

## Your Pension Online

### New Scheme website for BCSSS pensioners and deferred pensioners

Work on the new Scheme website is continuing. The new site will give pensioners and deferred pensioners the opportunity to access their own personal details held by the Scheme. It will be easy to access and there for members 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

#### For deferred pensioners:

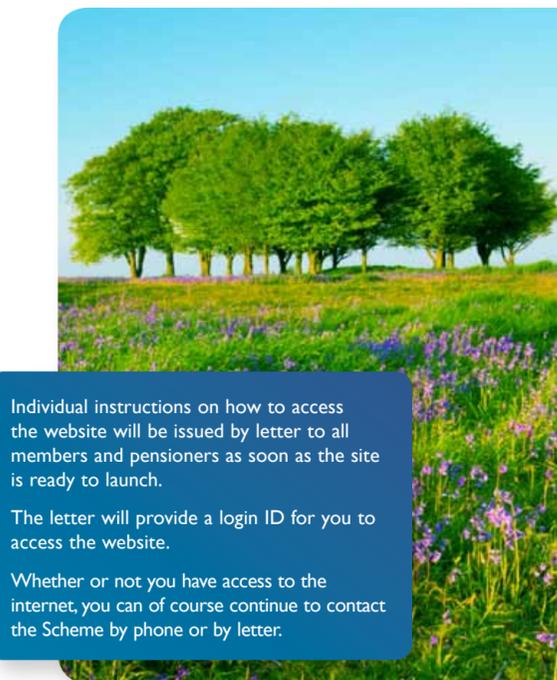
The new site will allow you to access details of your entitlement to benefits and the options available will allow you to:

- Check the personal details we hold for you
- View a statement of your current benefits
- Access commonly asked questions and answers about the Scheme and links to Scheme documentation
- Use the interactive retirement modeller to examine possible retirement scenarios
- Contact the Administration Team online
- Access useful links to other pension related websites.

#### For pensioners:

The new site will allow you to access details of your pension and will allow you to:

- Check the personal details we hold for you
- View on line payslips and tax information
- Access commonly asked questions and answers about the Scheme and links to Scheme documentation
- Contact the Administration Team online
- Access useful links to other pension related websites.



Individual instructions on how to access the website will be issued by letter to all members and pensioners as soon as the site is ready to launch.

The letter will provide a login ID for you to access the website.

Whether or not you have access to the internet, you can of course continue to contact the Scheme by phone or by letter.

## Coal Trade Benevolent Association

This article has been included at the request of Mr Nick Ross, The Coal Trade Benevolent Association's National Secretary, who has asked us to make BCSSS members aware that, in certain circumstances, the Association may be able to offer them assistance.

The Association is a completely separate organisation to the BCSSS, with its own rule book and eligibility criteria, so please do not contact the BCSSS administration office for information about the Association. If you would like to know more about the Association, you can contact them direct using the details shown below.

The Coal Trade Benevolent Association is a registered charity which provides financial assistance to men and women (including widows or widowers and their families) who were engaged in non-manual occupations within the coal trade and allied industries or who were employed by a coal merchant. The Association provides advice and a range of grants, which are made on the strict basis of

beneficiary need, and supports a nationwide network of voluntary case visitors and local branches who are able to identify, approach and maintain contact with beneficiaries for as long as need is evident.

If you would like more information about the Association and their work, you can visit their website at:

[www.coaltradebenevolentassociation.org](http://www.coaltradebenevolentassociation.org)

or contact them as follows:

The Coal Trade Benevolent Association  
6 Bridge Wharf,  
156 Caledonian Road,  
London,  
N1 9UU

Telephone: 020 7278 3239  
Fax: 020 7278 2720  
Email: [coalbenev@btconnect.com](mailto:coalbenev@btconnect.com)

## Get in touch – we're here to help

For more information about the Scheme, visit the Scheme website at:

[www.bcsss-pension.org.uk](http://www.bcsss-pension.org.uk)



### What is your question about?

Payment of your pension or entitlement to benefits

The deduction of tax from your pension

#### Telephone:

**Surname A-J**  
**0845 609 0012**  
(UK local no.)

**(+44) 114 203 4613**  
(Abroad standard charge no.)

OR

**Write:** The Administration Office, BCSSS, 5th Floor,  
The Fountain Precinct, Balm Green, Sheffield S1 2JA

OR

**E-mail:** [bcsss.enquiries@aoconsulting.co.uk](mailto:bcsss.enquiries@aoconsulting.co.uk)

Remember to quote your National Insurance/Scheme Number

**Surname K-Z**  
**0845 609 0013**  
(UK local no.)

**(+44) 114 203 4629**  
(Abroad standard charge no.)

#### Telephone:

**0845 300 0627**

OR

#### Write:

**HM Revenue and  
Customs Enquiry Centre  
Merseyside Tax District  
Regian House  
James Street  
Liverpool L75 1AA**

Remember to quote your  
National Insurance Number  
and Reference 428/NCBP

#### A question on Trustee policy or the level of service provided by the Scheme.

#### Write:

BCSSS Scheme Secretary, Coal Pension Trustees Services Limited,  
Ventana House, Concourse Way, Sheaf Street, Sheffield S1 2BJ

OR

E-mail: [bcsss.enquiries@coal-pension.org.uk](mailto:bcsss.enquiries@coal-pension.org.uk)

## Have we got the right address for you?

It is important that we know how to contact you. Remember to notify the administration office if you move house. If you know of any former colleagues who have moved recently, why not remind them to give the administration office their new address.

BCSSS Pensions News is also available on CD, please contact the Scheme Secretary if you wish to receive a copy on CD.

