

AGM 2020 Membership Secretary Report for period 01.02.2019 – 31.01.2020

For 2019 the membership statistics are as follows:

279 paid up members breaking down as 54 institutional members and 225 personal members.

74 unpaid subs breaking down as 5 unpaid institutional members (one still in process) and 69 unpaid personal members.

There were 49 new members since 2018.

There are 13 free of complementary mailings of the journal either for legal/copyright reasons or networking. These are – British Library LDO, British Library CRO, GCG, Smithsonian Institute Library Gifts and Exchanges, ACE, SPNHC, MA, Zoo Record plus five copies to ALDL

The membership remains largely UK based at around 80% of total, however 18 different countries are represented in the 20% 'overseas' members.

Membership had been slowly increasing over the last few years and has stabilised out around the 280 mark which is a satisfactory level though we always seek to increase NatSCA's reach. The pattern of new members/unpaid subs in the last few years suggests we have people joining only for training and other events. Member discount means it is cash neutral to join. We would like to encourage such people to maintain their subs and continue to benefit from membership.

Several reminders that subs are due are sent out each year to the membership. Those members who pay via Paypal are sent their renewal link in February. Other reminders follow. Institutions are sent electronic invoices. The database is 'cleaned' every two years of those members whose subs have lapsed.

I would like to especially thank Justine Aw and Holly Morgenroth for help, advice, fixes and keeping the show on the road.

For journal distribution, mailing labels were supplied and sent to the printer/distributor. This year was the first year where members could elect to receive an electronic copy only – over 100 members did so. Volume 6 was uploaded to the website in March and as usual a new password sent out to all paid up members for 2018 and to the new members for 2019. In July, a full pdf download of the journal (as well as the individual articles download on the website) was also made available to paid up members.

Finally, on a personal note, as I am retiring from committee at this 2020 AGM, and this will be my last AGM report as membership secretary, I would like to say that it has been a privilege to be part of NatSCA from its inception, see it grow and serve the interests and needs of the natural sciences community. I will continue in a voluntary capacity to effect the handover to the new membership secretary and help with the CIO transition.

It has also been hugely interesting and a lot of fun working with the great people who have served over the years on committee – so, so long and thanks for all the fish! See you around!

MR 29.04.2020