



Annual Conference & Awards Dinner 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday 24 March 2023
Location: 82 Suite, Aston Villa Football Club, Trinity Road,
Birmingham, B6 6HE

Welcome:

Moz Baker opened the evening by welcoming all delegates to the 2022 Annual Conference and Awards Dinner at Aston Villa Football Club. Moz congratulated everyone as HASSRA West Midlands was the reigning Best Regional Association, having won the award for 2021.

Moz thanked the Senior Leaders who had given up their personal time to attend the Awards Dinner, namely:

- Alice Hopkins (Head of Access to Work, Industrial Injuries Disability Benefit and Personal Independence Payments and HASSRA West Midlands Regional President)
- Andy Richmond (Central England Regional Leader for Counter Fraud, Compliance and Debt and West Midlands Regional Chair)
- Bev Beetison (Head of Disability Services)
- Lyndley Jenks (DWP Operational Centre Partnerships Leader)

Regional President's Address:

Alice Hopkins reflected upon her time within the Civil Service and how it has been a privilege to undertake the role of HASSRA Regional President. Alice confirmed that she'll remain in HASSRA beyond her retirement and asked clubs to continue promoting the excellent range of offers and benefits available through the association. With 4,412 members we have a product to be extremely proud of, though we must continue to both attract new members and retain our existing ones. Key to membership is ensuring those who may be leaving the Department are aware that they can remain within the association as a National Associate Member or a Retired Member with deductions through pension.

Alice stated that it had been a joy to be part of HASSRA West Midlands for many years and confirmed that Helene Dearn, West Midlands Group Director for Work & Health Services, will take over as Regional President following her retirement.

Regional Chair's Address:

Andy Richmond welcomed everyone to the Annual Conference and Awards Dinner. Andy expressed his thanks to everyone within West Midlands for their contribution to the region at all levels – volunteers, event organisers, local club committees and Board of Management members, their collective hard work was the reason HASSRA West Midlands was awarded the Best Regional Association for 2021, everyone should be extremely proud of this achievement. It is the 3rd time the region has been crowned best national association during his reign as Regional Chair.

Andy reflected on the benefits HASSRA can offer to members during the current cost of living challenges. Our range of cashback initiatives, competitions, discounted theatre shows, and cinema ticket subsidies have saved members more than £27,000 over the past year. It has also been another bumper year for regional winners in the HASSRA National Lottery, with a total of 123 West Midlands members winning a collective sum of £60,400 in prize money and we've recently had a member from Telford New Town House win the £15,000 first prize in the February 2023 draw.

Andy thanked members and local clubs for their contribution to charity throughout 2022. Thanks to the generosity of members across the region we've raised more than £5,200 for various local and national charities. Andy also acknowledged the fantastic effort of the West Midlands regional drama group, who in November 2022, raised a fantastic £1,135.10 for Birmingham homelessness support charity SIFA Fireside from tickets sales for their national Festival award winning production of 'Walk On By'.

Andy closed by thanking everyone who has supported HASSRA at both a local club and regional level over the last year, members hard work and dedication doesn't go unrecognised, and he is extremely grateful and appreciative of everything colleagues do.

Apologies:

Moz Baker detailed apologies from the following:

- Helene Dearne – Work & Health Services, West Midlands Group Director
- Annette Rodgers – Business Sponsor for Telford New Town House
- Sandra Pollard – West Midlands Regional Board of Management
- Riaz Khan – Business Sponsor for HASSRA Erdington

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all tables in advance and agreed. There were no matters arising.

Proposed: Daniel Suggitt

Seconded: Tim Willis-Cotton

Finance Report:

Brenda Viney introduced herself as Chair of the Regional Finance Committee and outlined her responsibility to ensure financial integrity for all West Midlands members in both regional and local club accounts.

The 2022 accounts were published as part of the Annual Report that was issued to all delegates in advance. The report indicates that the annual regional running costs are around £85,000. At the end of 2022, West Midlands has money in the bank worth £154,799.33. As both a region and network of local clubs, we need to ensure this money and associated savings and benefits are passed on to our members.

Brenda informed delegates of a change to local club rebates with immediate effect. Club rebates will now be paid at the point local club accounts have been audited and accepted by the Regional Finance Manager, rather than in August of each year. Membership rebates will also be paid based on membership at 31st December each year instead of 31st March. Those clubs whose accounts have already been accepted will have annual rebates paid immediately.

Brenda praised Jackie Clydesdale, our Regional Finance Manager for her work throughout the past year in keeping our accounts in order and for being so accommodating to our requests - not an easy job given the range of activities we organise and the sums of money we spend! Brenda also thanked Dave Roberts and John Daniels for taking the time to audit our regional accounts.

There were no questions from attendees on the regional finances.

Proposed: Daniel Suggitt

Seconded: Shelly Smith

Election of Board of Management Members:

Moz Baker thanked the HASSRA West Midlands Board of Management for serving the region so well over the past 12 months. All Board members expressed their desire to re stand for election in 2023:

- Daniel Suggitt
- Gareth Niblett
- Sonia Wright
- Sandra Pollard
- Brenda Viney
- Asma Choudhury
- Jo Jones
- Shelly Smith
- Andy Collin
- Mandy Chilton

All Board of Management members were re-elected.

Proposed: Tim Willis-Cotton

Seconded: Teina Myatt

Auditors:

The 2022 regional accounts were audited by Dave Roberts and John Daniels. Thanks to both for taking the time to audit the accounts.

Proposed: Asma Choudhury

Seconded: Teina Myatt

Motions for Conference and Nomination of Delegate to Attend:

Moz Baker confirmed that the HASSRA National Conference and Awards Dinner will take place on Thursday 11 May 2023 at the University of Warwick. There are no regional motions for Conference.

Our regional delegate to attend the National Conference in May, as agreed at the Regional Board meeting on Friday 10 February 2023 is Daniel Suggitt. Daniel will be joined by Deputy Regional Chair Gareth Niblett.

Proposed: Jo Jones

Seconded: Asma Choudhury

AOB – Moz Baker:

No items were raised from the floor for AOB.

2022 Annual Award Ceremony:

Moz Baker introduced the 2022 annual awards ceremony, an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of all in the West Midlands throughout the past year. The regional awards were announced as follows:

Category	Winner
Best Large Club	Winners: Telford New Town House 2 nd Place: Birmingham Arena Central 3 rd Place: Nuneaton Debt Management Centre
Best Small Club	Winners: HASSRA Shrewsbury Runners Up: Worcester HASSRA
Business Sponsor of the Year	Julie Kennedy (Nuneaton Debt Management Centre)
Volunteer of the Year	Winner: Daniel Suggitt (Telford New Town House) Highly Commended: Neelu Jassal (Walsall Service Centre)
Best Sports Person	Lois Smalley (Nuneaton Debt Management Centre)
Best Arts & Crafts Contribution	Annie White (Wolverhampton Molineux House)
Best Newcomer	Joy Rudge (National Associate Member)
Innovation Award	Telford New Town House
An outstanding contribution to charity – The Lynda Gadsden Memorial Trophy	Raj Ram (Wolverhampton Molineux House)
Best Communication	HASSRA Shrewsbury
Merit Award – For outstanding service to HASSRA	Wendy Price (Wolverhampton Molineux House)

Andy Richmond presented Alice Hopkins with flowers and a gift as a thank you for her service to the West Midlands region over many years and wished her well for retirement.

Moz Baker closed the evening by thanking Sonia Wright, Daniel Suggitt and Gareth Niblett for their hard work organising such a fantastic evening. Moz thanked everyone for their attendance and wished all an enjoyable evening and safe journey home.

End of meeting.