

Message from Chairperson

It's funny how quickly things can turn around, one day you want to call it a day and then next you meet up with the DBE Bowls Family and your belief in what we are doing as volunteers is restored!!!

As we come to the business end of the Indoor Season, we are looking forward to seeing how many of our members have reached the EIBA finals with their clubs and to witness the DBE National Finals of the Champion of Champions, National Pairs & the Maggy Smith MBE North v South Challenge Shield and once again "Proving Bowls is for Everyone".

I would like to congratulate David Stott & Kelvin Horriben Team England Managers (VIBE) who took a team to the IBBA World Championships in Australia and kept the Team together through difficult times and returned home with a Gold Medal (Sarah Marshall & Linda Ralphs), 4 Bronze Medals and just missing out on the Bronze Team Medal by 3 points.

I am still surprised everyday visiting different clubs across England, when I popped down to the Riverside IBC, Winchester The Swans Disability Pairs Day to see Khalila & Sally (Sister Act on Tour) and was blown away by the "Sporting Opportunities" group from the Isle of Wight who had fundraised over £ 350 to come over to the mainland to enter the competition and join in with likeminded people and OMG with a little coaching and help from the DBE Family, more stars for disability bowls have been found, watch this space.

April is a very busy month for the Senior Management Team volunteers with so many back-to-back events going on, and I would be very grateful if you all would support us and not condemn us!

Without volunteers there will no DBE .My belief in what we do is back, is yours???

Steve Watson Chairperson



Proving Bowls is for Everyone'

For the start of the outdoor season we are launching our new campaign to promote the ethos that Bowls is a sport for everyone. We hope you approve of the message and that you will be out there proving how inclusive the game is .

We are having new pop up banners made and will include the strap line in our future promotional material.

Disability Bowls England at the EIBA Finals Nottingham

DBE members will be showing their skills at the EIBA finals at Nottingham next month.

The Champion of Champion singles took place on 24th March , a full report is on page four of this newsletter.

On 14th April we have the final of the DBE Pairs between

John Greaves and Colin Wagstaff v Chris Gray and Daniel Adams

And the pairs plate final between:

Jack Pullin and Kieran Rollings v Steve Ireland and Craig Bowler

They look like being cracking games.

In the afternoon we will have the Maggy Smith MBE North v South grudge match , the teams are as follow;

North: Steve Angus, Rhys Taylor, Colin Wagstaff, Tim Swann, Paul Baker, John Greaves, John Rogers, Barry Nicholson, Steven Nicholson, David Masterman, Simon Wright , Harry Atkin and Gary Swift

South: John Hollowell, Daniel Adams, Michael Cox, Russell McKie, Adam Melloy, Peter Cave, Craig Bowler, Chris Gray, Kieran Rollings, Jennie Sandford, Steve Ireland , Johnny Stokes and Jack Pullin.

It should be a great afternoon of bowls and may the best team win!

DBE Classified Singles

25/26 February at Gedling IBC

This year's classified singles was a hotly contested affair with some excellent bowling on display from those who entered. As ever Maggy Smith MBE and her excellent band of volunteers were on hand to do all the essential jobs that make these events successful, whether it be making the tea and coffee to marking games they all do a marvellous job which goes a long way to making these events happen.

Sadly 1 player didn't turn up and Colin Wagstaff and Mike Robertson were taken ill and were unable to play on the Sunday.

There were some closely fought games in the B8 category ;it was a close contest between the eventual winner Anthony Page and John Greaves. The B7's again was a close contest but Steve Angus came out on top. In the B6 category it went down to the last game between Steve Ireland and Joe Peplow, with Joe coming out the winner.

Anthony, Steve and Joe will now be joined by the unclassified winner Chris Gray to compete for the Champion of Champions trophy presented in memory of Ray Keen by his wife and Bowls England past president Terri, at Nottingham at the end of the month. Chris will be hard to beat and fighting to retain the title he won last year, but this year's players are sure to give him a run for his money.



Champion of Champions at Nottingham IBC

What a treat we were given when the final stages of the Champion of Champion singles took place during the EIBA national finals on 24 March.

