

Chairman's Report

- Paul updated the Committee on a discussion he had had with Mary Cousins – EBU's new Membership Development Officer. Mary has a number of initiatives that she will be rolling out in the near future.
- EBU had circulated counties with ideas for future EBU competitions, particularly as regards whether they should be online or face to face. Paul had consulted various people. The consensus seemed to be that the majority of the players involved preferred online and Paul will reply accordingly.

Secretary's Report

- Geoff confirmed that there had been one nomination so far for the 2025/6 Lukyn charity event. More nominations would be sought before the AGM.
- The date for the HBA AGM was confirmed as Sunday 28th September at 14.00 on zoom.

Tournament Secretary's Report

- The Committee had a general discussion on HBA events. Many of the recent ones attracted a lower number of entries than previous years. Was this venue, timings, online v face to face or something else ? The 2025/6 playing calendar has been agreed and published already. The Committee will have a fuller discussion before planning the 2026/7 calendar.
- It was agreed that one area which could be improved when it comes to HBA events was how clubs publicised and promoted the events with their own membership.
- It was agreed that the Humble Plate would be removed from the calendar due to low entry numbers in recent years.

Treasurer's Report

- Oliver confirmed that we are on target to produce a surplus for the current 2024/5 year.
- The Committee agreed that they would consider reducing the county UM from the current 4p once the EBU proposals for their UM rate from April 2026 were known, to offset.
- The Committee also agreed to consider a proposal for a Christmas bonus for members, an enhanced Lukyn donation and also to consider awarding prize money for some future HBA events.

Communications/Membership

- Alan reported that HBA membership had risen slightly in the first half of 2025 but added a caveat that there was a slight question mark against the member numbers at two clubs currently. Player sessions across Herts in the first 6 months were very slightly up on 2024, although July as a discrete month was over 5% up.
- The Committee agreed the wording for a proposed motion to be submitted to the EBU AGM regarding the methodology of issuing shares to counties.

Selection Committee

- Roger updated the Committee on the national finals where our B team finished 4th and our C team 3rd. The Eastern Counties League 2025/6 season has started well with the B and C teams winning both their matches and the A team having won one and lost one.

Green Pointed Events

- Preparations were in hand for the July event. Concern was expressed about the low level of entries. (The same issues as under the general HBA event discussion.) For the July event prize money was being offered – but this does not seem to have made any difference to the number of entries. Despite this the Committee agreed to include two events in the calendar for both 2026 and 2027. It was noted that some other counties were getting a higher number of entries for their Green Pointed events now.

Date of Next Meeting

Sunday September 28th immediately after the AGM.