

# HASSRA WEST MIDLANDS



# 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

## Foreword



During the past year HASSRA West Midlands has bid a fond farewell to Martin O'Brien as Chair – I am sure that you would all like to thank Martin for his contribution during his time in office.

So what about me?

I have been a HASSRA member since I first joined the organisation 40 years ago. During my younger, more athletic days I was a member of the Regional football and cricket teams (sadly those days are long gone) and I took part in various regional activities; when the opportunity came up to put something back into HASSRA I was delighted to accept.

I am both honoured and proud to have taken over the reins as Chair and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It has been a pretty interesting time so far, with many of the organisational changes alluded to in last years' report starting to take shape.

These changes along with the revitalised relationship with our sponsor organisations will provide HASSRA with the opportunity to flourish; I am delighted to say that support continues to be demonstrated at the highest level and I hope that I can continue to uphold the high standards of my predecessors.

At the moment I am still very much the 'new boy on the block' and have much self-learning to do to build my knowledge and understanding; hopefully you will both bear with me and support me to ensure that I add value to the organisation.

A few early observations that I wish to comment on at this stage are:

1. The enormous amount of work put in not only by the Regional Team, the HASSRA West Midlands Board of Management, various committees, etc, but also by the volunteers who have stepped up to the plate during 2009 to ensure the success of a number of events. The continued involvement of volunteers and the encouragement of more volunteer participation is absolutely necessary if we are to flourish and grow; I offer my sincere thanks to everyone involved.
2. To ensure we manage our funds more effectively, financial control has tightened significantly. The early signs from the centralised finance structures, which were put in place toward the end of 2009, show we have been successful in achieving greater control whilst at the same time meeting members' needs. We do not have a bottomless pit of funding and it is imperative that these funds are spent wisely and sensibly.
3. Our future funding will rely significantly on HASSRA's contribution towards 'wellbeing'. With the co-operation and support of the Department, early signs are that we are already progressing to show our worth; our support at the 'Live Well, Work Well' days has proved very successful with many new members being recruited and positive feedback received.
4. Our strength lies in our membership, and I am delighted to say that our membership has continued to grow during 2009 which is very encouraging. Let us keep up the good work!

Finally, I look forward to working with HASSRA through the coming year, a year in which hopefully we will see our organisation in the West Midlands continue to grow and build on the strong foundations of the past.

**Graham Rigby**  
**Chairman**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

# Contents



HASSRA West Midlands Staff & Officials	Page 4
Regional Manager's Report	Page 5
- Background	Page 5
- HASSRA West Midlands Team Structure	Page 5
- Board of Management	Page 6
- Finance Committee	Page 6
- Awards Committee	Page 6
- CSSC Sports & Leisure	Page 6
- Membership & Recruitment	Page 7
- Associate Membership	Page 8
- Communicating to Members	Page 8
- Membership Benefits	Page 9
- Regional Programme of Events	Page 9
- National & Inter Association Championships	Page 11
- Conclusion	Page 11
Regional Finance Manager's Report	Page 12
- Accounts	Page 12
- Income & Expenditure	Page 13
- Cinema Tickets	Page 13
- Event Tickets	Page 13
- Club Charity Donations	Page 14
Regional / National Event Participation	Page 15
- General	Page 15
- Angling	Page 19
- Crown Green & Flat Green Bowls	Page 20
- Cricket	Page 21
- Drama	Page 22
- Football (11-a-side)	Page 23
- Netball	Page 23
- Ten-Pin Bowling	Page 24
HASSRA West Midlands Golf Society Report	Page 26
West Midlands Major Trophies & Awards	Page 28

# HASSRA West Midlands Staff & Officials



## President

Margaret Tovey, Director Jobcentre Plus, West Midlands

## Chair

Martin O'Brien / Graham Rigby\*

## Vice Chair

Ann Leppard

## Regional Manager / Business Partner\*

Moz Baker / Tim Smith / Jas Tamber\*

## Regional Finance Manager

Helena Whitehead / Rob Redwood\*

## Regional Assistants

Tim Smith & Trevor Hyde & Corrine Williams\*

## Auditors

Nigel Holland & Pat Gilbert

## West Midlands Board of Management (Elected at AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009)

Ann Leppard  
Brenda Viney  
Corrine Williams  
Dave Butler  
Emily Armstrong  
Fran Dale  
Gareth Niblett  
Jean Crouch  
Leighton Jukes  
Lynda Gadsden  
Sandra Pollard  
Wendy Oliver

\* Organisational and operational changes during 2009 have seen a number of people occupy various positions within the HASSRA West Midlands structure alongside some changes to job titles and functions.

# Regional Manager's Report



## Background

HASSRA West Midlands was formed in March 2005 following a national restructuring of HASSRA boundaries; previously members in this area belonged to the larger region of HASSRA Midlands. The West Midlands association covers members in West Midlands, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire.

HASSRA West Midlands forms part of a nationwide organisation split into 12 Regions. Our membership consists of employees of the Department for Work and Pensions, Department of Health, Food Standards Agency, Capita, Sema, Trillium, NHS Executive Agency and also retired members. This was extended during 2008 to include the recently formed Child Maintenance & Enforcement Commission (formerly Child Support Agency).

At the 2007 AGM it was agreed to introduce an Associate Membership scheme within the West Midlands region, effective from 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007.

This is a report of HASSRA activity in the West Midlands between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

## HASSRA West Midlands Team Structure

The Regional Team structure has undergone considerable change during 2009 partly due to the HASSRA Modernisation Programme, the most significant change being the departure of Moz Baker, the long standing Regional Manager. Moz helped the West Midlands achieve a number of prestigious awards, and we are very appreciative of his contribution.

The new HASSRA model has meant considerable changes to the roles of all Regional Staff. Regional Managers have now become Regional Business Partners (RBPs) and cover 2 Regions with the support of Regional Assistants (RAs), and Regional Finance Managers (RFMs) now cover 4 Regions with the support of Regional Finance Assistants (RFAs) and carry out the administration of ticket sales.

