



British Thoracic Society

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BTS MEMBERSHIP 2012-2013

As agreed at the Society's Annual General Meeting, held in December 2011, one new category of membership has been created, and one significant amendment has been made to the retired member category:-

- **Medical students, CMT and FY 1 & 2 doctors.** Annual membership fee is £10 per year (payable by Direct Debit only; £25 per year if not). This category of member will have access to all BTS member benefits, including e-learning; but excluding the Society's journal *Thorax*. If the journal is required, then the concessionary rate with *Thorax* will apply.
- **Members who have retired from their substantive post but who continue to practice** and are licensed to practice on the GMC register will be charged the appropriate membership rate (full/concessionary) depending on annual income (see below), and will be expected to continue to take *Thorax*.

All other categories of membership and subscriptions rates remain unchanged for 2012-13.

The salary threshold for qualifying for a concessionary rate remains at **£42,000p.a.**

The main categories of membership are therefore-

- Full Member
- Concessionary Member with *Thorax* (including retired and overseas members)
- Concessionary Member without *Thorax*
- Medical Student; Core medical training and FY1 and FY2 doctor Member
- Overseas member from lower income countries (as defined by the WHO Hinari Initiative)
- Retired member without *Thorax* (for those who have retired from clinical practice)

We also have a special offer for new Specialty Trainee members. See page 5 for full details.

BTS members have the following benefits of membership:

- Discounted delegate rates for the Society's annual Winter Scientific and Summer Meetings
- Access to all BTS e-learning modules as soon as they are launched, and automatically updated content
- Discounted rates and early booking access to the annual BTS Short course programme
- Subsidised (50%) subscription to the journal *Thorax* (paper and/or on-line – the cost is the same)
- Access to the entire BTS website. Some pages are only available to members – for example, providing data and other tools to assist them in local resource/workforce discussions, plus on-line elections.
- The opportunity to become involved in Society activities. Usually, around 12% of members are involved every year in BTS Committees, Guideline groups, external consultations and so on. BTS values this input highly because the Society is only as effective as its members' contributions, skills, experience and enthusiasm help us to be.

THE DETAILS

Full Member - £220 (£235 if not paying by Direct Debit)

The Society requires that all doctors receive the journal (except students, CMT & FY1 and FY2 – see below) and are therefore in this category or the next (the difference relates to annual income). Anyone who earns more than **£42,000** and wishes to take the journal is a Full Member– the category is not restricted to doctors only. Please note that it is not possible for the Society to offer a discount on these rates if a member opts to take the on-line version of the journal only- the cost to BTS of the subscription remains the same.

Concessionary Member with *Thorax* - £170 (£185 if not paying by Direct Debit)

- All doctors who earn less than **£42,000**, (including Overtime) Rate includes *Thorax*.
- Nurses, Physiotherapists, Clinical Scientists and Physiologists and any other allied health professionals who earn less than **£42,000** but who wish to receive *Thorax*
- Retired members who want to receive *Thorax*
- Overseas members from higher income countries

Concessionary Member without *Thorax* - £37 (£52 if not paying by Direct Debit)

All non-doctors who earn less than **£42,000** and who DO NOT want to receive *Thorax* fall into this category.

Medical Students, CMTs and FY1 & FY2 doctors -£10 (£25 if not paying by Direct Debit)

Will have access to all BTS member benefits, including e-learning; but excluding *Thorax*

Overseas Lower Income -£20.00

“Lower Income Countries” are the 65 currently defined by the World Health Organisation Hinari initiative in Band 1. Members will receive *Thorax*.

Retired Member – no charge if fully retired from clinical practice or Full or Concessionary rate with *Thorax*, as detailed above.

As there have been changes to this category, you are strongly advised to contact Joan Thompson for advice several months before your retirement date. Please ring her on 0207 831 8778 to discuss options or send an email to membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk

BTS will require proof of status for all concessionary membership rates.

Please note that 3 resolutions relating to membership and the Tobacco industry are contained in the Society’s constitution. Full details can be found at www.brit-thoracic.org.uk in the section “About BTS” (on a link from the front page). In summary:-

Membership of the Society is not open to persons who are or have been full, or part-time employees of, or paid consultants to, or received payment for service and/or sponsorship in any form, including research funding or benefits in kind from the tobacco industry, at any time during the ten years prior to their application for membership.

If evidence is brought to their attention about any such relationship developing or if evidence comes to light after a member has joined, the Society’s Trustees reserve the right to remove the individual’s membership without further notice. This will be done by means of a simple majority vote by members of the Executive Committee.

