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Newsletter

Chair person's report

First and foremost, I must thank Bowls England for all the support they have given DBE and "One Team England" during the past 12 months, what everyone has achieved is amazing and the future looks very bright for the Outdoor game. As we start the indoor season the EIBA are supporting us as we make our sport totally inclusive and I am so pleased to see so many of our players playing for their clubs & counties in the Denny, Yetton Cups and have been selected for the Liberty Competition 2023/2024 and once again our Indoor National Finals will be played at the EIBA National Championships at Nottingham IBC in April 2024.

With every good news unfortunately comes bad news, we have been informed that Bowls Scotland have withdrawn from the Indoor Para Home Nations and we are working very hard to put in place two test matches against Wales & Ireland and are looking for other opportunities for our Performance Indoor Squad also the Para Outdoor Home Nations dates have been moved to 28-30 June 2024 (tbc) in Ayr. We will keep you updated once we things confirmed.

Our financial situation is still a big worry for the Trustees, and we will start to have to make cost cutting decisions, if we cannot increase our income to keep DBE afloat this will affect our ability to deliver the service to our membership and continue our campaign of total inclusivity across all codes of the sport.

Finally, I ask you all to support our competitions and events, last year we made a loss of £1000 on them because of increasing overhead cost and the lack of entries.

The Trustees and I really need your support to keep the DBE Bowls Family together, we have come along way these past 3 years and we still have much more to achieve!!!

Steve Watson

DBE Ambassadors

I wanted to highlight some of the great work being carried out by our Ambassador team and I make no apologies for it. They are working hard to promote our sport, by supporting both individuals and clubs to be open to mixed ability bowlers.

DBE Ambassador, Commonwealth games and World Championship bowler Gill Platt was invited to be guest of honour at Addlestone Victory Park Bowls Clubs finals day.



Addlestone Victory is a very successful club with a very forward thinking group of people doing everything they can to be as inclusive as possible. The club has gone from 5 members to 130+ over the last couple of years. Gill and I had attended their open day in 2022, which was very well attended, they are working hard within their community to attract members.

The club runs a popular learning disability group on a Tuesday morning and one of the clubs members Pippa Tucker-Brown, is raising funds to purchase equipment.. Pippa campaign was featured on BBC 's The One Show on 18th October.

Gill, attended their finals day and was thrilled to see as well as the normal competitions, the club held singles and pairs finals for their members with special needs. She went on the green with the pairs, and helped them with their bowls. It was the first time that their new electric Bowls wheelchair was used (the club had fundraised to buy one). Alex used it and Gill says what a success it was. Alex was paired with Michael and Harry played with Kirsty. The game was played over 10 ends and Harry and Kirsty were the winners. Gill then presented the trophies to the winners in conjunction with the Lady Mayor. She went on to say 'What an amazing day, and all the players show cased disability bowling, they are amazing people and I was very proud to be part of their day. '

Ambassadors Continued.

Also carrying out fantastic work in his area of Eastbourne is Peter Ring.

Peter is based at Eastbourne IBC, he runs a group for disabled bowlers which has grown from 2 to 6, (it was 7 but one has moved to Lincoln , but is carrying on bowls there) As well as participating in DBE matches the group also plays in games for their club. They have a DBE noticeboard with lots of up to date information in the clubhouse. In 2022 the club ran a 24 hour bowls-a-thon and raised over £4000 for charity, Peter and the other disabled bowlers played their part in the event.

He has over the summer been working with Harry Urwin from the Bowls Development Alliance and attended the Eastbourne Festival of Accessible Sport. He has visited an number of clubs in his area and ran a Community Club Introduction evening in the summer.

Peter has attended many courses including those of safeguarding and inclusivity and is now working with the University of Brighton, Occupational therapy students who in December will be going along to Eastbourne to have a go at bowls themselves and try out the bowling aids, but also learn about the health benefits etc of the bowling community.

With Peter's drive Eastbourne IBC now have a full range of bowling aids which they lend to local clubs and individuals to try before going to the expense of buying , he has also been able to help them get funding to buy the equipment through Eastbourne Borough Council scheme to help local communities. He is now trying to get a slot on his local radio station to talk about the DBE and disability bowls in general.



Colin Wagstaff ,our Lead Ambassador has been leading by example as usual. As well as his own personal successes this year both indoor and out, winning DBE titles and being selected to play for the England team in Ayr in September, Colin has continued to work tirelessly for DBE, he is pushing clubs and associations in his area to see the benefits , not only to the individual but also clubs to be more inclusive. He speaks to other groups not necessarily bowlers about these benefits

Colin has been presented with the Health and Well being award from Activity Alliance Rutland as part of their Let's Get Moving campaign.

He really leads by example, taking a team of DBE members to Oundle BC in the summer to take part in their charity day . As well as continuing to support the other DBE Ambassadors, and becoming Vice President of his own club at Oakham, Colin is meeting other group and speaking and promoting DBE bowls over the coming months.



If you would like to be part of the team and are proactive and happy to get involved please contact Colin at ambassador@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk or Judy for more information.

High Performance Training Session 8th October at Solihull

What a great day we all had at Solihull IBC , the high performance team gathered and it was good to see so many of the squad in attendance.

In the morning Mal Evans Bowls England Head of Coaching, ran a session on reading the head. It proved very informative and all agreed was a very good experience for all those who took part. Mal began by explaining the necessity to play as a team and to support each other and not be patronising, that each member of the team had value and their opinions matter, also the importance of discussion between the team and shot selection.

