

## **DISCUSSION PAPER MEMBERSHIP LONG SERVICE AWARDS**

The volume of work involved in processing the awards (both at National and Branch level) has steadily increased over the last couple of years as the number of applications has been increasing, and has become very time consuming with a predicted increase in costs. The new National Office systems process them more efficiently than ever before, but the increasing volume (including the 25 and 35 awards previously done by Diane White), is creating the extra workload.

At present the Club has awarded 424 fifty year badges (with 25 in progress now), 66 sixty year badges, 837 twenty-five year badges, and 547 thirty five year badges.

Over the next 10 years the numbers of members eligible (cumulative) will look like this.

	<b>25 Year</b>	<b>35 Year</b>	<b>50 Year</b>	<b>60 Year</b>
2022	119	69	64	12
2022-23	260	142	119	26
2022-24	450	207	173	45
2022-25	589	292	214	67
2022-26	750	376	259	88
2022-27	938	557	310	135
2022-28	1158	665	366	161
2022-29	1348	762	423	189
2022-30	1600	853	472	230
2022-31	1826	947	516	284

Not all eligible members apply for the awards when they are entitled to, but a significant number do. Even if only 80% apply, these numbers suggest that in 10 years' time we could have 836 members with 50-year awards, 1304 with 35-years, 2297 with 25-years and 293 with 60-years. That means that potentially 10% of our members would have a 50-year award, and 27% will have a 25-year and 15% will have a 35-year. That's potentially almost half our membership with at least one award or more.

The cost of having the President or a Management Committee member ( or a Life Member) attend 50-year award presentations is significant, and most members do not realise what costs and efforts are involved. Travel costs for Management Committee travel in the year ending 31 March 2022 were \$2211, and so far for the 2023 year, \$1042. Most branches have one awards presentation function per year, so the travel aspect has a limit, regardless of the number of recipients at each function. The other significant cost is the time cost for National Office to process the applications, which often arrive in an incomplete state, requiring follow up communications with the branch, and/or the member.

The Management Committee is bringing its concerns regarding the viability of the awards to members for discussion.

The main concerns are:

- The time it takes to process the applications. Although National Office scan them and use automated functions for emailing branches, emailing the Management Committee etc, raising the invoices (25/35 only) and for printing covering letters and certificates, it still takes time. If there is any query with the applications, extra time is taken to communicate with the member and/or the branch to sort it out.
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- The cost of the badges, certificates, frames, postage etc. is increasing.
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- The time and cost for the President, or a delegated officer, to visit the branches and present the awards is also rising.

**Options:**

1. Status quo remains which is awards. (25, 35, 50 & 60) are vetted and processed by National Office and the President or their delegate presents the 50-year awards.
2. Vetting of the awards is out-sourced to a Club member, processed by National Office and the President or their delegate presents the 50-year awards.
3. Awards are vetted and processed by National Office but all awards presented at Branch level by Chairmen.
4. Vetting of the awards is out-sourced to a Club member, processed by National Office and all awards presented at Branch level by Chairmen.
5. National Office hold the badge stock and certificates but Branches take over the awarding and processing of all long service awards.
6. National Office does away with the 25-, 35- and 60-year awards completely and continues only the 50-year awards.
7. National Office has no involvement with long service awards, but if Branches wish to continue with them, they can do so.

**I will have to present the Canterbury Branch view on this matter at the National Executive Committee meeting in March so the Branch will need to have discussed it and formulated a view before then.**

**I will also need to know the Branch view on whether the VCC National Day should continue to support the Cancer Society which, like the VCC has regional branches, or if a different charity is preferred.**

**Rod Thrower**

**National Delegate, Canterbury Branch**