

**Sussex County Bar Billiards Association
2026 Annual General Meeting
Held at The New Oak
11th August 2026**

Meeting Started 20:01

1. Register Of Attendance:

Michelle Baden, Nigel Senior, Matthew Knight, Jean Brackenridge, Stuart Carruthers, Greg Walsh, Bob Hall, Graham Sparksman, Stuart Mephram, Alan Brackenridge, Ian Giffin, Tony Jenner, Colin Green

2. Apologies For Absence:

Michael Wilson, Kevin Tunstall

3. Minutes of AGM 2025: Tony Jenner & Stuart Mephram

4. Matters Arising:

5. Chairpersons Report:

Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Sussex County Bar Billiards Association.

Thank you for being here and for the time, energy and enthusiasm you continue to give to bar billiards across Sussex. It is always encouraging to see representatives from our leagues and teams come together, not only to conduct the Association's business, but also to support the future of a game that means so much to all of us.

[**Looking Back on the Season**](#)

The 2025–26 season has once again shown the strength and character of Sussex bar billiards. Our home-and-away inter-league programme, one-day inter-league events and county competitions have given players opportunities to compete, renew friendships and represent themselves and their leagues with pride.

There have been many notable successes to celebrate across our team, individual and pairs competitions. I warmly congratulate all of this season's winners and runners-up on their achievements. Further details of the results and winners will follow later in the AGM.

Just as importantly, I thank every person who entered, travelled, scored, organised or simply turned up to support. Competition matters, but participation and fellowship are what keep our game healthy.

Thank You

On behalf of the Association, I offer my sincere thanks to our officers and committee members for their work throughout the year. Much of what they do happens quietly behind the scenes: arranging fixtures, maintaining records, organising venues and equipment, publishing information, answering queries and dealing with the many practical details that allow our events to run smoothly. I also recognise that some committee members are going through difficult times and may be considering their future involvement with the Association. I want them to know that their efforts and commitment are deeply appreciated. We thank them for everything they have given and hope that, as circumstances allow, they will continue to support the Association in whatever way they can.

Our thanks also go to the league secretaries, team captains and everyone who volunteers to help across the county. I would especially like to recognise the clubs, pubs and social venues that host our matches and competitions. Their hospitality and willingness to provide space for bar billiards are essential to the survival and growth of the game.

I would also like to offer our sincere thanks to the New Oak for hosting tonight's AGM and making us so welcome. We are equally grateful to Roffey Sports and Social Club and Burgess Hill Constitutional Club for providing venues for our competitions throughout the year. Their hospitality and continued support play a vital part in making our county events possible.

I would particularly like to thank Stuart Mepham for his commitment to transporting the tables in the AEBBA van and setting them up for our competitions. This is demanding work and an essential part of making each event possible. My thanks also go to Alan Brackenridge, Tony Jenner, James Whittle and Jean Brackenridge for always being there to help. It has also been very encouraging to see more people lending a hand to take the tables down and tidy up after events. We are extremely grateful to everyone who helps before, during or after a competition. Your time, effort and teamwork make a real difference and are greatly appreciated.

Finally, thank you to every player. Whether you compete for county honours, play regularly in your local league or have only recently taken up the game, you are part of the Sussex bar billiards community, and your involvement is valued.

Challenges and Opportunities

We should also be honest about the challenges we face. Some teams and leagues continue to find it difficult to recruit and retain players. The withdrawal of a team during the home-and-away season reminds us that participation cannot be taken for granted. Venues are under pressure, people's time is often stretched, and the work required to organise our game falls on a relatively small number of people.

These challenges are real, but so are the opportunities. We can make competitions welcoming to newcomers, encourage leagues to introduce friends and younger players to the game, share organisational responsibilities more widely and communicate clearly across Sussex. The varied structures used in our events show

how thoughtful formats can give players more matches and create a rewarding day of competition.

For the coming year, I hope we will focus on three things: supporting our existing leagues and venues; attracting and retaining players; and ensuring that county competitions remain well organised, enjoyable and accessible. Every league represented here has experience and ideas to contribute, and I encourage open, respectful discussion as we consider the proposals before us this evening.

Our Call to Action

So tonight, I ask every member to take one practical step during the coming season: invite someone new to try the game, support a local venue, volunteer to help at an event or share news of our competitions in your community. If each of us does just one of these things, together we can strengthen our leagues, protect our venues and ensure that Sussex bar billiards continues to thrive.

Closing Remarks

Bar billiards has a proud history in Sussex, but its future depends on what we do now. If we continue to work together, welcome new people and share the responsibility of keeping the game active, I am confident that the Association can look forward with optimism.

