

Membership Subscriptions 2011-2012

By now, many of you will know that, at the recent AGM, the members present voted to raise the rate of annual subscription from £22 to £35 for runners over 17, with moderate increases in other age categories. As you can imagine, this vote only took place after a long debate and I thought I would give you some background to the reasons for the increase.

Up until two or three years ago the club has always made a modest profit each year, leaving us with a healthy bank balance, however in each of the past two years we have lost money. Some of this is due to extraordinary spends such as the new website, and promotions not being staged (see my article on revival of the Major Stone Half Marathon in this newsletter).

Costs of utility bills for the running of the clubhouse have increased, as have affiliation fees, presentations and everything which goes to the smooth and successful running of the club.

Some analysis has been performed on the accounts and two key figures are:

Clubhouse Expenses = £3668.20 (Based on 130 active members this is £28.22 each)
Operational Expenses = £2838.91 (Based on 130 active members this is £21.84 each)

This means it costs approximately £50 per member to run East Hull Harriers, therefore it was obvious the subs would have to rise from £22. There were proposals from the floor for a rise to £50, and also to £30, but these were both outvoted in favour of the £35 proposal.

I have already heard some disquiet from the membership, some of whom were not present at the AGM, and I understand the points being made. Yes, it is a substantial increase but it is the first one since 2003. If the increases had been incremental, I am convinced nobody would have been too concerned at the current level. I consider the membership fee to be good value at £2.92 per month or 67p per week. Remember, there is no extra charge to use the facilities.

In parallel with the increase, we as a committee also recognise the need for better management of ongoing costs. The club has staged events in the past that have not been financially successful and we have also been generous in providing buffets and subsidising clothing. This now need to be brought under tighter control.

In summary, we have three sources of income: subscriptions, profit made from our race promotions and canteen takings. In order to keep from constantly raising the subscription price we need to run financially successful events (Boxing Day 10K, the 20 mile, Summer League and Major Stone Half) and possibly raise canteen prices, though we like to keep these prices low for members.

Please consider the following:

- We are a growing club in terms of members, which in itself will help offset future increases
- 5 day membership of Ganstead Golf Club costs £400 (and that is Monday to Friday only!)
- Gym membership is typically around £40 per month
- £35 is a 'night out' these days, when taxi fares etc are considered.
- We are the only local club to offer a programme of traditional 'paper chases' in the Winter, with away runs at many different locations.
- We have a re-vamped handicapped Winter League in addition to other events
- We are looking to spend money in the near future on clubhouse improvements, including a new central heating system, to improve the facilities for all.
- We have a great camaraderie down at the club with high attendance to prove this.

As must be obvious, I am EHH through and through and hope that the membership feels the same way and will continue to wear the red vest with pride.

If anyone's circumstances mean they may have difficulty with this payment, please contact me on 07595 015841 or rajc@rajc.karoo.co.uk and we can discuss options.

Richard Alsop (Membership Secretary)

