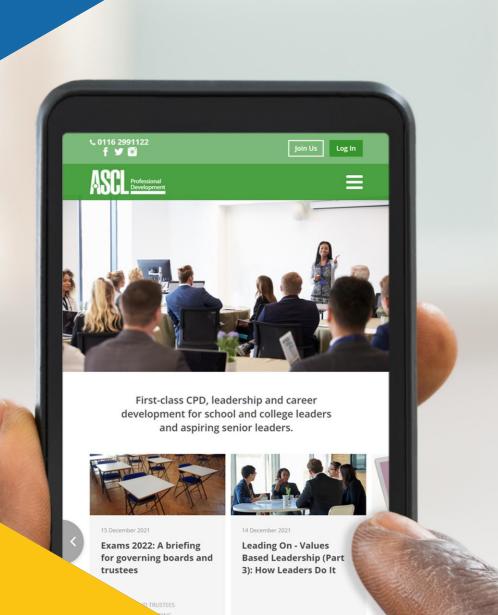


Here are your top strategies to drive membership growth

Practical help on recruitment and fixing the leaky bucket







Your hosts today

Allen Reid, Jeremy Jalie, Steve Sydee



Allen Reid
Independent Non-profit consultant



Jeremy JalieBusiness Development Lead



Steve SydeeHead of Sales and Marketing

Contact info@smartimpact.co.uk





Webinar etiquette



This session will be recorded



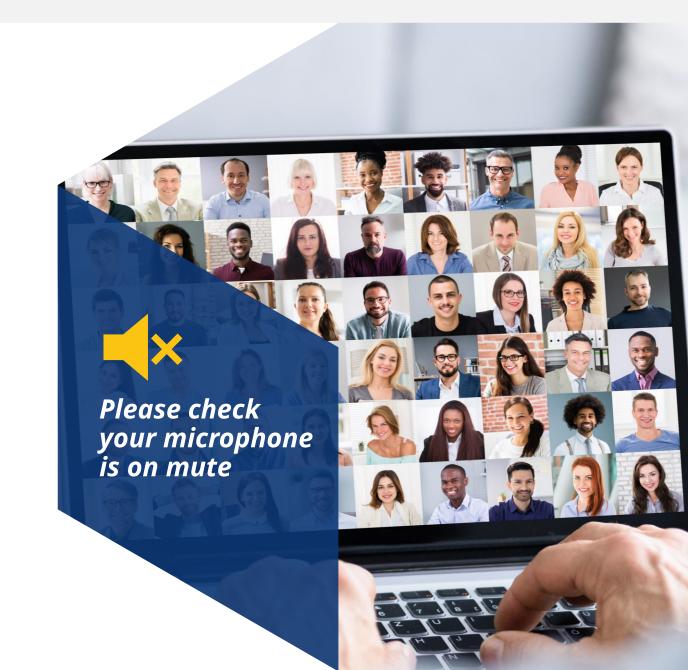
Please **use the chat box** for any content-related questions for the speakers



Send in your questions at any time during the webinar



We will address as many of them as possible them **during the Q&A session** at the end of the presentation





Today's agenda

Introducing the challenges









Allen Reid Independent non-profit consultant

1

Let's understand the challenges first

Attracting and retaining modern digital consumers into membership

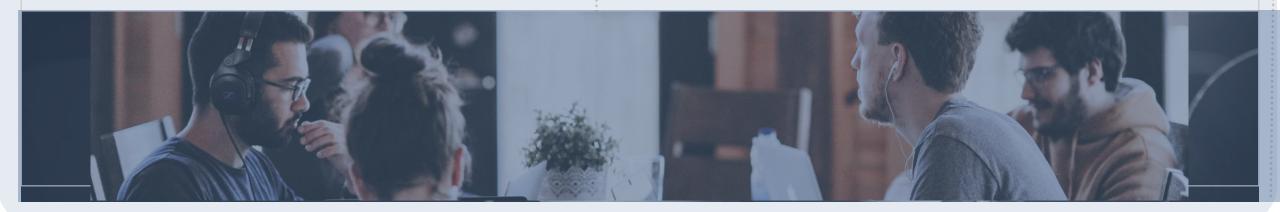
What's happening in the membership world?

There are some real challenges

- The Membership Marketing Benchmarking Report shows 45% of Associations with a decline of (average) 9% compared to the previous year.
- A GrowthZone survey of Associations showed
 57% saying member recruiting is among their top challenges
- "Only 29% of Associations saw an increase in new member acquisition in 2023, a decline from the prior year".

But it's not all doom and gloom

- Some associations still saw membership growth last year
 26%
- One of the most critical factors was "A continuing focus on membership recruitment efforts."
- Associations with an ongoing recruitment strategy were far more likely to see overall membership growth (63%, compared to 7%).
- Also, Associations with more young members (under age 40) reported higher levels of membership engagement.





So, what can membership bodies do about this?

The good news is you can start with small steps that have a big effect.

Here are nine practical areas you can focus on that will make all the difference



1. Getting and retaining younger members





Interesting survey factoid

According to Abila's member engagement study:

"Professional associations should focus on recruiting new members who are still early in their career either students or young professionals up to five years in work."

