

## Survey of GLs conducted in JULY 2022

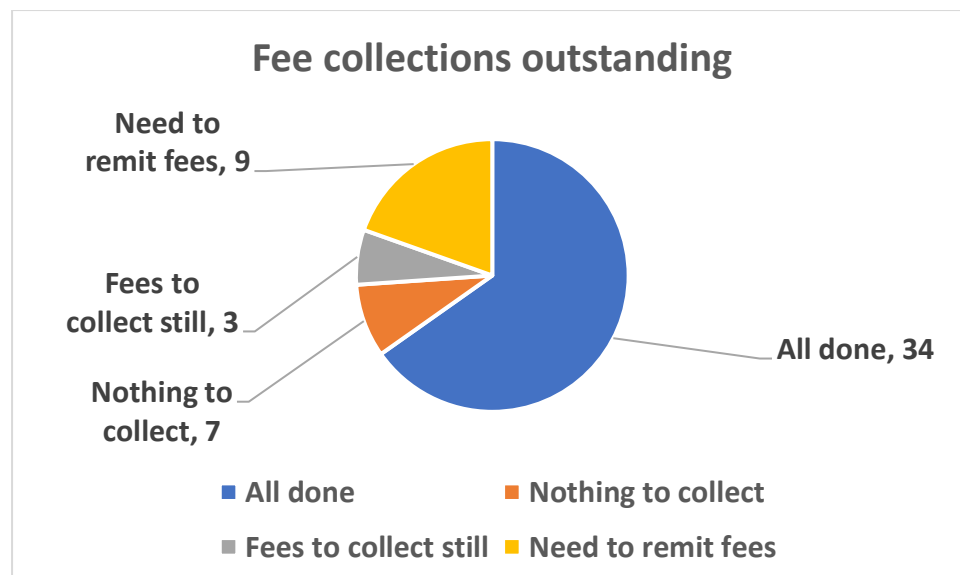
We put together a group of questions that the Committee wanted to get answered as soon as convenient. The focus has been on several issues:-

1. Tidying up the 2021-22 year to ensure that all GLs have both collected and remitted any outstanding Attendance Fees to the Treasurer.
2. Endeavouring to fit in all those groups that indicated they would be attending on 7th September
3. Finding out which groups would no longer be meeting in 2022-23. It is quite usual for groups to amalgamate; to change focus, or for them to come to a natural end.
4. Finding out the proportion of groups meeting in PRIVATE as opposed to HIRED premises.
5. Assessing interest groups' attitudes to the concept of payment of an ACTIVITY fee, to be collected in advance on (say) a TERMLY or an ANNUAL basis

It is quite normal to expect a low response rate to questionnaire surveys. We sent out the questionnaire to some 60 members tagged as "GL" and I was delighted to get 39 responses without prompting! Second and third reminders produced another 14 responses, leaving 5 to chase up.

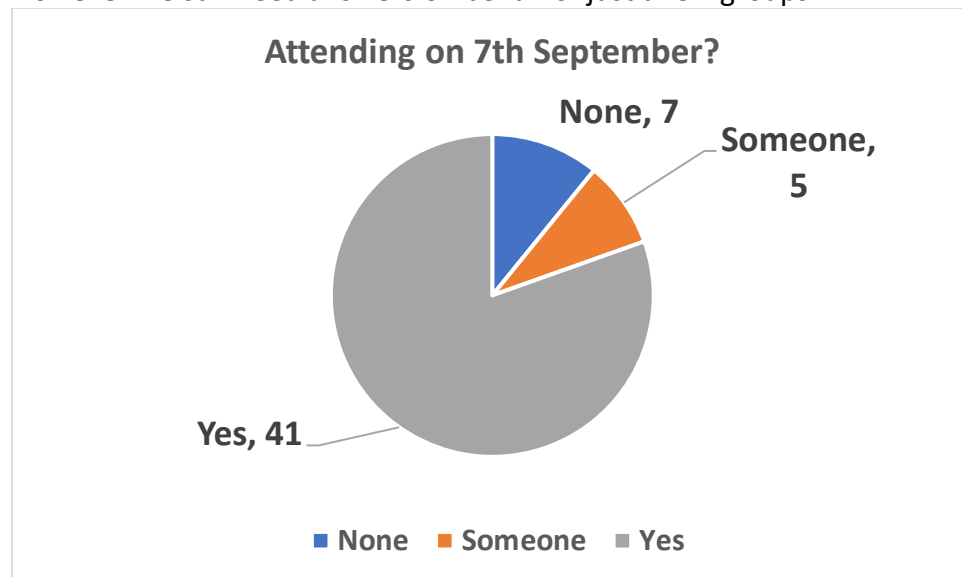
## Fees collection by GLs

We asked GLs whether they had both collected all outstanding fees and remitted them to the Treasurer. (Important for Keith to be able to submit accounts to the examiner by the end of August). Disappointingly out of 53 responses, some 12 groups still needed to collect and/or remit payments to the Treasurer. Treasurer Keith mason is on the case.



