



Paper for Annual General Meeting

Title: **Membership fees from 1 January 2025**
Date of Meeting: **6 June 2024**
Owner: **Society Secretary**
Confidential: **Yes, until after the AGM**
Purpose: **Decision**

PURPOSE

1. The Members in General Meeting are asked to review, consider and approve Membership Fees from 1 January 2025.
2. The proposals in this paper come with the recommendation of the Board of Directors of RHASS.

BACKGROUND

3. Setting membership fees is done in General Meeting by the Members, on the recommendation of the Board.
4. As a charity, RHASS has to operate for the public benefit. Any private benefit (e.g. to members) must be incidental and membership fees must reflect the significant benefits received. These benefits currently include:
 - a. The right to attend the Royal Highland Show on all four days – on 2024 Adult Annual fee of £105 that is a benefit worth a discount of £51 on the general onsale price alone. In 2023, RHASS members received the equivalent of £1.4m of RHS tickets.
 - b. The ability to purchase up to 2 discounted tickets to the Show at one tier below general sale.
 - c. Access to the exclusive Members Pavilion and Members Area at the Show.
 - d. The ability to buy Members Village Guest passes to bring one adult guest per day into the Members area and the ability to bring non-Member children into the Members area free of charge.
 - 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 at the AGM.
 - i. Discount on livestock and competition entry fees for the Royal Highland Show.
 - j. Subscription to Society magazine and Members' digital newsletter.
 - k. Members forward parking at the Royal Highland Show.
 - l. A voucher to exchange for a Show Programme.

5. In recommending the appropriate level of fees, the Board considered a range of information including:
- a. Inflation levels and cost increases since the last increase to fees. Inflation is projected at 3.1% by the Bank of England for the first quarter in 2025.
 - b. Historical fee levels.
 - c. Subscriptions for comparable events and the benefits offered.
 - d. The requirement for a charity to balance public and private benefit.
 - e. The impact and risk of raising fees at various levels, including the impact and risk of making no change.

PROPOSALS

6. **The Board recommends the following fees from 1 January 2025 to the Members in General Meeting:**
- a. **Annual**
 - i. **Adult** – £115
 - ii. **Senior** - £55
 - iii. **Junior** – no change - £50¹
 - b. **Adult 10-year Term** – 10x Adult Annual - £1,150
 - c. **Life** – 30x Adult Annual - £3,450²

¹ Senior and Junior memberships have only increased once since 2017. The Board recommends no change to Junior fees to encourage younger members to join.

² The rise in Life fees which was agreed for 2023 was staggered over two years and so, when Adult Annual fees increased again in 2024, Life Fees did not increase. This increase brings Life membership into line with Annual and Term membership.