

# **ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025**

**Thursday 15 May 2025 University of Warwick**

## **1. Attendees**

1.1 A list of attendees is at Annex 1.

1.2 Dave Barrow (DB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was important to cover the constitutional business required at an AGM. He introduced Dawn Crow (DC). DC thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake into the room.

## **2. Minutes of the 2024 Conference**

2.1 The minutes of the AGM held on 16 May 2024 and published on 30 May 2024 were put to the meeting for adoption.

2.2 The minutes were proposed by Scotland and seconded by West Midlands.

## **3. Annual Report and Accounts**

3.1 Copies of the draft Annual Report and National Revenue and Lottery Accounts for 2024 were issued on 17 April 2025. DB suggested any minor amendments should be notified to Jen Richardson (JR).

3.2 DC picked out some highlights of the annual report. She said the total figure of benefits, offers and discounts always amazed her, and last year was no exception at £5m. She thanked the local, regional and national volunteers and officers who made this happen. She highlighted the launch of Business Unit Grants (BUGs), introduced to drive up engagement with new and current members across geographically dispersed business units.

3.3 DC spoke about how planning had started towards the end of 2024 for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. She highlighted that £23k had already been awarded to 150 clubs in anniversary grants, covering 21,500 members. She reminded those who had not yet applied for a grant to not miss out.

3.4 DC triumphed the inclusion of Activity Alliance at both festivals to provide information as to how to support and include all members. She stated two new events, pickle ball and boccia had been added to the festival programme for 2025.

3.5 DC stressed that recruiting new members remained our highest priority, with regions provided with DWP new staff joiners locations and staff in post against HASSRA members on a quarterly basis. She stated that 6,800 members were recruited over 2024, a 25% increase on the previous year. She confirmed that over 2024, the number of national associate members (NAMs) had increased by 15% and retired members by 5%. DC stated DHSC had seen an 8% membership reduction over the year and was an area to re-engage with in 2025.

3.6 DC said 2024 had been yet another record-breaking year for the lottery with 9,335 new or increased applications processed (+5% on the previous year).

3.7 DC confirmed cinema tickets remained the most popular membership benefit, saving members £535k. She noted that Appendix 7 of the annual report provided further details of the membership benefits.

3.8 DC said that HASSRA Live had over 11 million page views (+2 million on 2023). She stated that members were becoming more familiar with the website and its functions, evident from the 10% reduction in helpdesk queries from the previous year.

3.9 DC highlighted the long-awaited launch of message boards but expressed concern that they hadn't been utilised as expected. She said work was underway to enhance useability with notifications to alert members to new posts. She asked members to have a look and start using them in their regions and committees.

3.10 DC finished by updating future HASSRA developments; a server upgrade, improved control centre, an image library, regional helpdesk and the much-awaited bingo function.

### 2024 Accounts

3.11 HC advised there were two accounts: Revenue and Lottery. The Revenue Account had excess expenditure of £414k, while the Lottery Account had excess income of £712k. This resulted in an overall excess of income of £298k.

3.12 He confirmed that more income than ever had gone through the HASSRA accounts during 2024, mainly contributed from the rapid growth in membership and another record-breaking year for the lottery. HC stated that although growth had been forecast in both membership and lottery, the scale of growth had exceeded predictions. HC said the increase to £1.948m in funds now exceeded the contingency level needed to cover contractual liabilities and day to day cash flow and confirmed the Association needed to manage funds down. He explained extra expenditure on the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations would help to reduce the funds and would be explained later when discussing the budget for 2025.

3.13 HC thanked his team for their continued hard work and support throughout the year.

3.14 Duncan Lloyd (DL) asked if there was an upper level of reserves which would attract interest from the department. HC confirmed there wasn't a limit, but it was good housekeeping to bring the levels down. DB stated that no-one from the department had questioned him, but it was prudent to ensure spending for the benefit of the membership.

