

BFA Membership Secretary Report for April 2025 AGM

At the time of our last AGM in April 2024, we had approximately 118 members. As of writing this report (11 April 2025), we have 110 fully paid-up members, with an additional four renewals and queries currently being processed. Since last year, we've welcomed six new members and two returning members. A warm welcome to:

- **New Members:** Trudie Johnston, Clodhna Davis, Alan Tidmarsh, Rob Thomson, Zeid Halaseh, and Cecilia Tuvo
- **Returning Members:** Vijay Rana and Maureen Murray

Membership Renewal Notes

Memberships expire throughout the year and there is not always a notification when this happens. As a result, the most accurate way to track active members is by extracting data directly from the website. Sometimes people accidentally let their memberships lapse or their direct debit is cancelled for some reason. When a membership is not renewed, I try to check in with people to invite them to share their reason for leaving, or if it looks like they might have left by accident, to see if they need help renewing. This accounts for the queries in process.

A reminder: If you live overseas or do not pay by direct debit, your membership will **not renew automatically**. Please remember to send your payment manually each year and notify me so I can update your profile. International payments can take up to **two weeks** to reach the BFA account.

Membership Secretary Role

This has been my first year as Membership Secretary. I've enjoyed the interactions and feeling of connection to our community, as well as the feeling of contributing to the world of Focusing in a small but meaningful way. Much of the role is approving and welcoming new members, and responding to queries about payments, renewals and cancellations.

Thank you to *Suzi* for her thorough handover and ongoing kind support, and everyone else who's helped solve niggles while settling in: Greg Ceri, Patrick Woodcock, Kay, Atulya, and Peter Gill.

Buddy system

Each time a new member joins I put them in touch with an existing BFA member who has volunteered to act as a buddy. The buddy arranges a phone call where they answer any questions the new member may have, share information about how BFA works (guidance is provided), and act as a friendly point of contact within the organization.

I'm looking for someone to take over **coordinating the buddy system**. This involves pairing new members with buddies and occasionally reaching out to recruit more volunteers. It's a straightforward role and a great opportunity for anyone looking for a gentle way in to begin helping in the running of BFA. If you're interested, please get in touch.

Huge thanks to our current Buddies: David Garlovsky, Susan Jordan, Ruth Freidman, Paula Charnley and Harriet Brown.