



HASSRA North West Annual Report 2023

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1.1 PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Over the past few months I've been doing some digging into our past. Turns out HASSRA has quite a history. Over 100 years in fact. Indeed, it was as far back as 1921 when the Ministry of Pensions Sports Association was first founded with twenty affiliated clubs as well as cricket and association football clubs.

Thirteen years later, in 1934, the Unemployment Assistance Board was created with a network of district offices across the country. It wasn't long before staff in those offices started to organise local activities and sporting events and a clamour grew for coordinated activity on a national basis.

As a result, on 22 March 1935, the Unemployment Assistance Board Sports Association was set up with the expressed objectives of:

- Coordinating sport and recreational activity; and
- Providing for staff well-being

In the first full year, some 29 District Associations competed in cricket, football, golf, lawn tennis, table tennis, swimming, chess, hockey, netball, bowls and shooting and participated in operatics and a variety of social functions including dances and outings.

Over the next ten years membership of the Association increased exponentially and ways were sought to make the best use of equipment and resources for as many members as possible. In 1945 this led to a decision to reorganise the Society on a Regional basis. Regions were encouraged to increase their memberships and inspire their colleagues to get active and to participate in the maximum possible number of events.

And, machinery of Government and nomenclature changes aside (the Association was finally renamed HASSRA in 1969), it is in many ways remarkable how little has changed since those times.

Whilst we have seen significant geopolitical and social changes over the past century, the very essence and objectives of the Association remain constant. To bring people together to participate, collaborate, share, connect and, most importantly, have fun. Where improved social health and the feeling of 'being part of something' are natural, beneficial by-products.

In the North West our members continue to make a massive positive impact and difference to their workplace and their wider community. Social and sporting activity of whatever kind create vital bonds between colleagues that not only enhance a sense of positive mental health and wellbeing and inclusion, but have enormous business benefits too.

As I have said on many occasions, whatever we do cannot happen without the energy, passion and enthusiasm and commitment of our organisers and volunteers and the support of our valued Business Sponsors.

I'd like to thank you for all the contributions you have made in 2023.

I am very proud to be President of this great HASSRA Region and being part of something that brings people together and makes a real difference.

Gary Thorogood

HASSRA NW President

1.2 CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I'm thrilled to welcome you all to another edition HASSRA North West's Annual Report. I often get asked by people what HASSRA stands for and of course in a literal sense it stands for Health and Social Security Recreational Association, but beyond the literal words behind the HASSRA acronym, **we stand for so much more**.....

Financial benefits:

- **Discounts on a wide range of products and services:** HASSRA members gain access to exclusive deals on various things, including:
 - **Home, motor, and travel insurance**
 - **Entertainment:** cinema tickets, theatre shows, theme parks, zoos, etc.
 - **Health and fitness:** gym memberships, health clubs, yoga classes, etc.
 - **Travel and holidays:** vacation packages, hotels, cruises, etc.
 - **Shopping:** electronics, home goods, food, and more
 - **HASSRA Lottery:** During 2023 179 HASSRA NW Lottery winners shared a combined total of £67,500.
- **Free or discounted event tickets and competitions:** HASSRA North West organised more than 50 various events throughout the year, with our members often getting priority booking or discounted tickets ~ especially during our 'Summer Sizzlers' offers through July and August, with nigh on 4000 tickets purchased for these attractions delivering a combined saving to our members of over £73,000 for our members ~ & over £5,000 in vouchers and prizes in free-to-enter competitions.

Social benefits:

- **Connect with colleagues:** Meet and socialise with colleagues from different departments and offices within the North West Region and Nationally (at NW events & HASSRA Festivals)
- **Join clubs and activities:** Participate in various clubs and activities organised by HASSRA, such as sports teams, social groups, and single activity clubs like our HASSRA NW Photography and Drama Clubs
- **Network with like-minded individuals:** Build connections with people who share similar interests and hobbies.

Wellbeing benefits:

- **Access to health and wellbeing resources:** HASSRA provides members with information and resources on various health and wellbeing topics, such as mental health, stress management, and healthy living.
- **Discounts on health and fitness activities:** With discounts on gym memberships, fitness classes, and other health-related activities, including free combined membership of Manchester & District Orienteering Club & the North West Orienteering Association, advertised in March.