HASSRA West Midlands shares its RBP with HASSRA East Midlands. Prior to modernisation Rob Redwood temporarily covered the RFM role for the West Midlands, and we are grateful for his contribution.

The current West Midlands team structure is:

Jas Tamber	– Regional Business Partner
Helena Whitehead	– Regional Finance Manager
Tim Smith	– Regional Assistant
Corrine Williams	– Regional Assistant
Jay Saleem	– Regional Finance Assistant

## **Board of Management**

The HASSRA West Midlands Board of Management (BOM) is responsible for overseeing all of the regional events and activities staged within the West Midlands, as well as agreeing levels of subsidies and providing general support to the full-time Regional Officials.

The BOM was chaired by Martin O'Brien prior to his retirement and handover to our new Chair, Graham Rigby. In his many years supporting the West Midlands, Martin did some sterling work and we are extremely thankful for the expertise and commitment he showed in guiding us through often demanding changes.

The current BOM is chaired by Graham Rigby, and consists of Jas Tamber (RBP), Helena Whitehead (RFM) and 12 other members. These members represent a cross-section of our Regional volunteer force and include officials from local clubs, Regional Organisers, a retired member and a member of the National Board of Management. One of the BOM members has designated responsibility for developing diversity within the West Midlands region.

During 2009 the BOM held 4 meetings at Five Ways House in Birmingham, but if at all possible these are kept to a minimum to achieve financial savings. These meetings focus on discussion of strategic and programme issues.

## **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee consists of Ann Leppard (Chair and BOM Member), Helena Whitehead (RFM), Jas Tamber (RBP) and Sandra Pollard (BOM Member).

The committee is responsible for regional expenditure for all HASSRA activities. This includes amongst other things our programme of sporting events, excursions, and grants to clubs.

The committee, which make its recommendations to the BOM for their approval in all matters, undertakes most of its business by email.

## **Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee is chaired by Ann Leppard and its membership is made up of Jean Crouch (BOM Member), Lynda Gadsden (BOM Member) and Corrine Williams (RA).

They are responsible for considering all the evidence available to them to decide on the winning entries for our annual Regional Awards.

## **CSSC Sports & Leisure**

We continued to support individual and team entries in CSSC events as diverse as Flat Green Bowls, Cross Country, Crown Green Bowls, Hockey, Five-a-side Football, Cricket Sixes, Swimming, and Archery. In all cases entry fees as well as all reasonable travelling expenses were paid.

Unfortunately again we were eliminated in the early rounds of the Curtis Bennett Cup, though the expectation is that we will have a few new players for 2010 to boost our fortunes.

## Membership & Recruitment

HASSRA West Midlands has again put great emphasis on ensuring its membership figures remain buoyant. Between December 2008 and December 2009, our membership base has increased by 14% from 4375 to 5004 members; considering the difficult times that our host Departments currently face, we consider this to be a remarkable achievement.

### Live Well, Work Well

Live Well, Work Well events throughout the region have given us an opportunity to recruit new members. Our involvement has entailed the Regional Team attending and proactively selling the HASSRA message and recruiting new members. Promotional gifts have been given to existing and new members and throughout this activity we have been supported by office managers, local clubs and co-ordinators.

### Communications

The HASSRA website and our regional newsletter, 'Westworld', have been additional tools used for promoting the association. The Regional team has continued to produce a fortnightly intranet message encompassing everything done within the region; 'Westworld' was relaunched in March 2009 by our Regional Editor, Gareth Niblett, whom produced 5 issues packed with lively articles on events, fund raising, wellbeing, competitions and a lot more.

Other initiatives we have used during the year to recruit and maintain our membership include:

- Regular intranet competitions as well as ad-hoc email competitions with quality prizes (e.g. theatre and theme park tickets).
- The production of new eye-catching posters to market offers and events.
- The introduction and maintenance of Regional and National discount deals.
- A recruitment script (posted on the intranet) to enable local recruitment to take place.

The West Midlands currently has 23 clubs functioning and we expect this number to increase during 2010.

### Supporting Our Volunteers

The HASSRA Modernisation Programme means we need to increase and support our volunteer force to help us run our Regional programme of events. We have been actively encouraging and facilitating more volunteer involvement in organising and running events and will continue to do so.

Volunteers are invited to attend our Regional BOM meetings as observers (up to 2 people are permitted to attend any one meeting,) and we encourage all new Club Officials to participate in the Running Staff Clubs courses that are put on by DWP.

The "Buddy" system, whereby members from our Regional BOM support specific local clubs and advise them on problems, has proved successful. This assists the West Midlands Regional Team and BOM in keeping abreast of potential staff movements, office closures and declining membership. As a region we aim to prevent clubs closing and encourage existing clubs that have active membership to take on other offices not covered by a Club. The "Buddy" initiative has had a positive effect and will continue to develop with improved communications and understanding.

### National HASSRA Database

The National HASSRA database has been set up to provide information on membership details. It is hoped this will help us in many ways including identifying members' interests and potential volunteers. The on-line membership application form introduced during 2009 has made applying easier and has brought about a reduction in administration for the National HASSRA Team.

## **AGM Participation**

Our annual AGM, held at various venues across the Region, is well supported and is all about our members and volunteers at “grass roots” level.

As well as highlighting what has happened during the year we also take the opportunity to award our leading achievers through our portfolio of annual awards. We pride ourselves on the fact that we have entries into each of our categories every year and also in the overall quality of the nominations received.

## **Associate Membership**

The Associate Membership scheme came into effect following the AGM in 2007 and is available to anyone who has taken severance from DWP or DH or who has been a full member for a minimum period of 1 year (although there are some special circumstances where associate membership is not available to staff who have served less than one year).

Associate members may take part in any regional or local event, competition or activity. At the end of 2009 we have a total of 13 associate members, of which some joined following the closure of the Birmingham Pension Centre. In addition we have had Golf enthusiasts join to take part in many of the matches arranged by our vibrant Golf Society.

