



Key points HBA COMMITTEE MEETING – Friday 4th April 2025

Hertfordshire

Bridge

Association

HBA

Chairman's Report

- Paul led a discussion about how HBA events are publicised. We rely on clubs to actively promote the HBA events. For the events for less experienced players (7 High and 9 High) it was agreed that players need to be positively encouraged by their clubs rather than just e mailed etc, as this is probably their first foray into county events.

Tournament Secretary's Report

- John reported our four qualifying pairs from the recent 9 High Pairs have entered to play in the national 9 High Corwen.
- The Marjorie Lukyn competition has finished. The number of clubs holding heats and the total number of heats were disappointingly down on last year as was the number of pairs entering the final. As a result our charity donation is lower. The Committee agreed to top it up to £1,100.
- Watford as the Flockhart winners have entered the Garden Cities semi final to be held at Richmond.
- The new format for the Eccles Cup had resulted in a higher number of entries than for the 2024 event and feedback was that the new format had been well received.
- HBA had recently held a Green Pointed Pairs and also hosted heats for the National Pairs. Not all the invoices had been received for these events and Oliver will produce financial statements when they are received to assess whether HBA repeats in the future.

Treasurer's Report

- Oliver confirmed that we are on target to produce a slight surplus for the current year.
- Our term deposit had matured and Oliver had re-invested. The new rate was attractive but lower than for the expiring deposit.

Communications/Membership

- Alan updated the Committee on recent discussions with EBU about their initiatives to improve the quality of member databases, specifically addressing the non lapsing of inactive members. Herts are currently seen as ahead of other counties in this regard.
- More than 95% of the membership receive the monthly member communication and 70% of those open the communication which seems to indicate a high level of member engagement – and much higher than what other counties report.

Selection Committee

- Roger updated on the Eastern Counties League. The Herts B and C teams comfortably won their respective divisions with a match in hand and both qualify for their national finals (which both teams won last year). The A team after a poor start, losing their first two matches recovered with four wins and finished third in their division.
- After four successful years as C team captain John Eyre has stood down. Oliver has agreed to take on the role and the Committee gave their thanks to both.

Green Pointed Events

- Only 14 tables at the March event. This was felt to be because the event was a new addition to the calendar. The Committee agreed to continue to hold two Green Pointed events in 2026. Dates to be agreed with EBU (as they need to licence all Green Pointed events).
- For the July event it was agreed to hold the entry fee but in addition provide prize money for the winners and also bottles of wine to the winners of each of the rounds.

Date of Next Meeting

Friday July 18th at 16.30.