Additional benefits:

- **Receive regular updates and news:** By staying informed about HASSRA events, news, and benefits through HASSRA Live, our quarterly newsletter NW Pulse, Facebook page & direct-to-member email.

Supporting good causes:

- HASSRA North West has regularly raised more money for charitable causes than any other region. During 2023 15 of our 33 clubs raised £26,748.23 for their chosen charities.

And **we stand for so much more** for even more members, now, having recruited 755 new members during 2023 ~ more than any other region!

I am so proud to be part of HASSRA North West, which is full of passionate, innovative, dedicated people with a shared vision, to improve the lives of our members. It is a place where everyone matters. If there is more that we can do to improve our offer then please give us the challenge ~ we're waiting!

I would like to thank my HASSRA North West Board of Management for all of their hard work in 2023, and significant success in delivering so much for our members. I cordially invite you to consider if you'd care to add value and join our magnificent Team ~ if you believe so we would love to hear from you.

Kindest regards

Simon Daly
HASSRA NW Chair

2. INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the events & activities undertaken by HASSRA North West (NW) throughout 2023. It includes details of membership, the Board of Management, our affiliated clubs & other resources that we draw upon in order to make HASSRA North West an active & successful Region.

2.1 Our Region

HASSRA NW covers a large geographical area & has one of the largest membership bases across HASSRA UK. These factors can present a number of logistical & organisational problems. That said it remains our aim to provide opportunities for all & reach out to as many members as possible, including DWP employees, Associate and Retired members & our Special Hospital. We make every effort to allow all members to participate in their chosen sport or leisure activity as well as affording them the opportunity to access benefits with their friends & family.

The HASSRA NW Board of Management (BOM) is responsible, with the assistance of our various sub-groups for:

- * agreeing & delivering an annual calendar of events & competitions;
- * ensuring value for money;
- * sourcing membership benefits
- * tying together our HASSRA ethos with DWP's Health & Wellbeing agenda;
- * communicating our business & opportunities to local clubs (by email, HASSRA NW website, HASSRA Live, social media & our quarterly newsletter (NW Pulse)); &
- * providing support to local clubs.

All members of the BOM & those involved in running local clubs are volunteers & each year HASSRA NW recognises their commitment & members' success in sporting and recreational activities at our Regional Awards Dinner.

2.2 HASSRA NW Council & Governing Body

President	-	Gary Thorogood
Chair	-	Simon Daly
Vice Chair	-	Paul Murphy
Life Vice Presidents	-	Dennis Hatton, Retired Member Ron Kilburn, Retired Member Bill Marks, Retired Member Dave Roberts, Retired Member Paul Adams, Retired Member
Regional Finance Manager	-	Jackie Clydesdale
Affiliated Clubs	-	One representative from each club

2.3 Board of Management (BOM)

Our BOM met via face to face & virtual meetings during 2023, working together to provide offers, events & discounts for our members, always on the lookout for adventures which may draw in new members.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2023 met on 3 March, & was attended by 18 members representing 12 clubs.

The BOM members elected at the AGM were:

Jane Dineen
Marilyn McGinty
Allison Roberts
Paula Quinn
Mel Cowen
Sandra McCann
Paul Murphy
Steve Waters
Brad Dermott
Kevin Donegan
Dom Smith

{FOOTNOTE ~ Liz Hughes joined BOM 3 June & was formally co-opted at our BOM meeting held 22 September 2023}

2.4 BOM Sub-Groups

In addition to the BOM meetings, our sub-groups hold separate meetings to deal with specific areas of business & make proposals for ratification in their specialist areas of expertise. During 2023 we reviewed our operating practices & decided to close down some of the sub-groups, deciding better to tackle certain activities at BOM (eg, recruitment & membership) or on an 'as & when' basis. On the other hand we set up our Diversity & Inclusion sub-group ~ more of which in the body of this Report. For the record, then, the range of sub-group business (actual or 'as & when') now consists of the following ~