HOW WE OPERATE OUR MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

The BTS membership year

The membership year runs from 1st March and renewals are made annually. Members can join at any point in the year, and we have quarterly “anchors” to which a membership starting date will be pinned. If you join during the year and wish to pay by instalments, you will be asked to choose which of the starting dates you prefer. Here is a ready-reckoner for pro-rata membership rates available:-

Pro-rata Quarterly membership subscription rates 2012-13

Category	Full year	Starting 1 June 2012	Starting 1 September 2012	Starting 1 December 2012*
Full	£220	£165	£110	£55
Concessionary with <i>Thorax</i>	£170	£128	£85	£43
Concessionary without <i>Thorax</i>	£37	£28	£20	£10
Specialist Trainee introductory rate	£99	£99	£50	£50
Pre-Specialist rate (Student, CMT, FY1 & 2). No <i>Thorax</i>	£10	£10	£10	£10
Overseas with <i>Thorax</i>	£170	£128	£85	£43
Overseas Lower Income	£20	£20	£20	£20

Add £15 to all the above if not paying by Direct Debit (except overseas members who do not have UK bank accounts)

**This is also the quarterly payment for all existing members who opt to pay by quarterly Direct Debit.*

Changes to subscription rates and/or membership categories are proposed at the Society’s Annual General Meeting which is held on the first Wednesday in December every year during the BTS Winter Meeting. We write to each member in January each year to notify you of any such changes; to let you know what your subscription rate will be for the coming year; and to remind you to let us know if there are any changes coming up which will affect your subscription rate (for example, retirement; change of annual salary, Out of Programme arrangements).

How to pay

The Society greatly appreciates the fact that around 80% of members pay their subscriptions by Direct Debit (DD). This keeps our overhead costs as low as possible. We reduce the fee for payments by Direct Debit by £15 per year, to acknowledge this contribution to balancing our annual budget.

In 2012 we will introduce the opportunity to pay subscriptions by instalments by Direct Debit for those members whose subscriptions are more than £100 per year (i.e. in our Full and Concessionary with *Thorax* categories). The due dates for payments will be:-

1st March
1st June
1st September
1st December

These are also the dates on which membership applications will be fully activated during the year (and see also following paragraph about access to benefits after joining).

We hope that most members will continue to pay by one instalment only, on 1st March, but are aware that payment by instalments might make the difference between deciding to continue with membership and having to prioritise other items of expenditure. PLEASE NOTE that membership subscriptions are allowed against income tax by HMRC.

We will assume that all members wish to continue to pay their subscriptions on an annual basis but will give you the option to indicate that you would like to by instalments when we write to you in January each year to inform you about the subscription renewal arrangements. If you do opt to pay in instalments we will provide you with a clear schedule indicating the amount we will take, and when, during the membership year.

Access to members' benefits after joining

When you apply to join we will give you the opportunity to choose whether you wish to back-date your payment to the nearest anchor date, or to wait until the beginning of the next quarterly period. If you do not indicate a choice, we will anchor the start date for a new membership to the next (upcoming) quarterly start date, and make the appropriate pro-rata charge accordingly. In this scenario it will be possible for all benefits to be made available to members as soon as their application form has been processed EXCEPT FOR:-

- Your subscription to *Thorax* (if applicable) will only begin on the next anchor date after your application has been received (i.e. when we take your first payment)
- You MUST be a member of the Society by 30th September each year in order to take advantage of the members' delegate rates for the BTS Winter Meeting. You must therefore have joined by 1st September. This requirement was confirmed by the Society's Trustees at their meeting in September 2011, after careful review. The Society wishes to recruit members who are joining because they want to make a difference to respiratory care and not only to receive discounted members' benefits

Please also note that, if you have paid for a short course or attendance at an annual BTS Meeting while a member, but your subscription lapses in between the booking and the event, you will be

required to pay the difference between members' and non-members' rate before attending the event.

What to expect when you join

You will receive a receipt for membership subscription and a payment schedule, if applicable for payment in instalments by Direct Debits. We will send you a membership card which contains your membership number; details about how to access the BTS e-learning modules and the members' section of the website and the on-line facilities available via the website; the latest issue of our members' newsletter, BTS News; and details of forthcoming annual meetings and short courses.

Introductory membership offer – Specialist Trainees

The Society is keen that all doctors undertaking Specialist Respiratory Training join the Society and remain in membership throughout their careers in respiratory medicine. To this end, efforts are made to recruit Specialist Trainees (STs) via Regional Training Programme Directors and other channels and the Society offers a special joining rate of £99 per year (£50 if the ST joins between 1st September and 31st December).

Changes in circumstances

The Society places great store on providing a friendly, equitable and personal service as far as is practicable to all our members. In 2011 we have had around 2,800 members all through the year. We are investing in the installation of a new database and related web functionality which will make it easier for members to communicate with us in a virtual environment, managing membership changes and booking events on-line. Your current membership status will be easier to check, and the link with delegate rates will be updated automatically when you make on-line bookings. However, we are always very happy to speak to members to answer queries and are keen to be proactive in suggesting to you the best option for membership (in particular our members who are considering options at retirement, or who are about to go on maternity leave, OOPE and so on). An email to membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk will receive prompt attention. We also value members letting us know about changes in circumstances – for example, a new job/change of address/ moving above or below the income threshold for membership categories listed on page 1, and so on- so that we can make necessary adjustments to subscriptions levels as soon as possible. Thank you.

Leaving us?

We will be sorry if you decide to give up your membership, for whatever reason, but hope to make this as painless a process as possible. The **due date for leaving is 14th February every year** (i.e. the date at which all amendments are needed to be sent to banks in respect of DD payments). No refunds are generally available during the year unless there is a change in membership category, but if you feel there are extenuating reasons and would like us to reconsider please email membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk.

BTS head office team

May 2012