

Chairperson's Message

Well we are full swing with the outdoor season and what a great month of May was, kicked off with our biggest turnout for the outdoor performance trials, followed by the DBE national singles qualifiers and a nip over to the Isle of Wight for the Bowls Big Weekend and how great it was to so many happy faces enjoying each other's company and the great game of Bowls.

Once again the volunteers work force jumped into action to help out and a massive thank you to them all the host clubs and of course DBE management team holding things together.

It's difficult times for everyone at the moment and we rely totally on charity donations and fundraising money, please support if you can because once the money has gone it's gone and we will not be able support the great work DBE has done for over 40 years for yours and the bowls family enjoyment!!!!

Steve Watson
DBE Chairperson.



27th till 29th May

Good luck to all clubs hosting an event this weekend.

Please support them if you can.



England win the Munro Cup

The Indoor season ended in spectacular style with England winning the Munro cup in an emphatic fashion at York and District Indoor bowls Club

Marie Nicholson the England team manager writes '

The teams consisted of 14 learning disability bowlers, ten of whom are DBE members. They are categorised into 3 levels, Level 1s, 7 level 2s and 4 level 3s. The games were a mixture of singles, pairs and triples.

DAY 1. It was important to get off to a good start and our bowlers did not disappoint winning all four of our games in the first session. The winning streak continued in game 2 with England winning 3 out of our 4 games.

By the end of day 1 England had secured a good lead with a score of 22 points to Scotland's 16 and Wales 10.

DAY 2. To win the Munro Cup we had to secure 4 points by winning two out of our 4 games in the last session. The atmosphere was tense and exciting in equal measures. When the whistle blew to signify the end of the competition we had exceeded our expectations by winning 2 games and drawing the other two. Then the celebrations began! I am so proud of the whole team. There was a great team spirit within the squad and they all had the belief they would win the Munro Cup.

Our thanks go to our coaches, helpers and supporters. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks also to DBE for supporting the team, especially Steve Watson and Sue Davies who cheered the team on over the 2 days of competition.'

Huge congratulations to Marie and all of the team.



LADIES WE NEED YOU



Are you one of our 98 female playing members who is not classified?

Of that 98 only 32 are?

We are looking to build on that number and give more of you the opportunity to gain classification, where your condition allows, and have a chance to represent your country as part of the High-Performance teams, Indoors and Outdoors.



If you are interested and want more information about classification, email Sue Davies at info@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk and she will be happy to help.

Don't forget to enter the DBE Ladies Open Pairs taking place on 2 July at Kingscroft BC Leicestershire, please contact Stuart at competitions@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk for more information.



LIMITATIONS

ONLY EXIST

If you let them

YOU CAN ACHIEVE

ANYTHING

Our Ambassadors have been out and about ...

Our Ambassador team have been on the road promoting bowls and supporting disabled bowlers. Peter Ring from Sussex recently visited Newhaven BC on their open day to give them some advice about becoming more disabled friendly and meet their members.

Anthony Page in Somerset has been working with a new player Tom and helping him to enjoy his bowling.

Richard Ball in Wiltshire continues to organise his successful group who meet at Stratton Churchway BC, as well as visiting clubs in his area to offer advice. He, like some of the others ambassadors, will be out and about visiting clubs over the Bowls England Big Bowls weekend.

Daniel Adams in Essex continues to run his Saturday morning group for young bowlers at Griffin BC.

Terry Boswell from Oxford arranged a demonstration of the new Dales wheelchair at her club.

Ambassador Lead, Colin Wagstaff, is leading by example; he has a meeting with a Learning Disability group at York who he met whilst attending the Munro Cup. He is also playing in the Oundle tournament with fellow DBE members, John Greaves and John Hollowell. Good luck!

Peacehaven Friendly Fixture



On Saturday 13 May a team from DBE, with Captain and Ambassador Peter Ring, fulfilled a fixture at Peacehaven BC which had been postponed due to Covid, our first game of the season.

The club couldn't have been better hosts, nothing was too much trouble and the whole day was paid for by the club - the only thing that DBE players had to pay for was the raffle! There was a superb buffet after the game, and tea and coffee was supplied all afternoon.

Sadly two of our members failed to turn up for the game, but Peacehaven supplied two players.

Peter played against their Captain Ron, with Fred Hughes and David Tearle, and the game finished in a respectable draw after being 13 –2 down after 12 ends.

Bob Henstridge with team mates from the club, Bill and Jean, lost 23-8.

The last triple of Jason and Ray Page skipped by Romney Denning scored a brilliant 25—11 win, resulting in DBE losing the match by 1 shot.

Please support our friendly fixtures they are fun and a great way to meet new people .

| Date | Event | Venue | Time |
|------------|---------------------------------|--|---------|
| 3 June | DBE Friendly Fixture | Market Overton BC | 2pm |
| 10/11 June | DBE Open Pairs | Sutton BC, Ilminster BC, York railway BC and Oakham BC | All Day |
| 17 June | DBE Friendly Fixture | Portslade BC , Sussex | 2pm |
| 18/23 June | VIBE National Singles and Pairs | Victoria Park, Leamington Spa | All Day |
| 25 June | DBE Friendly Fixture | Bredon, Glos | 2pm |
| 2 July | DBE Ladies Pairs | Kingscroft BC Leics | All Day |
| 6 July | DBE Friendly Fixture | Chesham Broadway Bucks | 2pm |
| 9 July | DBE Men's Pairs | Rugby Railways BC | All Day |

DBE High Performance Trial

13 May at Victoria Park Leamington

On a very cold day in May, 16 VI Players and Directors and 20 PD Players gathered to take part in a trial to earn a place in the DBE High-Performance team for the next two years, and a chance to represent England in the Home Nations being held in Ayr Scotland in September.

