

BBAC Membership Structure 2013-14, from Paul Spellward, vice-chairman, on behalf of the main committee.

Following the decisive vote at the BBAC AGM in March 2013, the membership structure and fees for the BBAC are changing drastically. For the first time, there will be a differentiation between pilots (including trainee pilots) and non-pilots. The differential is justifiable because pilots and trainee pilots receive more services from BBAC than non-pilots, including all the work done on licencing and technical matters and especially the support of the BBAC's Approved Training Organisation (ATO). The ATO processes the two-yearly licence revalidations for all pilots, as well as coordinating and recording training of new pilots and managing the issue of new ratings to existing pilots. It is also responsible for the training and on-going re-validation of instructors.

All FULL MEMBERS (pilot or non-pilot) will continue to receive six copies of Aerostat per year, by post. There are postage related supplements for full members outside the UK.

An ASSOCIATE MEMBER is a second (or third etc.) member (pilot or non-pilot) attached to a particular full member. S/he does not receive Aerostats. Many associate members will be spouses, partners, children etc. of the full member, at the same address. Crew members can also be associate members at a different address for the purposes of the BBAC motor vehicle insurance scheme. Such people should, however, be encouraged to join as full members (non-pilot) in their own right to benefit from receipt of their own Aerostats.

All members of the BBAC are entitled to buy the BBAC motor vehicle top-up insurance, which is a very valuable benefit, described in full elsewhere in this Aerostat.

All members of the BBAC benefit from the huge amount of work done by the BBAC in many areas, to enable us to continue to enjoy our sport or earn our living. Much of this work is unseen and long-term. Most is done by volunteers, but there are costs associated with this support, which we have to fund through club membership fees.

The BBAC Continuing Airworthiness & Maintenance Organisation (CAMO) is the current manifestation of the coordination by the BBAC over more than 40 years of all technical matters for UK ballooning. Since the arrival of EASA rules, the workload for management of inspections and inspectors has increased greatly and the BBAC CAMO has to charge to cover its costs on a non-profit basis. The costs to run a CAMO are only partly dependent on the number of inspections under its authority per year. The BBAC CAMO is in danger of needing to be subsidised from membership fees because some balloon owners are having their inspection paperwork processed through "competitor" CAMOs, which take the money instead of the BBAC. We urge everyone to ask for their inspection paperwork to be processed through BBAC, whichever inspector, manufacturer or repair station you use. It should not cost you any more and it will support the BBAC's effort for all of ballooning.

The table below is a summary of the benefits for each category of member. Main Committee members will be visiting Regions and events during the Autumn to explain more about the BBAC's work for you and your ballooning and to take questions and listen to concerns. There is a more detailed explanation of the membership rates and rules at the BBAC on-line shop and at <http://www.bbac.org/shop/explain>. Please also see the membership form in this Aerostat.

By the time you read this, you should have received your BBAC membership renewal information for the new membership year, starting 1st October. Please can we ask you to embrace the new BBAC structure and to process your renewal promptly. The BBAC remains outstanding value for the many benefits and services it provides, at rates far lower than typical sports clubs, professional bodies, trade unions etc., and even the full pilot rate is less than the cost of a tank of diesel or petrol for most balloon retrieve vehicles. Thank you.

| | PILOT FULL MEMBER | PILOT ASSOCIATE MEMBER | NON- PILOT FULL MEMBER | NON- PILOT ASSOCIATE MEMBER |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Eligible to buy BBAC motor vehicle top-up insurance | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Aerostat by post | Yes | | Yes | |
| Pilots' Circular by email | Yes | Yes | | |
| Flight Safety Bulletin access electronically | Yes | Yes | | |
| ATO basic service free of charge | Yes | Yes | | |
| Access to ATO additional charged services | Yes | Yes | | |
| Access to BBAC CAMO at members' rates | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Technical advice from BBAC | Yes | Yes | | |
| Advice on legal and medical aspects | Yes | Yes | | |
| Sustain sport and industry: technical and certification | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Sustain sport and industry: licencing and operations | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Landowner Relations work for all of ballooning | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| BBAC website (members' area, forum etc.) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Safety, accident investigation | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Information, public relations | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Records, Awards, International liaison for UK ballooning | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Running of the Club for all its members | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |