

Hertfordshire Bridge Association (HBA) Annual General Meeting Sunday 28th September 2025 @ 2:00pm. Zoom Video Meeting

In Attendance: 36 Members - Srimath Agalawatte, Arni Anidjar-Romain, Nadia Button, Roy Button, Sigrid Cook, Geoff Cordingley, Roger Edmonds, John Eyre, Andy Fenn, Marion Fenn, Anthony Golding, Pat Henry, Helen Holehouse, Stephanie Hughes, Ian Kemp, Paul King, Geoff Lacey, Colin Leeson, Fran Leeson, Fiona Littlewood, Paul Littlewood, Mike Minting, Celia Oram, Derek Oram, Glen Parry, Julie Roberts, Simon Roberts, Robert Sassoon, George Summers, David Stimson, Robert Teesdale, Oliver Tiemann, Dave Tookey, Paul Wilson, Alan Woof, Tracey Woof.

Apologies for absence Amanda Barnes, Gary Conrad, Bernard Eddleston, David Eddleston, Margaret Eddleston, Jeff Green, John Hirons, Patrick Holden, Jan Palmer Sayer.

Welcome

Mike Minting, HBA President, welcomed members to the meeting. Mike expressed his disappointment that only a small number of clubs had representatives at the meeting and how few County players were attending.

Then, Mike handed over to Paul Littlewood, HBA Chairman hoping that everyone would enjoy the meeting.

Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes of AGM on 6th October 2024 was proposed by Dave Stimson, seconded by Pat Henry and passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Accounts 2024/25

The accounts were available on the website. Oliver said the accounts were in a healthy situation. The committee is looking for ways of reducing the surplus and anyone with suggestions feel free to come forward with them.

The accounts had been reviewed by Ian Lennox and his report was also on the website.

Glen Parry wondered if it was the intention to make a profit on all tournaments or just a little more than break even. Oliver pointed out that the entry fee for Herts members had been reduced from £25 to £15 for the Green pointed events and so they only made a small profit, of the order of £100 - £150. We want to at least cover our costs. We have eliminated all charges to HBA events, including the leagues and are looking at ways of benefiting our members with the excess.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Glen Parry, seconded by Roger Edmonds and agreed unanimously.

3. Reports

The reports are on the website.

Paul said that Roy Button is standing down from the committee this year. He had done a fantastic job over the years and Paul expressed his thanks to Roy.

There is one less person on the committee now so if anyone would like to make suggestions for joining the committee that would be great, especially ladies as the committee is male-dominated. Paul was disappointed when he looked at the websites this morning and only found one of the 20 clubs had a note on its website about the AGM. Of course, clubs might advertise the AGM differently, e.g. an announcement at meetings. Also Paul only found two clubs advertising HBA events on their website calendars which is again disappointing.

One particular success story was Barnet which ran a 7-high pairs event very successfully on the back of Alan Woof running them at Bedmond with Leverstock Green backing. These lower graded events are a good way to get club members involved in tournaments.

Paul King wondered if someone on the committee could send round a note on a monthly basis to

the lead person in each club pointing out the HBA events that month. Paul pointed out that he sends out notes to club chairmen and Alan Woof sends out a monthly communication to every HBA member.

4. Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee

All officers and committee members were elected unanimously. Proposed by Celia Oram and seconded by George Summers.

5. Appointment of Auditor

Paul will confirm that Ian Lennox has agreed to act as the independent examiner again.

6. Marjorie Lukyn Charity

The committee unanimously decided to choose Claire Powell's suggestion of GRIT (Growing Resilience in Teens) which supports Teens with mental health issues. It is inclusive and it is able to offer support quickly. It uses non-contact boxing and coaching, using boxing as a metaphor for life. It works in the community and in secondary schools across Hitchin and Letchworth.

7. Any Other Business

Glen Parry proposed a vote of thanks to Paul and all of the committee for their efforts during the year.

Paul will continue to encourage co-operation between the clubs and HBA.

Paul pointed out that EBU is pushing teaching, having appointed an individual to work on this. A number of clubs in Herts are doing well with teaching and it's obviously difficult for the smaller clubs to handle but if anyone or any club is interested in developing a teaching programme there is lots of advice which can be given.

Paul pointed out that this was the day William the Conqueror landed at Pevensey Bay in 1066 – a historic day for the country and a historic day for the HBA (!). He then thanked everyone for attending and declared the AGM closed at 2:19 pm.