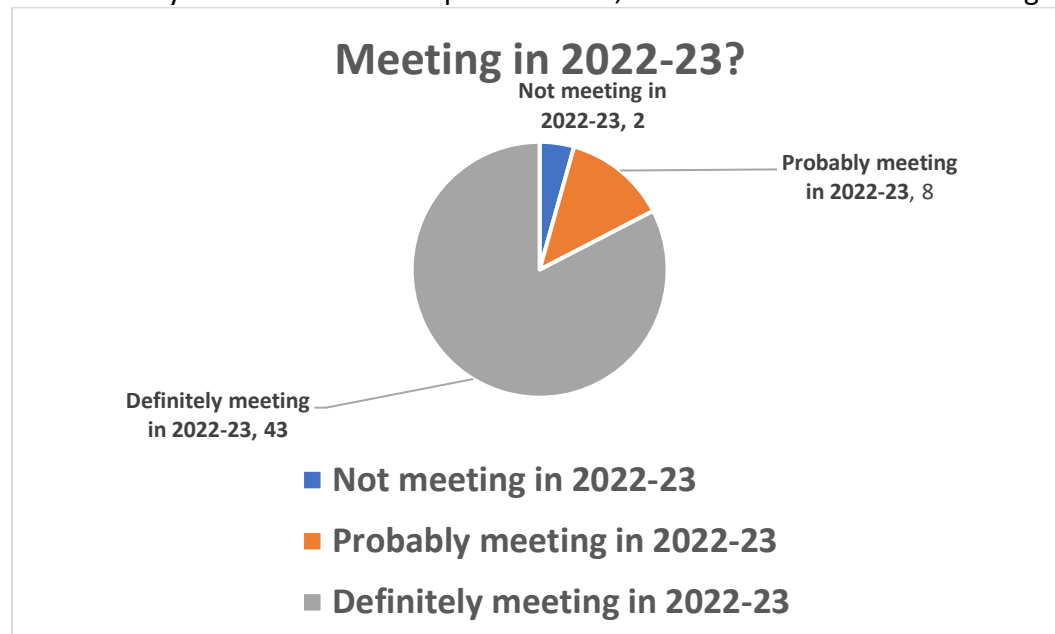
## Attendance on 7th September

We wanted to know which groups would definitely be represented on 7<sup>th</sup> September, so that we could plan the hall layout. Out of 53 respondents, all except 7 will be represented. However we still need answers on behalf of just a few groups



## Will your group be meeting again in 2022-23

We asked how many groups would be meeting again in 2022-23. Only 2 groups of those polled indicated that they would not be meeting in 2022-23, but some groups already known to be terminating had not been polled. It was very encouraging to find out that 43 of the 53 respondents will definitely be meeting in 2022-23, and only 2 were definitely not meeting. Groups which are currently tagged as INACTIVE in Beacon and/or HIDDEN from the website were already excluded from the questionnaire, so that covers a further 6 or 7 groups

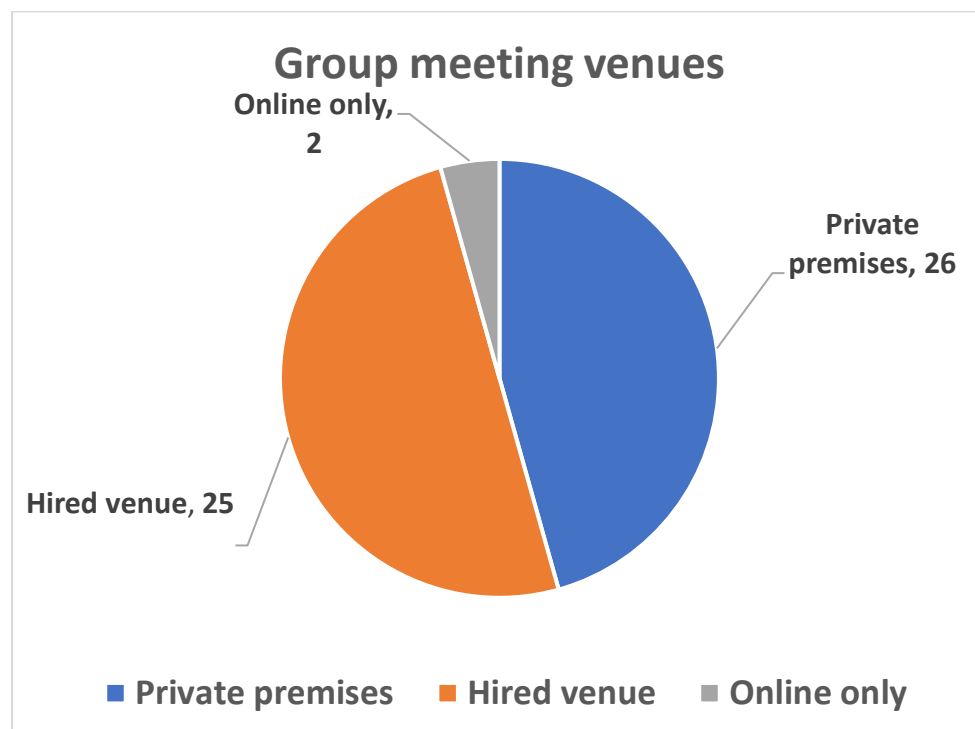


## Where does your group meet?

We asked GLs where they met. The split is almost exactly 50:50 between hired and private premises, with a tiny minority meeting online only

