

Bat Group Mingle 19th May 2021

The first ever bat group mingle was held in the evening of the 19th May 2021, with 21 attendees from bat groups across England, Scotland and Wales. It was a free event with some choosing to make donations to BCT with their booking. We trialled a format of a main group discussion room, with optional break out rooms that could be used by anyone to discuss different topics.

In the main room, membership was the topic of discussion, receiving input from a wide variety of individuals, from large and small groups, well established and new groups. Here are a few of the insights raised:

- Not to focus on or worry about membership numbers, being a small group with not much activity is fine as well if everyone is happy with that.
- Do membership fees set the right expectation? Are they worth the admin burden? Higher fees might raise the expectation of participation, but this in turn raises member's expectations of what the group will offer.
- The need to instil confidence both in volunteers to encourage participation, but also in committee members to widen the number of those that will take charge of events or projects.
- Contacts were shared for details on how to run online bat care training.

One breakout room was used to discuss records, an interesting topic we know many groups would be keen to hear more about.

Key words from the event