- **Finance & Policy (F&P)** ~ responsible for overseeing Regional Finance Manager (RFM ~ a National Team post) financial updates at quarterly meetings, raising queries where appropriate & cascade issues where required to BOM. F&P are regularly called upon to make decisions on funding National & Regional events, individual expenses claims & determining the level of club rebates. F&P also work with our RFM on future budget planning for the Region.
- **Competitions** ~ responsible for maintaining a consistent number of Regional events for NW members through a Regional calendar, ensuring viability of current events, & introducing taster day events. The sub-group also carries out reviews of poorly attended events & looks towards introducing new events - recruiting & training new organisers where necessary. The Competitions sub-group also ensures links with CSSC North West continue to enhance the Regional programme.
- **Events & Trips** ~ responsible for sourcing, developing & arranging non-formal competitions, events & trips for the HASSRA NW membership, providing the best value for money whilst ensuring the necessary risk assessments are carried out & all other processes are followed.
- **Admin Support Team** ~ acknowledging reducing headcount in the HASSRA National Team, undertakes much of the administrative work that would previously have been dealt with by the former HASSRA Regional Business Partner (a National Team post now defunct).
- **Awards Dinner** ~ responsible for organising the NW Annual Awards Dinner, including the issuing of appropriate invites, arranging the venue, menu, accommodation & a charity raffle,

- **Awards** ~ always on the lookout to consider new methods of attracting an increased number of Regional award nominations; checks viability of Regional award categories; generates our annual awards process; considers awards submissions & makes decisions on winners for each category; liaises with the Awards Dinner sub-group to ensure invites are issued for all short-listed nominees to the Awards Dinner.
- **Diversity & Inclusion** ~ see para 4.3.

2.5 Affiliated Clubs

Following club closures & mergers we have 30 local clubs operating in our Region. They are:

Barrow Craven House JCP	Birkenhead CSAC
Birkenhead Horden House	Blackburn, Darwen & Accrington
Bootle DBC	Bootle HSE
Chester Chantry House	Chorlton
Didsbury	East Lancs
Hyde	Lancaster
Liverpool ICE	Liverpool Belle Vale
Makerfield BC	Manchester Hub
Middleton	HASSRA Golf
Preston BDC	Preston Office Centre
Rochdale	Runcorn JCP
Southport	St Helens
Stockport Heron House JCP	Stockport Millennium House
Trafford Quays	Wallasey
Warrington	Whitehaven

We continue to support enquiries from sites considering starting up a new club, be it a local club or a single activity club. Need any help? Do please contact us at hassra.nw@dwp.gov.uk

3. **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT**

During 2023 we recruited 755 new members (up by 39.56% on 2022 recruitment, & more than any other region). Including 426 retired & 240 associate members. The year closed with 7,166 members at 31 December 2023 (52% of DWP NW Staff), the second largest association in HASSRA (North East Region closed the year with the largest membership (7,329 members)).

4. **ORGANISATION OF ASSOCIATION BUSINESS**

4.1 Communication

At 31 December 2023, of our 7,166 members ~

- 5,448 (73.2%) had activated their HASSRA Live accounts (+300 on 2022 figures)
- we had 1,205 followers of our Facebook page (+83 on 2022 figures)

During the year we maximised our use of HASSRA Live. All our events, offers & competitions are now hosted solely using this extremely useful tool, where we specifically tailor our comms depending upon the event or offer, enabling more efficient management of activities for our HASSRA NW organisers.

If your local club is not using HASSRA Live to your own advantage, please contact our Communications Lead, Kevin Donegan, to arrange an upskilling session for your local committee member(s), at hassra.nw@dwp.gov.uk

In 2023 we hosted activities ranging from floristry events to archery competitions to a Murder Mystery Night to a weekend break in France, successfully collating all the relevant information we needed in one easy-to-find location, on HASSRA Live, complying with relevant Government Data Protection Regulations into the bargain.

We also ran 15 competitions using the HASSRA Live prize draw facility to give away over £5,000 in vouchers & prizes, which attracted over 12,000 entries from HASSRA NW members.

Trialled for the first time in 2021, we once again used HASSRA Live to host Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the HASSRA September Festival, to find members to represent us in 6 events for which there were no Regional qualifiers. With events advertised in this way, ranging from knitting to photography, we attracted registrations from 26 members, & will be the way we do Festival business in the future.

