

Proposal 1 Membership structure and Fees for 2013

BOF has changed its membership structure and fees for 2013 to a simplified system and, at least for individuals, cheaper fees. To offset the loss of income from this change, BOF will increase the range of events from which it will recover levies in 2013.

SOA would normally agree its membership fees and levy charges at the AGM, but for the Board to gain as much guidance from the membership as possible before making a decision on whether and how to respond to the BOF changes, a discussion on the issue was held at the AGM and a proposal for 2013 deferred to this EGM.

Membership structure and fees

The SOA Board proposes that for 2013 we follow BOF in simplifying the categories of membership and reducing membership fees as far as we can. An area in which it was difficult to arrive at a proposal was Family membership. BOF has discontinued Family membership but reduced individual fees to a level that even if all family members join, the total cost is comparable to or only a few pounds more than 2012. If SOA retained a Family membership it would be administered by BOF only if all individual family members had joined BOF. At the same time, the Board would like a fee structure in which the cost for families would be comparable to 2012 even if all family members join.

The proposal is as follows:

First free year of membership - discontinued
Senior Membership - £7
Junior Membership - £0
Youth Membership - discontinued
Family Membership - discontinued
Honorary Members - no change
Club affiliation - no charge for any club, closed or open
Group Membership - no change

These fees could produce a loss of income to SOA in 2013 in the order of hundreds of pounds, depending on the pattern of uptake of the new membership scheme.

Levy charges

We consider 2013 as an experimental year (as does BOF) because we do not know what effect the changes will have on subscription income. There may well be a need for further changes for 2014. However, in order not to exacerbate the effect of BOF extending levies to all events, in particular small events, of which we have a lot in Scotland, we propose to make no changes to levy charges for 2013.

Therefore, in 2013 SOA Levies will only apply to events where the Senior (Discounted) Entry Fee is £8 or over. The rate will be: Seniors, £1.00; Juniors, £0.40. The Junior Levy rate will apply to Students paying the same entry fee as Juniors.