

UK Slide Rule Circle

We are a circle of like-minded individuals who share an interest in the origins, development and use of slide rules and related ephemera - perhaps having been taught to use them during our education days or actively during our working lives. Many, but not all, of our members collect slide rules of one type or another whilst others concentrate on the historical aspects of their application. So, basically, the UK Slide Rule Circle is an informal organisation of professionals, experts and novices alike, from all disciplines who, above all else, wish to share their interests with others.

Our annual membership fee is currently £12 for our UK based colleagues. We publish a Newsletter, Skid Stick, 3 times per year which contains both technical and non-technical articles written by members - in addition to letters and information of interest to our membership. We also have an e-mail 'as and when' facility to broadcast information to Members between Newsletter editions. During the recent lockdowns, one of our colleagues has initiated and been distributing additional electronic Newsletters which cover matters relating to scientific instruments and related topics as well as slide rule ephemera. Much of this material has been initiated and submitted by our members - along with the subsequent discussions that arise thereafter. Our Membership year is from 1 January to 31 December and in order to keep things relatively straightforward,

We generally hold informal meetings twice a year in the Spring and Autumn - usually at a member's house or local facility. However, owing to the recent Covid situation, we have been holding our meetings on-line using Zoom. Whilst not as good as face-to-face exchanges, it has enabled members from far flung places to join in the conversations and exchanges or to just monitor what's being discussed. Recently, several of our colleagues from Europe, the US and even Australia joined in - so it has tended to become an international event. Members are advised when such Zoom meetings are scheduled and are invited to participate - the necessary links are sent to members ahead of such meetings.

We also host International Meetings, which we rotate with slide rule organisations in Germany, Holland, Italy and the USA. These sessions, like our home-grown meetings, have recently been on-line using Zoom. One advantage of the International Meeting is that we can meet our overseas colleagues and visit their museums and Institutions to learn more about their slide rule and related activities development. Often, at these IM sessions, we can meet the people who played a major role in the development and manufacturing of 'modern' slide rules. Unfortunately, this is a diminishing pool or said talent.

We also publish our Slide Rule Gazette, which is a more formal publication with a wide distribution to both members and to academic institutions here and overseas. The Gazette is published annually, usually in the Autumn and currently costs £17 for UK based members, which includes mailing costs. The current Issue #22 was published in the Autumn of 2022 and contains 160 pages - copies of which are still available. Back issues of the Gazette are also available, and to reduce printing and postal costs, many back issues are available in soft copy .pdf format.

Full details may be found on our website : <https://uksrc.org.uk/index.html>