All events, offers, competitions & EOIs are also advertised to our members via email, our Facebook page, & our quarterly newsletter, "NW Pulse." And in the event of there being limited spaces available we always provide at least 48 hours notice before launching the event for bookings on HASSRA Live, to ensure all members have an equal chance of securing a place.

HASSRA Live is now the must-have tool for all the events, competitions, activities & offers we'll be presenting during 2024. Take-up will be only available via members' HASSRA Live accounts. So we encourage you to promote this facility with your members & colleagues. Especially because,

Whilst we'll continue to use NW Pulse & Facebook to advertise events & offers (providing appropriate links to the HASSRA Live pages for people to visit), we're restricted in what we can advertise on those media for contractual reasons (eg, we can't advertise levels of discounts for certain attractions). So some information provided via NW Pulse & Facebook will be limited, & **the best place to receive, view & take advantage of all the benefits of HASSRA is with your HASSRA Live account (ideally using your personal email address), at <https://www.hassra.org.uk/>**

4.2 Finance (including assets)

All of our HASSRA NW branded assets (including trophies) are managed (goods in & out throughout the year) via a spreadsheet maintained by our AdminTeam. A stocktake is conducted annually at our storage unit in Accrington. The stocktake was conducted on 18 February 2023, by Simon Daly, Kevin Donegan, Paula & Peter Quinn, Marilyn & Dave McGinty & Paul Adams.

Represented below are details of the Regional balance sheet & income over expenditure details for the year ending 31 December 2023, which demonstrate ~

- Total annual spend of £170,351.01, resulting in
- A year-end excess of expenditure over income of £30,929.74 (which, had it been necessary, is adequately covered by our Treasury Bond)

We are indebted to Jackie Clydesdale for preparing the accounts, & to Scott Whiteside for his audit services.

HASSRA - North West

ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET - 31.12.23

	<i>INCOME</i>		<i>EXPENDITURE</i>
Balance held on 1.1.23		Balance held on 31.12.23	
Treasury Bond	£115,000.00	Treasury Bond	£115,000.00
Lloyds	£143,212.01	Lloyds	£112,282.27
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£258,212.01		£227,282.27
Income 1.1.23 to 31.12.23	139,421.27	Expenditure 1.1.23 to 31.12.23	170,351.01
	<u>£397,633.28</u>		<u>£397,633.28</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT - 31.12.23

Balance at 1.1.23	£258,212.01
Balance at 31.12.23	£227,282.27
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-£30,929.74

Prepared by Jackie Clydesdale

Date 15/01/2024

Audited by Scott Whiteside

Date 07/02/2024

Audited by Di Grossey

Date 07/02/2024

INCOME		EXPENSES	
HASSRA Rebate	£128,988.53	Club Payments	£40,180.00
CSSC Grant	£7,652.50	CSSC	£3,019.69
Other Income	£318.78	Activity Days	£6,087.00
Interest	£2,461.46	AGM	£819.30
		Annual Awards	£9,986.59
		BOM	£3,098.45
		Angling	£4,364.34
		Bowls	£1,926.96
		Cinema Subsidy	£19,908.55
		Donations (Reward & Recognition)	£1,250.00
		Conference	£476.88
		Cricket (Indoor)	£2,070.60
		Darts	£78.40
		Discounts	£140.00
		Drama	£691.58
		Festivals	£170.47
		Golf	£3,726.81
		Kit & Equipment	£828.00
		New Initiatives	£2,327.47
		Promotional	£1,315.20
		Recruitment	£7.00
		Regional Sports	£506.20
		Table Tennis	£170.79
		Ten Pin	£1,168.76
		Tickets	£42,689.87
		Trips	£15,228.00
		Trophies	£361.50
		Vouchers	£7,749.00
		Miscellaneous	£3.60
TOTAL INCOME	£139,421.27	TOTAL EXPENSES	£170,351.01
(Figure from Balance Sheet)	£139,421.27	(Figure from Balance Sheet)	£170,351.01

Timely completion of annual Chairs Certificates & club accounts continue to be an issue across the Region; are now under scrutiny by HASSRA National; & will be discussed at our AGM on 1 March. We recognise, empathise & totally understand that pressure of work & hybrid working may have made it difficult for some clubs to complete the paperwork on time. But the Top Tip ~ if clubs are to avoid penalties in reduced rebates ~ is to contact us. At the end of the day we cannot allow members' money to go unaccounted for. We offer one-to-one support sessions for clubs & club officials who may be struggling. If you would like to take us up on this offer please contact us at hassra.nw@dpw.gov.uk

Or if you're just not sure of the processes to be followed, there are on-line tutorials for the completion of annual accounts & Chairs Certificates on HASSRA Live.

