

Hertfordshire Bridge Association (HBA) Annual General Meeting Sunday 27th September 2026 @ 11:00a.m. Zoom Video Meeting

In Attendance: 36 Members - Srimath Agalawatte, Arni Anidjar-Romain, Geoff Brown, Nadia Button, Roy Button, Gary Conrad, Geoff Cordingley, Bernard Eddleston, Margaret Eddleston, John Eyre, Andy Fenn, Marion Fenn, Clare Garretty, Pat Henry, Colin Holehouse, Helen Holehouse, Geoff Lacey, Fiona Langridge, John Leake, Pak-Hin Lee, Alan Lipton, Fiona Littlewood, Paul Littlewood, Mike Minting, Celia Oram, Derek Oram, Glen Parry, Robert Sassoon, David Simmons, David Stimson, George Summers, Rachel Thomas, Oliver Tiemann, Dave Tookey, Alan Woof, Tracey Woof.

Apologies for absence: Jeff Green, Roger Edmonds, Miles Golding

Welcome

Mike Minting, HBA President, welcomed members to the meeting. He was pleased to see a number of ex-committee members present, supporting the current committee. The committee would certainly appreciate any offers of support or help.

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

Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes of AGM on 28th September 2025 was proposed by Celia Oram, seconded by Pat Henry and passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Accounts 2025/26

The accounts were available on the website.

Oliver was fairly detailed in his comments. The committee has successfully found ways of reducing the account surplus. We'll continue to do that until we feel our reserves are at a reasonable level, and then we might have to revisit some of the things that we decided to do, but for now, I think we're still in a good position, and look forward to it continuing for the next while.

In reply to Paul's question, Oliver thought that a reasonable reserve was between £10,000 and £15,000. The main reason for a reserve was to see the association through the lean years but having got through Covid without the reserves being affected there's probably not so much need for such a high level of reserves.

In answer to a question by Geoff Brown, Oliver said that HBA had reduced its fees from the clubs to offset the increase in EBU UMS; added prizes to Green Pointed events and reduced the entry fee for Herts members to encourage more Herts members to play; made entry free for Herts members to all County events; added funds to the amount the clubs have raised for the Charity event. We've been very fortunate in the last several years in obtaining good interest rates on term deposits. Last year it was 2.04%.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Srimath Agalawatte, seconded by Dave Tookey and agreed unanimously.

3. Reports

The reports are on the website.

Paul emphasized a couple of points from his report. The increase in EBU UMS has already been mentioned. We reduced our fees to help alleviate this increase. Herts only charges 3p whereas London charges 8p, Yorkshire 7p and Kent 6p. He hoped the clubs would appreciate this and reciprocate with as much help as possible.

Paul also pointed out that two people have left the committee – John Eyre, tournament secretary and Fiona who was the only lady on the committee. He thanked them for their valuable service. Colin

Holehouse has kindly agreed to become tournament secretary. Paul had noticed that there are quite a lot of ladies on club committees but none now on HBA, although any ladies volunteering would be welcomed with open arms.

There has been a change to the format of the Humble Cup this year. This is covered in Alan's comms.

4. Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee

All officers and committee members were elected unanimously.

5. HBA Constitution Amendment

Paul pointed out that the committee is now eleven members and so the proposal is to reduce the quorum to five rather than six for a fourteen member committee. This was accepted unanimously.

6. Appointment of Auditor

Oliver confirmed that Ian Lennox has agreed to act as the independent examiner again.

7. Marjorie Lukyn Charity

By the time that the decision had to be made, there was only one nomination: DENS - Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter. A subsequent nomination was received and this will be considered for next year.

8. Any Other Business

Margaret Eddleston has made a couple of questions related to the EBU which Paul decided would be best considered in committee and the conclusions forwarded to Margaret.

Pat Henry thanked the committee for their amazing hard work.

Srimath thanked Paul for being chair of the committee, and the excellent job that he has done over the course of the last few years. Paul was appreciative of the thanks pointing out that he would appreciate feedback from clubs.

Paul closed the meeting at 11:20am.