

LACR BURSARY SCHEME

OBJECTS

The LACR bursary scheme helps to defray the expense of attendance at ringing courses which might be unaffordable for some members.

Younger members (under the age of 18 years)

We want to encourage younger ringers because they represent 'the future of ringing'. Their personal means are limited. Many, but not all, younger ringers are members of the 3L's LACR youth group. LACR wishes to support this group generously.

Newer members (in their first five years of membership)

We also want to help members to make brisk progress towards proficiency and full participation in the association's activities during their first five years of membership.

Longer-standing members

The tradition of ringing depends upon ringers who can share what they know in order to provide knowledgeable, sympathetic and constructive support to less experienced colleagues. The bursary scheme supports attendance to courses in the role of either learner or helper. Recipients of 'helper' bursaries will be requested to join the bank of helpers for LACR's own training events.

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The scheme will be administered by the training & education officer. The size of the bursary fund will be budgeted year on year by the LACR committee.

ELIGIBILITY AND MEANS TESTING

Any fully paid-up, resident member of LACR may apply for a bursary. Bursaries are not means tested; the scheme relies upon trust between members that it will not be abused.

Members will distinguish between wanting a bursary and needing one and will use discretion in deciding whether to apply. Those who can afford the full cost of their chosen course will not need a bursary.

Members who need a bursary will not be expected to disclose details they prefer to remain private. Any member should be prepared to state how a bursary will equip them to participate more fully in the association's ringing activities, or to help others do so.

AMOUNT OF BURSARY

LACR will not fund the full price of attendance at a course but it will make a generous and substantial contribution in return for a member's commitment to developing their own ringing capabilities and helping others to do the same. There will be a standard level of subsidy (around 60 percent of the course price) and this can be made more generous (around 85 percent) to suit special cases of need.

ELIGIBLE COURSES

Eligible courses include the North West ringing course and the Hereford and Bradfield residential courses. ART courses are also eligible for bursaries. The list of eligible courses will be extended as new courses emerge and establish their reputations.

Second attendance at a course

Preference will always be given to members applying to attend a course for the first time. If a course offers several strands which cannot be accessed concurrently, the association will consider approving a bursary for second attendance to allow learning in another strand if there has been substantial, demonstrable benefit from first attendance.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A BURSARY

Members should apply to the email address given for the education & training Officer on the LACR website.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF BURSARIES.

Approval and payment of bursaries are separate processes, administered by the budget holder and the treasurer respectively.

Approval of bursaries:

Standard bursaries will be approved based on a member's past or potential future contribution to activities in their home tower, their parent branch or the wider association.

Higher rate bursaries will be provided if members believe their circumstances are especially straitened by reason of low income and unavoidable, exceptionally high personal outgoings. Members who need the higher rate should say this when they apply for a bursary but need not supply supporting detail.

Payment of bursaries:

All bursary approvals will be notified to the association treasurer. When course organisers permit, the treasurer will issue the bursary amount direct to the course so that the member only needs to pay out the balance from their personal funds.

If no such arrangement can be made, the member will pay the course price from personal resources, then recover the bursary amount from the association treasurer.

REVISION OF THIS POLICY

As experience of its administration accumulates, this policy will be subject to any necessary amendment agreed between the association committee and the budget holder.