

Minutes of the DBA Annual General Meeting

Held at 11 a.m. on Sunday 12 July 2026 via Zoom conferencing

Draft minutes awaiting approval at the 2027 DBA AGM

1. Attendance: (20 people attended, plus 12 proxies, total of 32)

Officers: Chair, Jacqui Munns (JM), Vice Chair, Jeremy Child (JC), Treasurer, Neil Marsden (NM)

Committee members: Bill Luscombe (BL), Liz Timbrell (LT), Mike Hamon (MH)

Members: Alison Pollok (AP), Barbara Rennie (BR), Betty Golding (BG), Bill Luscombe (BL), Brenda Martin (BM), Brent Wormald (BW), George Delafield, (GD), Ian Dalrymple (ID), Kate Ross (KR), Lee Bristow (LB), Michael Shaw (MS), Roger Gowland (RG), Steve Munns (SM), Susan Hunt (SH).

Proxies: Andrew Craddock (SM), Brigid McElroy (MH), Dick Andrews (NM), Karen Rogers (AP), Liz Martin (BM), Nic Long (BR), Norman Botton (BL), Rob Lawy (JC), Ruth Edmondson (GD), Sheila Ferguson (BG), Terence Treeby (JM), Joe Pitt (LT)

The chair announced that the meeting was quorate with 32 members represented, and the meeting opened at 11:01am.

2. Minutes of the 2025 AGM

The minutes of the 2025 AGM have been on the website for almost a month.

There were no matters arising. Barbara Rennie proposed that the minutes were accepted, this was seconded by Alison Pollok, and agreed by a show of hands.

3. Chair's Report

Jacqui Munns presented her report, which included the next agenda item 'Presentations'.

I am coming to the end of my fourth year as chair, and although we continue to make progress, everything does seem to take longer than you expect or hope that it would.

So, I would like to start by thanking the officers and members of the DBA executive committee who work hard to support and promote Bridge in Devon. They are Jeremy Child, Neil Marsden, Bill Luscombe, Liz Timbrell, Mike Hamon, Sheila Ferguson and Joe Pitt. By way of introduction, Joe, who is chair of two of the non-affiliated clubs in Tavistock, was invited to attend one of our executive committee meetings shortly after the last AGM, and we are delighted that he subsequently agreed to be co-opted onto the committee.

So, how are we doing? Bridge activity, by which I mean the number of times that Bridge has been played in an EBU-affiliated club in Devon, has remained at the same level in 25/26 as compared with the previous year. We know this because the DBA receives 4p every time a Devon EBU member pays to play Bridge in an affiliated club, and this income has not changed significantly since last year.

Of course, we can only access figures related to Bridge activity in EBU-affiliated clubs. We know that there is a lot of duplicate Bridge played in non-affiliated clubs in Devon and we are working on reaching out to **all** clubs, not just the affiliated ones. Inviting a non-affiliated club chair onto the committee is part of our commitment in this area, and Liz has been busy making contact with clubs in her role as our club liaison officer.

The membership of the DBA has also remained steady at just under a thousand members as compared to the previous year. Looking at this a little more closely, 15% of the membership has turned over during the year with approximately 150 members removed from the list and about the same number of new members added.

That is a lot of new members, and I would like to thank everyone involved in teaching Bridge in Devon and also those supporting gentle and intro sessions, etc. We all know that the journey from classroom to clubroom is long, and hopefully we are now starting to see the benefits in terms of new players in our clubs.

It is worth noting that this data comes from the MyEBU membership page of each club and therefore relies on the clubs keeping their page up to date. Recently, the EBU has been asking clubs to remove players who are no longer members so, if they have done that during last year, the number of members lost next year may not be so great.

So, what have we done this year?

We have had two successful congresses, both making a surplus.

The North Devon Congress at the Barnstaple Hotel in February had 25 tables for the Swiss pairs and 26 tables for the Swiss teams. Winners of the pairs and the teams were all Devon players - David Southcombe and Carmen Ruiz-Castell won the pairs, and Harry, Theo, Sally & Sam Anoyrkatis won the teams.

In April, the Devon County Congress took place at the Grand Hotel in Torquay and had 28 & 23 tables for the Swiss pairs and teams, respectively.

Of note, there were many new faces at both events, which hopefully bodes well for the future. Thanks to both organising committees and to our TDs Jeremy Child and George Delafield, and a special mention to Sheila for securing the Grand Hotel this year and indeed next year as well.

This year, we ran two more of our No Fear Bridge Pairs events for newer players making the transition from classroom to clubroom; one in Tiverton and the second at Victoria Park, Exeter. Both events attracted eight tables and were a success.

Thanks to the hard work of the North Devon Bridge subcommittee, we ran two charity Swiss Teams events at Filleigh Village Hall. Attendance for these events has been increasing year on year and they continue to attract a mix of players from both affiliated and non-affiliated clubs, as well as raising over £1,200 pounds for charity.

Devon also runs three competitions every year that act as qualifiers for the three EBU National competitions; the Pachabo, the Garden Cities and the Corwen.

The qualifying event for the Pachabo is the Devon Teams of Four for the Western Morning News Trophy, which did not take place last year due to a lack of entries. This year, we used the Swiss Teams on the Sunday of the John Woolcott weekend in January as the qualifier. The winning team was Ann Slee, Alison Pollok, Ruth Edmondson & Brigid McElroy, congratulations to them. Unfortunately, they were not able to field a team for the Pachabo final, and so the runners up of Stefan Lindfors, Jim Grant, Alex Maddocks & Rob Lawy played in this competition in June, finishing in 6th place out of 26 county teams, which is impressive, so congratulations to them. Congratulations also to Mike Hamon & John Vaughan who won the John Woolcott pairs.

The qualifier for the EBU Garden Cities Trophy is the Devon Club Teams of Eight, and this year we had three clubs enter this competition in February. Exeter won, but were unable to field a team for the final and so Taw Vale represented Devon instead.

The qualifier for the EBU Corwen Trophy is the green-pointed Devon Pairs for the Julia Chadwick Cup, which took place in March with eight pairs entered. The top three pairs, Alex Maddocks & Stefan Lindfors, Brent Wormald & David Southcombe, and Bill Luscombe & Norman Bottom represented Devon in the Corwen Trophy in Telford in May, coming 16th, 37th & 65th respectively, out of 83 pairs, so well done to them.

We also entered a team for the EBU Tollemache qualifier, which took place in November - Jim Grant & Alex Maddocks, Willie Hamilton & Peter Wood, Sam Anoyrkatis & Jesper Rundin, Gillian & Joe Fawcett, Jacek Pietrzycki & Mike Orriel, and Mike Anderson & George Triantafyllidis. Unfortunately, the team did not qualify for the final.

Overall, these competitions make a loss, as entry numbers for these competitions are generally low, entry fees are kept low to encourage participation, and the EBU entry fees for the linked competitions are very high.

Currently, and since Covid, these competitions have all been online, something the committee has been considering for the future.

So that's the EBU competitions. We also entered the Western League, a competition between eight South West counties open to all Devon players – please see the website if you would like to sign up for the 26/27 season, there is no NGS restriction and all players are guaranteed a match. This year, Devon A, B & C team finished 2nd, 2nd, and 5th, respectively.

Many thanks to our selectors this year, Warner Solomon, Stefan Lindfors, Alex Maddocks, and Stephen Rafferty. Warner has now stepped down as a selector, and we would like to thank him for his contribution. We are also grateful to Mike Hamon who has agreed to join the selectors for the coming year.

And last but not least, I would like to thank Nigel Richardson for continuing to run the Devon Leagues. Congratulations to the Paradocs, made up of Willie, Ali & Ian Hamilton, Pete Wood & Howard Kent-Webster, for winning the Spring League A Division and to the Hopefuls, made up of Liz Timbrell, Lin Waddington, Paul Guppy and Harriet Bailey, for winning the B Division. Please consider signing up for the Autumn League via the website.

Before I leave the subject of competitions, I just wanted to mention that North Devon players David Southcombe & Carmen Ruiz-Castell won the Plate competition at the Fuengirola International Bridge Tournament in March and are featured online and in print in the local paper, see [HERE](#).

So, what else have we done this year?

In March, Jeremy ran a one-day miniTD at Victoria Park Club, Exeter aimed at helping clubs to train local TDs without the extra time and expense associated with completing the full EBED course. The event was a success with 12 delegates, drawn equally from EBU-affiliated and non-affiliated clubs.

All information, results and entry forms are on our Bridgewebs website and I would like to thank Ruth for her continuing support of the website. All our competitions and news are on there so please keep an eye.

