

## Chairpersons message,

What a great start for the outdoor season with Friendly Social Fixtures, Team England playing Australia & Wales, DBE National regional Singles weekend and many visits to outdoor clubs introducing DBE to a wider audience, all finished off with the Bowls England “Bowls Big Weekend” and the icing on the top the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Weekend.

What can I say, just how proud I am of everyone who is doing their bit to keep DBE in the headlines and showcasing how truly inclusive our sport can be, we have a long way to go to get all 3,000 clubs across England signed up, but with everyone’s support and drive our goal can be reached, Thank you.

The Commonwealth Games is not far away, and I hope many of you who have been lucky enough to have tickets will wear their DBE shirt and support Team England on the greens every day. We will shortly be

announcing our joint plans for July, August, and September and once again I will be asking you to support us by volunteering to attend our events, be on the DBE stand or just be a face in the crowd that people can talk to about “Bowlers with a Disability”

To use a punch line from Bowls England –

*This is a Golden Opportunity for Bowls in England*

Kind Regards “We are Stronger Together”

Steve Watson

## Regional Singles report

The weekend of 21 and 22 May saw the hotly contested regional singles being played all over the country.

There were some really close sections, in the Midlands three players tied on six points after all the games had been played, with Sally-Ann Lewis Wall going through on shot difference.

Jack Pullin and Jamie Pugsley went through in the South West, joining Jonathan Stokes who won all his games and Jennie Sandford both of whom enjoyed a sunny day’s bowling at Egham BC. The East of England sections was another decided on shot difference with Chris Gray and Daniel Adams qualifying.

Arthur Redfern makes up the quarterfinalist from the North.

They all go forward to Stoke BC Coventry on 17th July to play off to qualify for the final at Leamington later in the summer.

## Craig’s out Spreading the word



Craig Bowler has been a busy man lately as well as all the training he is doing for the Commonwealth Games, Craig recently appeared on BBC Three Countries radio and the BBC East News program speaking candidly about the importance of men’s mental health, and also on a lighter note he was at Welford Sibertoft Primary School talking to the kids about the Commonwealth games, great work Craig.



## Report on friendly fixtures

### 30 April Cove BC Farnborough

Our first game of the out door season was at Cove in Farnborough at the end of April, Stu Read captained a team of hardy souls who went out so early in the season to represent the DBE and our thanks go to all of them who attended, I gather the green was a little heavy bit that is to be expected so early on , it was a hard fought game with the DBE losing by one shot.

### 14th May Severells Jubilee

Captain Richard Ball took a team to play at the Crewkerne club, despite a heavy defeat to the DBE, a thoroughly good time was had by all, culminating in the club making a generous donation to DBE funds. Next year is the clubs centenary and they would like us to go back, hopefully with a better result this time.

### 15th May Callington BC Cornwall

New captain Stephen Hartley ably assisted by guide dog Kingsley took a team of players to the Cornwall club, where they had a fun afternoon, which was sadly curtailed by the rain, the DBE won on 2 rinks but lost the game overall, and on a positive note Stephen says he didn't get booed off the stage for his awful joke!

### 8th May at Sawbridgeworth joint DBE and Chelsea Pensioners team against the Friends of English

#### Bowling.

On a lovely sunny afternoon we had a friendly fixture against our great supporters the Friends of English Bowling. We were joined by some bowlers from the Chelsea Pensioners, it was lovely to see them all arrive in their red coats and what a fun bunch they were, hopefully in the future we may be able to have a fixture of our own at their green in the grounds of the Chelsea hospital, so keep an eye on the fixture card for that one. The 'Friends' team included the current President of Bowls England Terri Keen, and the junior vice president David as well as other past Bowls England Presidents and members. We owe the 'Friends ' a huge debt of gratitude for their support at a time the Charity was in a precarious position and for their continued support now.

The game was played in a great atmosphere, Captain for the day Paul Baker amused us all at tea with his wonderful speech and I think we are claiming a win for the DBE . Our hosts at Sawbridgeworth bowls club looked after us really well with rolls and crisps before the game an a cooked meal after. We ran a raffle which raised over £240 towards DBE funds. We even had a visit from Elvis!



Again we hope to have a game next year against the Friends of English Bowling and I will be looking for a club to host it , so if you are a member club, or know of one that would like to be considered please get in touch with me.

Judy

## Commonwealth Games Para Team

Over the weekend of the 6 to 8 May gave our Para squad the opportunity to play against Australia and Wales for a fantastic few days bowling at Leamington Spa.

It enabled our team to test themselves against International opposition and as Team Manager Helen Wall says is another important step towards the games which are rapidly approaching.

There were mixed fortunes on the green but everyone equipped themselves well.

Their training intensifies now with events every weekend to get them fully prepared for the tasks ahead, good luck team we are all supporting you!

Gill Platt has been one of those to be given the honour of carrying the baton in the Queens Baton Relay. Congratulations to her!



## A Legend Announces His retirement



Bob Love has announced his retirement from International Bowls, a sad day for our team, Bob has been team Captain and an important part of the team and its successes. Luckily we won't lose Bob's expertise as he is continuing to work for the DBE as part of the management team.

We all know he is one of the nicest people in the game always supportive, encouraging and with a wicked sense of humour. Bob has had many achievements in Bowls but surely winning a bronze medal at the Commonwealth games in 2014 with team mates Dave Fisher and Paul Baker must have been a highlight.

Bob had always been keen on sport, competing in Swimming athletics, darts, table tennis and archery! Truly and inspirational man and we are lucky to have him as part of our Sport, as a sportsman who always enjoyed competition good luck with the retirement Bob!

### Can you help?

On 20th August we have a taster day arranged at Norfolk Club Norwich. Norfolk is a county with a lot of bowlers but few DBE members and we would like to change that.

Part of the day included a 3 rink triples game against the host club, and this is where you come in. If you are able to play and support me on the day I would be very grateful.

Thank you

Judy

*Let's get more people bowling!*

**Some may say this is the best view of these two sporting their**

**Commonwealth games kit!**



# SUCCESS FOR DBE AT THE HOME INTERNATIONALS AT SOLIHULL IBC

It was good to finally be able to get together with our friends from Scotland and Wales for the Home Internationals which had been cancelled twice due to Covid.

The opening ceremony was attended by the mayor and club director the players proudly marched onto the green behind their country's flags. Judy Plater from DBE presented new caps to Stephen Hartley, Sue and Don Taylor, Sally Ann Lewis-Wall,

Jane Herbert, Joe Peplow and Fynn Keyser.

The first session was dominated by England against Wales, with the host country gaining 10 points to 4.

The second session between Scotland and Wales was a much closer affair, Scotland edged a win 8 to 6 points,

Saturday morning brought the two great rivals of England and Scotland together with some hotly contested matches, Mike Robertson beat Garry Brown 21-19, Sue Taylor and Gareth Harwood scrapped a 1 shot win in the VI pairs. But Captain Bob Love, skipped his triples to a huge 23—9 win.

Session 4 saw Wales and England was a closer affair than the Friday session and England won 7 points to 5.

But it was not as close as Session 5 which saw Scotland and Wales share the points 6 all.

The final session was on Sunday morning with England playing Scotland, going into the game the English team needed 2 points from the 12 available to win. As expected the Scots put up a spirited fight. The pairs saw an outstanding performance from Fynn Keyser leading for Mike Roberston , they won 27 shots to 5. The rest of the English team battled hard, to retain the trophy, with Scotland runners up and Wales in third place.

Club Director Steve Goodchild and our own Steve Watson presented the winners trophy to team manager Helen Wall

