

## Chairperson's report, from Downunder



It seems a long time since I left my house on the 9 August to go to Leamington and then fly to the other side of the world for work and the World Bowls Championships followed by the World Singles champion of champions, it's a rotten job I have, but someone has to it???

I am so glad that I had the pleasure of witnessing a fabulous showcase of inclusive bowls at the Bowls England National championships, and watching our pairs final being live streamed was the icing on the cake. Then history being made at the first combined World Bowls Championships 2023 with Team England para pairs women opening the championships with a win against Australia also being live streamed around the world, the men's pairs missing out by 1 shot on count-back and a hard fought bronze medal for the Mixed VIs pairs added to the Team England medal tally and 5th place overall.

Back home Dan Todner ran the Great North Run and raised over £1500, we have also received over £2000 donations from other events and organisations this month (maybe I should go away more), so it's time to hit the beach and finally start my holiday!!!!

That's 'hooroo' from me, now where did I leave my sunhat....



Steve



## Para Test series in Ayr

The sun beat down at the Para Test Match in Ayr on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September where England (DBE), captained by Mike Robertson, and Scotland (Bowls Scotland) competed for the Bob Love Cup kindly sponsored by Sporting Highlights.

Day 1 started with a welcome from Bowls Scotland followed by presentation of International Caps to the six new players/directors in the England team – Kevin Betteridge, Mike McDonagh, Nigel Morgan, Jayne Sippitts, Colin Wagstaff and David Wood.

The first session was a mix of singles, pairs and triples and England got off to a good start with an overall win of 4 – 3; Mike McDonagh almost made this 5 – 2 after a close fought singles match against Billy Allan where there was only one shot in it with one end to play, but Billy clinched the match after an enthralling 25 end battle.

It was pairs matches for all in Session 2 on Friday afternoon. Scotland proved the stronger team with a 5 – 1 victory. Craig Bowler and Kieran Rollings recorded the only England win that afternoon by 19 - 10 against Scotland's Ross Young and Stuart Stevens. At the end of Day 1 it was honours even, with England 1 – Scotland 1.

Saturday was another scorching day. The first match was played in the new format of 4 x combination triples. Each triple was made up of one visually impaired player and two physically disabled players, playing 3 sets of 5 ends in each match. This was an interesting new format and proved popular with the players. Scotland fared better and won all four matches – winning the session 4 – 0. However, as is often the way with sets play, in two of the four matches England actually scored more shots than their opponents, even though they lost on sets by 1 – 2.

With the last session of pairs to play on Saturday afternoon Scotland were leading 2 – 1 and England needed to win on all rinks to snatch victory, or win 5 out of 6 to be in with a chance on shots difference. England were in a strong position as the afternoon progressed and the first three matches to finish all went in our favour, meaning that another two wins would necessitate count back on shots difference across all sessions. It was looking promising for England with 2 ends to go, but Scotland dug deep winning the last three matches – one by 1 shot and one by 2 shots – so it was nail-biting stuff. The session was therefore drawn 3 – 3.

Everyone in the England team played well and put in some strong performances, and special congratulations go to the new caps. We were unlucky to lose the Test Match; some of the games went down to the wire and could have gone either way with one end to play – it really was that close.

Final score: Scotland 2 ½ points, England 1 ½ points.

## IBD Classification Clinic

DBE are planning to organise an IBD Classification Clinic in November or December 2023

If you would be interested in applying for An IBD classification and attending please contact Sue Davies ([sue.davies@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk](mailto:sue.davies@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk))

## DBE Friendly Fixture at Swale IBC



On Friday 8th September DBE held a joint 6 rink fixture with MS Swale bowlers against members of Swale IBC.

The MS Swale group is organised by Brenda and Peter Fathers, who have seen the team grow from one or two members now to over 15. They all have different conditions which means they were not all able to play a full game, unlike the DBE players. The green was very fast and this caught a few of the players out, but despite this the hospitality shown by the club and enthusiasm of its members led to a very enjoyable afternoon.

Our players came from as far away as Bournemouth, Salisbury and Suffolk, and included one or two new players; we were also joined by some players from VI Hastings and it was good to see them again. The game resulted in a win for Swale, but all agreed the result didn't matter as everyone had enjoyed the game tremendously.



Date	Event	Venue	Time
23/24 Sept	EALABA Singles	Tamworth IBC	All Day
30 Sept/1 Oct	Plant Weld Triples	Gedling IBC	All Day
8 Oct	DBE High Performance team	Solihull IBC	All Day
14/15 Oct	EALABA Drawn Pairs	Tamworth IBC	All Day
9 Nov	DBE Friendly Fixture	Bromley IBC	2pm
18 Nov	DBE Friendly Fixture	Bridgemans IBC	2pm



Judy is on holiday from 30th September till 7th October, if you have a query that can not wait please contact [info@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk](mailto:info@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk). I won't have my work mobile or laptop ! Judy

## Dan Todner Fundraising for DBE and the Great North Run.



A huge thank you and well done to Dan Todner for completing the Great North Run on 10 September.

On a very hot day Dan completed the race in 2 hours 40mins, which he declared he was disappointed in, personally I would have been thrilled. The weather had all four seasons in one day with not only heat but also pouring rain.

Dan has been raising funds all year with different events including on Sunday 27th August, at Houghton Dairy Lane BC in Sunderland who held a Charity/fundraising day in recognition of Keith Makepeace who is celebrating 50yrs membership of the club- he joined when he was 18yrs old.

The afternoon started with a spider, then 32 players played a 9 end game, (this was reduced due to heavy rain)... After the game it was back inside for some hot food and hot drinks..

Then it was time for the raffle and couple of games of bingo.

All money from the raffle and bingo was put into a donation bucket.

There were also 2 Sunderland football club tickets up for grabs, with the winning bid being £60, which was then rounded up to £100 by another club member. There was also guess how many sweets in jar.

A great day had by all, thanks so much for to Houghton Dairy Lane BC and our DBE Bowls Buddy Dan Todner for organising the day.

Dan is still collecting money for DBE and so far it is in excess of £1500, which is brilliant, thank you.

Stevie Angus



## Members Successes this summer.

Congratulations to all our members who ended the summer with success in their club finals. Here are a few of them.

Sarah Marshall was club champion again in the Ladies singles; John Hollowell following his success in the county singles earlier in the year winning his Men's championship singles; Colin Milner reached two club finals as did Kahlila Hussain. Colin Wagstaff was runner up in his clubs Mix pairs; Craig Bowler had a similar result in his club triples. Chris Gray was runner up in the Men's singles and was successful in other club and local competitions; Luke Smith beat his grandad to win his club Championship overturning last years result

I am sure there are more of you who have had successes and well done all of you, proving Bowls Is For Everyone.

Judy



## DBE Friendly at Charlbury IBC 17 September

On an autumnal afternoon in September the DBE hosted its annual friendly fixture against our pals from the Friends of English Bowling. The weather was not kind to us, we started in the dry but after 3 ends the heavens opened; it was decided to only play 10 ends, but after a short delay once the bowlers had returned to the green, they decided to play the match in full. However, it was not to be, as later in the afternoon the heavens opened again so the game was curtailed at 15 ends.

As well as some of our usual players, James England who is a member of Charlbury and the DBE played his first game with us and did very well. He played on the highest winning rink with John and Lidka Hollowell, Khalila Hussain and John Greaves. The game according to Captain Colin 'Wagga' Wagstaff was a draw as it was 2 rinks each, unfortunately Friends claimed a win as they had more shots than us!

Much laughter and fun was had by all, the green bowled superbly and the club could not have been better hosts. Sandra Groves sold raffle tickets for us and raised £200. After the game we sat down to a lovely tea with home made cakes. Colin, thanked the 'Friends' for their support and the club for its hospitality. Then Kath Lloyd the non-playing captain for the 'Friends', pledged their ongoing support for the DBE and they look forward to playing another match next season. She then introduced Michael Andrews from English Invitation Bowls Tourists. He explained that he and a friend had organised bowling tours pre- Covid. Sadly this had now ended and the group had decided to donate their final finances to DBE, and he presented Judy with a cheque for £1200; Judy thanked him saying how much of a difference this donation would make to DBE.



**A MASSIVE  
THANK  
YOU**

To all our members who took part in our friendly fixtures this summer.

We have not had to cancel any which is a definite improvement on last year.

To those of you that haven't played one yet, why not? They are fun and a great way to meet and bowl with like-minded people, and to enjoy a game of bowls at a venue you may not have visited before.

Keep an eye out for the fixtures coming up during the indoor season and those planned for the summer 2024

## Uk Vibe Outdoor Singles Championships—Weston Super Mare 29 August to 1 September

Congratulations to England on winning the VIBE Outdoor Singles Championship so emphatically, taking 6 out of the 8 titles.

Special mention to all the DBE members who were part of the successful team and contributed in no small way to the victory, they were as follows:



Category	Gold	Silver	Bronze
B1 Men	Keith Brenton		Richard Carey
B1 Women	Margaret Cusker		
B2 Men	Ron Homer	Tony Phillips	
B2 Women		Jeanette Maisey	Lyn Bourne
B3 Men	John Hollowell	Khanmzaffarul Gause	
B3 Women	Betty Baker	Marjorie Convey	
B4 Women	Jeanette Taylor		



## World Bowls Championship 2023—Gold Coast Australia



"This has been an incredible experience to be playing alongside and against some of the best players in the world. Memories I will cherish forever. The camaraderie shown on and off the green was amazing. I have made new friends in the process" Jack



What a fantastic festival of bowls the World Championships proved to be, with Para Bowls included alongside the main stream championships for the first time. The English team did themselves proud, with new pairing Fynn Kyser and Jack Pullin proving unlucky not to make the medal play offs, losing on a shots count back. Gill Platt and Jennie Sandford did themselves proud with some great wins, including against host Australia ,and close matches, but the highlight had to go the Mixed VI pairs with Alison Yearling, Stephen Hartley , Jane Herbert and Isaac Shieh winning a well deserved bronze medal. An experience none of them will forget.

"What an incredible 3 weeks, what an incredible team" Isaac

The final word to Team Manager Helen Lewis-Wall, "What an amazing experience' down under' in Australia —one I will never forget.

Australia has delivered unforgettable memories and support in a team with superb results, showing grit and determination, awesome effort learning a lot about ourselves and the green. Incredible people"