# BCSSS

## pensions news

For members of the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme

Summer 2012

## Inside this issue...

2012 Annual General Meeting

Report and Accounts

Latest News on the Scheme Valuation

Pensioner Representative Trustee election,  
summer 2012

Your Pension Online

Contact Addresses and Telephone Numbers



## 2012 Annual General Meeting

### Notice of Meeting:

Notice is hereby given that the Sixty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Scheme will be held in the Radisson Blu Hotel Durham, Frankland Lane, Durham, DH1 5TA on Wednesday 10 October 2012 at 2.00pm

### Business:

To receive the Report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2012 and to debate and vote on any member resolutions. Resolutions to be received no later than 24 September 2012.

The meeting is open to pensioners and deferred pensioners, the Committee and its guests.

**By Order of the  
Committee of Management**

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) of members is being held in Durham. The AGM is your opportunity to find out more about how the Scheme is run.

- You will hear reports from the Scheme Chairman, Philip Read, the Chairman of the Investment Sub-committee, Dick Barfield and from Scheme staff.
- You will have the opportunity to ask questions and to meet Trustees and staff informally before and after the main business of the meeting.

### The date:

Wednesday 10 October 2012, from 1.00pm, formal business starting at 2.00pm

### The venue:

Radisson Blu Hotel Durham, Frankland Lane, Durham, DH1 5TA

The meeting is open to pensioners, deferred pensioners, the Committee and its guests. Scheme advisers and officials also attend. The responsibility for running the Scheme rests with the Committee. Whilst member resolutions can be submitted to the AGM for debate and Scheme pensioners, deferred pensioners and members of the Committee can vote, resolutions do not have any power conferred upon them.

Nevertheless, the Committee listens closely to members' views and this is one way of making sure they are aware of an issue. General meeting resolutions cannot give instructions to the Committee to do things. The position is very similar to that for companies' annual general meetings. Company

boards cannot be told what to do – so resolutions usually support the board or are critical of the board – or they express the hope that something will happen.

Questions can be asked from the floor but it helps to have them in advance. It would be inappropriate for questions about an individual's benefits to be dealt with at the open meeting, so only questions about Trustee policy or Scheme management will be taken at the AGM.

To obtain your ticket for the AGM please write to the Scheme Secretary at the address on the back page of this newsletter. If you have a question that you would like answering at the AGM, then please include it with your ticket request to arrive no later than 24 September.

## Report and Accounts

In the last edition of Pension News we summarised the Scheme Accounts and the Trustees' Investment Report from the Report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2011. The Report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2012 are currently being finalised.

They will be received at the AGM in October. A summary of the Scheme Accounts and the Trustees' Investment Report as at 31 March 2012 will be provided in the winter 2012/13 edition of BCSSS News.

## Latest News on the Scheme Valuation

### Summary

- The actuarial valuation of the Scheme as at 31 March 2012 is now underway**
- It is unlikely there will be any overall pension increases in 2014, 2015 or 2016**
- The 2013 pension increase (based on the November 2012 RPI figure) is unaffected**
- The Government Guarantee ensures total pensions cannot fall in cash terms, no matter what happens.**

### What happens in the valuation

Every three years, the Scheme's Actuary looks at how well the Scheme is funded, in a formal Scheme valuation. The Actuary determines whether there are enough assets in the Scheme to meet the liabilities to pay pensions for the lifetime of all members and their qualifying dependants. The Actuary has to make assumptions on both the return the Scheme's investments can be expected to achieve in the future, and on how long members and their dependants will draw pensions.

### The 2009 valuation

At the last valuation in 2009 the Scheme had a substantial deficit and had to borrow from the Investment Reserve. The first call on any future surplus is to repay that loan (with interest).

### 2012 valuation: likely impact on pensions

Although we await the findings of the valuation this time around, we know that it is unlikely that there will be sufficient surplus to repay all of the loan. As a result, it is unlikely that there will be any increases to pensions in 2014, 2015 or 2016. The increase due in 2013 (which will be based on the November 2012 RPI figure) will still be paid, as this was funded for under the last valuation.

### The Government Guarantee

Whilst this will not be welcome news to members, please remember that your BCSSS pension is protected by the Government Guarantee, which offers security that many other pensions do not have. The Guarantee ensures that:

- Your total pension (including bonuses awarded from surpluses declared since the Scheme closed) cannot fall in cash terms – in other words, no matter what happens your total pension will not be cut.
- Guaranteed pensions will increase in line with the Retail Prices Index (although total pensions will not increase as long as bonuses are reducing at the same rate).

We will be providing more details on the valuation in future editions of Pensions News.



## Pensioner Representative Trustee election, summer 2012

A ballot will be held during September for the election of a Pensioner Representative trustee in the North West England, West Midlands, Wales and Northern Ireland constituency. The current Pensioner Representative trustee for this constituency is Mr Bleddyn Hancock who is eligible to stand for re-election.

### Standing for election

Letters inviting members to request a nomination pack if they were interested in standing for election were sent to members resident in the constituency in early June. The closing date for the receipt of completed nominations was 1 August 2012, and on this occasion, three candidates will be standing for election.

### The election

The successful candidate will be elected by simple majority in a postal ballot that will take place in late August and September 2012. Each candidate has provided a candidate's statement for inclusion with the ballot papers.

### The results

The ballot will close at noon on 17 September and the results should be declared in time to be announced at the Annual General Meeting on 10 October. The successful candidate will take office from 1 October 2012 for a period of four years. Details of the results will also be publicised in the next edition of Pension News.

