

Dear Club Member,

We are now approaching the new membership year that starts on 1 April and we hope that you will renew your membership to be a continuing part of the successful Bedford & County Athletic Club. The new membership fees have now been agreed. The increases have been kept to a minimum, but are necessary to enable us to run the club on a good financial footing.

Around half of the fees paid go to the stadium operator Fusion with the next two largest expenses being transport costs and England Athletics registrations. The club is run by volunteers and we are all grateful for the commitment of so many club members in many different roles.

England Athletics (EA) tightened their rules last year and it is crucial that you renew your membership promptly. Failure to renew your membership will make you ineligible to compete in many events under new England Athletics Rules. In the past we have had athletes disqualified from events because they had not renewed their membership.

We are again faced with increasing costs of running the club. There has been an increase of £1 per athlete in the England Athletics Registration fee and a 2.5% increase in the cost payable to Fusion for the stadium passes that has to be covered.

However, the fee increases for the main membership categories have been kept to a minimum as has been the case over many years.

The main fees for 2017/18 are as follows:-

Senior [£160](#)

Under 18 / Over 60 [£112](#)

Family of 3 or more [10% saving on total fees payable.](#)

Other fees apply for second claim athletes, athletes living or studying away from Bedford or who study at the University of Bedfordshire. These can be found on the [full list of fees](#).

The Committee believes the fees for 2017/18 still represent fantastic value. A junior athlete training 50 weeks of the year pays only £2.24 per week, and an adult £3.20. Of this the majority

is for Fusion and EA with less than 85p a week for all the other aspects of running the club, including entry fees, transport etc.

Some of the many benefits Included in the cost of membership are:-

- Stadium fee
- England Athletics Registration Fee (for athletes aged over 11)
- League entry fees
- Entry fees to cross country and road championship events (for qualifying athletes)
- Free coach travel to young athlete league fixtures (YDL (LAG) and EYAL), plus some senior fixtures
- First aid at track and field meetings
- Trophies for winter/summer awards
- Power of Ten profile (for EA registered athletes)

SWIPE CARDS

The stadium will **DE-ACTIVATE** ALL swipe cards on the **1st April 2017**. Individual swipe cards will only be re-activated once the new annual membership fee has been paid.

WHAT TO DO

1. Let us know of any details that have changed. It is crucial that we have up to date contact details as well as emergency contact details and information on any medical and health related matters. If you don't think we have up to date information please fill in this [online form](#).

Alternatively you can complete a paper form and drop it in on the renewal nights (dates below)

2. Make a payment by bank transfer. Please make a bank transfer for the full amount to the following account.

Account Name: Bedford & County Athletic Club Limited

sort code: 40 24 20 account: 01757210

Please put the first **initial and surname of the athlete as the reference**.

This is our preferred method of payment and should be convenient for you and us.

If you are claiming a discount under the "[officials scheme](#)" please let us know at the time of making your payment so that we can confirm the details. You can do that [online here](#) or make contact in person.

However, there will still be the opportunity to **renew in person**. There won't be any pre-printed personalised forms this year as we hope many people will renew by bank transfer. Payment can be made either by cash, cheque or credit/debit card. **Cheques should be made payable to "Bedford & County AC"**. Fusion will charge a fee for credit/debit card payments.

You will be able to renew your membership between 5.45pm – 7.00pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 28th March

Thursday 30th March

Tuesday 4th April

Thursday 6th April

Tuesday 11th April

I would be grateful if you could advise me by 1 April if you will not be renewing your membership with Bedford & County this year.

Please remember that it is important that if any contact or medical details have changed that you notify us of these changes [here](#).

Best wishes,

Michael Headley

Membership Secretary

On behalf of Bedford & County A.C. Committee