So, what have we got planned for the coming year?

Following on from the success of the MiniTD course in March, Jeremy is running another in September.

Also, following discussion with EBED, they have agreed to run a Teach the Teacher course in Devon in September which will be delivered by the EBED CEO Richard Croot and hosted by us.

Following feedback from a number of players suggesting that players are ready for more F2F events, the committee have decided to run the next John Woolcott weekend in January at the Exeter Court Hotel. This will be a trial and we hope that you will support the event, details and prices to follow. We will also run all the above EBU qualifying events online again for the time being. And finally, we are delighted to say that Andrew Robson will present one of his excellent Bridge Days in March, 2027. This is likely to be in or around Barnstaple, details to follow but please save the date – Maundy Thursday.

4. Financial Report

The annual accounts were available on the website for three weeks prior to the AGM and were presented by Neil Marsden, treasurer. The summary is also available at the end of this document.

As the chair has already mentioned, the national competitions are expensive but our two congresses, the North Devon Congress & the Devon County Congress have both made a good surplus this year, which allows us to pay for entry into these competitions without that being a problem.

The summary balance sheet (table 5) shows that the DBA holds, in all accounts, a total of c. £48,000, an increase of just under £4,000 compared to the previous year.

In summary, the county finances are very healthy, so we can be imaginative in how we support the development of the game because we have money that we can spend to make that happen.

Thanks to our scrutineers, Roger Gowland for the DBA central accounts and his advice and suggestions, Chris Hatt for the North Devon Group accounts, and John Parr for the North Devon Congress account.

At the end of the report, there were no questions for the treasurer.

5. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary

Officer nominations

Chair: Jacqui Munns, proposed by Carol Ritzen, seconded by Brenda Martin

Vice-Chair: Jeremy Child, proposed by Jacqui Munns, seconded by Neil Marsden

Hon. Treasurer Neil Marsden, proposed by Steve Munns, seconded by Roger Gowland

Hon. Secretary no nominations received yet...

All officer nominations were accepted by a show of hands.

Committee members

Returning Members:

Bill Luscombe, proposed by Neil Marsden, seconded by Jeremy Child

Liz Timbrell, proposed by Jeremy Child, seconded by Jacqui Munns

Mike Hamon, proposed by Jacqui Munns, seconded by Neil Marsden

Sheila Ferguson, proposed by Neil Marsden, seconded by Jeremy Child

New Member:

Joe Pitt, proposed by Jacqui Munns, seconded by Jeremy Child

All committee member nominations were accepted by a show of hands.

8. Proposals

(i) The committee agreed to propose to the AGM that from April 2027, the amount the county receives from the Universal Membership Subscription (UMS, previously Pay to Play) will remain unchanged at 4p; the club subscription will remain at zero and the Devon part of direct membership remains at £3.

Based on the fact that Devon does hold significant funds, the executive committee were recently asked by one of our scrutineers to discuss whether this payment should continue, and we did that in our most recent meeting on the 23rd June, 2026. Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed that we continue.

There were many reasons for this decision and here are a few. If the clubs give us a little bit of money, and it is a little bit of money - a club with seven tables playing 50 x per year is giving us less than £60, but that money connects us and gives us a responsibility to that club that we try to fulfill. It also means, for example, that when we offer services or events to both EBU & non-affiliated clubs, that we can give EBU clubs a discount because they are already contributing and that is certainly something that we are doing. Also, this is our only regular and guaranteed income and no organization would give up regular income just because they have considerable savings. Obviously, we have done well with the congresses this year but there is no guarantee of that and there is always the potential for big events to go wrong and result in a deficit.

The chair invited comments or questions; BG flagged that seven tables in EBU clubs is not the norm in her experience but the chair was able to reassure her that the contribution is pro rata so clubs with less tables would make a much smaller contribution.

The proposal was then accepted by a show of hands.

8. AOB

The chair mentioned that it is not usual to discuss anything that hasn't previously been flagged to the chair prior to the meeting, but as there are a few minutes left, she is happy to open up the floor.

NM stated that Filleigh Village Hall was available for the Andrew Robson day and could accommodate at least 20 and possibly more tables.

AP thanked the committee on behalf of everyone for the hard work that they do.

BG mentioned that Newton Abbott was going to run a Winter Pairs competition this year Sept through to April, which would be open to all, and asked if this could be advertised through the DBA and the chair agreed to do this.