This makes a lot of sense and has important implications



Getting and retaining younger members

Understanding what young members value



They want a job and promotion

- Develop new skills in their field.
- Add credibility to their CV.
- Help them show commitment to learning



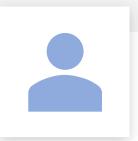
They want connections

- Forge new connections through networking
- Learn from more experienced people
- Find people who will help them get the next job



Get qualified and show it

- Keep up to date with industry trends
- Show a commitment to CPD
- Provide affordable industry qualifications



They want cheap stuff

- Sorry, but the research shows it's a big factor.
- Young people are used to getting 'intangible' benefits (including training) for free

One of the most effective strategies for young people

Offer a mentoring programme

Millennials and Gen Z value collaboration, they crave development, and they want to find answers to their questions quickly.

A study by PGi found that 75 percent of millennials want a mentor and deem mentoring crucial to success.

The magic of a mentoring programme is that provides the Association with double-benefit:

Both the mentee and the mentor are more likely to feel greater membership value



One of the most effective strategies for young people

Case Study - Society of Petroleum Engineers

"Our eMentoring Program gives SPE members a way to contribute by sharing industry insights and career advice with young professionals, or by helping university students with career direction."

Sandy Wilson manages the eMentoring program at SPE. "It's a volunteer opportunity for our professionals and a way for them to give back by sharing their experiences."

"We can match members in remote areas as there are no boundaries, no borders with electronic mentoring," said Wilson. "You can mentor anyone, anywhere, anytime."



SPE provides unparalleled insights, shared expertise, lifelong learning and community strength to fuel the success of our members and the future of the industry.

Practical strategies for recruiting young members

01

Platform Preferences:

Don't be in the dark.

Survey current young members about their preferred platforms and analyse engagement rates on past association posts



Social media strategy:

Exploit social media strategically to engage potential younger members. Your best social media content – posts from your own younger members.



"Boost your career":

Explain clearly how membership will help find the right job, get the right promotion, get a good appraisal

04

Revise your value proposition:

Clearly communicate the value of association membership to attract younger professionals.



05

They love a bargain:

- Try before you buy
- Time-limited access to free content
- Free webinars or courses



06

Listen, listen, listen:

and needs.

Do not presume you know!

Regularly seek feedback from younger members and be willing to adapt strategies based on their preferences







Innovate to recruit new members





Interesting survey factoid (ii)

The percentage of Association executives who consider their organisation very or extremely innovative has seen a significant increase (29%, up from 20%).

The ability to innovate correlates with increases in new members. An impressive 78% of Associations reported that they developed new products and services to assist members and member companies over the past year.

Source: Membership Marketing Benchmarking Report



A one of the major blockers to recruitment

Analysis paralysis

Or, I just don't know how to get started!

Some Associations spend so much time and effort researching, debating, and planning that a program is delayed or, in some cases, never implemented.

Let us introduce a simple tool you can use today:

The "one page recruitment plan"



Introducing the Membership Recruitment Marketing Matrix



Includes each of the critical coordinates for creating an effective plan by connecting each potential membership segment with the proper channels, value proposition, offers, messages, and frequency.

Start by listing your market segments—from most productive to least productive. The top layer includes the very best candidates, and each lower layer displays less-qualified options sequentially. The bottom layer can represent entirely new membership markets that you are trying to reach.

Let's use an example – Recently lapsed members



Most associations will find that their very best performing potential prospects include recently lapsed members. So, these prospects will go in the top segment

Here's an example of how to use the matrix for one segment–recently lapsed members.

- Marketing channels Lapsed members are the most responsive segment with an established relationship, all marketing channels can be deployed, including more expensive channels like telemarketing are appropriate.
- Value proposition Lapsed members may not renew out of financial panic or simple "passivity"" Offer opportunities to reengage with their peers through networking and career assistance
- Offers Incentives like discounts or free months of membership. Give reason to act promptly
- Messages Former members do not need a detailed explanation of the benefits. Keep it short and to the point: "We want to welcome you back into our community."
- **Frequency** Because lapsed members are the most likely segment to join, they can support the highest level of contact. A reasonable frequency of contact would undoubtedly be ongoing digital ads, a monthly email, a quarterly mailing, and an annual phone call.





Really work on great onboarding

A tale of two on-boarding processes (I joined two membership bodies in early 2022)

MEMBERSHIP BODY 1

MEMBERSHIP BODY 2

(I joined two membership bodies in early 2022)

MEMBERSHIP BODY 1

MEMBERSHIP BODY 2

Joined online

lan

Joined online

Dear Allen,

We hope you're doing well! It was great to chat to you the other week and hear your thoughts about your Fellowship experience so far.

We would be delighted to invite you along to our next Fellows welcome event on **Tuesday 24**th **Feb from 18.00 – 19.30 BST**. You can register for the event via Eventbrite here. We're committed to making your time as a Fellow as impactful as possible, and the welcome event is a great space to learn a bit more about how you can engage with the RSA community, so we hope to see you there.

If you can't make the event this month, then we'll be running another on **26**th **March** as well. Keep an eye on your inbox for more information in the weeks to come for more information!

We know some of you had specific queries about various aspects of Fellowship and we'll endeavour to respond to those questions individually. In the meantime, if you want to get in contact then please do drop the Fellowship team an email at fellowship@rsa.org.uk.

