



Dear Ken

Firstly a big thank you to all the members who supported HBA and attended the short AGM last Sunday. Although there were a reasonable number of members present it was a shame that there was not a single representative present from some of our member clubs, which was disappointing. In addition to the election of the HBA Committee for 2026/7 and the other more routine matters it was announced at the AGM that the chosen charity for the 2026/7 Marjorie Lukyn competition would be DENS (Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter), a nomination from Pat Henry.

The draft minutes from the AGM will be put on the HBA website shortly if you wish to look at the detail.

FORTHCOMING HBA EVENTS

There are five HBA events scheduled for the rest of 2026 and all are **FREE ENTRY** for players whose primary county affiliation is to Herts, irrespective of whether those events are online or face to face. Pre-entry is required for all the events via the respective entry form on the HBA website, where further details on the events are provided.

SENIORS PAIRS - Saturday October 3rd. If you wish to play in this event **you need to enter quickly** ! The event, of 30-36 boards, is being held on RealBridge and starts at 11.00. Any player aged at least 60 years on January 1st 2026 is eligible to enter. This event has had declining entries in recent years and the day has been switched to a Saturday in an attempt to attract a higher entry this year. If that fails, the event may not appear in the HBA calendar in future years.

MIXED PAIRS - Sunday October 18th. This 24 board event is being held on RealBridge starting at 14.00.

CLUB WINNERS CUP - Sunday 8th November. This competition is for the winning pair and runners up in each of the Hertfordshire's 20 affiliated clubs primary pairs competition (pairs finishing third and fourth can also be entered in the event of non availability). Clubs rather than the individual players make the entries for this event. The event will take place on RealBridge over 24 boards.

7 HIGH PAIRS - Saturday 14th November. This year's event will again be hosted by Leverstock Green and will take place face to face at Bedmond Village Hall (WD5 0QP) starting at 15.00. This event will comprise 18 boards and is open to any player whose NGS is no higher than 7 at the time of entry. Players who have yet to obtain an NGS can also enter if their entry is supported by their club.

DESMOND FLOCKHART TROPHY - Sunday 6th December on RealBridge starting at 14.00. This is a teams of eight club representative event where clubs again make the entries. The winners go on to represent Herts in the National Garden Cities competition.

HUMBLE CUP

The Humble Cup is the HBA premier championship for teams of four players, although a team can have up to 6 players over the course of the competition. There has been a slight change to the format for this year's competition as there will be no 'all-play-all' qualifying round. Instead the competition will be a knockout competition throughout.

All matches will be head-to-head, over 24 boards and arranged privately. Matches will be played on Realbridge, unless both teams agree to use a different platform or play face-to-face. HBA will provide Realbridge links for all matches, free of charge. Matches will be played between the date of the draw, which will take place early in November 2026, and 30th April 2027. The HBA will set deadlines for the completion of each round as the competition progresses, taking into account the size of the entry and the number of rounds required to produce a winner with the actual date and time of each match to be agreed between the teams.

If you would like assistance in forming a team, please contact the Tournament Secretary at hbatournamentsec@gmail.com who will be able to put you in touch with any others who are also looking.

Entry is required by **31st October 2026**. The entry form can be found on the HBA website. Participants must be primary HBA members (i.e. Hertfordshire as your primary county affiliation). Entry is free of charge.

If you have any questions on the events, or your NGS, or your primary county affiliation please drop me an e mail.

Alan Woof

HBA Membership Secretary