4.3 Diversity & Inclusion (D&I)

In HASSRA NW we're keen to be, & to be seen to be, a wholly inclusive organisation where all our members feel they belong, have a voice, can be their authentic selves & are treated fairly & with respect & where our membership reflects more broadly the demographic make-up of our Department & Arm's Length Bodies.

To bring those words to life in 2023 we set up a D&I Sub-Group, with the following Terms of Reference ~

- Operate with tact & understanding to best sell the benefits of our aims & objectives to existing & potential members
- Analyse HASSRA National annual reporting on the demographic make-up of HASSRA membership, & annual insight gathering exercises (surveys, listening circles etc) to better understand, & help us meet, the needs of our diverse membership
- Consider bespoke HASSRA NW Diversity & Inclusion insight exercises to better understand the needs of our HASSRA NW Family
- Support HASSRA NW's marketing strategy to attract new members including, where identified, proposals on targeting specific under-represented groups
- Develop proposals to widen the diversity of BOM membership & in so doing, bring in different voices, insights & lived experience to the way we do things & how we make our decisions; challenging the status quo where necessary
- Continually review our Regional offer (events, activities etc) to members to ensure they are as inclusive as they possibly can be
- Link with work done by the HASSRA National Board of Management to understand the operational impact of Departmental & Civil Service policy changes that may impact on Diversity & Inclusion for our HASSRA NW Family

And recognising it's not just what you say but how you say it, we're presently researching on-line word software which will remove gender favouritism, racially-insensitive language & other unequal phrasing to sense-check all our communications products.

5.WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

5.1 HASSRA NW Events

2023 saw HASSRA NW organise over 50 events, offers & taster sessions for our members. Our biggest & busiest year ever! Arguably the most significant highlight was our extremely well-received Chester Zoo subsidy that was taken up by 155 members, all of whom benefited from discounts of up to 40% off the "on the gate" prices for this award-winning family attraction, netting a collective £6,392.50 subsidy for this exclusive-to-HASSRA NW offer. And only available because it was cannily negotiated with Chester Zoo by one of our Events Sub-Group members, Paula Quinn.

Our Volunteer Weekend was held in March, with 8 volunteers coached & mentored on how to research, cost, advertise & run events for HASSRA NW, by Simon Daly, Paul Adams, & Kevin Donegan at Troutbeck Youth Hostel, near Windermere, in the stunning surroundings of The Lake District. Which delivered another successful event in 2023

Using the skills & advice she gained during the Volunteer Weekend, Sarah Tully (Trafford Quays club) successfully negotiated for a full carriage at the East Lancashire Railway's Murder Mystery weekend held in October. The event was advertised on HASSRA Live, & all 48 places sold out in less than 12 hours ~ the fastest selling event we have ever advertised!

The event was such a success that the event report & associated photos were picked up by HASSRA National & featured in their own social media. Sarah has since negotiated 2 more Murder Mystery events for 2024, one of which was advertised early in January 2024 & sold out in little over a day.

Another output from our Volunteer Weekend, implemented subsequently by Jackie Townsend, was free membership of the British Orienteering Federation as well as 8 months (May to December 2023) membership of the Manchester & District Orienteering Club.

Membership allows people to take part in orienteering events & competitions organised by both the Manchester & District Orienteering Club & the North West Orienteering Association & is worth £25 per person, with Jackie's ultimate goal ~ to see if a Single Activity Club for Orienteering may be established within our Region.

Have a read about the HASSRA NW Volunteer Weekend & the participants ideas in Issue 5 of our feature-packed Newsletter [NW Pulse](#)

We'll be running another Volunteer Weekend in 2024 ~ watch out for details on HASSRA Live.

