



Consultation on Membership Fees



Background

At the AGM in 2009, Geoff Thomas made the suggestion that the Board examines the fee structure in respect of senior citizens and this was supported from the floor.

Following that, work was done to look at fee structures across the country and it was found that approaches to pensioners, family memberships and block fees varied widely with, for instance, some counties adopting a per person membership fee for clubs where the region did not. It was also noted that resolutions were being made to regional AGMs asking for debate and change.

The scope was then widened from just being about senior citizens.

Principles

Three principles are stated below that underpin.

Transparent

The first is that any changes must be simple & understandable and easy to administer.

Fair

The second is that any changes must be fair & seen to be fair and take account of member circumstances and ability to pay.

Growth

The last principle is that, as the number of members or clubs grows, the income derived from them grows proportionally to meet their needs.

Where are we now?

Juniors in senior or closed clubs pay £21 per year, and Junior and Schools Clubs pay £50 en bloc. This means that junior in en bloc clubs effectively pay just over £3, whereas other juniors pay £21.

| | # clubs | # juniors | Effective fee |
|----------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| Senior clubs | 300 | 1737 | £21.00 |
| Closed clubs | 13 | 59 | £21.00 |
| Junior clubs | 334 | 5154 | £3.24 |
| School Clubs | 20 | 275 | £3.64 |
| Disabled clubs | 23 | 85 | £0.00 |
| | 696 | 7319 | |

Adults in senior or closed clubs pay £35 per year, and students in University Clubs pay £100 en bloc. This means that students effectively pay just over £2, whereas other adults and full-time student members of open clubs pay £35.

| | # clubs | # uni seniors | Income per head |
|------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| University | 35 | 1758 | £2.07 |

The Society makes no allowance for other groups such as pensioners, or family units.

What do other sports do?

The table below shows a comparison with other sports. British Judo, Rowing & Sub Aqua were chosen based on similar membership numbers and a membership that had junior, senior, university and family participation.

Their junior fee is 50% of the senior fee and no junior or school en bloc arrangements exist.

| | Archery GB | British Judo | British Rowing | British Sub Aqua |
|-------------|------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| Senior | £35 | £42 | £44 | £50 |
| Junior | £21 | £21 | £20 | £25 |
| Junior Club | £50 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| School Club | £50 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

The table below shows a comparison with other sports where their University fee is either the senior fee or a reduction from the senior fee, and no en bloc arrangement exists.

| | Archery GB | British Judo | British Rowing | British Sub Aqua |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| Senior | £35 | £42 | £44 | £50 |
| University Club | £100 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| University Senior | n/a | n/a | £27 | £25 |

The above sports also have various arrangements for family units.

What can we learn from what other sports have done?

Perhaps there are two points:

- Archery does not have fee structures that cater for the family and older people.
- Archery also does not provide equality in terms of fees for all the people in our Society, particularly with juniors.

Proposals

In order to move to have more equitable arrangements, it is proposed:

- that a simple banding structure is introduced to create a clear and simple way of providing a fee structure;
- en bloc arrangements are removed to provide equality; and
- an opportunity is taken to remove the anomaly of 18 month membership for beginners with a pro-rata arrangement.

A four band membership structure is proposed as follows:

| Band | Category of Member |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Band 1: full fee | Adults |
| Band 2: 50% of full fee | Full-time students, Juniors, Over 65 |
| Band 3: 25% of full fee | Members in School Clubs |
| Band 4: 0% of full fee | Disabled, Honorary Life Members |

The benefit of a banded structure is that it is easy to understand and collect and could be used throughout the Society for club, county and regional fees. It also allows for other categories such as family membership to be slotted in easily (see below for an opportunity to comment on this specific point).

Feedback Requested

Regions, Counties, Clubs & Members are asked to respond to the following questions

1. *What are your general comments on the proposals?*
2. *Do you think the proposals are equitable?*
3. *Are there any categories of member that are missing?*
4. *What should we do about family units?*

Region, County and Club officials are asked to respond to the following questions

5. *Would you adopt the same banding structure for your Region/County/Club?*
6. *What would you find difficult to implement?*
7. *What do you think the impact on the numbers of members in your Region/County/Club would be?*

There is an additional question that we would appreciate a response to.

8. *Should we introduce a welcome kit for first time members paid for by a small additional one-off fee (around £10) as in done in some other sports?*

Please send your responses to comments@archerygb.org or to the office.