



## 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** Friday 15 March 2024 – 7:00pm  
**Location:** WV1 Restaurant, Wolverhampton Wanderers Molineux Stadium

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### **Welcome:**

Moz Baker opened the evening by welcoming delegates to the 2023 Annual Conference and Awards Dinner at Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club. The evening was the opportunity to celebrate the collective achievements of HASSRA West Midlands over the past year.

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

- Mandy Williams - West Midlands Group Strategic Partnership Manager.
- Lyndley Jenks - DWP Operational Centre Partnerships Leader.
- Andy Richmond - CFCD Central England Regional Leader and HASSRA West Midlands Regional Chair.
- Helene Dearn OBE - West Midlands Group Director for Work & Health Services and HASSRA West Midlands Regional President.

Apologies were noted for:

- Carl Bowkett – HASSRA West Midlands Board of Management Member
- Claire Hindson – Mercia Service Leader
- Mohammed Ahsan – Birmingham & Solihull Service Leader
- Rod Snelson – HASSRA West Midlands regional event organiser

### **Regional Presidents Address:**

Helene Dearn OBE welcomed everyone along to the evening. Helene reflected on her first year of being West Midlands President. Having attended Board of Management meetings and seen firsthand what the Board delivers and the time that goes into organising activities, the association is truly inspiring.

Helene touched on her own experiences of HASSRA and the savings, enjoyment and memories it had brought to her; a family trip to Disneyland Paris, a family visit to Harry Potter World Studios, panto tickets at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre and membership to the National Trust. So

much is available to members and it's very easy to quickly recoup your annual membership subscription plus more, this is a key selling point when talking to new recruits.

Helene touched upon the range of events and activities local clubs organise for their members and how this brings enjoyment to the workplace and makes our offices fantastic places to be, which enables our Department to flourish.

Helene finished by thanking everyone for attending and wished everyone a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

### **Regional Chairs Address:**

Andy Richmond welcomed everyone to the Annual Conference and Awards Dinner and began by reflecting upon membership over the past 12 months. Nationally, HASSRA membership stands at 58,133 members, in the West Midlands we have 4,501 members at 31/12/2023. Membership has increased by +89 over the last 12 months. Regional recruitment presentations and the Recruit & Reward Club Challenge has played a significant part in this, along with local club officials talking to new recruits as they join the Department.

Andy acknowledged the high levels of engagement and the vast sums of money spent on members throughout the year:

- 109 West Midlands members won HASSRA Lottery prizes throughout 2023, winning a collective prize fund of £126,100. In October 2023 a member from Bilston JCP won the £30,000 double lottery first prize, whilst a member at Erdington JCP won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £20,000 in the same month.
- Over £8,700 was spent on competition prizes, attracting over 11,500 entries.
- Members saved over £22,000 on discounted theatre tickets, with an average saving of £16.77 per ticket.
- 3,915 cinema tickets were sold, saving members £13,475.33.
- 7 Cashback offers were made available throughout 2023, awarding cashback to the value of £4,153.78 – an average award of £21.41 per member.
- The National Trust Cashback offer, which awards 15% cashback on membership was introduced because West Midlands members asked for a National Trust offer. To date we've paid out over £600 to members.
- Across all the initiatives mentioned, we have saved members over £40,000 in 2023.

The region delivered 24 events in 2023, with 553 members participating. It was fantastic to see 22 new members take part in the HASSRA National Festivals. Our events would not be possible without the hard work of our regional event organisers, all of whom are volunteers. In 2023, for the first time ever, we awarded each event organiser Reward & Recognition as a thank you for giving up their time for the association.

Andy acknowledged the fantastic range of communications; regular HASSRA Live mailshots, a monthly regional newsletter and our social media channels on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter), all key to ensuring members know what's going on and can take advantage of the vast range of initiatives the region offers.

Andy closed by thanking everyone for their contribution to making West Midlands great in 2023. There is not 1 person in the West Midlands that is paid by the Department to deliver HASSRA activity, at either a local club or regional level and what our local volunteers and Regional Board of Management have delivered over the past year has been truly outstanding.

### **Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising:**

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, which was held on Friday 23 March 2023 at Villa Park in Birmingham were circulated to members in advance of the meeting and copies were available on tables. There were no questions raised on the content of the minutes.

Proposed: Amber Willis-Cotton

Seconded: Andy Collin

### **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 2023 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 2023, West Midlands had money in the bank worth £154,101.62. 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 reminded delegates of the change to club rebate deadlines; clubs need to submit fully audited accounts and a Chair certificate to HASSRA Live by 31/03/2024 to receive a 100% rebate. Accounts and Chair certificates submitted after 01/04/2024 and by 31/07/2024 will receive a 50% rebate, and accounts submitted on and after 01/08/2024 will receive a 0% rebate. Membership figures used to calculate club rebates are based on membership at 31/12/2023.

