



Membership Fee Statement

3rd September 2021

In line with many organisations, the BMC will shortly be moving to a schedule of annual inflation-linked increases to the cost of our membership subscription. As per the BMC's Articles, RPI¹ will be used to calculate any increase.

Ordinarily the annual increase will be applied on the 1st January. However, to give members and clubs good notice, the first increase will be delayed and will come into effect from 1st April 2022. We hope that giving members more than 6 months' notice will allow time to plan for and accommodate the change.

For student clubs the new membership fees will come in to effect at the start of their new membership year, on 1st October 2022.

From 1st April 2022 membership fees will therefore be as follows:

Individual Member Fees		Club Member Fees	
Individual Membership	£41.45	Adult Club Membership	£21.00
Student/Unwaged/U18	£26.30	Discounted Club Membership	£15.55
U27	£24.90	Student Club Membership	£17.35
Family Membership	£72.45	Club membership upgrade	£15.75

In following years any increase will be communicated to clubs and members in September and applied on the following 1st January (hence the 2023 inflationary increase will be notified in September 2022 and applied to subs falling due on or after the 1st January 2023).

Rationale

1. The 2018 Articles changed from Council deciding any subs increases (with no defined criteria), to the Board having this role, but recognising the difference between increases based upon the annual rate of inflation (calculated in accordance with the RPI), and raises above this - which remain a matter for the Council. The Board noted that historically whilst the cost of membership rose broadly with RPI, changes to subscriptions tended to be made in larger steps, albeit less frequently.
2. Inflationary price increases are common across membership organisations, and other common bills people have (such as phone contracts). It was decided that moving to an annual inflationary increase in subscription would allow the BMC, clubs and members better able to plan financially, and make larger increases of subs (if any) an exceptional event.
3. All membership categories will receive the same percentage rate of increase¹: they, and the services the BMC provides, are equally affected by inflation.

¹ The current RPI of 3.82% will be applied, rounded down to the nearest 5p.



4. It was recognised by the Board that in 2019 clubs were concerned about how an unexpected subs increase would affect their cashflows. As a consequence, the Board decided that it was reasonable to give 6 months' notice - which would allow the majority of, if not all, clubs time to consider this, along with any changes to their own subscription charges, at an AGM prior to the increase being implemented.
5. As subs are paid annually and the 2022 rise does not take effect until 1st Apr 2022, this means that any individual, club or associate renewing prior to that date will do so at current rates. The percentage increase for 2022 will therefore not be felt by these members until future increases come into effect (from 1st Jan 2023).
6. This notification gives Student clubs renewing in the October to December 2022 period at least 12 months to plan for the rise, with the remaining clubs (those renewing in the January to March 2023 period) having a longer notice period.
7. Future increases will be announced in September of the previous year (e.g. the Jan 2023 subs increase will be confirmed by Sept 2022). Where RPI is negative the RPI will be considered as 0%.

The BMC recognises that although incremental increases have a less significant impact on members' personal costs, they can create additional administrative burdens for clubs – particularly those relying on Standing Orders for subs collection. It is a decision for each club if and when they need to pass on BMC subscription increases to their members. Support will be provided to help clubs that wish to move to Direct Debit – this brings many benefits for all parties and is already used successfully by many clubs – large and small.