All the best,

Nik

(I joined two membership bodies in early 2022)

MEMBERSHIP BODY 1

UPCOMING TALKS & EVENTS

ın

MEMBERSHIP BODY 2

Joined online Initial capture of interests

Thanks and welcome.

No personalisation or relevance

No response from me

lewsletter with little apparent ersonalisation. No response from me



The cost of living precariously Thursday 24th February 2022 at 13:00



The story of disorder Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 13:00

How should we understand the turbulent age we're living through? Professor **Helen Thompson** examines the geopolitical, domestic, and economic histories of the current moment, and what we can learn from the challenges of today.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Allen Reid

Over 20,000 Fellows have an online profile. Find out how to set up your own and you can start connecting with the issues and people that matter to you.

▶ GET STARTED

(I joined two membership bodies in early 2022)

MEMBERSHIP BODY 1

MEMBERSHIP BODY 2

	_	
Joined online Initial capture of interests	Jan	Joined online Initial capture of interests
Thanks and welcome. Good introduction to relevant content. Invitation to get involved in events and refine profile Clicked through to refine profile and interests		Thanks and welcome. No personalisation or relevance No response from me
Two personalised e-shots of relevant content, further invitations to get involved. Phone call! Am I aware of the benefits I have paid for?	Feb	Newsletter with little apparent personalisation. No response from me
Two personalised e-shots of relevant content, further invitations to get involved.	Mar	Newsletter with little apparent personalisation. No response from me

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Book and attend good quality webinar. Read two articles	Apr-Sep	Newsletters with little apparent personalisation. No response from me

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MEMBERSHIP BODY 1

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Book and attend good quality webinar. Read two articles	Apr-Sep	Newsletters with little apparent personalisation. No response from me

Likelihood of renewing? 80%

Oct

Likelihood of renewing? 0%





Go overboard with on-boarding

- If you do nothing else from today's session,
 go and review your on-boarding process
 and "first year" processes
- Research shows this is the **most impactful** part of the relationship
- Of course, you only get one chance at a first impression

Must-haves and ideas:

- A personalised welcome letter
- Calendar of upcoming events and webinars
- Welcome brochure with some goodies
- A benefits sheet with channel information.
- Membership perks include discounts, promo deals, and offers
- Login credentials to your website and communities
- App download, if you have one
- Get on the phone! (You will learn so much from a 10-minute call)







A quick poll

How would you describe your "value proposition" for members?

- Quite poor not the best value for money
- OK I would buy it, but lots of room for improvement
- Compelling good value for money



Fixing the leaky bucket

To state the obvious...

Reducing your loss rate is just as important as your recruitment

Too many Associations and Unions accept a rate of churn as just a fact of life.

The reality is that most members do not renew because they are not feeling the value or need..

...and a surprisingly high number are happy to renew but just don't get round to it

Either way, churn **must not** be regarded as just a fact of life – you can do something about it.



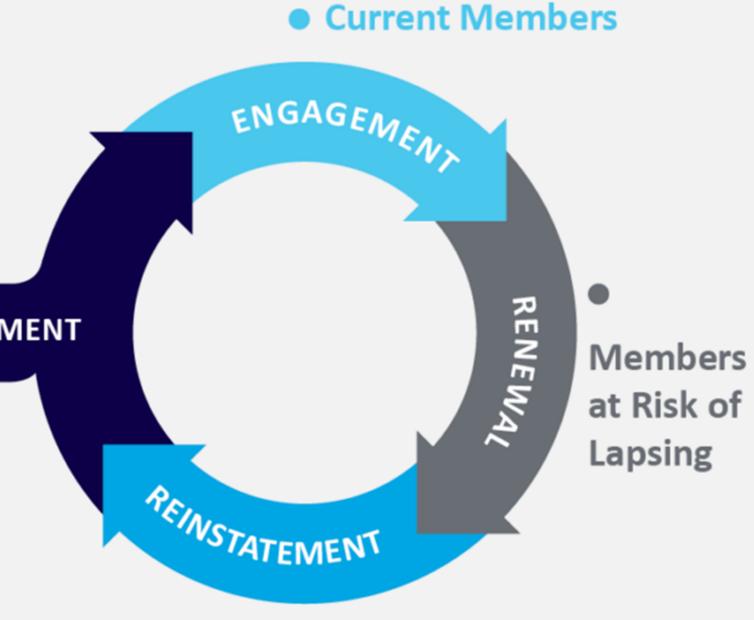
The key to increasing member retention?

AWARENESS

RECRUITMENT

Continually evolve your value proposition

>> Measure it >> Refine it







Demand members use their benefits

- Most members make little use of their member benefits – this must be seen as a huge problem that needs addressing
- Make it as easy as possible to use benefits convenient channels, push-delivery
- Remind them of their benefits done right, this will always be welcome (make it interesting, contextual, personal. Tell member stories of what they used and how it benefitted them)

Benefits ideas:

- Member-only communication
- Member-only events
- Member-only services
- Networking opportunities
- Career development tools
- Useful webinars
- Affinity programmes
- Engaging content
- Member discounts
- Mentor programmes
- Volunteer opportunities

And have an ongoing phone outreach campaign to see what's working





Develop (and push) your value-added benefits

The most effective membership benefits



Professional Development: Workshops, webinars, and certification to help members advance their careers.