## **Communicating to Members**

We pride ourselves in communicating news and information as widely as possible in order to publicise our portfolio of benefits and issue details of our programme of events as far in advance as possible. We make full use of e-mail, but also issue hard copies for those without access.

Our main form of communication is via our intranet and internet sites, which we have continued to use at every available opportunity because it offers the most effective method of promoting HASSRA products and events, and we also communicate with members via ‘Westworld’ and the Regional Managers’ intranet message.

The recruitment script we recently introduced to enable clubs and members to sell the HASSRA message has proved to be a big success; positive feedback has been received from those whom have used it and it has contributed significantly in recruiting new members.

We are grateful to the willing volunteers who act as distribution points, passing on our emails and distributing our Regional and National publications. Their activities have helped maximise our contact with members.

We have also added individual members who are not covered by a Club Representative or designated distribution point to our e-mail lists to ensure they do not miss out.

## **HASSRA Headlines**

We have remained proactive in ensuring that details of the events and activities that contribute to the lives of members from all strands of HASSRA West Midlands have been captured for publication in our National magazine, HASSRA Headlines, in 2009.

As well as contributions from our members, there has been a significant contribution from our ‘Westworld’ Editor Gareth Niblett who has received recognition for this.

## Membership Benefits

HASSRA is an important and influential brand; when negotiating with prospective partners, and conscious of the size and breadth of our potential membership, we aim to secure exceptional deals.

For many of our members the HASSRA West Midlands package is a significant reason why they choose to join or retain their membership; we are pleased therefore to be able to offer a raft of varied and highly worthwhile membership benefits which are attractive to members and have continued to progress our partnership with BUPA to negotiate tailored discount health insurance packages to suit our members.

Our principle benefit activity remains in the promotion and maintenance of our range of cinema ticket sales; we now have most of the major cinema chains as part of our portfolio. Highly subsidised ticket sales continue to be a major factor both in terms of HASSRA recruitment and retention; whilst there have been some increases in the cinema ticket prices during 2009, they still remain attractively priced.

There has also been a continued increase in demand for our discounted tickets for Drayton Manor which, together with a steady demand for our corporate West Midland Safari Park tickets, has meant a significant increase in overall ticket sales.

HASSRA West Midlands takes great pride in the diverse range of events for which it negotiates discounted tickets. In the past year we have sold subsidised tickets for shows as diverse as The Festive Gift Fayre, The Good Food Show, Horse Live, Gardeners World and Sleeping Beauty - ticket sale information is detailed on page 13 of this report.

## Regional Programme of Events

### Regional Qualifiers

In 2009 HASSRA West Midlands continued to support a full and varied programme, with qualifying events held for every single National championship.

Participation has increased at most of our events, and many saw first-time attendees take part. It was particularly pleasing that 25 of our members represented the West Midlands in 8 events at the CSSC games in Loughborough in 2009, probably the largest HASSRA team there.

It has also been encouraging that there has been a continued increase in office teams participating in our events; this supports morale in offices generally and helps boost morale for those staff who participate. As a result we have been fully represented at all of the National competitions during 2009 (apart from the Men's Singles Flat Bowling competition), which is an outstanding achievement.

Part of our success is in being informative, planning ahead for events, keeping events fresh and ensuring a warm welcome for all who attend. As well as enjoying our successes, we have been very proactive in seeking feedback and learning from our mistakes!

There is also the support we have received from our President Margaret Tovey and our Business Managers, which has meant that many of our members have received the understanding and backing to attend events.

In order to reduce any impact on the business, we have held many of our events outside working hours where possible, including our Equestrian Days and quizzes which nevertheless were superbly supported, notably our TV and Movie Quiz where over 100 members attended!

Thanks to our volunteers, we made good use of the fallow payment given to the Region by National HASSRA. The family fun day with 'Summer Fete' type stalls, a Table Football competition and the 'It's a Knockout' challenge was very well supported; with over 100 members taking part and nearly as many spectators with their family and friends watching it on a glorious sunny day, it was regarded as a huge success.

### **Regional Initiatives**

The West Midlands aim is to try and provide a little something for everyone. We consider ourselves flexible when it comes to the activities and events we have in our programme and regularly invite members to suggest new areas we should pursue. We are keen to embrace the needs of all our members.

### **Activity Day**

In 2009 we staged 2 Activity Days at the Woodlands Camp near Walsall. We held a members-only Activity Day where 32 attended and a Family Activity Day where 35 attended. Again these proved very popular.

One of the key elements of this facility is the excellent provision for people with disabilities. The camp provides an opportunity for members and their children to have a go at archery, canoeing, an assault course and other outdoor activities as well as enjoying an outdoor lunch of traditional fish and chips.

### **Golf Society**

Please see page 26 of the report for full details of the Society's activities.

### **Excursions**

We arranged two excursions in 2009, firstly to London for a May Bank Holiday theatre weekend to see Sister Act, and then Disneyland in November. Both were a big success.

Both trips were arranged through our agents "Group Choice" and we received excellent feedback.

### **National Trust Cards**

Unfortunately our arrangement with the National Trust of Scotland ended during 2009 due to a change in their policy which meant we couldn't use the cards in English National Trust properties. We therefore decided they weren't worth purchasing.

## National and Inter Association Championships

2009 was not a great year for winning National and Inter-Association trophies, but Sarah Cranton again did magnificently in retaining the Ladies Golf Scratch title following competition in Wales, and the Crown Green bowlers came runners-up in the very competitive CSSC Crown Green Team competition. Last but not least, our 6-man team of anglers excelled to win the Inter Association 6-Man Team event.

We had excellent representation at the C.S.S.C games at Loughborough as probably one of the largest HASSRA teams on display.

