allowing many of our members to experience their first non-powered flight (myself included).

The purpose of encouraging more of our members to try gliding was largely to create awareness of the Women's World Gliding Championships (WWGC) which took place at Husbands Bosworth this summer. As partners of the WWGC we had a stand on site which resulted in visits from a number of our members.

With the event scene getting back to normal and new Events Coordinator, Aleksandra, on-board there are promising times ahead of us. Aleksandra, with our help, is getting up to speed with planning both in person and online events that will be about education, inspiration, community and fun. She aims for them to touch upon not only heritage and current events, but also the future of air travel, something for all our members, whatever their interest in aviation.

We can expect such event themes as safety, future of zero emission aviation, including the use of hydrogen and electric aircraft, air shows and careers in aviation. Some examples would be: visits to Air Accidents Investigation Branch in Farnborough, the NATS Distress and Diversion team, Gliding Heritage Centre as well as talks by ZeroAvia about their

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pioneering work on hydrogen-fuelled powertrain technology or Flight Crowd about their mission to raise awareness of Urban Air Mobility and how the industry will change in the coming years.

All insights from BWPA members are welcome and will serve as a true inspiration for the coming events.

One regular event that is popular with BWPA members is the Federation of European Women Pilots (FEWP) AGM weekend which was held during the first weekend of June in Belgrade, Serbia. Our hosts did an excellent job of caring for us and finding interesting places to visit. The UK had the largest attendance at this event despite continuing travel concerns at that time, with the most adventurous member flying there from the UK in a C172. We hope to see some new faces attending the Romanian event in Cluj -Napoca during the first weekend in June (1-4 June 2023) where there is a choice of International Airport or local airfield if you choose to fly in.

All BWPA projects usually find their way past the Treasurer Catherine Hollywood at some point. Catherine has prepared the 2021-22 accounts, submitted them to Camfield, Chapman & Lowe (CCL) and will be presenting her report separately.

Off committee members who represent the BWPA at other organisations are Lesley Runnalls for the General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo) and Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN), and Allie Dunnington for the General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC). Both members keep us updated with events within those organisations including RIN's popular annual TOPNAV competition which is next planned for 15-30 April 2023 and the All Party Political Group – General Aviation (APPG-GA) who need a younger generation of representatives.

Our Heritage working group remain in contact with the group's sponsor and BWPA Archivist Beverley Harrison who works closely with Aviation Heritage UK. Beverley maintains links with our members by offering presentations such as a talk on the centenary of Sheila Scott's birth and 'What Worrals Flew Next' based on an older article about Freydis Sharland on the BWPA website, which attracted the attention of Lancashire Museum's Service. These may be available for rescheduling on request from those that missed them. Beverley has also been leading the heritage plan stream of our five-year strategy.

The number of active volunteers and the work performed for the BWPA is outstanding and I thank you all. I know that not everyone has been named, yet I can assure you that everyone has been appreciated.