Networking Opportunities: Create events and forums for members to connect, share ideas, and collaborate.



Exclusive Content: Provide members with access to exclusive articles, research papers, and industry insights.



Member Discounts:
Negotiate discounts on products, services, or conference fees exclusively for members.



Mentorship Programmes: Pair experienced

professionals with newer members to foster growth and learning.



Recognition Programmes:

Acknowledge member achievements and milestones to show appreciation for their involvement.



Advocacy: Represent members' interests in legislative or regulatory matters affecting the industry.



Job Boards: Provide a platform for job listings and career opportunities within the industry.



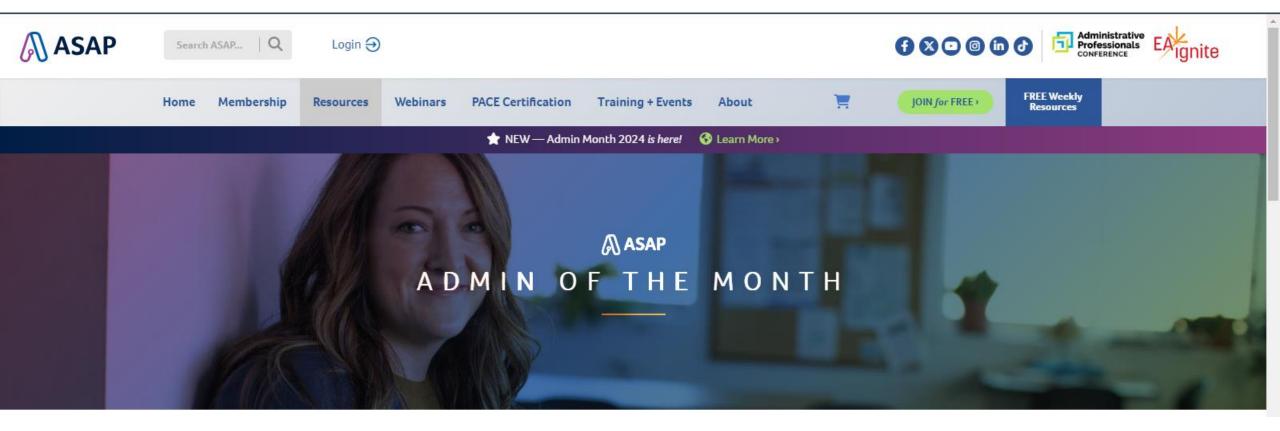
Partnership Programmes:

Partner with companies to offer members special rates on services like travel or software.





Member of the month award



Check out ASAP's monthly spotlights of deserving executive assistants and administrative professionals making a difference today.



Admin Month Spotlight 2024: DavidAnn Johnson



April 19, 2024

Admin Month Spotlight 2024:

Sarah Sutton

Jobs boards







Get In Touch 🔀 😈 🕑 in Account Login 🙏



All about Design

Members' Area

From receiving expert help and guidance to benchmarking your business' performance, the Members' Area is a gateway to resources, services and support specifically developed for those working in the field of design.

Some sections are exclusively accessible to DBA members, connecting you to the extensive range of benefits your membership provides.

DBA membership extends to everyone working within your business - all members of your team can register for their own password – ensuring the whole team benefits.



Project Manager - Wardour Communications Limited

Wardour Communications Limited

We are looking for a Project Manager, for a 6 month contract. This is a core role in the agency. It centres on managing creative and content projects to ensure that clients are delighted - ie that great solutions are delivered on time and to budget. In some instances, the project manager will be the main point of contact for clients in the agency's client services team. In other instances, the manager will be expected to support senior colleagues in the management of bigger projects.

Deadline: 30/06/2024

Read more >>





Give the best (and easiest) member experience

The research is clear. What members value most from the member experience is really simple:

- (1) Ease of use and convenience
- (2) Personalisation and relevance

The two most prominent opportunities to succeed or fail in these areas are

- (1) Your website
- (2) Your content and communications





Try to be more interesting! (Invest in your content)

- By 'content' we mean things like:
 - Articles and papers
 - News
 - Research
 - Events and courses
 - Surveys and insights
- There is a reason for the cliché "Content is king". It's true
- It doesn't have to be expensive you should use your members to develop your content
- Think about which channel to use; which members prefer web, do they rely on mobile phones?
- Make use of AI to generate content
 - Smartimpact client The Fire Industry Association has tripled their output of content by using AI to create the initial draft before the staff member edits it.
 - See our webinar from Tuesday 24th October 2023

Content principles:

- Your website content should change at least every week to create a reason to come back
- Create a content calendar and have a mixture of
 - 'sourced' news
 - 'boasting' about yourself
 - Self-authored content
 - Member created content
- Make sure all content is 'tagged' by interest areas, to make it easy to personalise for members
- And use AI for text and images to vastly increase your Social Media output

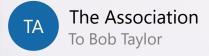






2. Drive relevant content

3. Through the right channel



Hi Bob, how are you enjoying your first three months of membership?

Want to really get to know us at the **Professional Skills**Workshop next month?

