

ALL ENGLAND BAR BILLIARD ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF AGM

HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2024 @ TOTTERIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. **Attendees:** Peter Sainsbury, Jean Brackenridge, Gerry Fitzjohn, Mark Trafford, Pauline Withey, Nigel Senior, Dawn Jordan, Ernie Jordan, Cliff Slade, Matt Jones, Tony Jenner, Michael Wilson
2. **Apologies:** Curt Driver, Kevin Tunstall
3. **Minutes of AGM 2023:** Voted as true record Proposed: Tony Jenner Seconded: Gerry Fitzjohn. Voted: Unanimous
4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **Chairmans Report:** Firstly I would like to thank everyone for attending the AGM.

I am delighted to congratulate all of the winners, runners up and competitors in each of the AEBBA tournaments as well as the open competitions and especially Trevor Gallienne on his world championship title well deserved considering he had lost the previous 3 finals well done to Michael Wilson on reaching the final and to the first time winners of opens Gerry Fitzjohn and Bob Hall.

Sadly we lost a few people this year that will be remembered dearly.

A big thanks to Jean for her sterling work as secretary and Gerry for keeping the finances on an even keel.

Special thanks Matt Jones for his help with the van maintenance and Matt and Cliff for setting up the tables for the AEBBA events.

Thanks to Nigel Senior providing statistics and ranking points. Nigel also continues to demonstrate the flexibility that the role demands by providing tournament schedules, often at extremely short notice but is still been able to achieve the smooth running of our tournament calendar and to ensure that all players are accommodated as best as possible.

It must be remembered that all the officers of the association are volunteers and without their selfless efforts the association would cease to exist.

6. **Treasurers Report/Accounts:** The available funds as at 31st August 2024 has increased by £1,796 to £17,345 from £15,549 as at August 2023.
Income from Table Hire has increased again to £4,350 from £4,150, this being the main source of Revenue.
All England competitions is showing a surplus of £641 mainly due the cost of trophies remaining within budget, the free use of Totteridge Community Centre and players supporting these events. Both Grand Prix events did not produce any income but incurred costs for trophies.
The International against Guernsey was held in Guernsey this year therefore incurring no costs to AEBBA. This event will be held in Sussex in June 2025 and any costs relating to this will be reflected in next year's accounts.
Bournemouth shows a surplus of £1,185 which is slightly down on the previous year.
Affiliation Fees were held at £30 per County with 7 Counties affiliated for the year to 31st August 2025.
I propose that these fees remain at this level for 2025/26. These are due for payment by 31st August 2025.
Total general expenses totalled £4,865, an increase of £12 on the previous year
The main areas accounting for these costs are:
£900 Honoraria voted at last year's AGM
£1,634 Van Insurance and RFL
£1,626 Van repairs, MOT and servicing
Van costs continue to increase and the Committee are currently looking at the options going forward.
My thanks to Mark Trafford for auditing these figures and Jean and Chelle for dealing with the collection and settlement of the Bournemouth finances.

7. Tournament Directors Report

AEBBA Pairs – Bournemouth

March at Suncliff Hotel. 52 pairs which is a good number (1 up on last year). Generally positive feedback re hotel and format. Hotel very happy with us. Booking already taken for 2025.

Off the Spot Open

Held at Roffey Club in June, works for Sussex as have Sussex OTS day before. Group format with single legs, worked pretty well, lots of games for everyone. 35 entries. I believe interest in running event from Oxford and Surrey for 2025 as well as Sussex.

County Champs

10 teams took part – 1 down on last year. Surrey B earned promotion meaning two Sussex and two Surrey teams in Division 1 next year. Would be good to get Notts and York involved but difficult to get them all to travel down but the offer is there.

Team Champs/Mixed Pairs/ Special Ladies

Team Champs – 6 teams played. Split into 2 group mainly to keep players off the same tables who were playing in mixed pairs but players got at least 4 legs.

Mixed Pairs/ Special Ladies both went well with 16 entries which is a good increase from last year (12 entries)

AE Singles/ AE Ladies/ AEBBA Over 50s/60s

7 for AE singles (same) / 5 AE Ladies (up 1). Both comps very close well done to Curt Driver and Jean Brackenridge. Over 50s and 60s a well up on last year with 30 entries for Over 50s (up 10). Had to be straight knock out so some over 50s only got one match but cant be helped. Groups not an option as even with straight knock out this was the longest day of the year.