Whilst the committee wants to make sure that groups pay their own way as far as possible, we also recognise that there will be some groups, currently meeting in private premises, but bursting at the seams with more members wanting to join.

Groups such as these should be encouraged to move to hired premises, even if the increased number of members leaves the group leader struggling to get members to cover the costs concerned. The committee will be very positively committed to ensure that these group leaders are given as much support and guidance as possible to keep their group going.



## TERMLY of ANNUAL fees paid in advance

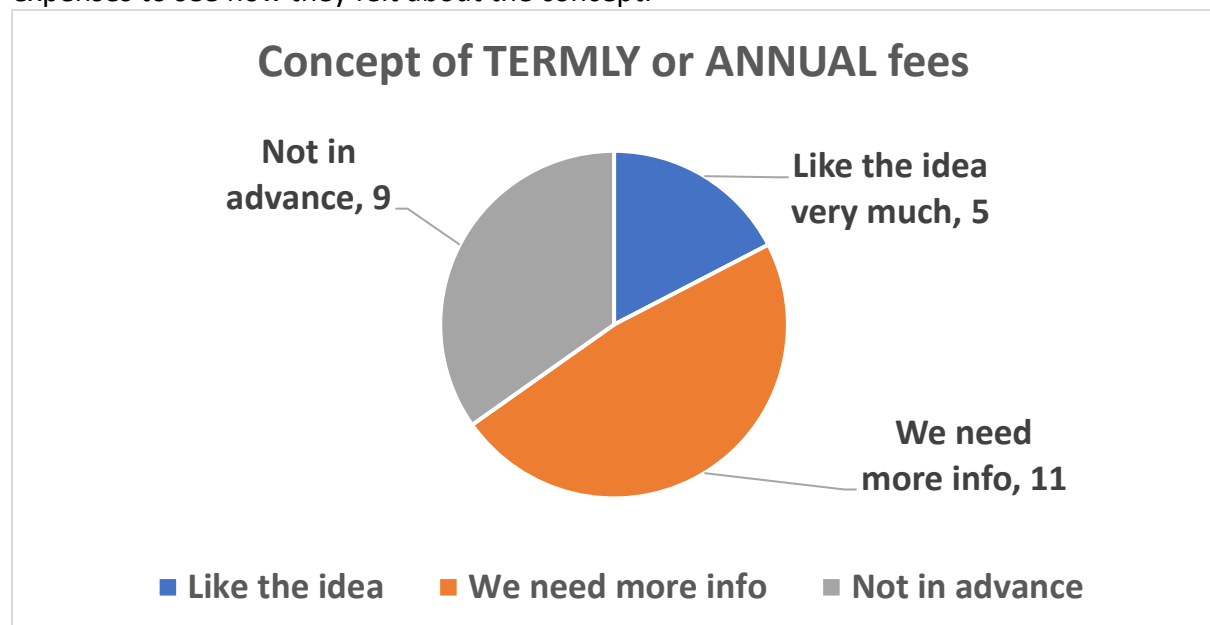
**The Attendance Fee disappears in September 2022.** This means that groups meeting in PRIVATE premises will no longer be collecting the 50p per person per meeting. We will therefore be losing some income as a result.

However, all groups incurring costs need to be able to collect those fees from members in order to balance the account for their particular group. – (***We could call them group activity fees***).

Groups meeting in hired premises or having other costs to cover will still be required to budget for and cover their meeting costs. The opportunity arises to organise the collection of payments in advance either on a TERMLY or an ANNUAL basis.

**Collecting activity fees in advance has the dual benefit of both ensuring that signed up members really do attend group meetings and also ensuring that the GL has the minimum of work to do by way of collecting and remitting funds.**

We posed the question to all GLs of groups meeting in hired premises or having other known expenses to see how they felt about the concept.



25 GLs responded to the question. The concept was definitely popular with 5 GLs, whilst 11 GLs were interested but wanted to know exactly how it would work. That is a reasonable query, and the details need to be worked out.

9 GLs rejected the idea, indicating that their members would not be prepared to pay in advance

Ideally we would want group members to work out an ANNUAL budget for their group and then decide how to collect payments from their registered members. Clearly that means both knowing how many committed members the group has and a stab at the known annual expenses: in many cases that being simply the annual cost of hiring premises

**John Wells 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022**