

THE FIRE BRIGADE SOCIETY

www.thefirebrigadesociety.co.uk

The organisation for fire and rescue service enthusiasts



22nd February 2022

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

ALL MEMBERS NEED TO READ, UNDERSTAND AND ACT ON THIS

Dear fellow FBS member,

I am Richard Thompson, treasurer of the FBS. I am writing to you because the Fire Brigade Society has reached a critical point in its existence, and I need your help.

1 BACKGROUND

Members will probably not be aware that all other members of the Executive Supervisory Board have resigned. The editorial team has also reportedly resigned en masse, as have several area officers. The society's finances are in poor shape and the future of the FBS is threatened. This is why I am sending you this message.

If you wish the society to survive then it is vital that each of you takes action now. I urge you to

- Renew your subscription as soon as possible
- Consider offering a little of your time to help the society out centrally or locally

THE RESPONSE TO THIS WILL HELP ME TO ASSESS THE VIABILITY OF THE SOCIETY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

You were all given the opportunity to vote on the accounts for 2020-21 and the operational plan (OP) for 2022-23. The results of the vote were as follows:

Members entitled to vote	Number of votes received	Votes to accept accounts	Votes to reject accounts	Votes to accept the OP	Votes to reject the OP	Spoilt papers	Abstentions
402	96	92	3	83	13	0	1 for accounts

Therefore, the 2020-21 accounts have been accepted and the operational plan for 2022-23 has been accepted, including the updated membership rates.

2 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription for ordinary UK members will be increased by £6 to £35 from 1 April 2022. Rest of world membership has increased by £7, junior membership by £4 and associate membership by £2. Although this increase is unwelcome, it is the first since 2015. I would urge you to accept the new rates and to renew your membership as soon as possible.

3 VIABILITY OF THE FBS

Membership currently stands at 439 members, of whom 401 are full paying members. If membership numbers fall by more than 10% there will be insufficient income to provide the current four hard copy editions of Fire Cover, which is one of the key benefits to most members. It will be necessary to assess membership numbers (and thus income) in April/May which is why I am urging you to renew as soon as possible. If there are insufficient renewals to ensure that the society can continue, membership fees will be refunded.

4 A WAY FORWARD TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE FBS CONTINUES

We thank all the outgoing officers of the society for their time and effort given while in post. However, the resignation of so many officials in short succession has left the organisation in a difficult position. The vacancies which need to be filled are shown below. Applications are invited from all members, irrespective of whether they have previously held any of these posts. Furthermore, anyone who can help out but doesn't want a full society post will also be most welcome. Note that some posts are being carried out in an informal way as part of transition arrangements.

Central administrator	Sales manager
Events administrator	Membership secretary
Distribution manager	Web manager
Fire Cover editors	

In due course I will be looking for local area representatives.

Some longstanding members have approached me to offer their assistance to keep the FBS operational until vacant posts can be filled on a permanent basis at a September 2022 AGM, if not before. I will remain as treasurer. I have asked the members named to carry out the duties shown below. We will all work as a team.

I must emphasise that these members will carry out these duties only until September at the latest and it is vital that other members step up to fill the posts, initially with a two-year term of office. If you wish to apply for these posts, please contact me (fbstreasurer@gmail.com) or the email address below.

Colin Carter is the focal point of contact for the team below and is available on fbupdates@gmail.com. Colin or any of the team can be contacted through this email address in the first instance but may respond through their personal email addresses.

Marion Carter is dealing with memberships

Gavin Stewart is dealing with Fire Cover distribution

Andy Daley is dealing with the website

Simon Adamson and Paul Measday are dealing with Fire Cover editorship

Andrew Fenton is dealing with events and local liaison

5 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

In April / May I will review the number of members we have and therefore the income for the year 2022-2023. I will also look at the number of members who have put themselves forward for the various posts. I will then assess what services can be provided from the money and personnel available and in particular the number of hard copy editions of Fire Cover. I will then contact you again.

To this end, it will save The Fire Brigade Society time and money if each of you could let the team have an email address and/or mobile phone number.

So....if you want the FBS to survive, please renew your subscriptions promptly, and put yourself forward for posts, bringing fresh ideas with you. If there are insufficient renewals to ensure that the society can continue, membership fees will be refunded.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Thompson
Society Treasurer