Grand Prix/Ladies Grand Prix/ AEBBA Under 30s

Good turnout for both Grand Prix didn't have to go very far down reserve list. Under 30s had 10 (up 2) which is pretty good. Well done to Mark Trafford and Denise Wills on their respective wins

Alternative Rules

Not held. Mark T had date but not enough interest.

AEBBA Challenger Championships

Not held

British Ladies

Not held, have had a thought it could be held at the Inn on the Green alongside in the weekend they hold the 4 pin inter county. But need to look at dates and whether the ladies would be interested in reviving event. But a more central location.

Well done to all the winners. All in all it has been a positive year, we have run a full program bar Alternative Rules/AEBBA Challenger.

Good entries to most competitions this years, with most being up on last year

Thankyous – the Totteridge Club who have been excellent with food and hosting. Massive thanks to Matt (and helpers) for table setting often on the morning and he has setup excellent standard of tables. Also thanks to Jean for doing some of the chasing for entries. And also thanks to Matt Knight who gets me here on time and doing admin and a lot of shouting....

However, I will mention that I have had the usual whinging at some events so will make these points

- When you come to an all day bar billiards event expect to write the day off to bar billiards. There is little point moaning when it comes to 7pm and there are still the finals to play and it is past your bedtime. I am certain that myself and Matt are the last 2 to get home most events.
- Bear in mind that often there are 3 or 4 events going on concurrently. So if you are only playing in one event you may have a gap between games. Some complaints this year have been too many games or too long a gap between games. In fact one player complained about both these things – on the same day! There a plenty of games to score if you are waiting.
- With formats I have to make a decision one way or the other, for example whether the event will be a knockout or a group stage. I have had comments on the day of why is there no group stage or why there is no plate etc. It is most probable that I have considered this before the day and there is a reason (usually timings) as to why that decision has been made. I am quite open to alternative suggestions but for them to be constructive they have to be viable so really any suggestions need to be made with the alternative format being actually scheduled to see if it works.

8. England Report England played Guernsey away in 2024 and what a close match it was.

After the pairs had finished England found themselves 17-13 up with it all to play for in the singles. Normally at this point the England team roll up their sleeves and forge ahead quite comfortably in the singles but the Guernsey team had other ideas this time around.

I tried to keep up with the scores as the singles matches progressed but lost count while I was playing in the last series. I knew it was going to be close but after all the games had finished I really didn't know who had won.

We ended up losing the singles 19-17 which gave us a very slim 34-32 victory.

Very proud of my team who fought to the end to get the victory. Well done gents.

Many congratulations to the Guernsey team who definitely up'd their game from our last away game 2 years ago when we won 56-10

Over the Guernsey open weekend 2025 I have been asked to supply a team to play those not selected for the Guernsey v Jersey match. I will be looking for a team made up of players not selected in the England first 12. This will greatly depend on who is actually going so will leave my selections until I know that.

In 2025 we are at home to Guernsey over the Sussex Open weekend.

Mens Team

Matt Jones
Mark Trafford
Curt Driver (Capt)
Martin Cole
Bob Hall
Gerry Fitzjohn
Dave Ingram
Matt Knight
Nigel Senior
Joe Oakley
Phil Osborne
Alan Donovan

Reserves

1. Michael Wilson
2. Stuart Carruthers
3. Simon Coleman
4. Dave Jones
5. John Slee
6. Martin Smith

Ladies Team (6 + reserves were chosen but Numbers to be confirmed when its known how many ladies are coming over from Guernsey)

Jean Brackenridge
Pauline Withey (Capt)
Dawn Jordan
Denise Wills
Michelle Baden
Janet Burns

Reserves

1. Lorraine Hall
2. Genette Nicholls
3. Anita Blackman

9. Election Of Officers:

The following were voted en bloc
Chairman : Pete Sainsbury
Vice Chairman: Kevin Tunstall
Secretary: Jean Brackenridge
Treasurer: Gerry Fitzjohn
Tournament Director: Nigel Senior
Assistant Tournament Director: Mark Trafford
General Committee: Tony Jenner, Curt Driver, Michael Wilson
Proposed: Dawn Jordan, Seconded: Michael Wilson, Vote: Unanimous

