

Chairperson remarks

A massive thank you to the DBE Senior Management Team & our loyal band of volunteers this month who have gone beyond the call of duty, to ensure that all our planned events have been organised & run under difficult circumstances & the great British weather.

It's been great news all the way this month, with the announcement of the Para World Bowls Squad, the Para Outdoor Home Nations squads; also brilliant to see so many members getting through in county competitions & to see members playing in the Bowls England National Finals at Royal Leamington Spa. Congratulations also to our members who have reached DBE National Finals in the Pairs, Singles, mixed ability triples & our biggest showcase the annual Maggy Smith MBE North v South Challenge trophy on Saturday 12 August.

It would be remiss of me not to mention our financial situation. We have been blessed the last 3 years raising over £35,000 a year to support DBE, but this year we have only raised £7,000 so we will need to streamline & make some cutbacks on the work we do as we continue to move the organisation forward; but please be reassured that Senior Management Team & Trustees are working very hard to keep things on track, by making difficult decisions, but we "Won't go down without a fight"

I will be leaving the UK, travelling & working overseas, after the North v South match in August & will return in October ish, but it will be business as normal for the DBE Team, with Mike Robertson (Finance Director & Trustee), Judy Plater (Development & Administration Officer), Sue Davies (Secretary, Performance & Team Manager) & Stuart Espie (Competition Secretary) running the show – whilst I watch from afar!!!

Steve

Play Offs, DBE Open Pairs and Singles

Over a very wet weekend at the end of July, we gathered at Victoria Park Leamington for the play off stages of the DBE Open Pairs and Singles competitions.

On the Saturday for the pairs it rained all day; a huge thanks must go to the greenkeeping staff for making the greens playable. The weather didn't affect the bowling & there were some close games; in the pairs, it was good to see some new faces getting through to play the final where Mike McDonagh & Steve Stockley, following on from their success in the men's pairs (see page 2), will play Steve Simmons & Peter Cave.



After a withdrawal from the singles on Sunday, 7 players from the regional winners competed on a round robin basis to find the top two to contest the final. They are last years winner Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall, with director Elizabeth Shipley & Indoor Champion of Champion Anthony Page - it should be a great game.

The singles is on 19th August and the pairs on the 20th, please come & give them your support



Have you qualified for the Bowls England National Finals ?

If so, please let me know as some of your DBE friends may want to come along to support you.

World Championship bound Fynn Kyser has qualified in the Junior Pairs, as has Commonwealth Games Medallist Kieran Rollings.

John Hollowell & his wife Lidka came close in the Bedfordshire singles, losing in the semi finals. What a brilliant effort !

Mike Robertson lost in the area final of the Senior singles & Anthony Page reached the quarter finals of the Somerset singles. Jennie Sandford reached 3 county semi -finals and is in the area final of the Family Pairs.

These are only the ones I know about, please let me know if you have any outstanding achievements it is great to be able to share them with your fellow DBE members.

Judy

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| 10 August | DBE Friendly Fixture | Hurstpierpoint BC | 2pm |
| 10/27 August | Bowls England National Championships | Victoria Park Leamington Spa | All Day |
| 12 August | Maggy Smith North v South | Victoria Park Leamington Spa | 2.30pm |
| 19 August | DBE Singles Championship | Victoria Park Leamington Spa | 2.30pm |
| 20 August | DBE Pairs Championship | Victoria Park Leamington Spa | 2.30pm |
| 20 August | DBE Mixed Ability Triples | Victoria Park Leamington Spa | 2.30pm |
| 29 August/9 September | World Championships | Australia | All Day |

KingsCroft BC—DBE Aussie Pairs



On 2nd July after sadly having to cancel the Ladies Pairs competition, it was decided to try & run an Aussie Pairs instead. A draw for partners took place & with 8 players taking part in a round robin competition, a fun day ensued. Colin Wagstaff & Sally-Ann Lewis Wall were the winners, & Barry French & Jane Herbert sneaked the runners-up position in a very close battle.

Kingscroft Club & its members could not have been more welcoming with great food, & refreshments on sale all day. The bowlers were very complimentary about the green which bowled beautifully. Thanks also to Sally –Ann for supplying the prizes. It was nice to see some new members taking part & we look forward to seeing them on the greens in the future.

Men's pairs and Plate continued.



Runners up Fynn & Romney



Plate winners Chris, John & Lidka

Rugby BC— DBE Men's Pairs



Mike and Steve



Rugby Railway Bowls Club was once again the venue for the Men's Pairs competition. This year 6 pairs plus 10 individual players entered the event. Club Captain Vanessa did the draws for pairs for the competition.

In the first session 3 matches took place to get the quarter finalists in the main draw, with Steve Stockley & Mike McDonagh, Craig Bowler & John Greaves, & Steve Simmons & Peter Cave advancing. Rhys Taylor & Harry Atkin, Colin Wagstaff & Daniel Adams & Michael Purves & Thomas Martin moved into the Plate competition.

