



English Pool Referees Association

www.epra8ball.org.uk

2026 AGM

LOCATION: MS Teams
DATE: Sunday 2nd August, 2026
TIMES: 1:00pm to 3:03pm
MINUTES: Steve Peregrine

PRESENT:	Chair	George Bradbury (GB R3)
	Treasurer	Lyn Carnall (LC R3)
	Vice Chair	Simon Grove (SG R7)
	Exam Secretary	Tony Coe (TC R6)
	Membership Secretary	Steve Peregrine (SP R4)
	R1/R2 Delegate	Martin West (MW R2)
	R3 Delegate	Darren Henshall (DH R3)
	R4 Delegate	Nicky Josselyn (NJ R4)
	R5 Delegate	Michael Rees (MR R5)
	R6 Delegate	Tony Wiltshire (TW R6)
	R7 Delegate	Will Dowsing (WD R7)
	R8 Delegate	JP Eames (JPE R8)
	Life President	Jason Davies (JD R7)
		Christine Armitage (CA R2)
		Paula Landers (PL R2)
		Sharon Wood (SW R3)
		Andrew Carnall (AC R3)
		Gary Pearse (GP R4)
		David Lowe (DL R4)

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

- LC – Banking options to be investigated for online/dual-signature access and discussion with EPA Treasurer for advice.
- LC – Revise the Treasurer's Report to include the circa. £500 bond held on Region 2's behalf.
- TC – Draft a new exam paper for C→B upgrade, consult officers and delegates, and present it as a proposal to the AGM in January.
- SP – Publish the new and amended Byelaw 4 on the EPRA website.
- JD – Propose an amendment to clause 4.3 of the constitution regarding tenure of officers.
- SP – Prepare and publish meeting minutes in JHH's absence.

INTRODUCTION:

- Meeting times – 1:00pm to 3:03pm.
- The meeting opened with a warning about public social media posts and their wider consequences, urging greater care in comments made on social media.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

- No minutes for the AGM held in February 2025 were available. EPRA Byelaw 1 requires meeting minutes to be issued and published on the website within 2 weeks of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

- None, due to no minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

- As written and proposed by GB.
- Explanation was made that previous talks with the IRO had broken down due to differences of opinions on any collaboration agreement.
- GB commented that recent input from the EPA regarding posts on social media and frustration that recent times have been difficult, particularly with social media incidents around Association members and the impacts caused.
- Thanks were given to all for their performance.
- Seconded by LC.
- Accepted 14 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:

- None received.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- As written and proposed by LC.
- MW questioned a circa. £500 bond held for Region 2, and CA questioned why it is not displayed or accounted for in the statement, LC will add a separate line showing the funds held on behalf of Region 2 on the accounts.
- SP asked why the Exam expenses were not a rounded value when exams are always a fixed price of £20 or £25 to candidates. LC explained that the value quoted includes outgoing expenses that have been removed from that income.
- LC reported issues with the supplier Linea but confirmed shirts production will continue and outstanding orders will be filled.
- Members probed year-over-year comparisons, noting the £1,500 reserve transfer and a reported £765 loss when adjusted; LC explained timing and two-year honoraria payments as causes for the variance. The decision was made to keep the £1,500 in the current account to avoid operational delays when EPA payments are late.
- A query regarding Linea shirt supplier delivery was clarified as continuing by SW.
- Seconded by DH.
- Accepted 3*+12 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention. * To include update of the Region 2 circa. £500 bond details as discussed.
- Note – the finance document attached to these minutes is the updated and revised version.

EXAM SECRETARY'S REPORT:

- As written and proposed by TC.
- TC detailed regional and national exam with success rates since the last AGM meeting in February 2025.
- TC proposed moving from the current multiple-choice exam to a written-style exam or adding an intermediate test for existing members, arguing the multiple-choice format is now too easy and not fit for purpose.
- Attendees queried whether the association must use the internationally adopted exam and participants discussed whether the world body has mandated the exam format.