Mal set up a head adding a bowl and going through the options and which shot to play, there was a lively discussion and everyone took an active part. A big thank you to Mal it was a very worthwhile experience for everyone.



After the session Mark Bilsby set up some practise heads for the players to try out shots, these included, drawing to a jack in the ditch, a bowls target, drawing around four bowls a yard short of the jack and firing a jack in the ditch. Points were given for shots achieved, there was a prize for the player who scored the most points, the successful player was Dave Fisher and Kieran Rollings was runner up.

After lunch the team had a match against a team from Warwickshire County Indoor Bowls Association, they had sent a strong team and defiantly tested the our side. DBE won on one rink, Julie Deferville, Fynn Kyser and Jack Pullin. Three of the other rinks were close and could have gone either way, a very good try out for the team.

Sue Davies High Performance Team Manager said 'A positive day from start to finish'



Date	Fixture	Venue	Time
8 November	DBE Friendly	Bromley IBC	2pm
18 November	DBE Friendly	Bridgeman IBC	2pm
3 December	Maiden Singles	Gedling IBC	All Day
9 December	DBE Friendly	Luton IBC	2pm

Congratulations! Proving Bowls is for Everyone

Denny Cup

Yetton Trophy

Liberty Trophy

Atherley Trophy

Congratulations to all our members who have been selected to represent their clubs in the Denny Cup and Yetton Trophy and an extra special congratulations on those selected to play for their counties in the Liberty Trophy and Atherley Trophy. It is great to see clubs and counties recognising the ability of these players and not seeing their disability as a barrier to selection.

There is no doubt these players were selected for their skill and it is wonderful to be able to highlight their achievement. Here are just a few of them, if you are not on the list it just means I didn't know about you but please let me know how you get on.

Julie	Deferville
John	Greaves
John	Hollowell
Khalila	Hussain
Sally-Ann	Lewis Wall
Joe	Peplow
Gill	Platt
Emma	Price
Kieran	Rollings
Jennie	Sandford
Jon	Stokes
Rhys	Taylor

Good Luck to all of you who qualified for the next round of the Denny and the Yetton.

I know many of you are also in your clubs Top Club sides and playing in the EIBA individual competitions don't forget to keep me up to date with your progress, its great to be able to highlight your achievements.

That doesn't mean if you are not a competitive bowler I don't want to hear from you . If you have any bowls related experiences good or bad that you would like to share with your DBE family, please let me know , we are there to support you .

Judy



IBD World Championships

A representative team is taking part in the IBD world Championships in South Africa in May 2024.

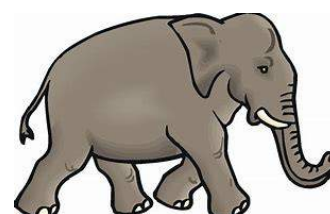
To participate those going are having to self fund the trip. This means raising approximately £2500 each, which is a lot of money particularly for some individuals, unfortunately the DBE does not have the fund to finance the trip. Some of the team have saved the money they raised to go to New Zealand for the last Championships, which were sadly cancelled, but for others and in particular the first timers , they have had to come up with ways to raise the cost themselves, here are what some of them have been doing:

John and Lidka Hollowell have obtained sponsorship from their local Branch of Specsavers as well as his Indoor club at Bridgeman.

Anthony Page is receiving support from his own club and is half way through getting his sponsorship monies.

Colin Wagstaff's outdoor club at Oakham ran a charity event to raise funds for his South Africa fund, and Melton IBC are organising a race night to help raise funds. In addition to fundraising for himself , Colin has also undertaken to walk 11,000 steps in November to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

They all have On Line fundraising pages and would welcome any support.





As you know DBE is a charity and relies on donations and grants to carry on. This is where you come in, have you any ideas about a fundraising activity we could take on?

Would you be happy to take part?

It needs to be something we can use to publicise the DBE and attract more support and something we can all get involved in?

Craig has offered to do a parachute jump! But I would rather do something we can all do together and I'm not jumping out of a plane!

If you have any ideas please let me know. Judy



Membership renewal

At the beginning of December I will be sending out an email about renewing your membership.

It is very important that you confirm to me if you wish to continue with your membership (I hope you do), or in line with GDPR regulations I will have to remove you from our database and you will not be able to take part in any of our future events.

Please make sure you return it to me and advise of any changes in your contact information.

Thank you Judy

DBE Competitions

Stuart, our Competition Secretary reminds members that the indoor competitions are open for entries.

The dates are as follows;

3 December Maiden Singles

13/14 January Ann Trotman Singles

27/28 January Unclassified Singles

All taking place at Gedling IBC

3 February Open Pairs at Rugby Thornfield IBC

24/25 February classified singles at Gedling IBC

The winners of the Pairs and Plate will play the finals at Nottingham IBC on 27th March during the EIBA National Finals

The singles Champion of Champions is on 28th March also at Nottingham.

The North v South game is again at Nottingham on MONDAY 8 April.



If you would like to emulate Anthony Page last years Singles Champion, please contact Stuart, or further details can be found on our website.



We would like to thank those clubs that have raised funds for us over the summer.

Waddesdon BC in Bucks, held a spider before each game and had a collecting tub in the club house and raised over £300.

Broadway BC in Worcs again had a collecting tub and their Presidents day raised funds for the DBE and raised nearly the same amount.

If you know of a club that would like to have a collecting tub or would be willing to host a fundraiser for us, please let Judy know and she will arrange for one of our Ambassadors to give their support and let them have some posters and flyers with information about the DBE and its work.

To coin a phrase 'every little helps'