25 West Midlands competitors took part in the following 8 events:

- Netball (team)
- Masters Football (team)
- Table Tennis
- Athletics
- Mixed Rounders
- Mixed Hockey
- Swimming
- Archery (National competitor)

Team spirit and sporting behaviour was excellent; all who took part were a credit to HASSRA and the West Midlands region.

## Conclusion

Overall 2009 was a difficult but successful year for HASSRA West Midlands with so many changes taking place.

We are hoping that 2010 will see the West Midlands embrace the changes and meet the new challenges to grow stronger, but the HASSRA Modernisation Programme will mean we need to facilitate more volunteer participation in organising and running events with support from the HASSRA Regional Office.

HASSRA West Midlands would not be able to provide such an excellent service if it wasn't for the dedication and hard work of all of our volunteers, organisers and competitors – so on behalf of HASSRA West Midlands I would like to say a big thank you to all those involved.

May I take this opportunity to also thank all those managers within the Department who allow their staff the time to take part and assist with activities – your help and continued support is much appreciated.

2010 will no doubt see more changes and challenges for everyone, but I am confident Team West Midlands will overcome these.

**Jas Tamber**  
**Regional Business Partner**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

# Regional Finance Manager's Report



Accounts prepared by : Helena Whitehead, Regional Finance Manager  
 Accounts audited by : Nigel Holland & Pat Gilbert

## Balance Sheet

Income	
<i>Balance @ 01.01.09</i>	
Cash	£0.00
Current Account	-£1,262.29
Deposit Account	£23,311.49
Treasury Bond	£38,820.00
PDQ	£0.00
Credit Card	-£2,085.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>£58,783.22</b>

Expenditure	
<i>Balance @ 31.12.09</i>	
Cash	£0.00
Current Account	-£1,498.83
Deposit Account	£36,989.34
Treasury Bond	£38,820.00
PDQ	£300.50
Credit Card	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£74,611.01</b>

Income 01.01.09 to 31.12.09	£170,447.17
--------------------------------	-------------

Expenditure 01.01.09 to 31.12.09	£154,619.38
-------------------------------------	-------------

<b>Balance</b>	<b>£229,230.39</b>
----------------	--------------------

<b>Balance</b>	<b>£229,230.39</b>
----------------	--------------------

## Profit & Loss Account

Profit & Loss	
Balance at 01.01.09	£58,783.22
Balance at 31.12.09	£74,611.01
<b>Excess of Income / Expenditure</b>	<b>£15,827.79</b>

Accounts for period 01.01.09 to 31.07.09 controlled by Rob Redwood.  
 Accounts for period 01.08.09 to 31.12.09 controlled by Helena Whitehead.



# Club Charity Donations



Bridle Court	
Air Ambulance	£90.00
Children In Need	£105.00
Jeans for Genes	£63.00
MacMillan	£42.70
Race for Life	£190.00
Red Nose Day	£48.00
Walsall Hospice	£3215.91

**TOTAL £3754.61**

Cannock	
Breast Cancer (Tickled Pink)	£82.00
Children In Need	£228.63
Help for Heroes	£500.64
Jeans for Genes	£110.00
Pathways Project	£1033.00
Red Nose Day	£150.00

**TOTAL £2104.27**

Coventry	
Sands	£151.00

**TOTAL £151.00**

Five Ways	
Air Ambulance	£1700.00
Children In Need	£256.00
Comic Relief	£230.04
Lord Mayors' Charity	£25.00
MacMillan	£70.00

**TOTAL £2281.04**

Nuneaton Debt Centre	
Mary Evans	£1000.00

**TOTAL £1000.00**

Walsall PS	
Miscellaneous	£3969.77

**TOTAL £3969.77**

Wolverhampton	
Miscellaneous	£1207.66

**TOTAL £1207.66**

Worcester	
Acorns	£623.12
Cancer Research	£269.50
Children In Need	£220.77
Comic Relief	£284.35
MacMillan	£448.81
Noah's Ark	£453.50
Prostate Cancer	£32.00
RNLI Lifeboat Fund	£125.90
RNLI SOS	£72.50
St Richards Hospice	£698.52
Wrong Trousers	£122.74

**TOTAL £3351.71**

The grand total of **£17820.06** above represents charity donations raised by 8 of our 23 clubs and only those donations that have passed through HASSRA accounts; it is recognised that offices have and do organise charity fundraising separately from HASSRA and so the true figure raised by HASSRA members and colleagues alike is undoubtedly much, much higher.

Well done to all whom organised fundraisers and thank you to all whom contributed.

## Regional / National Event Participation



### Activity Day

Venue	Woodlands Camp, Walsall
Entrants	64

### Angling

See report on page 19.

### Art

The National Art Competition was cancelled.

### Badminton

Venue	Aston University
Entrants	24 (22 men, 2 women)
Winners	Singles – Mark Finn & Tina Gray Doubles – Mark Finn & Jerome Carty Mixed Doubles – Tina Gray & Jerome Carty
National Competitors	Janet Tai, Jerome Carty, Mark Finn & Tina Gray
National Result	Unplaced

### CSSC Games

Venue	Loughborough
Events	Archery, Athletics, Masters Football, Mixed Hockey, Mixed Rounders, Netball, Table Tennis, Swimming
Participants	25 members in 8 events
Highlights	Netball team finished 5 <sup>th</sup> – highest placed HASSRA team.

### Chess

This competition was cancelled.

### Cricket – Curtis Bennett & Percy Heritage

See report on page 20.

### Crown Green & Flat Green Bowls

See report on page 21.

<b>Darts</b>	
Venue	Stirchley WMC
Entrants	31 (25 men, 6 women)
Winners	Mens Singles – Steve Harding Ladies Singles – Sarah Lowe Team – Chris Dee, Craig Dawson, Russell Hingley
National Competitors	Chris Dee, Craig Dawson, Matthew Stubbs, Russell Hingley, Sarah Lowe
National Result	Unplaced

<b>Drama</b>	
See report on page 22.	

