EHBEA Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts 2025

Oct 24, 2026 · Amanda Rotella

Reference and administrative details

Charity name	The European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA)
Registered charity number	1154585
Financial year	1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025
Governing document	Constitution adopted 28 August 2013
Correspondence address	Northumberland Building, Northumbria University, Northumberland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST
Bankers	Barclays Bank UK PLC
Independent examiner	Name: Larry Taylor Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: none Address: Northumberland Building, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST
Trustees during the year	Rebecca Sear (President), Abigail Page (Secretary; registered as Abigail Viguier), Kris McCarty, Jean-Baptiste André, Amanda Rotella (Treasurer; appointed trustee in 2025)

Objectives and activities

EHBEA exists to advance scientific research in evolutionary accounts of human cognition, behaviour and society, particularly among European academics and research students. Its objects cover fields including human behavioural ecology, evolutionary psychology, cultural evolution, gene-culture co-evolution and behavioural genetics, with a pluralistic and interdisciplinary perspective.

The charity pursues these aims through two main activities: an annual conference that is open to the public, and grants towards research costs, travel to the conference, and scientific workshops.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The conference is open to anyone, and grants are awarded through open calls, with priority given to students and early-career researchers.

Achievements and performance in 2025

In 2025 EHBEA held its annual conference and spent £4,760.66 on grants to support researchers, mostly students and early-career researchers.

Annual conference. The 2025 conference was held at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, from 14 to 17 April 2025. It brought together more than 200 delegates. Unlike in some previous years, registration income and venue costs passed through EHBEA's own account, which is why income rose from £6,359 in 2024 to £51,342 in 2025.

Grants.

- Travel grants: seven awards totalling £3,322.36, six of them helping students attend the conference.
- Early-career researcher grant: one award of £858.30.
- Workshop grant: £580.00 towards a podcast workshop run by members in France.

Membership. Membership grew to 262 in September 2025, up from 251 in April 2025 and 229 in 2024. The Newcastle conference also hosted a Stand Up for Science event.

Financial review

EHBEA ended 2025 with £34,137.72 in the bank, up £10,396.86 from £23,740.86 at the start of the year. Receipts were £51,342.25 and payments £40,945.39.

Most of the movement relates to the conference: £48,666.90 of registration income was collected through the University of Cambridge online payments service, and £31,270.72 was paid out for the venue and associated costs. The rest of EHBEA's income came from sponsorship (£1,300), tickets for the conference dinner (£673.39) and membership and other payments (£701.96).

Reserves. EHBEA did not have a formal reserves policy at 31 December 2025. In practice, the trustees aim to hold enough reserves (currently about £20,000, agreed verbally) to underwrite one annual conference and maintain the grants programme. They consider the year-end balance of £34,137.72 adequate for this. The trustees intend to adopt a written reserves policy.

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, as permitted for a non-company charity with gross income under £250,000.

Structure, governance and management

EHBEA is an unincorporated association governed by its constitution, adopted on 28 August 2013. It is run by an elected committee, whose officers serve as the charity's trustees. Committee officers are nominated and seconded by EHBEA members and elected by a vote of the membership, normally for a three-year term. Newly elected officers take up their posts after the annual conference.

The trustees are unpaid. They may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred on the charity's behalf, mainly travel to the conference and committee business; these are disclosed in note 2. Under the charity's expenses policy, committee members must first seek funding from their own institution, and EHBEA covers any remaining costs up to agreed approximate limits. The charity has policies on complaints handling, conflicts of interest, trustee expenses, safeguarding and serious incident reporting, and has no employees.

Risk management. The trustees manage the charity's main risks through a conference policy covering financial exposure, a policy that more than one officer should have access to the bank account, and a

code of conduct for events. The committee reviews these risks periodically and plans to bring them together in a risk register reviewed each year.

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2025

All funds are unrestricted unless note 3 says otherwise.

Receipts	£
Conference registrations	48,666.90
Sponsorship: Company of Biologists	1,000.00
Sponsorship: Royal Society	300.00
Conference and gala dinner tickets	673.39
Membership and other receipts	701.96
Total receipts	**51,342.25**

Payments	£
Conference venue and associated costs	31,270.72
Committee travel and expenses	4,435.51
Travel grants	3,322.36
Early-career researcher grant	858.30
Workshop grant	580.00
Website, domain and payment services	311.55
Gifts (for service, thanking committee members whose terms were ending)	130.95
Bank charges	36.00
Total payments	**40,945.39**

Summary	£
Cash at bank, 1 January 2025	23,740.86
Add receipts	51,342.25
Less payments	(40,945.39)
Cash at bank, 31 December 2025	**34,137.72**

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Barclays community account	34,137.72	23,740.86
Stripe balance awaiting payout	0.00	–
Due from Cambridge University Press (received January 2026)	550.87	–
Student research grant awarded but not yet paid	(840.00)	–
Other liabilities	–	–
Net assets	**33,848.59**	**23,740.86**

The £840 student research grant was awarded in 2025 and paid in July 2026.

EHBEA owns no land, buildings or investments.

Notes to the accounts

1. Basis of preparation. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis under the Charities Act 2011. Receipts are shown as received in the bank, net of any fees the payment provider deducted, including card fees on conference registrations collected through the University of Cambridge.

2. Trustee remuneration and expenses. No trustee received any payment for their services. Trustees were reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses as below. Committee members who are not trustees were reimbursed a further £3,201.31 for conference and committee travel and officer expenses.

Trustee	Purpose	£
Abigail Page	Travel; gifts bought for the conference	908.95
Rebecca Sear	Conference travel	456.20
Amanda Rotella	Website domain renewal	99.31

3. Restricted funds. Sponsorship of £1,300 from the Company of Biologists (£1,000) and the Royal Society (£300) was given to fund the 2025 conference. It was spent in full on conference costs during the year, so no restricted funds remained at 31 December 2025.

4. Grants. Grants totalling £4,760.66 were paid to individuals: seven travel grants (£3,322.36), one early-career researcher grant (£858.30) and one workshop grant (£580.00). A further student research grant of £840 was awarded in 2025 and paid in July 2026. Recipients are not named because they are private individuals.

5. Related party transactions. Apart from the expense reimbursements in note 2, there were no transactions with trustees or connected persons.

Approval

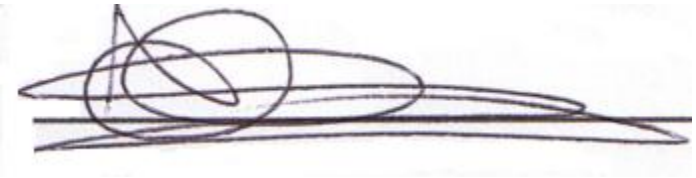
The trustees' annual report and accounts were approved by the trustees on 24 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed:



Name: Amanda Rotella, Treasurer

Date: 24 October 2026

Signed: ____  _____

Name: Abigail Page, Secretary

Date: 28th October 2026

The independent examiner’s report follows.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA)

Oct 27, 2026

Registered charity number: 1154585

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Larry Taylor

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: none

Address: Northumberland Building, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST

Date: 27 October 2026