

SUABC's Hardship Policy

15/3/13

SUABC will provide funding of up to £500 per membership year (ie from 1 September) to support current and prospective members in the age-range of 13-26 inclusive, who are judged to need help with their membership subscription.

Support will take the form of contributing up to £100 towards the person's membership fee, for up to 5 members per year.

SUABC will use the same criteria as schools do to determine who is eligible for receipt of free school meals (as of March 2013) as the qualifying criteria for this support. The award of the hardship allowance will be reviewed every membership year and will not automatically be awarded again at the time of membership renewal. Members will need to reapply for an award.

Applicants must prove that they are in receipt of one or more of these specified benefits:

- Family receives Income Support or Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance. Please note, Contribution-Based Job Seeker's Allowance does not qualify.
- Family receives the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Family receives Child Tax Credit and has an annual income, as assessed by HMRC, not in excess of £16,190. Please note, families who are also entitled to Working Tax Credit do not qualify, regardless of income.
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related). Please note, Contribution-Based E&SA does not qualify .

Documents proving receipt of the qualifying benefit(s) will have to be provided and verified before the award will be made. Where a member receives free school meals, a letter from their school confirming this is acceptable. -All cases will be dealt with by three Committee members – the Captain, the Fundraising Secretary and the Welfare Officer, -in complete confidence, making up the Hardship Committee. If one of those three members is the applicant or is judged by the others to have a biased opinion towards the applicant, their place on the Hardship Committee will be taken by another Management Committee member who is judged as unbiased.

Applications to the Hardship Committee may be made at any point through the year. If recipients of the award pay their subscription via standing order, £100 will be divided by the number of months they have left to pay subscriptions for and the recipient will be instructed to reduce their standing order by that pro-rata'd amount. If the recipient chooses to pay their subscription in full part way through the year, their subscription will be pro-rata'd. If it comes to less than £100, the club will cover that amount in full and the member will not have to pay anything. However, if the subscription comes to more than £100 at that point, the club will contribute £100 towards the subscription and the member will pay the remainder. (For example distant students).

Where the member pays fees on a monthly basis the grant will be pro rata'd to reflect the number of months remaining to pay