The day was organised by the Team Manager Sue Davies, supported by selectors Stuart Espie and Mark Bilsby and Mo Monkton, Bowls England High Performance team manager, together with Bowls England Men's team manager Kirk Smith and Bowls England Para team manager Helen Lewis-Wall, who were there to observe to enable them to select the Team England for the World Bowls Championship in Australia.

Before play started the nine independent markers were briefed on the criteria for scoring; the players were not just being marked on their ability to draw the shot, but also jack bowling and effectiveness of shots played. At the end of the day the scores were accumulated and these were partly used to select the team. It was a freezing cold day and a big thank you must go to the brave souls who stood on the greens marking the players.

Members had come from all over the country to take part, from as far north as Yorkshire right down to Cornwall in the south. Five players trialled for the first time - Luke Smith, Alfie Orvis, Daniel Rogers, Mike McDonagh and Frank Moriarty and his director Tim Nixon. There were some very strong performances with players raising their games as they fought for a place in the team.

Congratulations to those who have been selected; good luck in Scotland and make sure you carry on from last year's team and keep winning the series, where hopefully we will be joined by a team from Ireland for the first time.

Full details of the team selected are on the next page.





DBE OUTDOOR HIGH-PERFORMANCE SQUAD 2023-2024

| Classification | Name | Club | County |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| B1 | Keith Brenton | Lyndhurst BC | County Durham |
| B2 | Stephen Hartley | Tavistock Sir Francis Drake BC | Devon |
| | Ron Homer | Yeovil BC | Somerset |
| | Sarah Marshall | Berkhamsted BC | Hertfordshire |
| | Chris Turnbull | Thornton Le Dale BC | Yorkshire |
| B3 | John Hollowell | Bridgman BC | Bedfordshire |
| | Steve Simmons | Forest Hill BC | London |
| | Alison Yearling | Plymouth Hoe BC | Devon |
| B4 | Gareth Harwood | Pennine BC | Yorkshire |
| | Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall | Kingscroft BC | Leicestershire |
| Director | Jane Herbert | Kingscroft BC | Leicestershire |
| | Nigel Morgan | Haydon Wick BC | Wiltshire |
| | Linda Ralphs | Berkhamsted BC | Hertfordshire |
| | Isaac Shieh | Paddington Sports Club BC | London |
| | Elizabeth Shipley | Hinckley BC | Leicestershire |
| | Chris Venn | Lillington BC | Warwickshire |
| | | | |
| B6 | Craig Bowler | Wellingborough BC | Northamptonshire |
| | Steve Ireland | Preston BC | Sussex |
| | Colin Wagstaff | Oakham BC | Leicestershire |
| | Michelle White | Royston BC | Hertfordshire |
| B7 | Fynn Kyser | Countesthorpe BC | Leicestershire |
| | Colin Milner | Hoddesdon & Rye Park BC | Hertfordshire |
| | Alfie Orvis | Sproughton BC | Suffolk |
| | Gill Platt | Wonersh BC | Surrey |
| | Jack Pullin | Bredon BC | Worcestershire |
| | Luke Smith | Byfield BC | Northamptonshire |
| | Jonathan Stokes | Luton Town BC | Bedfordshire |
| B8 | Dave Fisher | Colchester West End BC | Essex |
| | Mike McDonagh | Cheam BC | Surrey |
| | Anthony Page | Congresbury BC | Somerset |
| | Mike Robertson | Parkway BC | Huntingdonshire |
| | Kieran Rollings | Kettering Lodge BC | Northamptonshire |
| | Jennie Sandford | Lindfield BC | Sussex |



Congratulations everyone selected



DBE Open Singles Qualifiers

Over the weekend of the 20/21 May the qualifying rounds for the DBE open singles took place at venues around the country.

As requested by the members, Stuart and the management team arranged five venues around the country, as you wanted venues nearer where you lived. We had hoped this would lead to an increase in entries, sadly on the day a number of players had to pull out for various reasons, which is disappointing but can't be helped.

On the Saturday Judy travelled to Egham for the South East matches; there were some excellent games and Sally Darby and Steve Simmons will be at Leamington on 23 July representing their area. On the same day five players from the Midlands played at Polly BC and Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall and her director Jane Herbert, last year's winners, came out on top again.

Sunday saw Steve travel to Taunton Deane for the South West qualifiers and Jamie Pugsley qualified again this year together with Indoor Champion of Champions Anthony Page. The most hard fought games must have taken place at St Neots where previous winners Kieran Rollings and Mike Robertson, were joined by some strong players; after some close games Chris Gray and David Stearn both won through.

The north venue at Selby sadly saw only two players take part and the winner was Arthur Redfearn.



Polly BC, Midlands,
players



St Neots BC, East
Winners



Egham BC, South east
Winners



Taunton Deane BC West
Winners

Newton and Noss Accessible Bowls Group

Deborah Mason has MS, uses an electric wheelchair, she enjoys her bowls but was finding her trips to play bowls at the Life Centre Plymouth too much because of the journey.

Realising she wasn't the only one, Deborah decided to purchase a set of the "New Age" brand bowls, created a portable ditch, and after trying different formats started the group in her local village hall at Newton Ferrers. The bowls themselves do not damage the hall's floor and are friendly for all the players, who find them less tiring to use than normal heavy bowls. In October 2022 she was joined by friends who have their own physical challenges and disabilities who helped get the group started, there are now 6 or 8 who met regularly and one has decided to try the full size format.

The group have adapted the game to suit their needs, but still keeping the principles of the game the same. They have a ditch (which is made from high friction matting and a net) and use a camera on the ditch for settling disputes. The T is removeable and made from an old swimming hat !



If you know of any similar groups in your area we would love to hear from you.