- Members debated whether the association can adopt its own exam, favoured keeping objective formats but making them harder and more varied (e.g., picture/video questions added), and identified TC as the likely lead to develop any revised exam proposal.
- Participants reviewed the historical requirement that promotion to A grade required assessment over three events and an additional exam, and noted the present EPRA entry exam is widely seen as too easy and in need of revision. The group discussed whether rising exam standards would affect grading outcomes and emphasised that experience records remain central to promotion beyond the D-grade entry.
- Attendees debated raising written-exam standards for upgrades - particularly a C→B level exam and questioned whether approval should involve the world body or the EPA, concluding the EPA liaison is constitutionally required while some felt world-body approval is less relevant given non-participation in certain championships.
- SP suggested TC draft a new exam paper, consult officers and delegates, and present it as a proposal to the AGM in January. TC and the group agreed.
- Seconded by TW.
- Accepted 16 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

- As written and proposed by SP.
- SP clarified the one member listed as 'In Abeyance'. This being a Region 7 referee who had been in this status since the 1st quarter of 2025 after having to choose between being an EPRA referee or an IRO referee. Suggested and agreed to transfer their status to 'Resigned'.
- Seconded by MR.
- Accepted 15 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

MOTION FOR DEBATE – NEW BYELAW 4 – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE:

- Proposed by SP, seconded by LC
- SP explained that the Constitution referred to such a document, but no document existed, and GB has asked him to fill the gap.
- CA raised some queries on wordings, all of which were accepted:
 - Clause 2.1 – change 'incident' to 'incident being identified'.
 - Clause 3.1.5 – change the word 'member' to 'accused'.
 - Clause 6.1 – change 'adopted rules' to 'rules of the association'.
 - Clause 6.3 – change 'appeal' in line 1 to 'disciplinary'.
 - Clause 6.13 – change the whole clause to 'The decision of the appeals committee shall be final and binding.'
- MW questioned clarity on whether the process described was regional, national, or both based on the title of section 4. It was agreed no changes needed in this respect.
- Accepted including the queried changes above 16 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- Vice Chair – Simon Grove incumbent.
 - SG summarised his three years of service and desire to continue.
 - Members praised SG's recent stepping up and supported moving directly to a vote.
 - SG elected 15 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.
- Treasurer – Lyn Carnall incumbent.
 - The meeting noted LC's strong stewardship of the books.
 - Questions raised regarding prior retirement of membership raising constitutional questions. Queries made whether the association had formally re-elected LC after retirement. CA

proposed reinstating LC as Treasurer at this meeting, seconded by WD. CA also suggested instituting a documented procedure for handling incidents that require formal follow-up.

- LC elected 11 For, 0 Against, 4 Abstentions.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- LC will continue arranging production and distribution of shirts for members waiting on orders.
- The meeting examined constitutional language about officer tenure in clause 4.3, confirming the constitution describes officers holding office AGM→AGM on a staggered basis and highlighting a perceived inconsistency with the phrase 'three years'; speakers agreed the constitution needs tidying to remove ambiguity.
- Leadership committed to restore regular January AGMs to normalise staggered officer terms, agreed which offices will be voted at the next AGM, and assigned a volunteer to propose a constitutional amendment to clarify term timing at the January meeting.
- Clarification made that EPRA Executive Committee can amend bylaws without an AGM or EGM when necessary, in accordance with section 9 of the Constitution.
- MR confirmed as Region 5 Delegate.

DATE OF 2027 AGM:

- 31st January 2027.

Chairman's Report AGM 2026

I would like to start my report by stating that the past months have been very challenging for the association to say the least.

For a while I was in talks with the IRO with a view to the two associations collaborating & working together with us, the EPRA managing grass roots events up to national level, & the IRO covering the pro events. The talks appeared to be going well to start with but then during my final meeting with their management team they told me that in their opinion the best way forward would be for the EPRA to go under the "IRO umbrella" which would obviously mean a take-over, at this stage I made it clear that this was not an option which resulted in a breakdown in the talks.