Time: November 20th, 9:45am to 12:30pm

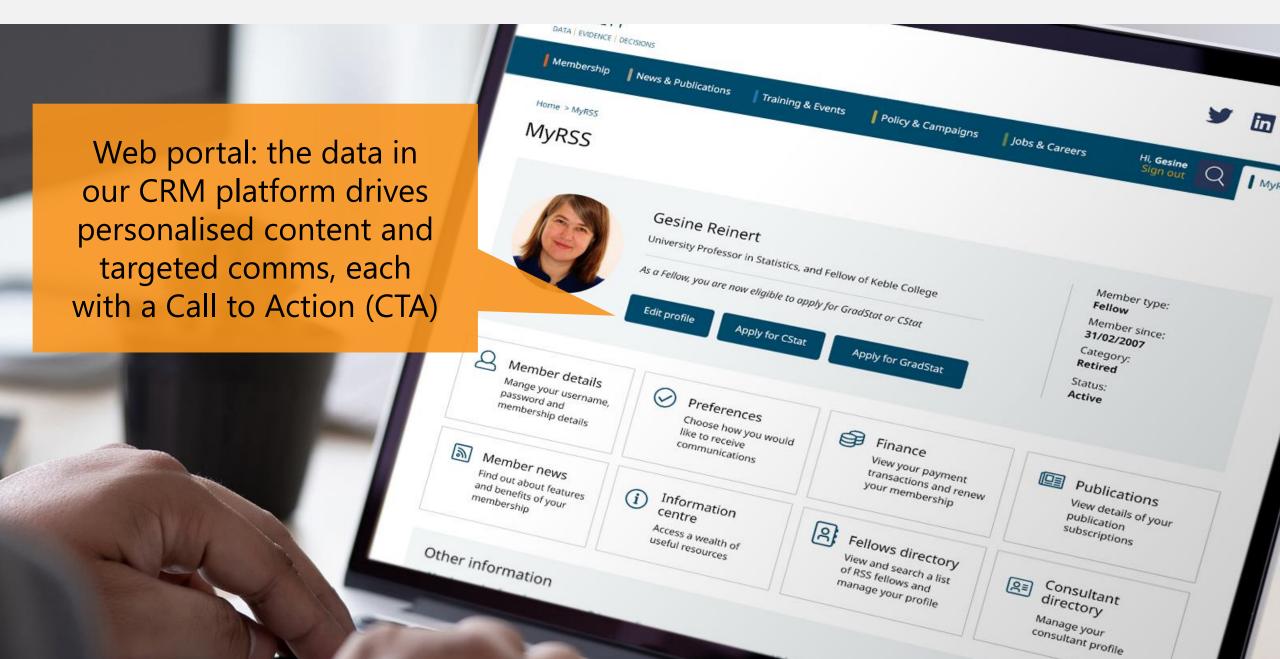
<u>Click here</u> to register.

Hope to see you there!

Email / SMS: the data in our CRM platform drives personalised content and targeted comms, each with a Call to Action (CTA)















ROYAL

SOCIETY

STATISTICAL

DATA EVIDENCE DECISIONS

News and Publications

Training and events

Policy and campaigns

Jobs and careers

Hi, Steve Sign Out

My RSS

Home > My RSS

My RSS

Steve Sydee

Just 5 hours needed to meet your CPD tracking! Click here to log CPD. Click here to book events.

CPD progress 2023



Member type:

Fellow

Category:

Standard

Member Number:

219604

Status:

Current

Same panel, different member, different journey driving different message

manage your profile



Member discounts

Access exclusive discounts at a range of publishers.



Member Update

View issues of the print member newsletter and letters from the President.



Membership

View your membership history, renew your membership and get receipts



My Profile

Update your password, contact dataila araaa af



Preferences

View and amend your newsletter



Publications

View details of your publication au la acciontiana



Accreditation & **Quality Mark**

Complete the Everaccion of Interest



Become a registered Data Analyst Book a training course today!









Membership

DATA EVIDENCE DECISIONS

ROYAL STATISTICAL

SOCIETY

News and Publications

Training and events

Policy and campaigns

Jobs and careers

Resources

Hi, **Allen**Sign Out

My RSS

Home > My RSS

My RSS

Allen Reid

Allen, your membership fees are overdue! What would you like to do?

Renew now

Contact us

Member type:

Associate

Category:

Standard

Member Number:

453622

Status:

Overdue

Same panel, different member, different journey driving different message

of RSS fellows and manage your profile



Member discounts

Access exclusive discounts at a range of publishers.



Member Update

View issues of the print member newsletter and letters from the President.