<b>Equestrian</b>	
Venue	Middleton Riding Centre
Entrants	11

<b>Football – Mens’ Five-a-Side</b>	
Venue	National Indoor Arena
Entrants	17 Teams
Winners	Hanley
National Competitors	Hanley
National Result	Unplaced

<b>Football – Ladies’ Five-a-Side Trial</b>	
Venue	Nottingham
Entrants	8
National Competitors	Bev Ward, Corrine Patrick, Claire McDermott, Julia Wilks, Juliet Benjamin, Michelle Rudge, Siobhan Ashby
National Result	4 <sup>th</sup> Place

<b>Football – 11-a-Side</b>	
See report on page 23.	

<b>Hockey – CSSC Ladies 7</b>	
Venue	Nottingham & Loughborough
Competitors	Angela Gibson, Danielle Davies, Joyce Cole, Keeley Davies, Siobhan Ashby
Result	Joyce Cole – Runner Up in Nottingham

<b>Indoor Cricket Trial</b>	
Venue	Wolverhampton
Entrants	24
National Competitors	Corrine Williams, Enath Khan, Joseph Glendon, Matthew McCormack, Sonia Preston, Tariq Ali
National Result	Unplaced

<b>Mixed Rounders – Inter-Association Trial</b>	
Venue	Erdington
Entrants	40
IA Competitors	Andy Beasley, Andy Seal, Corrine Patrick, Danny Bagley, Enath Khan, Jacqueline Rose, Juliet Benjamin, Matthew Stubbs, Michelle Rudge, Sarah Smith, Rizwan Durrani
IA Result	Won 3, lost 2

<b>Music</b>	
No qualifier held.	

<b>Netball</b>	
See report on page 23.	

<b>Pool</b>	
Venue	Reds Snooker Centre, Coventry
Entrants	60
Winners	Dal Powar (Mens), Christine Leng (Ladies)
National Competitors	Dal Powar & Christine Leng
National Result	Unplaced

<b>Snooker</b>	
Venue	Golden Cue Snooker Club, West Bromwich
Entrants	18 (17 men, 1 woman)
Winners	Chris Meadows
National Competitors	Chris Meadows
National Result	Unplaced

### Sports Quiz

Venue	Brunswick Inn, Derby (hosted jointly with East Midlands)
Entrants	4 Teams
Winners	Hanley

### Squash

Venue	David Lloyd Club, Brierley Hill
Entrants	13 (11 men, 2 women)
Winners	Colin Bowater (Mens), Michelle O'Connor (Ladies)
National Competitors	Rizwan Durrani & Michelle O'Connor
National Result	Unplaced

### Table Tennis

Venue	National Indoor Arena
Entrants	26 (22 men, 4 women)
Winners	Mens Singles – Sani Clair Ladies Singles – Karen Toozer Doubles – Alasdhair Broadbent & Sani Clair Intermediate – Tony Harding Over 40's – John Marney

### Ten-Pin Bowling

See report on page 24.

### Tennis

Venue	Billesley Indoor Centre, Birmingham
Entrants	5 (3 men, 2 women)
Winners	Mens Singles – Tim Smith Ladies Singles – Lisa Pettener-Jones Doubles – Lisa Pettener-Jones & Elliot Grady
National Competitors	Chris Knowles, Lisa Pettener-Jones, Paula Hallam & Rob Russell
National Result	Chris Knowles & Rob Russell – Runners-up (Plate Competition)

# Angling



## West Midlands Qualification Results

Name	Points			Total Weight	Total Points	Position
	Boddington	Peatling Parva	Tunnel Barn			
A Edgington	1	X	1	200lb 9oz	2	1
K Wooding	3	1	X	130lb 9oz	4	2
T Meehan	2	2	4	126lb 13oz	8	3
D Harvey	4	X	3	54lb 2oz	7	4
M Jackson	6	X	2	54lb 12oz	8	5
G Herbert	5	3	X	31lb 15oz	8	6
A Smith	X	4	5	10lb 15oz	9	7
I Robson	8	5	6	DNW	11	8
R Deponio	7	5	X	6lb 1oz	12	9

### National Team

Dean Harvey, Mark Jackson & Tony Meehan.

### 6-Man National Team

Andy Edgington, Dean Harvey, Keith Wooding, Mark Jackson, Mike Hall & Ron Deponio.

### National Results

1<sup>st</sup> in Inter-Association 6-Man Angling competition

**Andy Edgington**  
**Angling Organiser**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

## Cricket



Overall the season was a mixed one.

The early part of the season was disappointing, with comprehensive defeats being suffered in the 1st round of both the Cup & Plate in the Curtis Bennett National Civil Service competition.

In the Cup, which was played in early May following a postponement in late April due to the traditional English summer weather, we took on The Rural Payments Agency (Reading) at Reading University where a century from one of the opposing opening batsmen helped them to a large total which West Midlands never looked like chasing successfully.

In the Plate, played at the start of July, the opposition was provided by a national team, namely the Valuation Office, in a home fixture played at Ashcombe Park Cricket Club in the picturesque Staffordshire Moorlands. Batting first, West Midlands put up a disappointing total which was bettered with ease by the opposition.

The only other fixture played this season was our annual match against HASSRA South West, in memory of Percy Heritage, which was played at Himley Cricket Club near Wolverhampton in mid-September. The match resulted in victory for West Midlands who, bowling first, dismissed the opposition for less than 100 and raced to victory in double-quick time. Without taking anything away from our performance, the opposition may have not been at their best having played in The Curtis Bennett Plate Final the previous day in Nottinghamshire.

The main positives to take from the season were introduction of Rizwan Durrani, the youthful Matt Hammersley, and the not-so-youthful Tony Chivers.

The negatives were the fact that the availability and/or release of our cricketers became a major problem, to the extent that fielding a full side of 11 never mind our strongest team ended up being the priority, something surprising for a region of our size.

In conclusion thank you to everyone who played, officiated & assisted with the organisation of the team, equipment & venues for their efforts.

