

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Thursday 21st May 2026 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.

2. Minutes of the 2025 Conference

2.1 The minutes of the AGM held on 15 May 2025 and published on 28 May 2025 were put to the meeting for adoption.

2.2 The minutes were proposed by North West and seconded by London.

3. Annual Report and Accounts

3.1 Copies of the draft Annual Report and National Revenue and Lottery Accounts for 2025 were issued on 23 April 2025. DB suggested any minor amendments should be notified to Jen Richardson (JR).

3.2 Dawn Crow (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. DC reminded regions and clubs to use HASSRA Live for all their events and activities. She highlighted using HASSRA Live removed substantial time and admin required from volunteers. DC also stated that total participations was under reported to the department and using the platform would provide a more realistic figure.

3.3 DC reaffirmed that recruitment and retention remained the Association's top priority. DC stated that although total membership had increased by just over 1k in 2025, actual recruitment figures had fallen by 24%. She hoped the National Recruitment Forum would enable regions to better target their recruitment activity and share best practice. DC reminded regions to contact the National team if they needed support with their recruiting efforts, including virtual presentations.

3.4 DC shared the age and grade profile of new starters recruited into DWP over the last year. She said 72% of those staff were under 40 and 85% join in AO and EO grades. She stressed this was why the newly established Youth Forum was so important. DC was keen to understand what younger members wanted from their membership and their fresh perspective and ideas. She stated succession planning was essential for the ageing Association and looked forward to sharing the forum's progress.

3.5 DC stressed that affordability, support networks and a sense of community were essential parts for the continued success of the Association. She emphasised that the HASSRA offer provided real value to members both inside and outside of the workplace.

3.6 DC said 2025 had been yet another fantastic year for the lottery with 8,834 new or increased applications processed. DC listed some milestones, with over £1m being awarded for the first time alongside our first ever £40k jackpot winner. She said the additional 90th Anniversary draw was something to celebrate as 90 members won £1k each.

3.7 DC remarked on the truly memorable year marking the 90th Anniversary. DC said that local, regional and national activities and competitions celebrated the special milestone with thousands of members getting involved. DC stated the year reflected everything HASSRA stood for- community, generosity and shared enjoyment. DC challenged members to start thinking about the 100th celebrations!

3.8 DC noted that membership benefits continued to offer exceptional value especially in the current cost of living crisis. She noted the puzzles, quizzes and draws attracted hundreds of thousands of interactions, all of which kept members engaged, connected and coming back for more.

3.9 DC reminded members to engage with all the HASSRA Live functionality and asked for their continued support in promoting the system. She mentioned the server upgrade had improved the user experience and triumphed the year-on-year growth of website visits. DC believed the introduction of regional helpdesks had been a successful and welcomed addition for volunteers.

3.10 DC provided an update on three new initiatives; Business Unit Grants (BUGs), Retired Member Forum and Grants and the Youth Forum. She asked members to continue to promote the BUGs which were introduced last year to support members in dispersed teams. She stated the Retired Forum and grants started because of feedback from retired members who felt slightly isolated or unable to join in with office-based activities. DC said she would share the progress in due course.

AP01.01 National team to publicise workaround for retired members to have their deductions in place whilst the Capita issue remains.

2025 Accounts

3.11 HC advised there were two accounts: Revenue and Lottery. The Revenue Account had excess expenditure of £600k, while the Lottery Account had excess income of £596k. This resulted in an overall excess of expenditure of £4k. He stated it was a much smaller overspend than originally forecast despite additional funding for the 90th Anniversary.

3.12 HC confirmed that there were some notable underspends on the normal programme expenditure alongside receiving more lottery income than originally forecast. He confirmed the Association was carrying more funds than it should be, so the focus would be to manage the funds down. He also confirmed the Finance Committee would look at options to increase the lottery prize fund for next year.

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

Awards Committee

3.14 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 said how impressed she had been with the quantity and quality of the award submissions and it had proved difficult to choose the overall winners.

3.15 The draft Annual Report and Accounts were proposed by London and seconded by Scotland.

4. Motions

4.1 DC confirmed there were no motions submitted to Conference.

5. Elections

5.1 DC confirmed details of vacancies had been issued on 20th January 2026 and uploaded to the website at the same time.

National BOM

5.2 There were two vacancies, one for three-year term and the other for a one-year term. Three nominations had been received so a vote was required. Jodie Wilson secured the three-year tenure, and Nicki Stowe secured the one-year tenure.