Brenda praised Jackie Clydesdale, HASSRA West Midlands Regional Finance Manager, for her work throughout the past year in keeping our regional 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 Scott Whiteside and Joseph O'Connor for taking the time to audit the regional accounts.

Special thanks were acknowledged for:

- Asma Choudhury and Sandra Pollard for their work on the Finance Committee.
- Gareth Niblett for his work organising regional competitions and administering the Cashback offers throughout the year.
- Jo Jones for supporting the event organisers with their annual bids.
- Sandra Pollard for the support she has provided; offering advice to club Treasurers, delivering training to new Officials and for auditing local club accounts.
- Sonia Wright and Gareth Niblett for keeping the regional Trips bank account in such good order given the thousands of pounds that go through it.

There were no questions from attendees on the regional finances.

Proposed: Jeanette Treadwell

Seconded: Teina Myatt

### **Election of Board of Management Members:**

Moz Baker thanked the HASSRA West Midlands Board of Management (BOM) who have served the region so well over the past 12 months. Gone are the days of a paid regional team delivering the West Midlands programme, everything HASSRA West Midlands delivered throughout 2023 was done so by regional volunteers, who have delivered a truly first class offer to members.

Moz confirmed that the following BOM members would like to re stand for election in 2024:

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

Last year the BOM provided the opportunity for HASSRA members to shadow the regional Board meetings. Carl Bowkett from Birmingham Arena Central, shadowed a meeting and was then co-opted onto the BOM for the remainder of 2023. Carl would like to stand for full election in 2024.

All Board of Management members were elected.

Proposed: Andy Collin

Seconded: Helen Wilkinson

### **Auditors:**

The West Midlands regional accounts were audited by Scott Whiteside and Joseph O'Connor on 7 February 2024 and full details were published in the Annual Report. Thank you to both for taking the time to audit accounts. Thanks were also offered to Regional Finance Manager Jackie Clydesdale who has done a superb job looking after the West Midlands accounts, alongside other regions too.

Proposed: Deb de Negri

Seconded: Rose de Negri

### **Motions for National Conference:**

This year's National Conference takes place on Thursday 16 May 2024 at the University of Warwick. There are no motions for conference.

### **Nomination of Delegate for National Conference:**

Moz Baker confirmed that the West Midlands delegate to attend the National Conference in May, as agreed at the Regional Board of Management meeting on Friday 9 February 2024 is Brenda Viney. Brenda will be joined by Regional President Helene Dearn, and Deputy Regional Chair Gareth Niblett.

Proposed: Asma Choudhury

Seconded: Andy Collin

### **AOB:**

No items were raised from the floor for AOB.

End of meeting.

### **2023 Annual Awards Ceremony:**

Moz Baker introduced the 2023 Annual Awards Ceremony. Before awards were presented, attendees watched a 'Year in Review' picture show, looking back on what had gone on across the West Midlands over the past 12 months.

The HASSRA West Midlands Annual Awards for 2023 provided an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of all in the West Midlands. The regional award winners were announced as follows:

<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Business Sponsor of the Year	<b>Gareth Niblett</b> (HASSRA Shrewsbury)
Best Communication	Winner: <b>HASSRA Shrewsbury</b> Highly Commended: <b>Telford New Town House HASSRA</b>
Lynda Gadsden Memorial Trophy	<b>Walsall Bridle Court JCP</b>
Best Newcomer	<b>Carl Bowkett</b> (Birmingham Arena Central)
Best Arts, Crafts & Non-Sporting Contribution	<b>Rose de Negri</b> (National Associate Member)
Wellbeing Award	<b>Walsall Bridle Court JCP</b>
Best Sports Person	<b>Jo Jones</b> (Telford New Town House)
Volunteer of the Year	<b>Gareth Niblett</b> (HASSRA Shrewsbury)
Best Small Club	Winner: <b>HASSRA Shrewsbury</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: <b>HASSRA Erdington</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: <b>HASSRA Walsall Bridle Court JCP</b>
Best Large Club	Winner: <b>Telford New Town House</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: <b>Birmingham Arena Central</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: <b>Coventry Cofa Court</b>
HASSRA Heroes	<b>Jo Jones</b> (Telford New Town House) <b>Sandra Pollard</b> (Retired Member)

Moz Baker thanked Sonia Wright, Daniel Suggitt and Gareth Niblett for their hard work organising such a fantastic evening.

Regional President Helene Dearn OBE closed the evening, thanking everyone for what they do to make HASSRA so successful, which in turn contributes to making the West Midlands an amazing place to work.

Thanks to George Lawson for photography on the night.