Sharon Nicholson FRAeS

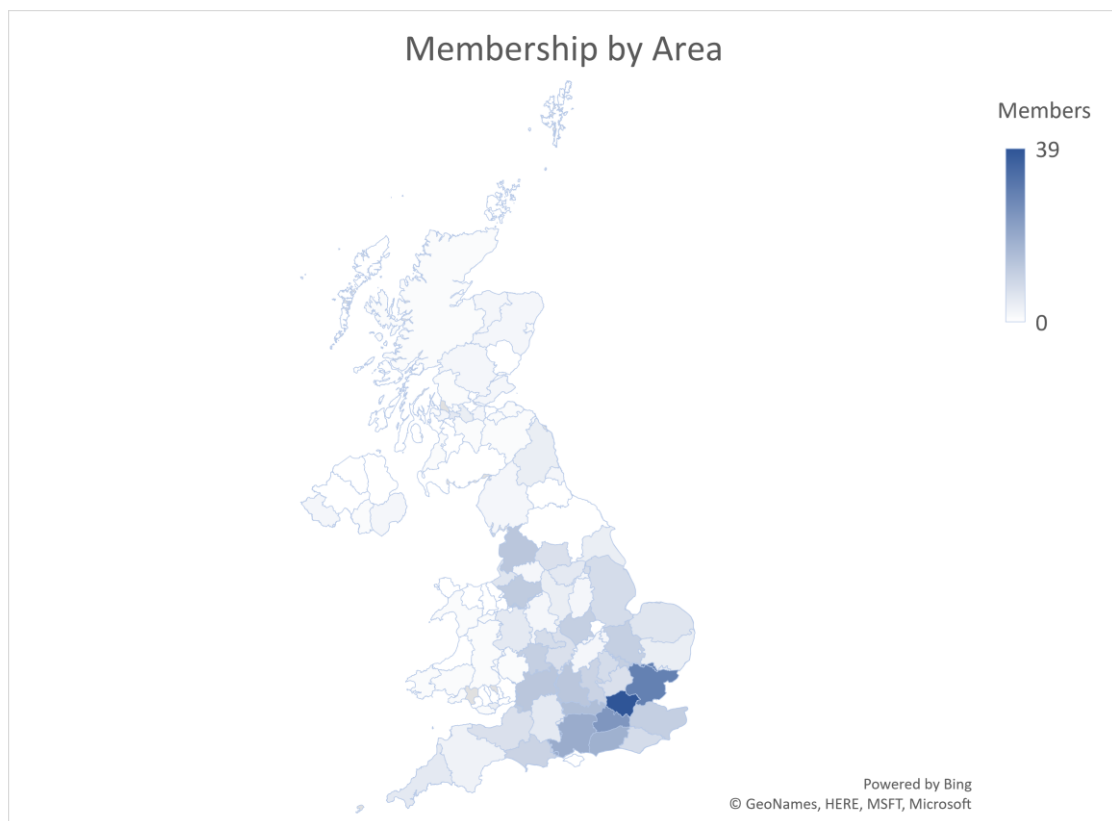
BWPA Chairwoman

Prepared for the AGM 4 December 2022

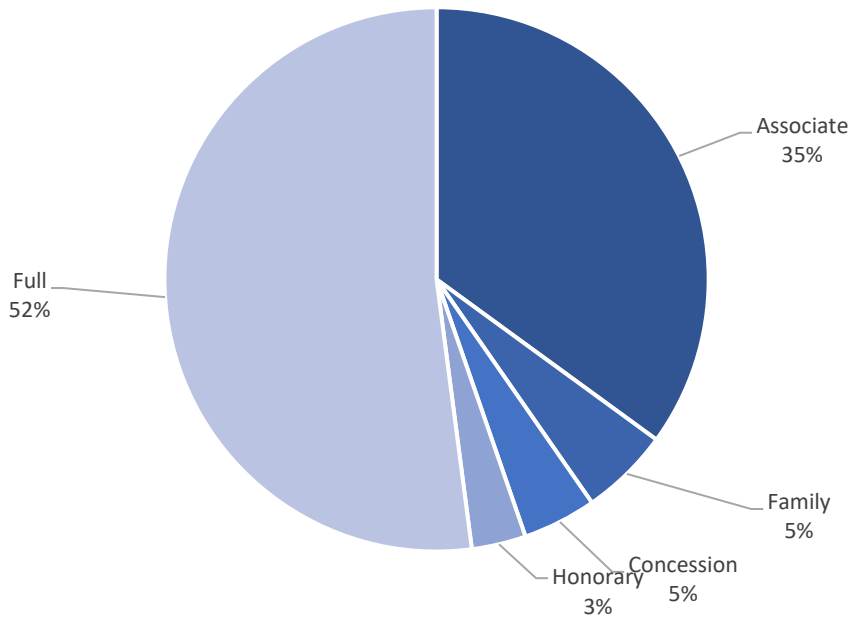
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Appendix A

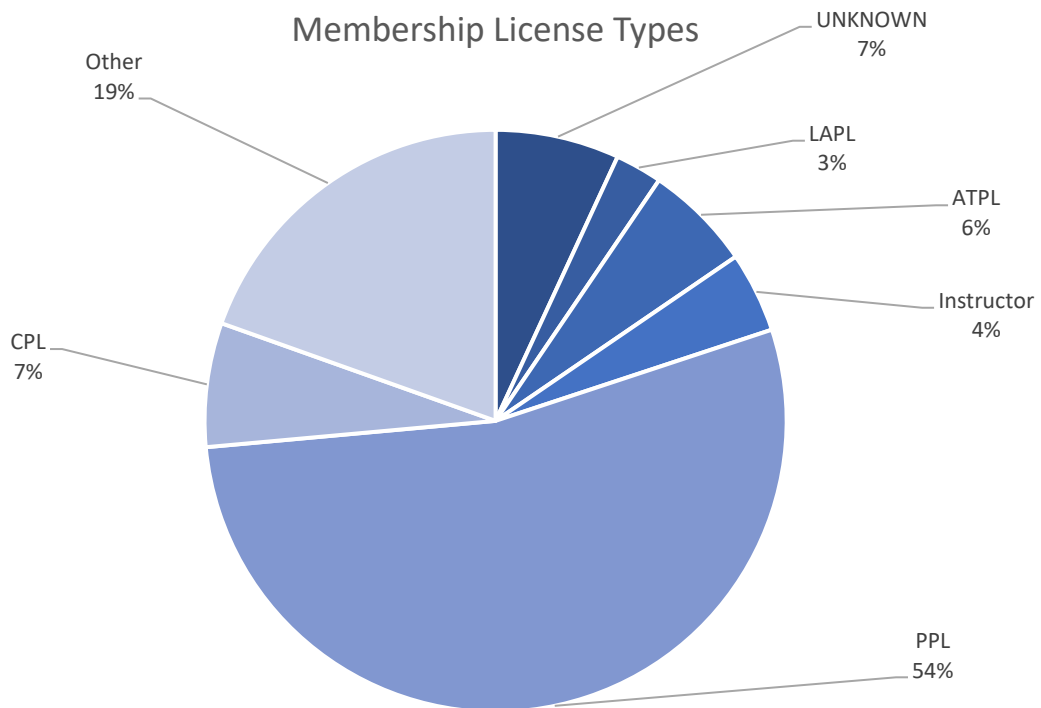
The BWPA's membership count stands at 455 members, which is 4% (19 members) increase from the same time last year. More than half of BWPA members have joined in the past 2 years. 1-year membership retention is 68%, which is 12% down from the same time last year. 2-year retention is 40%. 73% of BWPA members belong to a regional group, which is an increase of 14% from the same time last year. There are still some areas of the UK that do not have a regional group and in these areas, new regional groups will hopefully be established in the coming year. The online membership system is working well and where potential improvements are identified, they are made, in the interests of continual improvement. The vast majority of our members are looking to build their network while accessing advice and support, and there remains a spread of members across the various age groups.



Membership by Type



Membership License Types



11% of members have multiple license types

