

Agenda & Reports for the DBA Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 10am on Zoom – the meeting opened at 10am.

1. All Officers & Members Present

Jacqui Munns (JM) chair; Jeremy Childs (JC), vice chair, Neil Marsden (NM), treasurer, Bill Luscombe (BL) Liz Timbrell (LT), club liaison, Mike Hamon (MH), Sheila Ferguson (SF).

2. Minutes of the last DBA meeting held on August 12, 2025

These have been circulated to the committee and are already on the DBA website.

3. Treasurer's update

The current account balance is c. £4,540, and the deposit account balance is c. £28,400, giving a total of c. £32,940.

There have been 24 transactions since the last meeting, with income coming from entries for the No Fear Bridge Pairs in Tiverton, the Devon County Congress and the Devon League, although there are six league teams yet to pay.

As agreed at the last meeting, NM sent an email to Jonathan Lillycrop, requesting that the EBU reconsider their decision to charge the 70-board pairs events in our congresses as three sessions. However, this has been declined and the EBU have now updated the definition of a session in the latest EBU UMS Codes document to reflect their position.

Action NM will chase the league teams yet to pay.

4. EBU AGM 2025 This will take place on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at York Bridge Club and on Zoom. Both Devon shareholders, JM & MH will attend on Zoom.

5. Reports from around the county JC has stepped down as Chair of Exeter Bridge Club, with Viv Mably taking on the role.

6. Subcommittees

(i) Devon County Congress (DCC) subcommittee

The subcommittee (SF, NM, & BL) has not met since the last meeting. SF has spoken with the manager of the Grand who has agreed to take a £50 non-refundable deposit at time of booking then full payment on check-in. The details and entry form are now on the Devon website, and around six pairs have entered so far. An advert will go in the December edition of the EBU Magazine. The Licences for both the DCC & the NDC have been received from the EBU, and requests have gone out to all South West counties to mention both congresses on their websites.

(ii) North Devon Congress subcommittee (JM, Sfo)

Following discussion, the charges for the 2026 congress have now been set. The cost for attending the full weekend in a shared room is £280 pp as compared to £260 last year. The single supplement remains at £60 pp. The full weekend price for non-residents has risen by £5 to £65 pp. Details and an entry form are now on the website, no entries so far.

(iii) Devon Competitions subcommittee (JM, JC, BL)

Unfortunately, there have been no entries yet for the following Devon events; the John Woolcott weekend incorporating the Devon Teams of Four, the Devon Pairs, and the Club Teams of Eight competitions.

Action JM will send out emails and compose a flier for distribution to clubs to try and increase interest.

Western League Many thanks to Stefan Lindfors, who has agreed to select for the A Division. In the first match against East Wales on Saturday, September 27, 2025, both B & C Teams had good wins with the A team losing narrowly. The next match is against Somerset on Saturday, October 25, 2025.

(iii) Teaching & Transition subcommittee

The subcommittee (JM, JC) met on Monday, September 22 and have since organised a third No Fear Bridge event to take place on Sunday, November 30, 2025 in Tiverton. Details are on the website and currently there are 12 players signed up.

(iv) North Devon Bridge (NDB) subcommittee

The subcommittee (NM, JM, & Stephen Rafferty & Richard Watkins) met on August 20, 2025 on Zoom. The third set of beginner's classes started in September with nine regular attendees. Taken together with the first two sets of classes, costs are currently being covered.

The next Filleigh charity event is on Sunday, November 23, 2025, with six pairs currently sign up.

Another improver's seminar will take place at the Barnstaple Library on Tuesday, 11th November, 2025.

7. Club Liaison Role LT has emailed Mary Cousins, the EBU County & Membership Development Officer to try and rearrange her visit and is awaiting a reply.

8. Website The DBA Bridgewebs website is now the only DBA website, and the old address automatically links to this new site. Many thanks to Ruth for all her hard work getting the new site up and running.

9. AOB

At a recent pre-EBU AGM shareholders meeting, ways of encouraging non-affiliated clubs to join the EBU was discussed, including how some other counties are doing this.

Action JM to discuss with other county chairs and report back.

10. Future Meetings

The next DBA executive committee meeting will be on December 16, 2025 at 10am on Zoom.

The meeting ended at 10.55am.