In the Quarter Finals there were some close matches including a 7 – 6 victory by Tom Rigby & Luke Smith; also advancing to the Semi-Finals were Steve Stockley & Mike McDonagh, Steve Simmons & Peter Cave & Romney Denning & Fynn Kyser. Tim Swann & Peter Vickers, Ryan Richmond & Kevin Betteridge & Chris Gray & John Hollowell moved into the Plate competition.

The Semi-Finals were keenly contested with Steve Stockley & Mike McDonagh & Romney Denning & Fynn Kyser qualifying for the final. In the Plate competition Rhys Taylor & Harry Atkin & Chris Gray & John Hollowell made the final.

The Final started tightly & after 4 ends the score was 3 -2, after 6 ends it was 5 – 4. On the next 2 ends a 2 & a 3 made the score 10 – 4 with a 1 on the last end making the final score 10 – 5 to the winners Steve Stockley & Mike McDonagh.

In the Plate Final after 4 ends the score was 5 – 2, then a run of 8 winning ends to the end of the match made the final score 5 – 11 to the winners Chris Gray & John Hollowell.

Thank you to Rugby Railway Bowls Club for hosting the competition & for their hospitality, & organising a raffle over the weekend with the proceeds being donated to DBE.

DBE Friendly Fixture at Bredon BC

On 25 June captain Colin Wagstaff took a team to play at Bredon BC Glos, to help celebrate their 60th anniversary. What a fantastic day with superb hosts. Bredon is the home club of Team England World Championship player Jack Pullin & team mate Fynn Kyser were amongst those taking part.

It was Liam Tucker's birthday & the club presented him with a cake, it looked yummy! After the game the club treated the players to a BBQ, although Bredon pipped the DBE, in the match everyone agreed the result didn't matter as they had all had a wonderful afternoon.



DBE Friendly at Chesham Broadway BC

Early July saw Captain Dan Rogers lead a team of DBE members to play at Chesham Broadway in a friendly match. It is fair to say that the players found the artificial surface challenging which resulted in a big win for our hosts. With four new members taking part for the first time, it was a shame the result was not better, but they all enjoyed themselves & are looking forward to more matches in the future.



DBE Friendly at Halls BC Kent

Despite a few hiccups with start times and one player not arriving through no fault of his own, Romney Denning, captaining a DBE team for the first time reports what a good afternoon was had by all.

The game was close and the DBE team only lost by 5 shots. After the game they were treated to a tea of sandwiches and strawberries and ice cream. With a number of our members coming from MS Swale it was great to see a good number of local players in attendance as well as those like Romney, who had travelled from further afield. Let's hope they are encouraged to play in more fixtures.

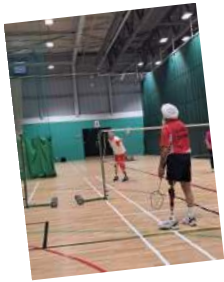




On 28th June , Judy Plater, our National Development Officer , accompanied by her club mate and Coach Jane Smith, attended the Wheelpower National Junior games at Stoke Mandeville Sports centre.

The event is organised every year to allow children in wheelchairs to try a variety of sports , including rowing, canoeing, fencing, basketball, wheelchair slalom as well as athletics.

They were in the Bowls Hall, with a number of other sports; unfortunately the bowls green has been used as a Covid vaccination centre for the last 3 years and had weight lifting and other sports carried out on it, so our expectations of a good playing surface wasn't high. They set up some obstacles and targets for the children to try, using small junior bowls and some 'soft' bowls (they are like stress balls) , they seemed to enjoy the experience and a number were very good. One young lady in particular, Hannah, who was a keen gymnast, really took to the game; we had watched her take part in rowing and canoeing and she was very sporty. In the afternoon her mum approached Judy to say Hannah had enjoyed the bowls the most as it wasn't as exhausting as the other sports, and asking where she could find a local club. Hannah will be one to keep an eye out for in the future. Jane and Judy had a go a wheelchair slalom -Judy managed to demolish all the cones , obviously has no sense of direction!



On the 8th July Judy was back at Stoke Mandeville for a Limbpower event. It was the Limbpower Games, a chance for adults who are amputees to try various sports. This time Craig Bowler came to help. Bowls wasn't a demonstration sport but they did sneak into the Bowls Hall to give one lady a chance to have a go at Bowls. Craig was great, able to talk to her about her delivery ,and she has since joined us as a member -welcome Maggie!

She wasn't the only person interested in bowls and it was good to see so many people coming and having a chat. Limbpower have asked if we would consider being a participation event next year .

Craig was his usual enthusiastic self, having a go at badminton and throwing the javelin, I'm glad to say he has decided to stick to bowls.



Active Rutland—Lets get Moving Awards

Huge congratulations to our very own Lead Ambassador Colin Wagstaff on receiving the Health & Wellbeing Award at the recent Active Rutland award ceremony.

Everyone who knows Colin, knows how dedicated he is to promoting bowls & get as many people playing as possible no matter what their disability. He travels all over, meeting groups & visiting clubs raising the profile of Disability bowls , & I am sure this award is very well earned.

Congratulations Colin from all your friends at the DBE.