We are hoping to arrange an indoor net session or outdoor pre-season friendly in Spring this year; anyone who may be interested in playing who thinks they may not already be on the circulation list can contact me on 07876 015946 or by e-mail at [dave.butler@jobcentreplus.gov.uk](mailto:dave.butler@jobcentreplus.gov.uk).

**Dave Butler**  
**Cricket Organiser**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

## Crown Green & Flat Green Bowls

We held our annual Singles and Doubles Crown Green Regional Qualifier at West Midlands Travel on 1<sup>st</sup> July; 20 members attended along with a few supporters and helpers.

The standard of bowls was excellent. Competitors were split into 2 groups to accommodate experienced bowlers and new comers, and my nephew, Martin, who is a qualified British Crown Green Referee, attended to help me, Martin took control of the newcomers, showing them what to do and explaining the rules. My thanks go to him for his help and I think a good day was had by all.

The bowls were played on a round-robin basis to ensure everyone got more than one game.

Linda Delves (Telford CCD) beat Brenda Viney (Midlands DBC) 21-19 in a very hard fought final; congratulations go to both. Anna Bates (Debt Centre Nuneaton) beat Andy Seal (Wolverhampton Crown House) 11 – 5 in the Plate final.

In the Pairs competition, Sarah Richards and Kim Dennison (Debt Centre Nuneaton) beat Paul Rudge (Walsall Pensions Centre) and Anna Bates (Debt Centre Nuneaton) 11-5, whilst Andy Seal and Paul Marshall (Wolverhampton Crown House) beat Gary Hardy (Ravenhurst BDC) and Tim Smith (HASSRA West Midlands) 7-5 in the Plate.

Linda, Brenda, Sarah, Kim, Anna and Paul went on to represent the West Midlands at the National Crown Green Finals in September. We did not have a winner, but a good time was had by all.

HASSRA West Midlands entered a team in the National CSSC knockout, which is played on an 8 per side basis at a neutral venue.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> game we had success over a team representing CSSC North West. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> round we played a team representing HASSRA North West 'B'; again we excelled ourselves and managed another win, meaning we were then in the final at Waterloo Blackpool in September, where we played a team representing HASSRA North West 'A' who had been previous winners of this competition. Unfortunately we did not win on this occasion, but were very pleased to have reached this stage of the competition.

In the mixed doubles CSSC Crown Green event Linda Delves and John Lumsden came very highly creditable runners-up.

In the Flat Green Bowls, we teamed up with East Midlands for the regional qualifiers due to lack of numbers and this was held in Nottingham. Linda Delves, Brenda Viney and Helen Clee went on to represent the West Midlands in the National Finals at Mount Florida, Glasgow, where we enjoyed fantastic weather (for April!) were piped at the beginning of the event and all presented with a lucky thistle. Our thanks go to Maggie Ritchie (HASSRA Scotland) for making the event an enjoyable one.

Linda played in the Ladies Singles and Brenda and Helen played in the Open Pairs event; unfortunately we were unable to send a male Singles player due to lack of availability. The only thing we managed to win at this event were the HASSRA shopping bags, for winning the quiz organised by Maggie in the evening.

The friendship and camaraderie enjoyed within the bowling community in 2009 was fantastic and long may it continue. A big thanks to all of those that helped me in my first year as Regional Organiser – I hope to be able to continue in this role with my number one aim being to increase participation.

**Helen Clee**  
**Bowls Organiser**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

## Drama

Following on from our success in 2008 when the HASSRA West Midlands drama team took home the trophy for Best Play at the Inter Association One Act play competition staged in Blackpool (we also won Best Actress and Best Set), the selection panel made up of myself and two other experienced performers/directors (Paula Waldron and Shirley Cooke) decided to return to comedy in 2009 following the darker performance of "Beyond the Door".

After obtaining a number of suitable scripts, we finally decided on a play called "A Change of Subjects" by Leon Pepall, a simple comedy with 4 cast members. The setting was a summer evening gathering involving two couples, one or more of whom had been romantically linked in the past.

The play dealt with these previous relationships and exposed some underlying tensions, long held resentment and concluded with some shocking revelations.

We auditioned for cast and crew members in January 2009 and, despite a disappointing turn out in terms of new faces, we were still able to assemble a strong cast and back-up team.

Our on-stage team was made up of myself, Danny Hanlon, Carole Turner (both retired) and Shirley Cooke (WMRO). Shirley also undertook the role of Director with able support from Paula Waldron (Five Ways), who unfortunately was unable to make the trip to Blackpool for the actual competition but was a great help in the planning stages.

Backstage we were supported by Louise Lingard (Nuneaton Debt Centre), who also acted as prompt.

On the day we performed well but, on reflection, all of the team agreed that we could have done better. Due to a number of unforeseen circumstances we had never actually had the whole on-stage team available to rehearse at any one rehearsal, which obviously didn't help but, we did, however, receive some encouraging words from the adjudicator and a number of hearty laughs from the audience.

Despite not being able to retain our crown for Best Play, we did come away with the award for Best Set.

Plans for our 2010 performance are already well underway and I'm pleased to report there are 3 new members of the crew who'll be travelling to Burnley in May, where we will perform "Airfield" to compete in the Inter Association competition. Rehearsals are already going very well and I'm confident we'll get some laughs with what has the potential to be a very funny play.

I'll be advertising again towards the end of the year for our 2011 performance, so if you are interested and want to give it a go I'd love to hear from you.

**Moz Baker**  
**Drama Organiser**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

## **Football – 11-a-Side**

The 2008–2009 season was not a successful one for the Regional Football team.

In the group stage of the HASSRA Challenge Cup we lost 3–1 to the South East. Due to poor weather we were then unable to play the match against the East of England and had to concede. In the Vase semi-final competition we then lost to London 2 -0.

Praise goes to those who took part and performed at their best to be competitive in all the matches; we have greater expectation for the 2009–2010 season as new players have now joined the team.