Running on back of the success of the England Women's Football Team we negotiated for members to have subsidised access to a Women's Super League match involving either Everton, Liverpool, Manchester City or Manchester United, 10 members taking advantage of the offer.

We arranged 6 floristry workshops in conjunction with Bramble Grove Floral Designs, held at Easter, Halloween & Christmas. 31 members & guests took advantage of the activity, which are proving to be a popular addition to our annual calendar of events ~ watch out for more in 2024 in various locations across our Region.

We ran a continental weekend trip to Lille in France for their fantastic Christmas Markets. 48 members & guests took advantage of the offer & enjoyed a festive seasonal weekend which included accommodation at the 4* Radisson Park Inn.

Our Photography Single Activity Club built on its increased membership by arranging 2 events in 2023 ~ a night photography session with vintage trams, & a birds of prey photography session ~ which attracted 20 members.

Utilising the knowledge, skills, expertise & equipment of one of our members, Adrian O'Brien, we arranged an Archery taster session which was attended by 48 members, & we're planning to arrange further sessions of what has turned out to be a popular activity amongst our members.

Once again we arranged subsidised entrance to the Southport Flower Show & the Royal Horticultural Society's show at Tatton Park, with 50 members & their guests enjoying these fantastic North West floral attractions.

For those who like their events with a little more action, we once again offered a £5 rebate per ticket for up to 4 tickets per member for the Southport Air Show, with 11 members purchasing 32 tickets.

We also offered a rebate of £10 per ticket for up to 2 tickets per member for the Royal Lancashire Show, with 12 members purchasing 24 tickets.

And finally, we ran our very popular “Summer Sizzlers” promotional offer. Once again, working with HASSRA National to co-ordinate additional discounts exclusively for HASSRA North NW **on top of** the HASSRA National discounts, our members could receive a further discount bringing the price of Flamingo Land tickets down to just £15, Lightwater Valley tickets down to just £10, & tickets to Gulliver’s World down to the almost unbelievable price of just £5.

Added to this we also negotiated a further discount of £5 per order, up to 2 times per month, on cinema ticket purchases via our partner, “The Cinema Society.” Both of these exclusive-to-HASSRA NW offers were due to run throughout July & August but due to unprecedented demand (and a slight overspend in our original budget) we were forced to end the offers early in August. Nearly 4000 tickets were purchased for these attractions with a combined saving of over £73,000 for our members. And, during the promotion, we recruited 200 new HASSRA NW members. Outstanding!

We could not have provided such a varied & exciting range of events & offers if it were not for you, our members. Thank you for taking part so enthusiastically, & please let us know if you have any ideas that you would like us to consider for the future by contacting us at hassra.nw@dwp.gov.uk

5.2 HASSRA NW Competitions

Fair to reflect that our competitions agenda was pretty much dominated by preparation for & attendance at the HASSRA festivals which, as usual, were scheduled for July & September. In addition, the one cancelled at the last minute in September 2022 was rearranged (in part) for April 2023. So, for the first time, there were 3 festivals in one calendar year.

In **April**, all of the events took place indoors & (with the exception of pool & snooker) were all held on campus at Warwick University. A total of 24 places were available across 10 events, & Team NW ended up with 20 competitors ~ the biggest regional team. We had a few near misses (gym triathlon & pop quiz) but, this time, no winners or runners-up.

However, **July** was a successful event in many ways ~ our best for a good while, a more traditional set of competitions & events providing 54 places across 11 different activities. After lots of effort, flexibility, & 2 movement between events, we travelled with the knowledge of a full squad of 54 in place & raring to go. One had to drop out of rounders at the last minute, but we still had a magnificent turnout of 53. With the weather glorious this time, Team NW had a lot of success to match ~

- **Tennis (Men):** Ian Hartley retained the national singles title for the 8th consecutive year &, for the 2nd year running, the doubles title with his partner Matt Gibson.
- **Flat Green Bowls (Men):** Ian Burgess won the men’s singles title.
- **Flat Green Bowls (Ladies):** Heather Walsh won the ladies singles title.
- **Flat Green Bowls (Mixed Pairs):** Colin Parry & Linda Hough won the plate competition.
- **Drama:** Team NW won Best Production – the successful team comprising Susan Ascroft, Russell Benson, Deborah Burns, Melanie Crook, Marcia Hewitt, Tracey Melling, Darren Moss, Nicholas Peat, & Phil Quinn. And 3 of the performers reached the final for best actor
- **General Knowledge Quiz:** The team of Tony Gannon, Paul McAteer, Steve Waters, & Paul Carroll battled through the table quiz & then the semi-final, before losing the final to London Region for the 2nd year in a row – again missing out in the very last round. Close, but no cigar!

