

DBA Simultaneous Pairs for Devon Air Ambulance

Report for the 2019-2020 Financial Year

Summary

The Friday event has now been moved from early May back into late April so that it can be included in the same Financial year as the other four events in the season. In theory this year's report should thus include 6 events (counting May last year) - but because the April 2020 Friday event has been cancelled as a result of the coronavirus restrictions, the report includes just 5 events and is thus directly comparable with previous years' reports.

The five events in the financial year raised a total of £3,442.12 for Devon Air Ambulance Trust – some £450 less than last year's record but still slightly above the best in previous years. 29 clubs took part, 17 affiliated and 12 unaffiliated, hosting 35 sessions overall; 530 pairs played, of whom 186 (35%) played at unaffiliated clubs. Three clubs which had played in previous years did not participate this year but sent generous donations for Devon Air Ambulance anyway.

The Monday and Thursday events are the most popular, with Thursdays averaging over 150 pairs per event over the last 5 years (more than half playing at unaffiliated clubs!) and Mondays nearly 140 pairs, mainly at affiliated clubs. Entry numbers have fallen a little this year, partially because of one or two dates clashing with other club events.

The main financial figures are as follows:		2019-20 (£)	2018-19 (£)
Income:	Table Money	1,590.00	1,851.00
	Donations	<u>2,340.24</u>	<u>2,616.79</u>
		3,930.24	4,467.79
Expenditure:	EBU Licences	228.08	264.84
	Printing	116.00	143.20
	Postage	88.09	92.40
	Miscellaneous Costs	<u>55.95</u>	<u>73.16</u>
		488.12	573.60
Net total raised for DAAT:	3,442.12	3,894.19	

In the 11 years since the DBA Simultaneous Pairs event was dedicated to Devon Air Ambulance the total raised for this charity now stands at over **£26,000**.

Organiser's Comments

The continuing financial success of this competition is due to the generous extra donations given by clubs and players, accounting for 68% of the net amount raised for DAAT. Nearly half of these donations came from unaffiliated clubs; notable amongst these were Victoria Park (£278 from their two events) and Budleigh Salterton (£240 from their one event) – and these two clubs have headed the list of donors for several years! Affiliated clubs Caen and Armada each donated around £140, and unaffiliated club Churston (Paignton) gave £130 even though they were not able to participate. Okehampton was another club notable for its generosity, giving £124.

The relative cost of running the five events was similar to last year, absorbing 30.7% of the table money – of which almost half was paying for EBU licences (£228). The number of entries has gradually fallen over the last few years; postage costs and EBU fees continue to rise, and there is little scope for any further reductions in running costs.

Entry Fee

The entry fee was set at its current level of £1.50 per head back in 2012 and an increase to £1.75 or even £2.00 was suggested in last year's report. However, in view of falling membership in bridge clubs generally and the current virus epidemic in particular it may be best to leave the entry fee unchanged at present.

Chosen Charity

It is strongly recommended that the Devon Air Ambulance Trust continues to be the beneficiary from the DBA Simultaneous Pairs events for the 2020-21 season. This charity is well known and highly regarded throughout Devon and I frequently receive thanks from clubs and players for supporting it.