



Paper for Members at General Meeting

Title:	Sums to be paid by Ordinary Members at admission and annually
Date of Meeting:	26 October 2022
Owner:	Society Secretary
Confidential:	No
Purpose:	Decision

PURPOSE

1. The Society is asked to approve the proposals of the RHASS Board of Directors with regards to the sums to be paid by Ordinary Members at admission and annually.

BACKGROUND

2. The last time the Annual fee for membership was increased was in 2017 (2016 for Fixed term membership fees and Life membership fees in 2012). A previous proposal to raise fees in 2020 was postponed because of the outbreak of the Covid pandemic.
3. All members will be aware of the current high levels of inflation and the Society, along with most other organisations, is seeing cost increases across every area of operation.
4. As a charity, RHASS has to balance the level of its membership fees, ensuring that they are affordable, whilst reflecting the significant benefits received. These benefits include:
 - a. The right to attend the Royal Highland Show on all four days
 - b. The ability to purchase discounted 'Friends & Family' tickets to the Show
 - c. Access to the exclusive Members Pavilion and Members Area at the Show
 - d. The ability to bring guests into the Members Pavilion and Members Area at the Show
 - e. Discount at Holiday Inn Express, Edinburgh Airport
 - f. Discount on airport parking with Secure Airparks
 - g. Discount on Hoggs of Fife clothing and other commercial operators
 - h. The ability to stand for election as a Director of the Society, as well as the right for all members over the age of 16 to vote in Director elections and the AGM
 - i. Discount on livestock and competition entry fees for the Royal Highland Show
 - j. Subscription to Society magazine
5. In considering the appropriate level of fees to propose, the Board considered a range of information including:
 - a. Inflation levels and cost increases since the last increase(s) to fees
 - b. Forecast cost increases for the coming year
 - c. Historical fee levels

- d. Subscriptions for other UK shows and the benefits offered
 - e. The requirement for a charity to balance public and private benefit
 - f. The impact and risk of raising fees at various levels, including the impact and risk of making no change
6. The Society has been trailing a rise in membership fees to the members for some time with members informed in Summer 2021 Society magazine that the Board had postponed an intended increase to life and term fees due to the outbreak of the pandemic and it was intended to bring forward a proposal to raise life and term fees in line with annual fees, to come into force in January 2023.

PROPOSAL/REPORT

7. The RHASS Board proposes an increase in fees as follows:
- a. Adult Annual - £85 from January 2023 (from £75)
 - b. Adult 10-year Term - £850 from January 2023 (from £575)
 - c. Life - £2,125 from January 2023 (from £1,500) and £2,550 from January 2024
8. The more significant increases to Term and Life memberships as compared to Annual membership reflect that these have not been increased since 2016 and 2012 respectively, along with a reassessment of their value linking them explicitly to the Adult Annual Fee (by a multiple of 10 and 30 respectively).
9. There is no proposed increase to the Junior and Senior membership fees:
- a. Junior and Senior Annual membership fees remaining at £40
 - b. Junior Term memberships remaining at £195.

DECISION

10. The Society is asked to approve the proposals of the RHASS Board of Directors with regards to the sums to be paid by Ordinary Members at admission and annually as follows:
- a. Adult Annual - £85 from January 2023
 - b. Adult 10-year Term - £850 from January 2023
 - c. Life - £2,125 from January 2023 and £2,550 from January 2024
11. The Society is asked to note that there is no proposed increase to the Junior and Senior membership fees, with those remaining at £40 for Annual memberships and Junior Term remaining at £195.