



2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday 14 March 2025 – 7:00pm
Location: The Hayward Suite, Wolverhampton Wanderers Molineux Stadium

Welcome:

Moz Baker opened the evening by welcoming delegates to the 2024 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:

- Kate Glasby - West Midlands Group Director for Operations.
- Lyndley Jenks - DWP Partnerships & Contract Management Team Leader.
- Mandy Williams - Head of Employer and Strategic Partnerships for West Midlands and The Shires.
- Andy Richmond - CFCD Central England Regional Leader & HASSRA West Midlands Regional Chair.
- Helene Dearn OBE - HASSRA West Midlands Regional President.

Apologies were received from:

- Laura Moig – North & East Midlands Group Director for Operations.
- Karen Hobley – Service Leader for Mercia District.
- Rachel Harris – Service Leader for Black Country District.
- Julie Kennedy – Business Sponsor for Coventry Cofa Court.
- Tim Peplow – regional event organiser.

Regional Presidents Address:

Helene Dearn OBE welcomed everyone along to the evening and thanked the Board of Management for their dedication to the region. Helene talked about the benefits of HASSRA to our people, how the events and activities at both a regional level and especially within our local clubs, can help to deliver the Departments wellbeing agenda, maintain morale and engagement amongst colleagues and most importantly make our DWP offices great places to work.

Regional Chair's 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 61,638 members, equating to 57% of all DWP employees being a member – just over 1 in 2. In the West Midlands we recruited 489 new members in 2024, with membership standing at 4,727 as of 31/12/2024. The aspiration is to achieve over 5,000 members by the end of December 2025, and we are making good progress already, in February 2025 we recruited 70 new members.

Andy acknowledged the high levels of engagement and the impressive numbers behind a hugely successful year for the West Midlands:

HASSRA Lottery:

- **126** West Midlands winners in 2024, winning a collective prize fund of **£76,800**. Last month in the February 2025 draw, a member from West Bromwich Jobcentre won the first prize of **£20,000**.

Benefits & Savings:

- **16** competitions on HASSRA Live in 2024, attracting over **11,000** entries, giving away prizes worth just under **£10,000**.
- The monthly new and existing member draws gave away **£1,200** in Love2Shop vouchers throughout the year.
- We sold **1,054** theatre tickets for **8** shows, saving members **£19,817**.
- **9** cashback offers attracted **739** claims on offers including 15% on National Trust membership, 25% cashback on family attractions during the Easter holidays, 5% cashback on a UK holiday, 15% sports cashback, and 20% on tickets to a pantomime, awarding cashback to the value of **£15,813.88**.
- In August 2024 we put **£10,000** into a new initiative with The Cinema Society, enabling members to save **£4.00** at the checkout on HASSRA Live, on top of the already subsidised ticket prices. It was so popular that in January 2025, we put an additional **£10,000** into the initiative and to date over **2,700** discounts have been claimed.
- **12,359** cinema tickets sold – exactly **1,000** more than in 2023.
- Overall member savings in 2024 have been in excess of **£65,000**.

Events:

- **33** events across the year, including sporting events, arts and craft workshops, quizzes and the family activity days, attracting **746** member participations.
- The delivery of our annual programme for 2024 cost just over **£108,000**.

Charity:

- Over **£11,000** raised for various local and national charities across our offices within the West Midlands.

2025 – our 20th Anniversary:

- 2025 is HASSRA West Midlands 20th Anniversary, it's also national HASSRA's 90th Anniversary, there is lots planned at both a national and

regional level. Within the West Midlands we plan to spend an additional **£20,000** as we celebrate 20 years.

Andy closed by thanking everyone for their contribution to making West Midlands great in 2024. It has once again been a truly outstanding year.

HASSRA National Team:

Robbie Miller from the HASSRA National Team provided an update on a number of national initiatives, namely; the Buddy Draw to encourage ongoing recruitment of new members, the use of HASSRA Live by local clubs to run events and competitions and the financial incentives available to clubs using the system for the first time, changes to the HASSRA Development Scheme and the recently announced 90th Anniversary Club Grants for local clubs to organise an activity / event to celebrate the associations 90th anniversary.

Robbie stressed the importance of good governance within clubs, ensuring the Officials of Business Sponsor, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are in place so that the club adheres to the DWP Staff Clubs Guide.

Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising:

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, which was held on Friday 15 March 2024 at Molineux Stadium 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: Daniel Suggitt

Seconded: Andy Collin

Finance Report & Auditors:

The 2024 accounts were published as part of the Annual Report which was issued to all delegates in advance. The accounts were audited by Di Grossey and Robert Cooper on 12 February 2025 – thank you to both for giving up their time. Accounts showed income of £88,898.39 and expenditure of £108,725.95 in 2024. That increased expenditure was planned, as we looked to spend some of our regional reserves. This gave a regional balance on 31/12/2024 of £134,274.06.

Plans are in place to reduce regional reserves further in 2025 as we celebrate 20 years of HASSRA West Midlands, with the aim of spending an additional £20,000 on various events, activities and competitions across the region.

Moz Baker thanked Jackie Clydesdale, HASSRA Regional Finance Manager, for once again doing a fantastic job looking after the regional accounts.

There were no questions raised on regional accounts.

Proposed: Sonia Wright

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, delivering a truly first class offer to members.

Moz confirmed that the following BOM members would like to re stand for election in 2025:

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

Last year the BOM provided the opportunity for HASSRA members to shadow regional Board meetings. Paul Rudge from Dudley Pedmore House, shadowed a meeting and was then co-opted onto the BOM for the remainder of 2024. Paul would like to stand for full election in 2025.

All Board of Management members were elected.

Proposed: Robert Honeywell

Seconded: Helen Wilkinson

Motions for National Conference:

This year's National Conference takes place on Thursday 15 May 2025 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 7 February 2025 is Brenda Viney. Brenda will be joined by Regional Chair Andy Richmond and a number of our award winners from the evening.

Proposed: Teina Myatt

Seconded: Stephanie Edwards

AOB:

No items were raised from the floor for AOB.

End of meeting.

2024 Annual Awards:

Moz Baker introduced the 2024 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 2024 provided an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of all in the West Midlands. The regional award winners were announced as follows:

Award	Winner
Wellbeing Award	Winners: Handsworth Runners Up: Telford New Town House
Best Sports Person	Tariq Ali MBE (Wolverhampton Molineux House)
Best Newcomer	Chloe Morris (Dudley Pedmore House)
Business Sponsor of the Year	Gareth Niblett OBE (Shrewsbury)
Best Arts, Crafts & Non-Sporting Contributor	Tim Willis-Cotton (Telford New Town House)
Lynda Gadsden Memorial Trophy (For an outstanding contribution to charity)	Telford New Town House
Best Regional Communication	HASSRA Shrewsbury
Volunteer of the Year	Sonia Wright (Dudley Pedmore House)
HASSRA Heroes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula Flatman (Dudley Pedmore House) • Sharon Hall (Wolverhampton Molineux House) • Deb De Negri (Telford New Town House)
Best Small Club	1 st – Walsall Bridle Court Jobcentre 2 nd – Erdington Jobcentre 3 rd - Telford Jobcentre
Best Large Club	1 st – Telford New Town House 2 nd – Coventry Cofa Court 3 rd – Birmingham Arena Central Highly Commended – Worcester Vine House

Congratulations to all award winners.

Moz Baker thanked Sonia Wright, Daniel Suggitt and Gareth Niblett for their hard work organising such a fantastic evening and congratulated everyone for making HASSRA West Midlands so successful in 2024.

Thanks to George Lawson for photography on the night.