Our thanks go to the departing Manager, Graham Labrum, who has help transform the team into not only being competitive but playing with some style. It is hoped that the new Managers, Matt Booth and Tony Cardall, can follow along the same lines and benefit from the new players coming in.

**Tim Smith**  
**Regional Assistant**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

## **Netball**

In February 2009 we held an open netball invitation to all at the NIA.

We had a great turnout on the day with lots of new faces, from which a team was chosen to represent HASSRA West Midlands at the CSSC games in September at Loughborough University.

The team had never played together before and there had not been time to practice due to the summer holidays, but that did not impact on the team's excellent performance. 27 teams entered the CSSC Games and on the first day the West Midlands team were triumphant in all but one of our matches which put us in the top third of the competition for the final day.

The final day was the toughest day as we were up against the best. With aching muscles and blisters our team battled on, playing another 7 games. We can be extremely proud of ourselves finally coming 5<sup>th</sup>; we did beat the teams that were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> convincingly, but other results did not go our way.

No other HASSRA team came any higher than the West Mids. It was and nice to see some new faces to the team and everyone gave 100%. Since the event we have had more people register an interest in netball which is very encouraging.

**Julie Kennedy**  
**Netball Team Manager**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

## Ten-Pin Bowling



### 2009 Regional Results

<b>Singles Competition</b>	<b>Entrants</b>	27
	<b>Winner – Mens</b>	Paul Rudge (Walsall PS)
	<b>Winner – Ladies</b>	Katherine Hayward (Wolverhampton BDC)
	<b>Runner Up – Mens</b>	Leighton Jukes (Wolverhampton BDC)
	<b>Runner Up – Ladies</b>	Christine Griffiths (Wolverhampton BDC)
	<b>High Game - Mens</b>	Mike Box (Retired) - 181
	<b>High Game - Ladies</b>	Tracey Pote (Wolverhampton BDC) - 176

<b>Teams Competition</b>	<b>Entrants</b>	15 Teams
	<b>Winners</b>	Wolverhampton Fraud
	<b>Runners Up</b>	Midlands DBC 'A'
	<b>High Game</b>	Robert Vaughan (Hanley BDC) – 193

This years' regional ten-pin bowling events were held at Worcester Bowl.

Entries received for both competitions were generally on a par with 2008 (although maximum entries this year were restricted by the number of bowlers the venue could accommodate), but it was disappointing to see only 5 women sign up for the Ladies' Singles, and all from the same office. Hopefully more women from more offices can be encouraged to participate in the singles competition in coming years to buck the recent trend.

The Mens Singles event proved to be particularly competitive. Although Paul Rudge achieved a clear victory, positions changed regularly throughout the competition for those competing for second place, only 17 pins separating the next 3 bowlers come the end of a tense, closely fought competition.

In the Ladies Singles it was pleasing to see first-time entrant Katherine Hayward come first and so progress to the National competition. Katherine beat her closest rival Christine Griffiths by 1147 pins to 1028, a result she definitely wasn't expecting, but she successfully managed to get the upper hand on her pre-competition nerves to do so.

With the absence of Jean Sheridan, a regular winner of this competition, the Ladies Singles competition is currently wide open. Jean unfortunately has now left DWP and ceased her HASSRA membership, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her support over the years.

The Team event also saw competitive action take place, particularly between the Hanley BDC 'B', Walsall PC 'B', Wolverhampton BDC 'C' and Worcester BDC teams whom formed the infamous "group of death". At the end of their group stage all four teams were tied on points, something not seen in a while in this event, and it came down to pinfall for the Hanley BDC team to progress to the final.

Feedback has shown both events to be as popular as ever. It is anticipated that there will be a high number of entrants for both competitions in 2010, which will be held in April in Stoke.

## 2009 National Results

<b>Mens Singles</b>	<b>Paul Rudge</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> (Scratch) / 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Handicap)
	<b>Leighton Jukes</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> (Scratch) / 14 <sup>th</sup> (Handicap)
<b>Ladies Singles</b>	<b>Katherine Hayward</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> (Scratch & Handicap)
	<b>Christine Griffiths</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> (Scratch) / 11 <sup>th</sup> (Handicap)
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	<b>Leighton &amp; Kath</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
	<b>Paul &amp; Christine</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Place
<b>Team Competition</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	

2009 saw our region achieve success in the National tournament, held at Charrington Bowl in Tolworth, London, in October, the squad bringing home Mixed Doubles & Team trophies for their efforts.

Although our bowlers couldn't quite keep up with some of their peers in their respective Singles competitions (with the exception of Paul Rudge), Leighton Jukes & Katherine Hayward achieved a sterling second place in the Mixed Doubles, defeating former England player Norman Hamed and partner Wendy Fitzmaurice from the Yorkshire & Humber region only to narrowly lose out to the East of England by 42 pins.

In the Team event, in which scores and places are calculated by combining the total pinfall of all four bowlers from a given region, our bowlers again achieved second place, missing out on first place again to the East of England by a mere 53 pins.

May success be repeated, if not improved, in Stoke in 2010!

## 2009 Inter-Association Results

<b>Inter-Association</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	South West – 21 points	
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	East Midlands – 11 points	
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	West Midlands – 10 points	
	<b>WM Team Members</b>	Leighton Jukes (C)	Mike Box
		Christopher Thompson	Paul Rudge
		Horace Barnes	Tom Squire
		Katherine Hayward	

The Inter-Association competition held at Worcester Bowl in November proved to be something of a dark day for our region, our team losing out on home turf.

First place proved an almost impossible dream for the East and West Midlands teams, the South West fielding one of the strongest teams ever seen in this event, but nonetheless both gave their best. Despite a valiant effort which saw our team neck and neck against the East Midlands all the way to the final frame, the East Midlands managed to snatch second place by 6 pins.

Here's to wishing our team better luck in Plymouth in 2010.

**Leighton Jukes**  
**Ten-Pin Bowling Manager**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

## Golf Society Report



The year began with the Christmas Meeting at Sandwell Golf Club in November.