Membership

View your membership history, renew your membership and get receipts



My Profile

Update your password, contact



Preferences

View and amend your newsletter



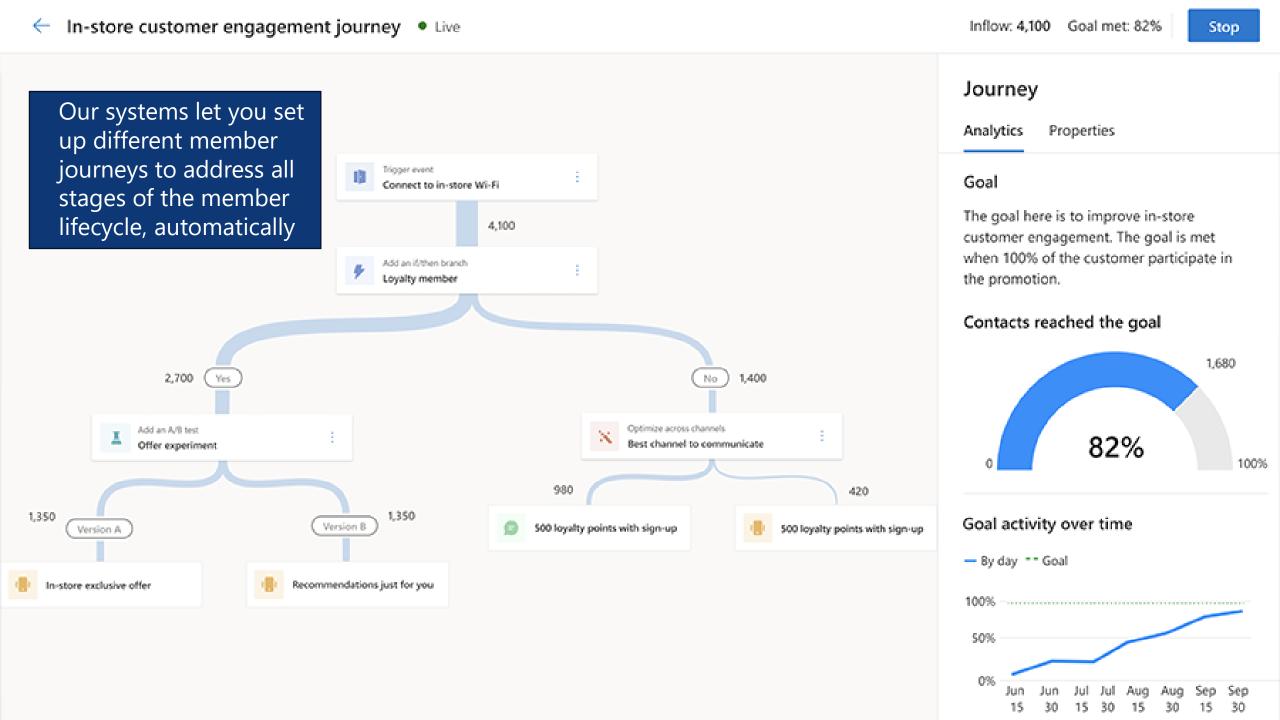
Publications

View details of your publication



Accreditation & Quality Mark

Complete the







A quick poll

What do you think your *biggest* barriers to recruitment and retention are?

- **Cultural** We don't invest enough time to make membership attractive and valuable?
- Technical Our CRM / Website systems are disconnect / not good enough
- Technical Our systems are OK but don't support modern engagement very well.



Getting your marketing right

Your tools and channels for marketing

Social Media

- Research shows that Millennials and Gen Z, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat are the most popular platforms, while midcareer people use LinkedIn more.
- Top tip: Get your members to post for you. Encourage them to react and share your content.



Email Campaigns

- Create targeted email newsletters and campaigns to educate nonmembers about your association's offerings and benefits, nurturing them towards membership.
- Top tip: Don't 'spray and pray' by basing emails on segmentation.



Optimised website

- Ensure your Association's website is user-friendly, mobile-responsive, and showcases your value proposition prominently to attract and convert new members.
- Top tip: Ensure a highly personalised "My Association" landing page and encourage registration for all visitors to access content.

₽ WEBSITE

Digital advertising

- Use paid digital advertising on search engines, social media, and industry-relevant websites to reach and engage your target audience with compelling membership offers.
- Top tip: Use member stories for your content. and focus your messaging on career benefits.







Use your data to engage

You really need to have an ongoing member engagement strategy.