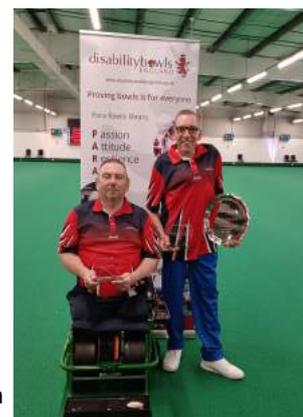
The standard of bowling was excellent in both semi finals between, Joe Peplow and Steve Angus, Anthony Page and Chris Gray and very close being nip and tuck all the way.

The same continued into the final itself with Anthony coming out the eventual winner. He was presented with the Trophy by EIBA President, Carol Eichen and Terri Keen.

All four bowlers demonstrated that Bowls is a Game for Everyone.

They are all great ambassadors for Para Sport, and impressed all those watching with their skill and competitiveness.

Thank you to the markers and Umpires and EIBA for supporting these events



April Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue	Time
8 April	EALABA Training day	Tamworth IBC	All Day
14 April	DBE Pairs Finals and North v South Match	Nottingham IBC	All Day
15/16 April	VIBE Triples	Mid Glos IBC	All Day
21/23 April	Para Home Internationals	Newport IBC Wales	All Day
25/27 April	Munro Cup. Learning Disabilities Internationals	York and District IBC	All Day
13May	DBE Outdoor International Trials	Victoria Park Leamington	All Day



**INTERNATIONAL
BOWLS for the
DISABLED**

World Governing Organisation for Para Bowls

Intention to Participate Calling Notice

International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) World Championships 2024

The IBD World Championships 2024 are planned to take place in South Africa 18-31 May 2024 (Depart UK 15 May tbc)

Formats will include competitions for B1 to B4 and B6 to B8 Men's and Women's Singles and Men's and Women's Pairs. (Maximum 4 Entries per Discipline per country)

PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT WILL BE 100% SELF FUNDED BY MEMBERS AT THE MOMENT. (Estimated cost between £2,000 & £2,500 per person)

We intend to select (once the full selection criteria are confirmed) and send a competitive team to this event to compete in all categories and are asking for members who wish to be considered to take part in this prestige event, to send your details to DBE Performance & Team Manager - sue.davies@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk .

Barwell IBC Friendly

Congratulations to Captain Alex Comack and his team for a cracking win 79—66 , in the friendly fixture on 19 March. As usual the team was very well looked after by the club and a good time was had by all.



Denton Island IBC Friendly against Rottingdean BC

Our last friendly fixture of this indoor season ended on a high with a win for DBE under captain Steve Ireland who had to take himself off part way through the game as they were winning 22 –1 !

It was great to have a number of our players from Hastings VI group taking part, let's hope it will be the first of many, and to see so many of our members enjoying their bowls and the wonderful hospitality of the club.





Outdoor Fixtures



Not long till the outdoor season starts, here are some dates for your diary. We didn't have many applications from clubs in the north of England this year. If your outdoor club would like a game against DBE in 2024 please ask them to get in touch with me.

It can be a struggle sometimes for us to field a team which with a membership of over 400 is very disappointing, they are fun games and if you can take part please join in. A big thank you to all those who do play.

Date	Venue/against	Time	Format
13 May	Peacehaven BC Sussex	2.30pm	3 triples
3 June	Market Overton Rutland	2pm	3 triples
17 June	Portslade Brighton	2pm	3 triples
25 June	Bredon Gloucestershire	2pm	3 triples
6 July	Chesham Broadway Bucks	2.30pm	3 triples
16 July	Halls BC Kent	2pm	3 triples
10 August	Hurstpierpoint BC Sussex	2pm	3 triples
17 September	Friends of Bowls England, Charlbury BC Oxfordshire	2pm	4 triples

Contact Judy at judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk.



Is your club or organisation looking for grants or funding to help with a project?

Have you tried Open4Funding, it's a website that shows you the funding opportunities available in your area, to help with projects large or small.



Are you looking to install a defibrillator in you club?

This vital piece of equipment saves lives and a charity called Community Heartbeat Trust is there to offer advice and suggestions about fund raising and how to use and keep the equipment . Check out their website <https://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk> for more information.



