



# Key points HBA COMMITTEE MEETING – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## Chairman's Report

- HBA ran the BBO Eastern Region heat of the National Pairs and Paul advised that 25 pairs had entered but only 22 turned up. Berks and Bucks ran the RealBridge heat and in 2025 HBA would try to run both.

## Secretary's Report

- Geoff raised the issue of advertising events from outside Herts when requested. The Committee agreed that we would advertise Green and Blue Pointed events from other counties on a reciprocal basis but would not advertise other events including from non Herts clubs or private enterprises. The advertising would be solely on the HBA website.

## Treasurer's Report

- Oliver confirmed that we are running at a small surplus in the current year but there are some expenses to come. Overall UM income is now at pre Covid levels.
- Oliver advised that the Lukyn club income was £1,139 (Watford still to transfer their part). This was above 2022/3 levels. The Committee agreed to round the donation to Open Door St Albans to £1,200.

## Tournament Secretary's Report

- All HBA events had run smoothly and favourable feedback had been received from those playing. However entry levels generally were disappointing. The Lukyn final entry numbers were affected by an unfortunate clash with Mothers Day.
- The Committee agreed that trophies would no longer be awarded for all – or indeed most – HBA events largely due to logistical issues mainly with online events. For some events for less experienced players it was felt that trophies would be a good idea – and preferably ones that could be retained permanently by the winners. The Competitions Committee will review and decide on the detail.
- For all future events the details on the website will contain more details about the approximate number of boards to be played and the length of any mid session break.
- Two people have agreed to attend the next County Directors course which will assist HBA with future events.
- It was disappointing with the Lukyn event that only 11 out of the 20 Herts clubs held heats although it was noted that Hadley Wood participated this year and with two heats.

## Membership Secretary

- Player sessions at Herts clubs were up by 6.82% in 2023 and in the first quarter of 2024 the increase was 8.58%. In 2024 twelve clubs had increased player sessions, three were flat and five were down. Face to face bridge remains at just below 60% of the total.

## Selection Committee

- Roger advised that our Eastern Counties teams have all won their respective divisions and all teams will therefore be playing in the national inter league finals at the start of June.
- Roger updated on the squads for next season.

## Green Pointed events

- Srimath reported that EBU had agreed the licences for the planned two face to face Green Pointed events in 2025. Arrangements are finalised for the July 2024 face to face event.

## EBU Festival of Bridge

- The Committee agreed that HBA would run a 'fun' Swiss Pairs in Festival Week on RealBridge. This would be seven matches of four boards. The entry fee would be £5 per player and HBA would match this from funds. Gary agreed to waive his director fee so the vast majority of money raised would go to Cancer Research UK. Black Pointed and no NGS was agreed.
- EBU were communicating to clubs and individuals about Festival Week so there would be a high level of awareness. HBA would also communicate to clubs and ask them to consider their own events (even if only nominating some of their own regular sessions as charity ones) and also ask them to publicise the Festival to their own membership.

## Date of Next Meeting

Friday July 19th at 16.30 via zoom.

Hertfordshire

Bridge

Association

HBA