

MEMBERSHIP 2018

As annual membership fees are due for renewal in January 2018, the Committee believes it is important to provide details of club income and outgoings and how membership fees are ascertained.

It appears there are some misunderstandings in relation to fees and hopefully the following will provide information to clarify the situation, especially in relation to some of our major outgoings.

As far as we can ascertain we have the cheapest membership/training package in Kent and the South East of any *athletics* club. Road-running clubs tend to be cheaper, but do not compete in athletics, which incurs many costs, some of which are outlined below. Medway & Maidstone AC have a reduced fee for those just competing in road-running events.

- **TRACK FEES**

The club's biggest outlay is for track usage as we book tracks for exclusive use for three sessions every week. Your club membership includes track usage for athletes at these designated times without further charge. To guarantee exclusive use at Medway Park the club paid the council close to £13,000 last year. This is very significant as all other track-based athletic clubs in Kent have a membership fee *plus* a charge for each visit. For example for a senior club member, Blackheath have a renewal fee of £84, *plus* a payment for *each track visit* of £4:20 (or £240 for an annual season ticket).

The standard cost for a single track session at Medway Park is now £5:20. Applying this fee would mean that athletes training just twice a week for, say, 40 weeks a year, would pay £416 in track fees alone!

- **E A REGISTRATIONS**

All athletic and cross-country events now require competitors to be EA registered. Registration is carried out by the club on behalf of athletes. The cost of this is currently £14, going up to £15 in 2018. *This fee is included in your membership.*

- **EQUIPMENT**

Recently the council have been reducing spending in all departments and very little money has been available for equipment. They continue to maintain the track to a *standard*, although remedial work can be slow. To ensure that training and competitions can continue successfully the club has had no option but to purchase new equipment. The good news is that as we have now built up our stock the costs in this area should now fall, although replacement equipment and one-off repairs and improvements will still necessitate some outgoings.

- **AFFILIATIONS FEES**

Included under this heading are affiliations to county, regional and national associations as well as fees to all the leagues we compete in. Affiliation and entry fees continue to rise annually. As an example, the affiliation fee for the Youth Development League this year will be £720.

- **ENTRY FEES**

Entry fees are made on behalf of athletes for many races, especially for cross-country. In addition to *league* entry fees for each individual, the club also pays entry fees for all cross-country championships. The entry fees just for the Kent County Cross-country Championships last year were well over £400

- **COURSES FOR COACHES AND OFFICIALS**

The importance of coaches and officials cannot be stressed enough and without them our participation in the sport could not continue. The club pays course fees for new coaches and officials as well as for upgrading courses.

OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION

Currently the club's outgoings are not meeting our incomings and money has been transferred from the reserve which is now becoming depleted. The committee may, therefore, need to consider different options in relation to membership payments in the future. The obvious option, to collect fees at every track session, isn't really viable at Medway Park or would at least be practically very difficult. Unlike most other tracks there is no secure single entry point at Medway Park, making fee collection very difficult.

It is hoped that the above highlights the costs in running an athletic club. Considering membership is equivalent to £2 a week and this includes up to 3 sessions per week, all registration and entry fees plus other costs this is still a very cheap option compared to other sports.

For the coming year a small increase in fees has been agreed and we will monitor our overall financial situation.