

## Chairperson's report

It's great to see as we fight for survival on the financial side of running DBE, that our spirits can't be broken as we approach the season of "Goodwill to All" and that our players and support team still pull on our DBE shirts and showcase to all, our ability and the strength of the DBE family across the country.

The word inclusivity is used by many in power, but how inclusive is our sport of bowls is another question and when the chips are stacked against you, who will come riding to the rescue is the million-dollar question; I have failed to answer this these past 6 months. The fight is not over and I'm not singing yet, so fingers crossed for a happy 2024!

On the bright side the good news keeps coming with Helen Wood (DBE Para Indoor Home Nations Team Captain) making it onto the top 50 of the EIBA ranking list, and Judy has secured some exciting big friendly fixtures for the Summer season, plus we are very close to finding out more about the IBD World Championships 2024 in South Africa over the next few weeks.

I make a point when travelling the world, doing my day job, to visit the local Disability/Para bowls associations and I am still amazed that the Disability bowls movement that Maggy Smith MBE started over 30 years ago is stronger than ever.

*We are Stronger Together*

*Steve*

## Breaking News

We are delighted to be welcoming para bowlers and officers from the Irish Bowls Federation when they join us in January for a development event and Test Match. This will be held at Solihull IBC on 26-27 January 2024. More details will follow.

**Sue Davies**



### World record breakers

Our own Ellen Faulkner MBE and Serena Bonnell, have become world record breakers after completing a mammoth 32 hour 24 minutes singles match! The final score after 321 ends was 259—256 to Serena.

They are pictured here with Gerald Robinson Chief Executive of Club Tweed.

After their marathon effort the ladies were presented with \$1000 to be donated to a charity of their choice.



## Bromley IBC Friendly Match—8 November



On Thursday 9th November a team from DBE played its first friendly of the indoor season against Bromley IBC, and on arrival at Bromley we were greeted with a warm welcome by the members of the home side, DBE Captain for this match was Peter Ring and the DBE team was :

Rink 1. Ray Poulton , John Drury , Colin Wagstaff

Rink 2. Jennifer Poulton , David Tearle , Peter Ring

Rink 3. Peter Cave , Tracy Nethercot , Keith Nethercot

Rink 4. John Wrenn , Fred Hughes , Jennie Sandford

The DBE team started slowly trying to get used to the pace of the carpet, after 8 ends, we were down on 3 rinks and level on 1 and the score was Bromley 46 = 17 DBE . After the 10th end there was a short break for a cup of tea / coffee and 1 or 2 biscuits then the DBE Team started to fight back and definitely made it more of a contest and at the end of 18 ends the match finished Bromley 74 = 53.

The scores were Rink 1. Bromley 21 = 15 DBE . Rink 2. Bromley 18 = 11 DBE . Rink 3. Bromley 24 = 8 DBE . Rink 4. Bromley 11 = 19 DBE .

The match was played in great spirit and some great bowling from all the players, the club provided refreshments all afternoon and after the match we had a wonderful meal and a raffle. A massive thank you to Bromley IBC members for making us feel so welcome and for the great match, and the players all agreed they looked forward to meeting again in the future .

Report by Sandra Groves



Well known DBE members, Jeanette Maisey and Gareth Harwood have both been in the wars recently.

Gareth has broken his leg and is currently recovering with his girlfriend in Milton Keynes.

Jeanette has been in hospital and is now on the mend.

Both hope to be back bowling in the New Year, and I am sure we all wish them a speedy recovery.

## Friendly Fixture are Bridgman IBC



On 18th November Stuart Espie captained a team in a friendly match at Bridgman IBC in Bedfordshire.

The club welcomed our 9 players,

Kate King,

John Hollowell and Lidka

Chris Gray

Fynn Kyser

Craig Bowler

Stuart



Terry Boswell

Keith Chatfield

Ray Gray

The first half of the game was close with DBE up on 1 rink, down on one and a tie on the other. At the end of the game two rinks were decided on the last end, one scored a four to win, the other lost by 1, the third rink, Stuart's, won comfortably by 18—9.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and our host provided a wonderful buffet after the game. Stuart thanked Bridgman IBC for their hospitality and presented their captain with a DBE pennant to remember our visit.

Report by Stuart Espie





## Week of learning

Following on from their successful online webinar learning initiative earlier in the Autumn, Bowls England have announced the dates and subjects being covered in their next learning sessions in January.

They are as follows;

### **W/C 22nd January 2024**

#### **Introduction to Bowls Bash and Play Bowls Platform**

23rd January – 6-7pm

26th January – 10-11am

#### **Introduction to Bowls' Big Weekend**

22nd January – 1-2pm

26th January – 1-2pm

#### **Introduction to Inclusion**

22nd January – 10-11am

24th January – 6-7pm

#### **Introduction to Legal Structures**

22nd January – 6-7pm

25th January – 10-11am

#### **Role of Safeguarding Officers**

22nd January – 6–7pm

24th January – 10-11am



Please encourage your clubs to attend these events they are a great learning tool and free!

Full details can be found on the Bowls England website.

Or email [clubdevelopment@bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com](mailto:clubdevelopment@bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com)