Including regular measurement and adaptation





1. Start by segmenting (E.g. Segment by member type and member phase)



2. Agree what each segment needs and value

Here are the simple principles of a member engagement strategy

3. Create a plan to give each segment the relevant benefits

4. Measure and refine continuously









I could get more out of my membership but I'm just so busy



Time in Director Role 2 - 5 years

Use of Services Lov

Satisfaction Medium

Loyalty Low

Likely to Renew Low

Characteristics

Extremely busy/time poor

Little or no time to use services unless part of their day to day work

Unaware of the scope of membership benefits

Highly disengaged

Likely to cancel membership

Key Retention Factors

Push digital service benefits

Provide the feeling of prestige and sense of belonging



When segmenting, it really helps to base your segments on member personas



Stage	Awareness	Activation	Adoption	Retention	Referral	
What is it?	making potential	they are taking the first	deeper engagement -	keeping members	satisfied members	
	members aware of your	steps to use your	members start to use	satisfied to ensure they	become advocates for	
	org and its benefits	services actively.	your services more	continue over the long	your services and	
			regularly in their daily	term	actively refer new	
KPI 1	Impressions to assess	Onboarding	Services usage to	Member satisfaction to	Net Promoter Score	
	your initial member	completion % rate - are	understand how	assess how content	(NPS) to	
	interactions.	users getting all the	members interact with	your users are.	measure member	
KPI 2	Click-through rate to	Trial-to-paid conversion	Feature adoption	Lifetime value to	Reviews and ratings to	
	gauge the effectiveness	rate to assess if enough	rate to see if users are	understand how much	gather testimonials and	
	of various	users are finding your	engaging with specific	revenue you generate	build advocacy for your	
	communication	services worth it.	features.	from the members.	services.	
KPI 3	SEO ranking to monitor	New user growth to	Member Effort Score	Retention rate to assess		
	and improve services	evaluate if services	(MES) to see how much	how you keep your		
	visibility on search	consumption is	effort members will	members with y	ou can do this	
	engine results.	expanding or not.	'trade' for interacting		ually, but wouldn't	
			with your services.		be better if your	
KPI 4				Churp rate	integrated system did it for you, all the time?	
				Lundorstan		
				users leave and to		
				reasons behind leaving.		