I felt that this was a shame to be honest as I thought that the two associations could have complimented each other plus it would have opened new opportunities for both.

Moving on, more recently there have been isolated incidents where social media has been a serious cause for concern regarding certain members of the EPRA. I would like to stress at this point how a completely innocent comment on social media could have very serious consequences if not managed correctly.

Whilst on the subject of social media the EPA have had to contact us with concerns regarding this subject, and I have told them that I will do everything in my power to address the problem and make sure that it doesn't happen again. In my opinion the EPRA & EPA have always had a strong working relationship as well as a close friendship and it is very important to us that we rebuild that.

In closing and on a more positive note I would just like to say that I am more than happy with how everyone is performing in their individual roles and that we should look to the future with a more positive outlook.

Regards

George Bradbury.

EPRA FINANCE REPORT – Financial year 2025

Checking Account

	In	Out	Balance
<u>Opening Balances 01/01/25</u>			
Checking account			£ 4,593.79
<u>Income</u>			
Membership	£1,500.00		
Merchandise	£1,003.50		
Exams	£ 584.65		
EPA	£18,332.50		
Transfer from Reserve	£ 1,500.00		
 Total In	 £22,920.65		
			 £27,514.44
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Committee Expenses		£ 61.70	
Honoraria		£ 1,725.00	
Meetings		£ 90.00	
Travel Expenses		£ 453.30	
Referee Expenses		£ 18,332.50	
Website Hosting Charge		£ 160.79	
Merchandise		£ 1,362.61	
 Total Out		 £22,185.90	
Assets at hand:			
Printer		£0	
Laptop		£0	
32 EPRA badges		£0	
Region 2 funds (holding)			£515.70
Closing Balance 31/07/25			£ 4,812.84

Liabilities falling due to end of December 2025

£0.00

Creditors

£0.00

Reserve Account

	In	Out	Balance
<u>Opening Balances 01/01/25</u>			
Reserve			£5,529.81
 Interest	 £60.31		
 Transfer to Checking Account		 £1,500.00	
 Closing Balance 31/07/25			 £4,090.12

Hi Everyone.

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the length of this report but there have been many exams and 18 months since the last AGM.

Since the last Delegate and AGM meeting on 09/02/2025 there were 77 exams papers completed:

1. Exam 1 was on the same day of the last Delegate and AGM held in Longton Snooker Club. 1 candidate from Merseyside R2 who passed with myself as examiner. Pass rate 100%
2. Exam 2 was held in Hemsby at a National event, the candidate was from Devon R6 who passed. Examiner was myself. Pass rate 100%
3. Exam 3 held in Stoke R3 (University event 25/02/2025) 2 candidates and both passed, 1 from Cheshire and one from Lancashire both R2, Examiner George Bradbury. Pass rate 100%
4. Exam 4 held in Hemsby Norfolk R4 25/09/25 5 candidates, 4 passes, 1 fail. Of those who passed 1 was from Cumbria R2, 1 from West Mids R3 and 2 from Kent R7. Examiner myself. Overall 8 passed 1 failed. Pass rate 80%

Regional Exams

1. Region 1 had no exams
2. Region 2 had no exams but gained at least 3 referees via National exams.
3. Region 3 had no Regional exams but held National exams and gained a referee through a National exam
4. Region 4 held 2 exams. Exam 1 had 7 candidates, all 7 passed. Examiner Matthew Burgess. Pass rate 100% Exam 2 had 10 candidates with 7 passes and 3 fails. Examiner John Hope with Nicky Jocelyn observing with the hope of becoming an examiner in the future. Pass rate 70% Combined 17 candidates 14 passes and 3 fails. Pass rate for R4 82.35%. Region 4 also gained at least one referee through National exams. This was Matthew's second exam and I have no problem in recommending him to be upgraded to a fully qualified examiner (John perhaps you can send me your report before the AGM please). Matthew was meant to hold another exam in Hemsby back in April of this year but couldn't get to Hemsby for that event so I stepped in. I will cover that later in National exams.
5. Region 5 held one exam and all 14 passed. This was Michael Rees' first exam so I went to Gloucester to supervise him. He did a great job and technically once he has held his next exam unsupervised he can become fully qualified, perhaps we can discuss if we can make an exception here as R5 don't have a fully qualified examiner so someone has to travel out of region and if it's technically meant to be unsupervised then what is the point? (That's me thinking out loud 😊). R5 gained 1 other referee through a National exam. Pass rate 100%
6. Region 6 held 2 exams all 5 candidates passed. Examiner myself. R6 gained 3 other referees through National exams. Pass rate 100%
7. Region 7, no exams held but gained referees through National exams.
8. Region 8. 1 exam held 8 passed and 2 failed examiner John-Paul Eames. Pass rate 80%