- **Tennis (Ladies):** Carol Sheehan & Elaine Forrester achieved ladies' runners-up spot.
- There were a few other near misses, too. The **rounders** and the **men's 5-a-side** teams both reached the semi-finals in their respective events.

The **September** festival had 48 spaces available over 13 different events. It took a lot of legwork to build the team up this time & anecdotally, this was also the situation with all the other regions, too. Maybe a little Festival fatigue had set in, this being the third festival in 5 months. Despite this, the day before the event started, we still had a turnout of 43 but, in the final 24 hours, we received an unprecedented number of drop-outs on account of illness, injury, or personal circumstances. Something to bear in mind when planning recruitment & selection for 2024.

{FOOTNOTE: We held an ad hoc BOM on 18 October 2023 to discuss & strengthen our future festivals planning & recruitment process}

We were still well represented in the competitive team events though, & Team NW were able to add some more silverware to that which we gathered in July. We had winners in two more national events who we were able to cheer to the Presentation Night stage ~

- **Ten-Pin Bowling:** We were very close to winning the team event, but individually Jackie Arnold did retain her ladies title with some outstanding scoring – her third consecutive success at the festivals.
- **Snooker:** A former multiple national champion, Mark Miller, had this year returned to the HASSRA NW fold, and he didn't disappoint, winning yet another National title.
- **Darts:** The team of Adrian O'Brien, Dave Jacks, & Michael O'Grady battled through the rounds but fell just short, losing out to SW region in the final.

HASSRA NW details of the July 2024 Festival are now available on HASSRA Live.

5.3 CSSC Competitions

In 2023 HASSRA NW was allocated a CSSC grant amounting to £7,652.50, of which £3,019 was spent supporting our members who participated in the following events with significant success.

CROWN GREEN BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP

- **National mixed pairs:** Won by Linda Hough (partnered by a Fylde member)
- **6-a-side National:** Our squad (I Burgess, C Parry, Linda Hough, Steve Peters, Paul Holden, Alan Turner, Martyn Rawlinson & Jackie Butterworth) lost by 1 shot in the final having won all other qualifying games
- **Open National singles:** From a squad of Alan Turner, Ste Peters, M Rawlinson & Linda Hough, Alan & Ste qualified for finals day but without further success.

FLAT GREEN BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP

- **Regional Indoor Open singles:** Won by Ian Burgess (with entries from I Burgess, C Parry, P Holden, L Hough, H Walsh & A Turner)
- **Regional indoor open pairs:** I Burgess & C Parry Runners-Up (with entries from Burgess/Parry, Hough/Walsh & Butterworth/Holden)

- **Regional open triples:** Won by I Burgess, C Parry & P Holden (with entries from Burgess/Parry/Holden & Hough/Walsh/Turner)
- Our Singles & Triples winners qualified for the National finals but without further success

International England vs Scotland (4-a-side Quads): Our HASSRA NW Team (I Burgess, C Parry, P Holden & J Butterworth) were invited to represent England & won all 3 matches in the event held over 3 days in Carlisle.

INTER-ASSOCIATION NATIONAL SHORE FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

- **NW singles qualifier:** Won by A Turner
- **Singles Final:** A Turner section winner
- **National Championship Team event (team of 3):** Won by HASSRA NW for second time

INTER-ASSOCIATION NW FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

- Runner-Up A Turner

5.4 Cinema Tickets

HASSRA NW members purchased 17,433 cinema tickets during 2023, generating an overall subsidy to our members of £17,145.

5.5 Other National membership benefits enjoyed by HASSRA NW members

- On-line Shop purchases: 1,269 orders purchased 5,326 tickets (more than any other region)
- HASSRA Development Scheme applications: 2 awards (golf coaching & cue sports) amounting to £300 & £240 respectively
- In HASSRA NW we had 179 Lottery winners, sharing a total of £67,500. Yup, you've got to be in it to win it! **For application forms visit HASSRA Live.**

5.6 Charity Fundraising

HASSRA NW clubs have an excellent record for fundraising & have demonstrated year on year that you can "make a difference" & enjoy yourself at the same time!