One of our smartapps suite of membership products, built to work together

Uses mobile app



Visits web site



Opens emails





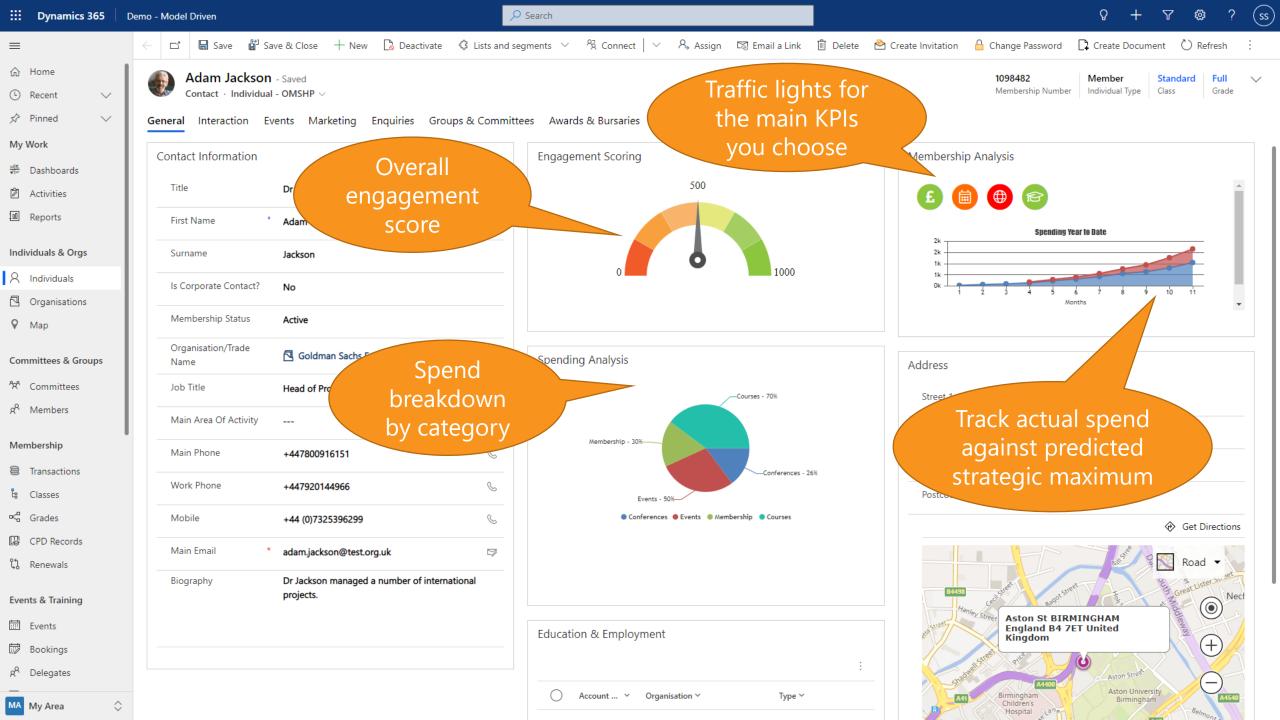
Takes training



05

Reads content







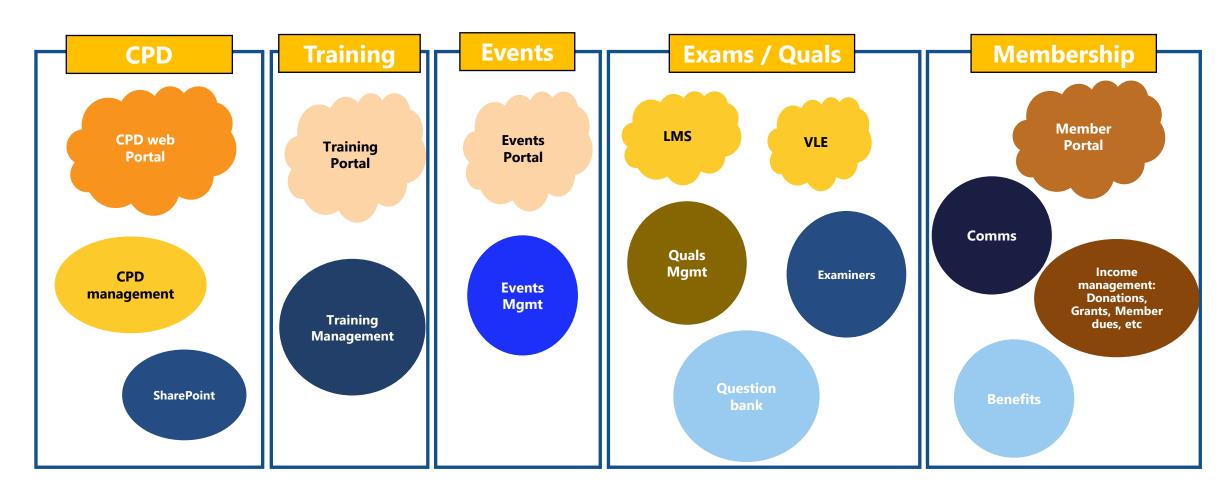


The vital role of technology





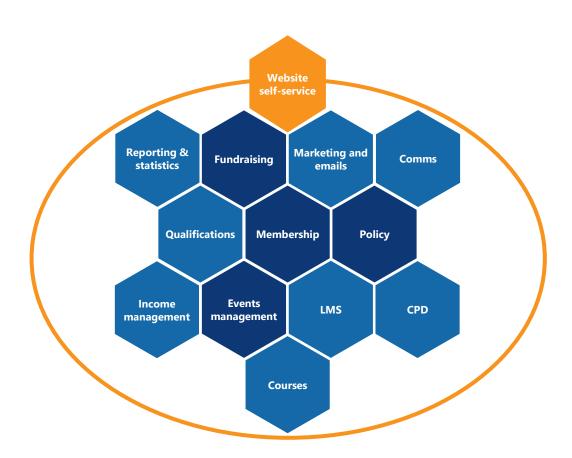
If your systems and data are not properly integrated...



...it is a huge barrier to any recruitment and retention efforts







Capture multiple complex interactions, with multiple audiences

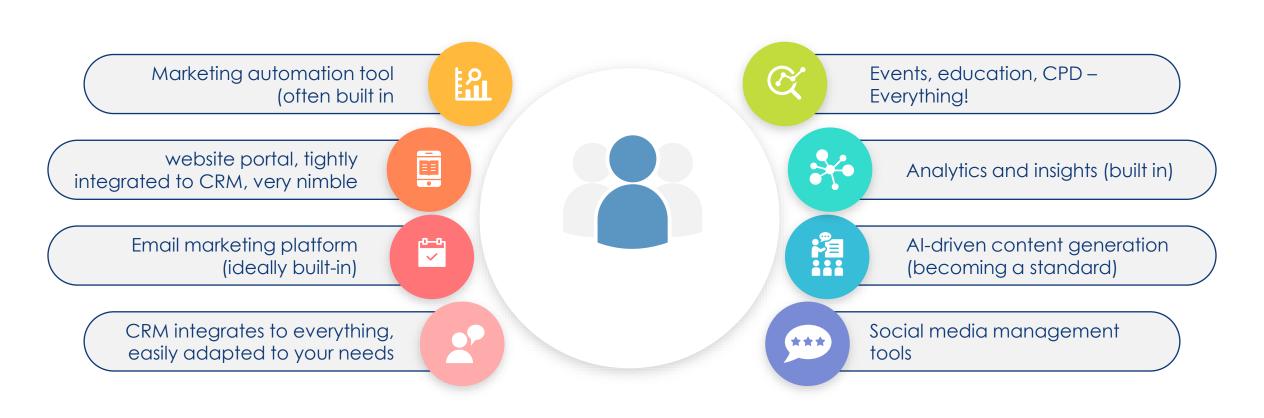


Analysis of everything in one place – which you can act on

All stakeholder profiling, marketing, income and finance, contacts, fundraising, engagement, education, correspondence, linked documents, committee activity, outlook emails, web portal...

- Accurate analysis of the right data
- Easier to segment into categories
- Your staff can more easily take action / automated action
- You are a more empowered membership body

Here are your vital recruitment and retention tools



Historically, these were all separate. Now, they are available in one place







Jeremy Jalie
Business Development Lead

Summary of effective growth and recruitment strategies

Getting and retaining younger members

2. Innovate to recruit new members

3. Really work on great onboarding

4. Fixing the leaky bucket
(i)

5. Develop (and push)
your value-added
benefits

6. Give the best (and easiest) member experience

7. Getting your marketing right

8. Use your data to engage

9. The vital role of technology











Audience Q & A

Questions sent before the event today, plus delegate questions



Join our other sessions

Covering a wide range of CRM and digital issues

Usually at 09:30 on an early Tuesday each month



WEBINAR

Tuesday 25th June, 9.30-10.30am

Getting your board to say Yes to project spend

How do you get buy-in and agreement from top to bottom to even start your project?



WEBINAR

Tuesday 20th August, 9.30-10.30am

How to run a successful supplier selection and avoid pitfalls later

Choosing the right supplier is vital for your project – so you need to know how to do it











Allen Reid Allen Reid Jeremy Jalie Steve Sydee
Independent Non-profit consultant Business Development Lead Head of Sales and Marketing

Thanks!

We hope you enjoyed the content and found it useful.

We will email you with links to the slides and recording.

If you would like further conversation about your own situation and plans, please contact **info@smartimpact.co.uk**

