

Harrogate Bowling Club

Membership Policy (Pro-Rata Fees)

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy sets out a clear and consistent structure for pro-rata membership fees for new members joining part-way through the playing season. It ensures fairness, transparency, and alignment with the club's recruitment strategy, particularly following Open Days and other membership initiatives.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all new playing members joining Harrogate Bowling Club after the official start of the playing season in April each year. Social-only membership is not covered by this policy.

3. Principles

- Fees should reflect the proportion of the playing season available to new members.
- The structure should be simple, easy for volunteers to apply, and clearly communicated to prospective members.
- The policy should support recruitment while maintaining financial sustainability.
- The Management Committee (MC) will review the policy annually to ensure it remains appropriate and aligned with club costs.

4. Pro-Rata Fee Structure

4.1 Members Joining from 1st April to 31st July

- **Fee: £135** (Full annual membership fee)
- **Rationale:** Members have access to the majority of the playing season, including internal competitions, friendlies, and league fixtures.

4.2 Members Joining from 1st August to 31st August

- **Fee: £100 (reviewed annually and pro rata to full membership fee)**
- **Rationale:** Reflects the shorter period of play remaining while still offering meaningful participation in late-season fixtures.

4.3 Members Joining from 1st September

- **Fee: £40 (reviewed annually and pro rata to full membership fee)**
- **Rationale:** Allows access to limited September bowling and full participation in the club's winter social programme.

5. Communication and Application

- All volunteers involved in membership enquiries, recruitment, and administration should use this policy when advising prospective members.
- The fee structure will be included in the membership application form, membership packs, on the club website, and in any recruitment materials.
- Any exceptions must be approved by the MC.

6. Annual Review

- The MC will review this policy each year at the end of the playing season.
- Adjustments to pro-rata fees may be made to reflect changes in club membership increases, club costs, recruitment priorities, or season structure.
- Any amendments will be documented in MC minutes and updated in the published Membership Policy.
- Any changes to membership fees will be agreed at the AGM each year.

7. Approval and Implementation

Annual updates will be taken to the MC meeting for formal approval and once approved:

- Updated on the club membership application form
- Distributed to volunteers involved in recruitment
- Added to the club's Membership Information Email
- Displayed as an updated notice in the clubhouse

Helen Hamer

Club Secretary & Membership Secretary

18th August 2026