In closing, thank you all for being here this evening and for everything you contribute throughout the year. Your time, goodwill and continued support keep our Association and our game moving forward. I wish you, your teams and your leagues every success in the season ahead. It is a privilege to serve as your Chairperson, and I look forward to working together as we build on the proud tradition of Sussex bar billiards. I now formally declare the 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Sussex County Bar Billiards Association open, and we will move to the next item on the agenda.

Stuart Carruthers

SCBBA Chairperson

6. Correspondence: None

7. Treasurers Report & Accounts 2025/26:

We made a loss this year which was mainly due to trophy cost. Apart from general yearly increase there were a few trophies that needed the engraving catching up on. For example there was one trophy needed 4 years engraving.

I will be looking at the individual trophies we present next year and have a few ideas to cut the cost of these down.

With the Sussex Open again we made a loss but I feel we need to look at the average over two years due to the fact we get entries from Guernsey every other year when the International is held.

Even though we made losses we are still in a healthy position so I suggest all affiliation fees and inter league fees are kept the same. Jen Brackenridge will continue to ask if people want trophies to try and keep the costs down.

Matt Knight & Bob Hall seconded

8. Home & Away Inter League: (Matt Knight)

Ended up with 5 in each division. Redhill B had won division 2 the year before but refused to go up so withdrew. Sadly Brighton B withdrew from Division 2 so ended up with 5 in that division.

Well done to Worthing A who retained their Division 1 Interleague title, same points as West Sussex who were runners up. Redhill A also same points but ended up finishing 3rd as it went down to legs won.

Worthing A 31, West Sussex 29 & Redhill 28.

Things are likely to be different next season as Tunbridge Wells could be withdrawing. Well done to Daniel Wheal who topped Division 1 rankings. Well done to Alan Brackenridge who topped Division 2. Thank you to Stuart C for keeping the website up to date.

I have the draft dates and it is another packed calendar next year.

Thank you to everyone who played last season and good luck to everyone for the coming season.

9. One Day Inter League Report: (Nigel Senior)

B team

Worthing B won by half a point from Redhill B. Alex Hornby, Clive Thompson, Jim Greensted from Redhill and Dave Ingram from Worthing got 8 points from 9. Alex got the high average of 4960

Division 2

Littlehampton won by 5 points from Billingshurst. Iain Tarrant and Colin Green top performed with 10 points from 12. Graham Lewis top average of 4648

Ladies

Redhill won from Brighton by 8 points. Four players 8 points out of 9, Jean Brackenridge, Denise Wills, Anita Blackman, Tracy Guy. Jean top average of 7982.

Division 1

Brighton A won convincingly by 8 points. Worthing A runner up. Bob Hall top performer 11 points out of 12. Martin Cole top average 11175

Matt & Jean ran the competitions

10. Competitions Report: (Tony Jenner)

Competitions Report 2026 Sussex AGM 11/08/26 @ New Oak.

Another good season of competitions with support remaining around the same numbers. A high standard of play in all competitions. Tables offered different challenges but all playable. Thank you to all that helped with setting up the tables and t those that helped get everything packed away. Thank you to Stuart Carruthers for all his hard work on the admin desk and doing the formats for both the singles and doubles.

The Saturday saw the doubles and the winners were Martin Smith and Stuart Carruthers beating Martin Cole and Barry Holt in the final. The Plate was won by Alan Brackenridge and Kev Stoner who beat Rick Cunningham and Tony Jenner in a very close final (just 240 points in it).

On Sunday the Ladies Singles were won by Jean Brackenridge in a very close fought round robin format. The Men`s Singles was won by Nigel Senior who beat last year`s winner Matt Knight in the final. Nigel had beaten Tony Jenner in the semi final and Matt had beaten Alan Brackenridge. The Plate was won by Martin Cole who beat Stuart Carruthers in the final. Nigel and Jean will represent Sussex in the AEBBA Singles.

The Mixed doubles were won by Jean Brackenridge and Matt Knight beating Steph Pearce and Dan Wheal in the final. Melissa Beach and Martin Cole won the Plate beating Zoe Stoner and Joe Oakley in the final.

The Over 50s was won by Matt Knight who beat Tony Jenner in the final. The Plate was won by Jim Greensted beat Steve Burns in the final.

Both competitions were well supported but long days as played in the evening after the one day inter leagues.

