

Hello!

Many thanks for your interest in the SMA. Before we start on the hard-sell of benefits, here's a bit of background about the Association.

The SMA is the only totally independent Professional Association for sports massage practitioners and soft tissue therapists in the UK. We are run for our members by an elected Board of members.

We began in 2001, on the initiative of the English Institute of Sport (now Sport England) and we maintain strong links with this organization and all other home country sporting institutions.

It is down to the work of the SMA and its supporters that sports massage was officially accepted as a physical therapy at the central Polyclinic and other venues at the London Olympic Games in 2012 and will continue to be offered at future Olympic Games. Not only this, one of our Directors was the head of the Games's physical therapies work stream, another was the lead Soft Tissue Therapist.

Getting to this stage with the Olympics took three years of dedicated work and it is this sort of thing, raising the profile of our profession, which the SMA undertakes behind the scenes so that our members can reap the benefits.

We are strongly represented at the General Council for Massage Therapies (GCMT), the governing body for massage in the UK.

And now, the good stuff. What you get as a Full SMA member:

- An entry on our practitioner search facility, allowing members of the public to locate your business, either by name, region or post code.
- Four issues of the quarterly sportEX Dynamics publication, one of the foremost journals for soft tissue therapists. This includes online access to previous editions and the smartphone app.
- Discounted professional liability insurance with our partner, Graybrook.

What you get as a Student member:

- Access to sportEX Dynamics online content and learning resources, including the fabulous learning tool Primal Pictures Interactive Anatomy. You can also subscribe to the hard copy of the magazine for £25 per year, receiving four issues over the course of the year.

What you get at any membership level:

- A year's free access to Rehab my Patient: a new, online system which gives you video demonstrations of rehabilitative exercises which you can pass on to your clients to aid their recovery; it normally costs £132 for an annual subscription. A discounted rate will be available for SMA members following the end of this period.
- Discounted deals with suppliers of couches; lotions, oils & waxes; CPD courses; books and journals; and a fair few more!
- Access to event work and job opportunities as advertised on the SMA website and e-mailed out to members.
- Board and Regional Directors who are available for contact at any time for queries relating to membership, local issues, or anything else soft-tissue-related – even if it's just to say hello and introduce yourself!
- An annual conference, organised by the SMA for you to meet other members of the Association, take part in CPD workshops and catch up on what we've been doing behind the scenes during the previous year.
- Access to our online shop for branded SMA clothing, competitively priced, that marks you out as being a member of one of the most highly regarded PAs in the industry.
- The knowledge that we approve applications only from graduates of courses of the very highest quality so you know you're going to be in good company – we throw that one in for free!

With all that, and much more, it makes sense to apply for membership with us. Go online to www.thesma.org to complete your application or get in touch with us on membership@thesma.org if you have any further questions.

We look forward to hearing from you!