3.15 Simon Daly (SD) asked if there were any plans to increase the lottery prize pot. HC confirmed it had been increased in January 25. He confirmed the prize pot was under regular review by the Finance Committee.

### Awards Committee

3.16 Tina Earp (TE) provided an update from the Awards Committee. She thanked her fellow committee members Irena and Marilyn, the National team and National BOM for their support. TE confirmed 43 Development Fund (HDF) applications had been approved with a total of £13,237 being awarded. She hoped that the number of applications would increase in 2025 and confirmed the HDF had now moved to the national team for administration.

3.17 TE stressed the importance of HASSRA's role in well-being and this was something the AC were keen to promote and encourage. She stated the HASSRA Heroes awards, after some initial confusion, were now resulting in quality submissions.

3.18 The draft Annual Report and Accounts were proposed by West Midlands and seconded by South West.

#### **4. Motions**

4.1 DC confirmed there were eight motions submitted to Conference and as all of them were proposed by National BOM, they did not require a seconder. HC introduced each motion, followed by discussion and voting. [Motions to Conference 2025 paper details each motion]

Motion 1	15 votes to 0	Passed
Motion 2	15 votes to 0	Passed
Motion 3	15 votes to 0	Passed
Motion 4	15 votes to 0	Passed
Motion 5	15 votes to 0	Passed
Motion 6	15 votes to 0	Passed
Motion 7	15 votes to 0	Passed
Motion 8	15 votes to 0	Passed

#### **5. Elections**

5.1 DC confirmed details of vacancies had been issued on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and uploaded to the website at the same time.

##### National BOM

5.2 There were four vacancies, two for three-year terms, one for a two-year term and one for a one-year term. Eight nominations had been received so a vote was required. Alex Chaplin and Sean Mulgrew secured the three-year tenures, Di Grossey secured the two-year tenure, and Nicki Stowe secured the one-year tenure.

5.3 Nigel Thomas was thanked for his many years of service on the National BOM as he had decided not to re-stand for election.

##### Finance Committee (FC)

5.4 There were two vacancies, both for three-year terms. Two nominations were received so a formal vote was not required. Sarah Fairclough and Helena Whitehead were both re-elected for three years. As Di Grossey had been elected to the National BOM, her remaining term (one year) was now vacant.

5.5 HC confirmed the National team would issue an EOI for the one-year co-option after the AGM.

#### **AP01 JR to co-ordinate EOIs for the one-year co-opted position for the FC.**

##### Awards Committee (AC)

5.6 Two nominations were received for one vacancy, so a formal vote was required. Tina Earp was re-elected for three years.

## Programme and Recruitment Committee (PDC)

5.7 Three nominations were received for the two vacancies, so a formal vote was required. Paul O'Donovan and Dave Philp were both elected for three years.

### **6. Nomination of President and Vice President**

6.1 The President and Vice-President as listed in the draft annual report, were proposed for approval by Fylde and seconded by North West.

### **7. Appointments**

#### CSSC representative

7.1 Conference agreed that DC would act as the Association's CSSC representative.

#### Auditors

7.2 DB confirmed that Dafferns & Co were willing to continue as the Association's auditors and re-appointment was recommended. Proposed for approval by Fylde and seconded by East Midlands.

### **8. National Work Programme and Draft Budget 2025**

#### National Work Plan 2025

8.1 There were no comments regarding the National Work Programme. The NWP was proposed by East of England and seconded by North West.

#### 2025 Budget

8.2 HC introduced the 2025 budget and confirmed that subscriptions would remain unchanged at £2.45. He highlighted the increase of the lottery prize pot from £819,000 to over £1m. HC stated that it was good to be in a position where the subscription rate could be fixed at the same time as being able to increase the lottery prize pot.

8.3 HC noted the use of approximately £150k-£200k from reserves to fund the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary initiatives, but said the uptake of the club anniversary grant was difficult to estimate. HC stated the forecasted overspend of £50k plus the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary spend would lead to an expected reduction in national reserves of £200k-£250k in 2025.