5.3 Justine Brown was thanked for her service on the National BOM as she had decided to step down.

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. Julie Hanley and Jay Saleem were both elected for three years.

Awards Committee (AC)

5.5 Two nominations were received for one vacancy, so a formal vote was required. Marilyn McGinty was re-elected for three years.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee (D&I)

5.6 Two nominations were received for the two vacancies, so a formal vote was not required. Rachel Grognet and Ann Nash were both elected for three years.

6. Nomination of President and Vice President

6.1 The President and Vice-President were proposed for approval by Scotland and seconded by South 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 South West.

8. National Work Programme, Five Year Strategy and Draft Budget 2026

National Work Plan 2026

8.1 There were no comments regarding the National Work Programme. The NWP was proposed by London and seconded by South East.

Five Year Strategy

8.2 There were no comments on the Five-Year Strategy.

2026 Budget

8.3 HC introduced the 2026 budget and confirmed that subscriptions would remain unchanged at £2.45. HC confirmed the overall forecast outturn was an excess expenditure of £38k.

8.4 The 2026 budget was proposed by East Midlands and seconded by Wales.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 There was no AOB.

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

May 2026

Annex 1- Attendees

Baker Helen, South West
Barrow Dave, National BOM/Chair
Belova Natalia, London
Blackman James, North East
Boyd Judith, North East
Brookfield Dorothy, Wales
Brown Kerry, Yorks & Humber
Browne Chloe, East of England
Browne Marjorie, London
Clarke Harvey, National Finance Director
Couchman Tracey, South West
Crow Dawn, National Operations Director
Daly Elizabeth, North West
Daly Simon, North West
Davis Jo, South West
Dean Natasha, South West
Densham Nikki, South West
Donegan Kevin, North West
Dowe Lorraine, London
Earp Dave, South West
Earp Tina, South West/Awards Committee
Fairclough Sarah, C10K/Finance Committee
Fields Maxine, London
Flatman Paula, West Midlands
Fothergill Cheryl, Fylde
Gallop Nikki, East Midlands
Glendon Joseph, West Midlands
Grognet Rachel, East Midlands
Grossey Di, South West
Hanley Julie, London
Hennah Tracy, National Team
Higgins Geer Everlyn, South East
Hindle Joy, National Team
Howells Mandy, Wales
Hunter Willie, Scotland/Finance Committee
Ishtiqq Madi, National Team
Johnson Olumide, London
Jones Jo, West Midlands
Jones Susan, East Midlands
Jowitt Simon, Fylde/Programme and Delivery Committee
King Alex, National Team
King Jenny, National Team
Kitchen Michelle, National Team
Lankester Stephen, East of England
Lloyd Duncan, London
Longdon Ellie, South West
McCormick Marie, South East
McDermott Christopher, Fylde
McDermott Jacqueline, North East
McGinty Marilyn, North West/Awards Committee
McIlhiney Evelyn, Scotland

Meadows Colin, South East
Miller Robbie, National Team
Moorcroft Brian, National Team
Moore John, East of England
Mulgrew Sean, Scotland/National BOM
Murphy Paul, North West
Nandhra Harjit, East Midlands
Nash Ann, South West/D&I Committee
Neate Paul, Wales
Niblett Gareth, West Midlands
Patterson Catriona, Yorks & Humber
Philp Dave, South East
Priory-Sankey Andrew, South West
Purvis Andrew, North East
Quinn Paula, North West
Rattu Neelam, West Midlands
Richardson Jenny, National Team/Secretariat
Richie Maggie, Scotland
Robertson Sophie, Wales
Robinson George, East Midlands
Saleem Jay, National Team
Smart Ken, East of England
Sneddon Jacky, National Team
South Lee, Yorks & Humber
South Lyndsey, Yorks & Humber
Steadman Sadie, South West
Stimpson Darren, East of England
Stowe Nicki, Yorks & Humber/National BOM
Studley Karen, South West
Taylor Heather, East Midlands
Ward Denise, North East
Waters Keith, South East
Waters Steve, North West
Westgate Paula, North East
Williams Claire, Wales
Wright Angie, Scotland
Wright Sonia, West Midlands