BG also commented that she felt that making the JW a F2F event was a very good idea and asked if the committee would consider making the Sunday Teams a green-pointed event. The chair explained that there are restrictions on the number of green-pointed events that each county is allowed to run, but that she was happy to make enquiries of the EBU.

9. Future meetings

The chair proposed that we continue to hold the AGM on Wimbledon Men's Finals Day, which in 2027 will be Sunday, July 11, 2027.

The next DBA Executive Committee Meeting will be at 10am on August 18, 2026 via Zoom.

As there was no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 11.31am.

SEE BELOW FOR THE DBA ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO APRIL 30, 2026

Devon Bridge Association Accounts Summary

1. DBA Central Accounts for the year ending 30th April 2026

Income	24 25	25 26	Expenditure	24 25	25 26	Event + or -
Universal Membership from clubs	£1,152.28	£1,112.04				
Interest on reserve account	£896.11	£789.69	Bank charges	£9.58	£58.02	
EBU Competitions						
Devon Teams of Eight entries (For Garden Cities)		£150.00	Devon Teams of Eight expenses Garden Cities Entry Fee	£254.00	£123.68 £302.00	-£275.68
Devon Pairs (Julia Chadwick) (For Corwen)	£97.50	£90.00	Devon Pairs (Julia Chadwick) Corwen Entry Fee (x2 in 25 26)	£106.00 £168.00	£178.48 £612.00	-£700.48
John Woolcott entries Devon Teams (WMN) for Pachabo (Teams for Pachabo)	£240.00	£196.00	John Woolcott Pachabo Entry Fee (26 paid in 27)	£245.40 £19.20 £131.64	£193.92	£2.08
Tollemache No Qualifier			Tollemache Entry Fee	£185.17	£210.00	-£210.00
DBA Events						
MiniTD Training Course entries		£290.00	MiniTD Training Course expenses		£243.00	£47.00
No Fear Pairs events x 2 entries	£515.00	£617.50	No Fear Pairs events x2 expenses	£300.38	£783.94	-£166.44
Congresses						
Devon County Congress entries	£4,349.00	£7,520.00	Devon County Congress expenses	£3,931.37	£5,453.27	£2,066.73
North Devon Congress - see separate accounts						
North Devon Congress UM credit		£22.08				
DBA Leagues						
East Section Summer Pairs (Now Devon League Teams)	£10.00		East summer / winter pairs	£65.28		
ES/ Devon League Teams entries	£210.00	£380.00	ES/Devon League Teams expenses	£440.16	£292.16	£87.84
DBA Leagues						
Western League (No Entry Fee)			Western League Expenses	£121.03	£122.35	-£122.35
East account transfer	£3,435.75		East Dealing Machine	£1,500.00		
West account transfer	£3,638.67					
Other						
			Committee expenses inc Zoom	£263.40	£297.82	
			EBU Insurance	£74.70	£74.70	
			Equipment	£24.00	£18.03	
Total income	£14,544.31	£11,167.31	Total expenditure	£7,839.31	£8,963.37	
			Surplus / Deficit	£6,705.00	£2,203.94	
Balance sheet as at 30/4/26						
Current account start 1/5/25	£5,135.38		Current account bank statement 30/4/26		£6,549.63	
Reserve account start 1/5/25	£28,058.96		Reserve account bank statement 30/4/26		£28,848.65	
Total as at 1/05/25	£33,194.34					
Surplus (+)/Deficit (-) for this year	£2,203.94					
Total	£35,398.28		Total as at 30/4/26		£35,398.28	
			Reconciliation		£0.00	

These records and accounts were scrutinised on 9th June 2026 by Roger Gowland and found to provide a true and fair view of assets at 30/4/26