Ambassador team

I am very pleased to welcome two new members to the Ambassador team, Sue Henning from Sussex , where she will be working with Peter Ring.

Also Gill Platt from Surrey, both bring a wealth of experience to the team and I have no doubt will do a fabulous job getting out and about to promote Disability Bowls.



Player Profile England Indoor Captain Helen Wood

As a child Helen was able bodied and loved team sports, she played hockey, tennis, netball and basketball, which she continued to play after leaving school to a high standard. In her late teens Helen's health deteriorated and she was in and out of hospital over three years, she was devastated to think she had to stop playing basketball. She eventually received a diagnosis of Hemi-Dystonia, which is a neurological condition, and from the age of 21 she became a wheelchair user.

From hospital, she went into rehab to try to learn how to live with her disability and it was there that 'Helen met Phil who was a promoter of disability sports. Phil suggested Helen tried Wheelchair Basketball. she did and she loved it. She joined a club, played and trained regularly and went onto represent Great Britain from 1986 to 1992.

Unfortunately as her condition got worse she was unable to play basketball because of the amount of contact involved. After a stint back in rehab she met husband Barry. In 1994 in a weekend break they tried indoor bowls and Helen was hooked.

They joined their local club and since then Helen hasn't looked back. Helen was the first wheelchair player to reach the EIBA National Finals and has trailed with the EIBA Women's England Squad 3 times, unfortunately she hasn't managed to make the team but has plenty of time to break into that side. However Helen now has an England Cap with Disability Bowls England

She says 'Bowls has genuinely given me a life and helps me to focus on the things I can do rather than the things that I can't. I have always been a competitive person, I find that competition gives me a purpose and it drives me. Bowls has also been important from a social interaction perspective as it means when I am at the club I am meeting and engaging with different people from all walks of life.

I think bowls is a safe environment where most people are welcoming and you can choose what level you want to play at as well as playing as much or as little as you want to. It has a great social side and is not daunting even if like me, you are shy.

The main thing I love about bowls is that it can include anybody from childhood to 100 years old, if you're able to get on the green your able to play- it truly is a sport for all. Genuinely there is very little I don't like about bowling; occasionally the politics around a club or at National level can be a little frustrating at times, but I try to look at the positives and just keep bowling.'

Helen and Barry moved to Yorkshire she did briefly join Disability Bowls England where she her won her first National Singles title. Unfortunately she had to step away for a while due to Yorkshire County & National commitments. Helen explains ' In 2015 Mo Monkton & Paul Brown contacted me via York Indoor Bowls Club asking me if I would meet with them at Gedling IBC to chat about joining & playing for DBE, I haven't regretted that meeting as it has enabled me to grow & develop as a bowler ,leading me now to have the honour of becoming DBE Captain at this years Para Home Nations in April 2023 at Newport IBC, Wales. Our previous Captain Bob Love will be a hard act to follow, I will do my best to support DBE & the Team. Since starting out with DBE it has been lovely to see how much the organisation has been able to grow & develop and give people the opportunity to bowl at all levels.

There have been so many highlights of my bowling career, here are a few. My biggest honour/success has been to represent my Country with two very different paced sports, both Wheelchair Basketball & Bowling and representing England in the Para Home Nations series in 2017, 2019, 2022 and again this year.

I have also been proud to represent both Hertfordshire & Yorkshire at County & National Levels consistently first as a lead bowler & latterly as a Skip. With York IBC I/we have been Yetton National Champions 3 times (2014, 2018 & 2019) & we created a new history for EIBA as Yetton National Trophy winners 2 years consecutively. Personally for me it was great being part of the squad & to make history for our club. In 2015 I skipped for Yorkshire in the Atherley when we went on to win the Trophy.

2019 Disability Bowls England Player of the Year

2020 Disability Bowls England National Singles Champion (B7's)

2022 Disability Bowls England National Pairs Champions with Sally Ann Lewis-Wall'

Although Helen plays indoors all year round, she plays socially in the summer and enjoys relaxing doing wildlife photography, computer art and drawing but before she gets a chance to do that she has the small matter of the National Championships at Nottingham , where she has qualified in the pairs, fours and over 50 triples, as well as captaining the Home Nations series in Newport. Good luck Helen!