National results with exams held in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire R3 and at Hemsby, Norfolk R4.

Please see above exams 1-4 for early National exams (in 2025) 9 candidates 8 passes 1 fail. Pass rate 88.88%

National Exams

1. Exam 1. University Event held in Longton Snooker Club Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire R3 Feb 2026. 18 candidates, 16 passed and 2 failed. Examiners George Bradbury and Lyn Carnall. Of the 16 passes we only know, 1 was from Hampshire R7 and 1 was from Great Manchester R2.

The normal front pages of the exam papers weren't present so we only had names and email addresses to go on. Pass rate 88.88%

2. Exam 2, Hemsby Norfolk, R4 5 candidates date of 3 exams ranging from 18/03/26 to 22/03/26 4 passed and 1 failed. Of those who passed 2 were from Cornwall R6., 1 from Essex R4 and 1 from Warwickshire R5. Examiner myself. Pass rate 80%
3. Exam 3, Hemsby Norfolk R4 9 candidates 8 passes 1 fail. Examiner was going to be Matthew Burgess as all 9 were from R4 but at the last minute he was unable to attend the National event so I stepped in. Pass rate 88.88%.

National exams in 2026 32 candidates with 28 passes and 4 fails is a pass rate of 87.5%. Combined with 2025 National results is 41 candidates 36 passes and 5 fails for a pass rate of 87.8%

Combined with Regional exams for a National pass rate 87 candidates 77 passes and 10 fails = a pass rate of 88.5%.

There has been an exam held recently in R4 those results are not included in the above report as I do not know enough about that exam at the time of writing.

One final thing going forward I am hoping that the EPRA will decide to change the exam to a written one similar to the old World Rules D grade exam due to the fact the multiple-choice exam as the above report shows in my opinion is not fit for purpose anymore. Main reason being it is way too easy. This new written exam could also include an intermediate exam for those who are already EPRA members but haven't taken the IR exam yet where the questions deal purely with the rule differences rather than taking the full exam non EPRA members would take.

Tony Coe.
EPRA Exam Secretary.

EPRA Membership Secretary Report, AGM 2026, 2nd August

At the time of writing, the status of members on the database is:

Banned - 6
Deceased - 16
Ex Member - 799
Failed Exam - 49
Full Member - 93
Full Member, Pending Payment 2026 - 2
In Abeyance - 1
Provisional - 43
Resigned - 3
Retired - 3

Total - 1015

Eligible to Vote at This AGM – 86 (includes 6 officers)

The membership database is stable and the receiving and update of such is efficient and partially automated to avoid manual handling of personal data that invariably would lead to typos.

As reported at previous meetings, the update of payment status from the Treasurer remains painfully slow due to the nature of the account only. People are always messaging me asking if we have received their payment and I am unable to confirm at times for anything up to 6 weeks. Some people get very anxious about this and send messages repeatedly where I assure them that they will be updated as and when I am updated.

The list of current members is regularly updated on the 'Our People' page of the website and includes 'Full' and 'Provisional' members. This update process is manual and not automated since the database is not stored online to protect the data.

2026 Upgrade Requests via the membership form:

Questions from the floor regarding membership are welcomed.

Steve.