2. North Devon Bridge Group Accounts for the year to 30th April 2026

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
	2025	2026			2025	2026	
				on line cost	£40.00	£0.00	
Dartington	£1,307.75	£0.00		Dartington costs	£634.90	£0.00	
Filleigh	£1,278.10	£1,295.50		Filleigh costs	£561.95	£663.07	
Seminar	£310.00	£300.00		Seminar costs	£322.95	£267.05	
Gentle Sessions	£0.00	£1,600.20		Gentle costs	£0.00	£1,877.09	
Teaching	£2,485.00	£950.00		Courses costs	£2,189.32	£1,196.20	
Misc		£20.00		EBU net/B.webs	£125.10	£124.28	
				Stationery	£0.00	£259.30	
Congress account transfer		£1,000.00		Bank charges	£27.58	£56.99	
				Macmillan	£200.00	£100.00	
				ND Hospice	£1,200.00	£500.00	
				Computer	£226.75		
					£5,528.55	£5,043.98	
				Surplus/(deficit)	-£147.70	£121.72	
Total	£5,380.85	£5,165.70			£5,380.85	£5,165.70	
Balance Sheet							
Assets				Capital			
Balance b/f	£1,120.02			Balance b/f		£972.32	
Deficit	-£147.70			Surplus		£121.72	
	£972.32						
Cash	£5.00	£10.80					
Bank	£967.32	£1,083.20		Balance c/f		£1,094.04	
I have scrutinised the records & accounts for the North Section for the year to 30/4/26. In my opinion they provide a true and fair view of its asset at 30/4/26.							

Scrutineer for North Section – Chris Hatt

3. North Devon Congress Accounts for 2026

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
	2025	2026			2025	2026	
Receipts	£24,476.00	£25,863.00		Prizes cash	£1,230.00	£1,480.00	
Refunds	-£294.00	-£261.00		Prizes wine & chocolates	£240.72	£345.42	
Net Receipts	£24,182.00	£25,602.00		Hotel	£19,717.90	£19,928.25	
				Gratuities	£150.00	£200.00	
Interest	£104.51	£99.51		Boards/Post/Stat/pettycash	£211.33	£117.18	
				Brochures	£54.00	£59.00	
				Engraving	£30.00	£0.00	
				Printing	£205.99	£151.00	
				Directors	£200.00	£200.00	
				Misc		£50.00	
				Stationery		£20.50	
				Storage		£177.29	
				Travel	£49.50	£49.50	
				Master Points	£275.29	£323.60	
					£22,364.73	£23,101.74	
				Surplus	£1,921.78	£2,599.77	
Total	£24,286.51	£25,701.51			£24,286.51	£25,701.51	
BALANCE SHEET							
Assets				Capital			
Bank Balance	£9,967.70	£11,593.43		Balance b/f	£8,092.89	£10,014.67	
Cash	£46.97	£21.01		Surplus	£1,921.78	£2,599.77	
				Transfer to section		-£1,000.00	
	£10,014.67	£11,614.44		Balance c/f	£10,014.67	£11,614.44	

These records and accounts were scrutinised on 9th June 2026 by John Parr and found to provide a true and fair view of assets at 30/4/26

4. Devon County Congress 2026 Accounts

Net receipts 2025	£4,339.00	Net receipts 2026	£7,490.00
		Pairs & Full	£7,010.00
		Teams only	£480.00
Outgoings 2025		Outgoings 2026	
Platters x 9	£279.00	Sandwiches x 92	£690.00
Teas/coffees	£464.00	Teas/coffees	£552.00
Bridge room hire	£375.00	Bridge room hire	£1,000.00
TD Accomodation (two rooms)	£330.00	TD Accomodation (one room)	£210.00
TD Fees	£473.55	TD 1 Fees	£394.68
		TD 2 Fees	£272.40
		Meals for Caddy	£80.00
Board dealing	£162.90	Board dealing & travel	£181.20
Brochure printing	£24.00	Flyer printing	£26.07
Scorebook printing	£46.00	Scorebook printing	£140.00
Hand records printing	£15.06	Hand records printing	£38.00
Danby advertising	£238.20	Danby advertising	£237.60
Prizes	£840.00	Prizes	£840.00
EBU for Green points	£818.32	EBU for Green points	£1,237.60
		Committee drinks	£23.00
		Gratuity	£50.00
	£4,066.03		£5,972.55
Surplus 2025	£272.97	Surplus 2026	£1,517.45

These accounts form part of the central accounts, scrutinised by Roger Gowland, as above.

5. Overall County Accounts Summary

Devon Bridge Association Bank Balances 2025/26				
	Start of Year	End of Year	Change	
DBA Current	£5,135.38	£6,549.63	£1,414.25	
DBA Reserve	£28,058.96	£28,848.65	£789.69	
North Devon Group	£972.32	£1,094.04	£121.72	
North Devon Congress	£10,014.67	£11,614.44	£1,599.77	
	£44,181.33	£48,106.76	£3,925.43	