

# DBA Simultaneous Pairs for Devon Air Ambulance

## Report for the 2018-2019 Financial Year

### Summary

The five events in the financial year raised a total of £3,894.19 for Devon Air Ambulance Trust – over £460 better than last year’s record. The number of club evenings was 40, slightly up on last year but with a small drop in number of entrants from 632 to 617 pairs. Last year on four occasions a club either played the wrong hands or was unable to score and could not be included in the competition, so the number of players actually included in the results was 587. This year there were no problems of this type.

29 different clubs took part, 17 affiliated and 12 unaffiliated, with 65% of pairs playing at affiliated clubs. Two clubs decided not to participate but sent donations anyway, and one new club was recruited. Exeter club participated in four of the five events this year instead of the usual one.

The main financial figures are as follows:		2018-19 (£)	2017-18 (£)
<b>Income:</b>	Entry Money	1,851.00	1,761.00
	Donations	<u>2,616.79</u>	<u>2,244.09</u>
		4,467.79	4005.09
<b>Expenditure:</b>	EBU Licences	264.84	252.28
	Printing & Stationery	143.20	157.38
	Postage	92.40	86.58
	Publicity & Other Costs	<u>73.16</u>	<u>75.08</u>
		573.60	571.32
<b>Net total raised for DAAT:</b>		<b>3,894.19</b>	<b>3,433.77</b>

In the 10 years since the DBA Simultaneous Pairs event was dedicated to Devon Air Ambulance the total raised for this charity now stands at almost **£22,650**.

### Organiser’s Comments

The cost of running the five events has remained stable despite the increased cost of postage and EBU licences, mainly because rankings lists are now distributed to clubs by email rather than being posted. The operating costs in total came to 31% of the entry money – 14% for EBU fees and 17% for direct operational costs.

The increasing use of Bridgewebs to host club web sites means that more players are becoming accustomed to accessing results using the internet; the commentaries and hands are available on the DBA web site as soon as each event has been played, so it may be possible to reduce the number of printed copies of the commentaries sent to clubs. This will be investigated next season.

The level of the EBU Licence fees is still a concern at nearly £265 for the year, particularly as these events are for charity and the EBU plays no part in them other than recording Master points, but the EBU has consistently refused to reduce it. Most of the licence fee is the surcharge for players at unaffiliated clubs but it is these clubs that tend to be the most generous with extra donations.

The main reason for the continuing financial success of this competition lies in the extra donations given by clubs and players. This year all 29 clubs gave extra donations, accounting for 67% of the net amount raised for DAAT, and over half of the total donated came from unaffiliated clubs.

Notable amongst these were Victoria Park (£320 from their 3 events), Budleigh Salterton ((£180), Tavistock Millennium ((£150) and Exeter Golf & Country Club (£149). Affiliated clubs Caen (£147), Exmouth (£145) and Exeter (£128) also featured high on the list.

### **Entry money**

This was set at its current level of £1.50 per head back in 2012 and looks to be due for an increase. Virtually all clubs add extra donations and a large increase in entry money is not recommended because it might well adversely affect donations. A figure of £1.75 per player (17% increase) seems reasonable but any change in the entry fee will need to be set by the DBA Committee.

### **Charity**

It is recommended that the Devon Air Ambulance Trust continues to be the beneficiary from these events for the 2019-20 season.