8.4 The 2025 budget was proposed by London and seconded by Yorkshire and Humber.

### **9. Any Other Business**

9.1 There was no AOB.

9.2 DB thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the conference.

## **May 2025**

## **Annex 1- Attendees**

Allen Ray, National Team  
Barrow Dave, National BOM/Chair  
Bowman Lynn, East of England  
Brady Michael, Scotland  
Brookfield Dorothy, Wales  
Brown Justine, South West/National BOM  
Brown Kerry, Yorks & Humber  
Browne Marjorie, London  
Burman Paula, East of England  
Callaghan Chris, Yorks & Humber  
Clarke Harvey, National Finance Director  
Couchman Tracey, South West  
Cox Danielle, North East  
Cox Laura-Jade, National Team  
Crow Dawn, National Operations Director  
Daly Simon, North West  
Davis Jo, South West  
Densham Nikki, South West  
Devey Sharon, North West  
Doherty Louise, South West  
Donegan Kevin, North West  
Dowe Lorraine, London  
Earp Tina, South West/Awards Committee  
Evans Sarah, National Team  
Eyers Shirley, North West  
Fairclough Sarah, C10K/Finance Committee  
Finan Sharon, London  
Firth Deborah, Yorks & Humber  
Fisher Sarah, South West  
Fothergill Cheryl, Fylde  
Gale Martin, Fylde/Finance Committee  
Gallop Nikki, East Midlands  
Gorbun Irena, Yorks & Humber/Awards Committee  
Griffin Kirstie, Yorks & Humber  
Grognet Rachel, East Midlands  
Hanley Julie, London  
Hennah Tracy, National Team  
Hills Lloyd, South West  
Hindle Joy, National Team  
Hogarth Jackie, National Team  
Hornsey Sarah, South West  
Howells Mandy, Wales  
Hunter Willie, Scotland/Finance Committee  
Jones Jo, West Midlands  
Jones Susan, East Midlands  
Jowitt Simon, Fylde/Programme and Delivery Committee  
King Jenny, National Team  
King Tyler, South West  
Kitchen Michelle, National Team  
Lankester Stephen, East of England  
Lees Dave, North West/Finance Committee

Lloyd Duncan, London  
Marsh Chris, Yorks & Humber  
McCormick Marie, South East  
McDermott Christopher, Fylde  
McGinty Marilyn, North West/Awards Committee  
McIlhiney Evelyn, Scotland  
Meadows Colin, South East  
Meadows Samantha, South East  
Miller Robbie, National Team  
Moorcroft Brian, National Team  
Mulgrew Sean, Scotland/National BOM  
Murphy Amanda, London  
Nandhra Harjit, East Midlands  
Nash Ann, South West/D&I Committee  
Neate Paul, Wales  
Niblett Gareth, West Midlands  
O'Donovan Paul, East of England  
O'Brien Paula, North West  
Philp Dave, South East  
Priory-Sankey Andrew, South West  
Quinn Paula, North West  
Rattu Neelam, West Midlands  
Richardson Jenny, National Team/Secretariat  
Richie Maggie, Scotland  
Roberts Allison, North West  
Rowe Mark, South West  
Saleem Jay, National Team  
Sinden Karen, Yorks & Humber/D&I Committee  
Smith Alison, Fylde  
Smith Maggie, South East  
Sneddon Jacky, National Team  
South Lee, Yorks & Humber  
Stowe Nicki, Yorks & Humber/National BOM  
Suggitt Daniel, West Midlands  
Thomas Lynne, Wales  
Thomas Nigel, East of England  
Thompson Claire, North East  
Thorogood Gary, North West/D&I Committee  
Telford David, East Midlands  
Tucker Della, East Mids  
Viney Brenda, West Midlands  
Ward Denise, North East  
Waters Keith, South East  
Whitehead Helena, East Midlands/Finance Committee  
Wilson Jodie, South West

### **Apologies**

Grossey Di, South West/Finance Committee  
Wyatt Paul, South East