Twenty seven players enjoyed an excellent day at a top quality course. The winning score of 36 points by Andy Fowler reflected the challenge the course set. Andy narrowly beat Paul Corbett on count back, followed by Jim Leahy on 34 points with Bill Dolphin and Mick Williams two points further back.

Our 2009 season started with the Spring Meeting at Fulford Heath Golf Club. Twenty two players set out in unsettled conditions and got wet to varying degrees. The course was good and, again, the scores reflected this. Ken Hewitt won the first division at his first event, with the society scoring an excellent 38 points. He was followed by Chris Chapman on 34 points with Mick Williams a distant third.

The second division was won by Adrian Moody with 36 points, followed by Jim Leahy on 35 and Mark Poultney on 30. Ken Hewitt (net), Mick Williams (gross) and Sarah Cranton with a gross 81 qualified for the National Championships later in the year.

Atherstone Golf Club was the venue for the first of our five Inter-Regional fixtures, all played at venues new to the Society.

The club were excellent hosts and East Midlands the visitors to a course that presented an interesting test. The practice holes in the morning quickly gave an indication that course knowledge was a big help and, as hardly anyone had played the course before, this led to a very entertaining afternoon. Wins for Stewart Rennie with Kevin Dolphin, Tony Sanders with Steve Dale and Chris Chapman with Mark Poultney were enough to supplement a powerful comeback half by the Captain and Vice-Captain to secure victory by three and a half matches to two and a half.

Our second match was a trip to Saltford Golf Club near Bristol to play the West Country.

Played in excellent spirit, this match no longer has the teeth it did many years ago, probably as most of the players don't either. A difficult day ensued for the West Midlands, the veteran John Guest with Sarah Cranton securing our only victory. A half for Mick Williams and Adrian Moody was only enough to confirm a defeat by four and a half matches to one and a half.

The Captain went missing for our next match against London North at Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands Golf Club near Milton Keynes. Paul Corbett later reported on *'an exceptionally hot day, 38 in the shade, but a great society course and very easy to find. Unfortunately, the result was not so good. We lost three matches to one, only gaining halves for myself and Dave Butler and Phil Badland and Mark Poultney. Short, but very tight, the way I like 'em'*. Enough said.

The Thornbury Golf Centre hosted our triangular fixture against the West Country and Wales.

The most impressive display of scoring in living memory by Wales and three hours of heavy rain combined to spoil the West Midlands day somewhat. With eight stableford scores from twelve to count, Wales amassed a total of 293 points (an average of over 36 per card) to win by ten points from the West Country, with the West Midlands four points further back. Brave efforts from John Powell with 39 points and Andy Fowler on 38 points were the best for West Midlands.

Our final match of the season took us to Leek Golf Club to play North West.

An excellent course and a friendly club, this may well be a popular venue for future matches. A lot of new faces on the North West team gave us some hope against a side that have been very strong in recent years; this hope was compounded when the Captain ended a fairly subdued season by combining with Jim Leahy to completely overpower the North West Captain in the top match of the day. A number of very close games followed to provide the most tense finish of the season. Unfortunately one or two players were left ruing apparent stamina issues, as we just fell short. A win for Ken Hewitt and Steve Berns and a half for Mick Williams and Barry Buckle left us with a defeat by three and a half matches to two and a half. An enjoyable end to the fixture season nonetheless.

Our autumn meeting took us to Oxley Park Golf Club in Wolverhampton.

A dry but breezy day welcomed the golfers and scoring was particularly good. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division honours went to Paul Corbett with an excellent level par round, which netted him 44 stableford points. Some way behind Paul were Steve Berns, Ken Hewitt, and John Eastoe with 37, 36 and 35 point. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division honours went to Andy Fowler with an excellent 40 points, with Steve Foster, Jim Leahy and Paul Bodimeade making the places up with 36, 35, and 34 points. Following on from the golf, the society held it's 2009 AGM.

Congratulation go to Sarah Cranton on winning the National Championships in Wales. Sarah keeps West Midlands golf on the National map and we are privileged to have her among our number. Well done also to Mick Williams and Ken Hewitt, although they were not so successful.

Finally, thanks to the Treasurer, Chris Chapman, and to Secretary Mick Williams for all their hard work. Both have little or no chance of retiring any time soon. I hope 2009's events have been enjoyable and that we can all look forward to 2010.

**Gareth Sambrook**  
**Golf Society Captain**  
**HASSRA West Midlands**

# West Midlands Major Trophies & Awards



The HASSRA West Midlands Awards Committee have considered all the entries for the 2009 Annual Regional Awards and have made decisions on said entries accordingly.

## Award of Merit

Peter Gould (Retired)

## Business Sponsor of the Year

Winner - Gary Marshall (Perry Barr BDC)  
Highly Commended - Dave Evans (Worcester BDC)  
Highly Commended - Nigel Furness (Worcester BDC)  
Highly Commended - Julie Chandler (Handsworth BDC)

## Volunteer of the Year

Winner - Emily Armstrong (Washwood Heath JCP)  
Highly Commended - Kerry Beckett (Cannock BDC)  
Highly Commended - Caroline Robinson (Worcester BDC)

## Sportswoman of the Year

Siobhan Ashby (Nuneaton Debt Centre)

## Sportsman of the Year

Paul Rudge (Walsall Pension Centre)

## Best Newsletter

Winner - Five Ways (Editor: Derrick Johnson)  
Highly Commended - Telford Plaza (Editor: Daniel Suggitt)

## Club of The Year

Endeavour Trophy - Worcester  
Tunstall Cup (2<sup>nd</sup>) - Walsall Bridle Court  
Frank Hill Cup (3<sup>rd</sup>) - Nuneaton Debt Centre

Highly Commended - Telford Plaza  
- Five Ways House  
- Walsall Pension Centre

Commended - Perry Barr BDC  
- Handsworth  
- Hereford  
- Cannock  
- Telford Newtown House