10. Honoraria: The following honoraria was agreed

Secretary - £300
Tournament Director – £300
Matthew Knight - £100
Matt Jones - £100
Cliff Slade - £100

Proposed: Gerry Fitzjohn Seconded Tony Jenner Vote – Unanimous

11. Rule Proposals: Proposed Mark Trafford – Seconded Tony Jenner

Rule 5 - An annual affiliation fee shall be paid to the Association by each County, the amount to be determined by the Annual General Meeting, which will also decide a date by which fees will be due. If fees are not paid by the agreed date then they will be doubled every two months for which they remain unpaid. Counties will not be permitted to enter the A.E.B.B.A. competitions unless affiliation fees have been paid.

Change to :-

An annual affiliation fee shall be paid to the Association by each County, the amount to be determined by the Annual General Meeting, which will also decide a date by which fees will be due. If fees are not paid by the agreed date then they will be doubled every two months for which they remain unpaid. Counties will not be permitted to enter the A.E.B.B.A. competitions unless affiliation fees have been paid. As per qualification rules as Set out in rule 34

Rule 34 - Only counties affiliated to the All England Association may enter A.E.B.B.A. competitions.

Change to :-

Only counties affiliated to the All England Association may enter A.E.B.B.A. invitational competitions. These competitions are as follows:- County Championships, All England Open & Ladies Singles, All England Pub/Club (Team) Championships.

If any county wishes to send a representative to any of these competitions who is not registered to a team, that is their decision and will be allowed to play

For any "Open" AEBBA Competitions as listed below, these competitions will be treated as any other County Open, where anyone can enter, regardless if they are signed on for an affiliated county.

British Open Pairs
National Off the Spot
Alternative Rules
British Isles Ladies Open
Special Ladies
Alternative Rules
Grand Prix
Over 50's
Over 60's
Under 30's

Vote - Unanimous

12. Any Other Business:

1. (Pete Sainsbury) Re WBBA. Had spoken and feels there is no conflict of interest between any committee member of AEBBA with WBBA
2. (Pete Sainsbury) Re Van replacement. The committee will have a meeting in the new year to discuss the replacement of the van
3. (Pete Sainsbury) Re Rankings. Both Mark Trafford and Michael Wilson have offered to help Nigel with updating rankings especially during the busy season of AEBBA events
4. (Pete Sainsbury) It would be an idea to have a list of County Chairmans and Secretaries. Jean to follow up on this.
5. (Michael Wilson) Michael is happy to help with AEBBA Website
6. (Michael Wilson) Michael asked if 4 pin would qualify for ranking points if not affiliated to AEBBA. The ranking committee are looking at it and the possibility of having a separate ranking system for 4 pin
7. (Michael Wilson) Michael queried having an AEBBA event the day after a closed competition (eg Sussex Off the Spot on Saturday and AEBBA off the spot on Sunday). Also having events On Saturdays. The AEBBA events held after a closed event will be looked at in future. Holding events on a Saturday could create problems including venues (ie Totteridge would not be available on Saturdays)
8. (Dawn Jordan) Dawn read a letter she had received from Charlie Guildersleve a couple of years ago. It described how the AEBBA came about. Charlie worked tirelessly for bar billiards and thought it was wrong and upsetting that no one from AEBBA had commented on his passing on probboards.
9. (Mark Trafford) Oxford would like the AEBBA Off The Spot and would be held on Saturday 27th September 2025

10. Competition Dates 2025 (now confirmed with Totteridge)

14th Serptember – County Champs Div 1
21st September – County Champs – Div 2
12th October – Mixed Pairs, Special Ladies, Team Champs
26th October – AE Mens & Ladies Singles, Over 50's, Over 60's
30th November – Grand Prix, Under 30's

(Oxford)
27th September – Off The Spot

The British Isles Ladies would be discussed and looked at to see if there is a possibility of playing it in 2025

MEETING CLOSED 5.02 PM