County Team Report:

Sussex A (Kevin Tunstall)

Hi everyone, last years county championships were very disappointing for the A side, finishing 4th, safely away from relegation, but not up to our usual standards, compared with the previous 4 seasons. This level of BB is of the highest standard and it only takes a couple of hiccups in players performances to swing a result one way or another. Drawing 3 of our 4 matches just wasn't good enough on the day. Whatever side is selected this year, I'm sure the record will be put straight. Over the past eleven months I have felt that fingers were pointing in my direction as to our standards slipping and when I was approached by a member of the team several months ago about him standing as captain for this year, my suspicions were correct. My form on the day was below my regular standard 4/8 but I wasn't alone. And as for my record as County captain in both Oxon and Sussex, I think you will find it is second to none. So now that's off my chest , I would like to wish the next captain of the A side the best of luck. I unfortunately am standing down and do not wish to be considered for selection at all this year. Thankyou

Sussex B (Tony Jenner)

Sussex B came 2nd behind 1st times winners Surrey A. Surrey A ended on 33 pts and Sussex B on 30 points. A great team effort with all players chipping in, great team spirit and support for all, which I feel helps towards Sussex Bs performances. The Bs were 2 points ahead of 3rd place Kent.

The B team was Tony Jenner (captain), Stuart Carruthers, Martin Smith, Mike Daw, Chris Cox, Kev Hall and Jack Baden. Well done to the team and a pleasure to captain the side again. Sussex B continue to maintain their status in the Division 1 competition.

Ladies (Michelle Baden)

A fun day was had by all as usual for this competition. We came last but it was a good day and lovely to get together and long may it continue. We only had 6 players on the day. 4 player won 6/8.

11. Inter League Formation:

Expect the winners of Div 2 to go into Div 1. Assuming Worthing B will be going into Div 1. Doubt about Tunbridge Wells entering. Therefore no-one will be relegated. Pete Sainsbury thinks there may be a team entered and Curt was adamant that they would not have a team. Will be decided on the 26th August. If they don't have a league they wont be able to enter but if they have a singles league they might be able to. Michael Wilson is trying to get a Redhill B team in. When they were promoted last year they withdraw. Mid Sussex will probably have a side but they are not committing as to where. 9 or 10 definites at the moment and 3 uncertain.

12. Election Of Officers:

President: Dave Hampton

Chairperson: Stuart Carruthers - reselected

Vice Chairman: Bob Hall - reselected

Treasurer: Jean Brackenridge - reselected

Secretary: Michelle Baden - reselected

Competitions: Tony Jenner - reselected

Inter League Secretary: Matt Knight - reselected

1 Day Events: Nigel Senior Asst. Stuart Carruthers - reselected

Sussex A Captain proposed Matthew Knight – Bob Hall proposed & Martin Cole seconded

Sussex B Captain – Tony Jenner reselected

Sussex Ladies Captain Michelle Baden - reselected

13. Rules & Amendments:

Proposal to introduce a new interleague rule

Proposed: Tony Jenner

Seconded: Rick Cunningham

Current rule:

4. No player may represent more than one League in a season.

Any player representing his league must be registered with a team within his league.

Proposal:

To qualify for home and away inter league a player must have played at least 70% of games, in the season prior to the start of the current season, within the league they are going to represent and must also be registered and intend playing in the league they are going to represent in the current season.

TJ – get people thinking about not playing in that league but represent in interleague, not showing the commitment. Amendments can be made but set the target high to get people talking. JB – 70% - been a Brighton player for 50 years – I might not be able to play this year as cannot get a team which means I won't be able to play next year BH – 70% is too high – players will not be able to play – dying game. Ian Lelliott will help out if anyone is short. Rule means he can't play. James Whittle may not be able to play due to the rotation system in the league. People should be affiliated and play in the league. Health issues etc. How do you get new players if people have only just moved into the district. Tim Scotney played LH but didn't play in the league. 4 players that didn't play in the league but did play Interleague – wouldn't have a team without them. Chris Cox plays West Sussex but is mainly a Brighton player now. Jim is injured but wants to play this year.

SC – the rule is ok but wording may need changing. It says 70% but not stating what games. Mid Sussex only have 2 comps so where does the 70% stand in that. Would have to tighten up the wording to make it work. We would like to encourage new players as don't want to turn them away. BH - Someone played for Brighton and when they had to drop out he went to play for LH – this shouldn't have happened. Brighton B's results were deleted as if they hadn't played which is why Tim was allowed to play with Littlehampton – **proposal was 10-0 against so the existing rule stands.**

14. Any Other Business:

JB asked by Ros how many you would need to hold a sussex ladies doubles. TJ said that you would need 4 pairs to hold this competition. Could look at trophies as the entry fee wouldn't cover the trophies. We wouldn't necessary have to have trophies and we can give them the option. Tony to put it back on the entry form with the statement that if there are not enough entries they will have the option to pull out or enter the open doubles.

Dates for Next year

23rd January – Sussex Doubles

24th January – Sussex Singles

20th February – B Teams One Day Inter League

21st February – Division Two One Day Inter League

27th February – Ladies One Day Inter League

28th February – Div 1

5th June – Sussex Masters

6th June – Sussex Open

26th June – Sussex Off The Spot

Meeting Closed 21:20