During 2023 15 of our 30 clubs raised £26,748.23 for their chosen charities.

6. ANNUAL AWARDS



As an acknowledgement of the significant commitment & achievement of our members, officials & volunteers throughout the year, HASSRA NW conventionally holds an Annual Awards Dinner on the evening of our AGM, where we proudly recognise & reward achievement from across the Region with a number of trophies which recognise club & personal accomplishments.

We launched our 2023 Awards process on November 2023, & received 30 nominations in 12 categories. We didn't receive any nominations for ~

- Best Small Club
- Best Business Sponsor
- Best Newcomer
- Innovation

We will announce the winners of our 2023 Awards at our Annual Awards Dinner on 1 March 2024.

Huge congratulations to our 2022 award winners, who were as follows ~

Alan Holland Trophy for Volunteer of the Year

Kevin Donegan (Birkenhead CSAC)

R L Jackson Trophy for Best Large Club

Trafford Quays

Best Newcomer

Debbie Hurlley-Smith (East Lancs)

Best Performance for a Non-Sporting Event

Nicholas Peat (East Lancs)

Best Single Activity Club

Fantasy Football Club (East Lancs)

Bob Dover Trophy for Team Manager/Organiser of the Year

Sasha Reardon (Trafford Quays)

Best Sportswoman

Rebekah Warburton

Best Sportsman

Ashley Robertson (Ashworth Special Hospital)

K C Martin Trophy for Best Communications

Trafford Quays

Paul Adams Trophy for Wellbeing

Birkenhead CSAC

Innovation

Manchester Hub

Charles Boyes Trophy for Best Contributor

Paul Durham (Trafford Quays)

Pilling Hughes Charity Shield for The Most Money Raised for Charity

Hyde

Ashworth POA Charity Trophy for The Most Money Raised for Charity per Member Hyde

7. CONCLUSION

Formed in 1935, HASSRA has been providing sports & leisure opportunities to our members for 88 years. In 2023 HASSRA NW's contribution to our members' morale, health & wellbeing was as important as ever & we've risen to the challenge, providing opportunities to grow our Association, enjoy free & subsidised entertainment, have fun, have a laugh, win some cash, win lots of inter-region & inter-association competitions, & raise loads of money for charity into the bargain.

We've done our very best to maintain a strong sense of community, social connectivity & social inclusion at a time when hybrid working had many of our people all over the place. And we've significantly increased the opportunities available to our members (maximising HASSRA Live, with direct member engagement via personal accounts, to make it all happen). We will cement our approach to social inclusion through our D&I Sub-Group during 2024.

We've laid on 15 free-to-enter competitions & more than 50 events, more than ever before. And we've recruited 755 new HASSRA NW members ~ more than ever before, & more than any other region in 2023!

We're a powerful coalition of members & volunteer organisers. I'm immensely proud that our HASSRA NW Family has delivered so much for our members during the last year, & pulled together so famously, determined to support our members, their families, & their chosen charities, be that working from home or in the office.

Preparing this Annual Report satisfies a HASSRA Constitutional requirement ~ we *have* to do it. But we *want* to do it because it provides us with the opportunity to be accountable to our members, celebrate success, & hopefully serve as a recruitment tool in its own right. Once this Report has been approved at Conference, I'll distribute a 2-page summary with headlines & highlights ~

- If you're a club official, please take the opportunity to print some copies & put them in communal areas on your DWP site
- If you're a line manager or Business Sponsor, please take the opportunity to publicise it at management team meetings
- If you're a wellbeing advocate, please publicise it at your wellbeing meetings
- If you're involved in diversity & inclusion at your office, please publicise it at your D&I meetings.

In a similar vein we have lots of promotional material & HASSRA freebies for you to use at HASSRA recruitment drives on your DWP site. If you want to know more, please contact us at hassra.nw@dwp.gov.uk

Thank you so much.

Paul Adams
Life Vice President
HASSRA North West