



We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year

## Chairpersons report

As another excellent year comes to an end and before we go into the festive season, I would like to thank the DBE Bowls family for all their support over the past 12 months to raise our profile once again on the Home and World stage, Congratulations, you all have raised the bar to a high standard "Proving Bowls is for Everyone".

I must also thank our band of volunteers and senior management team, who have worked tirelessly to deliver another year of Events, Fixtures & Competitions whilst working under serious financial constraints, but between us we have managed to increase our membership to 470 of which 223 have a Physical Disability, 87 are Visually Impaired, 56 have a Learning Difficulty with the rest being made up of Volunteers and Supporters. We have also increased the Disabled friendly members clubs to 206, which is fabulous news for an Charity organisation who receives no Government or Sport's National Governing bodies funding or support!!!

The Trustees have accepted the invitation to send a SELF FUNDED "Team England Representative Squad" to the International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) World Championships in South Africa between 18-31 May 2024 which will once again showcase our Ability not Disability from teams around the World.

On behalf of the DBE Charity Trustees, I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and fingers crossed a very Happy New Year.



Steve

DBE Chairperson

## DBE Friendly Fixture at Luton IBC



On the 9th December DBE players travelled to play at Luton IBC everyone arrived safely and we had 3 rink triples. Captain Colin Wagstaff was greeted warmly by Luton captain Janet.

DBE players were

Rink 5 Khalila Hussain, Denise Roland, captain Colin.

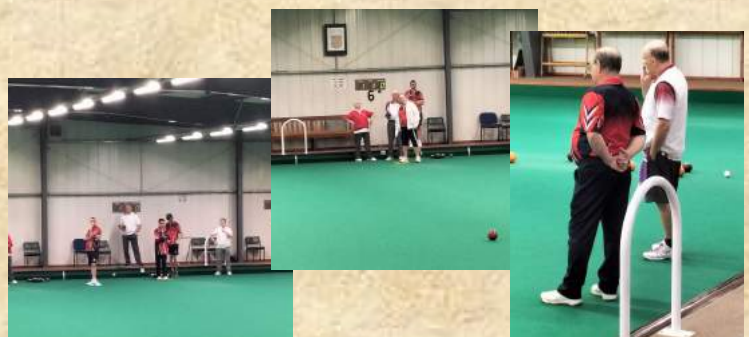
Rink 6 ,Andrew Spencer, Terry Boswell, Jerry Sanders.

Rink 7 Ryan Richmond, Fynn Kyser, Colin Milner.

At the start DBE were behind on all rinks, at 7 ends there was some good bowls on all rinks but DBE kept getting thwarted by the opposition. rinks 6 and 7 DBE started to fight back with DBE having a good win on rink 6 9-28 and a close win on rink 7, the only defeat was on rink 5, but it was not for the want of trying! Although it looked like dodgems on rink 5 with 3 wheel-chairs racing up and down DBE overall lost only by 2 shots 53-51. After a brilliant and enjoyable match ,light refreshments were on offer.

It was a great afternoon filled with fun and plenty of banter. Many thanks to Luton IBC and all those that took part .

Report by Sandra Groves





## Message from the Finance Director

I have heard, via “social media”, rumours that Disability Bowls England (DBE) paid for our Chairperson to attend the 2023 World Championships on the Gold Coast.

I can assure all our stakeholders that DBE did **NOT** contribute anything towards the event for the players, the management team, or any DBE Trustees (including the Chairperson) who were at the event.

We have always been transparent in our accounts and follow the Charities Commission Good Governance principles. If you search on Companies House under Disability Bowls England, you can see all of our audited accounts.

If anyone has a question about our accounts, then, please email me at [finance@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk](mailto:finance@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk) and I will respond directly to you.

Thanks

Mike Robertson

Finance Director

Disability Bowls England

## **Ann Trotman Singles**

As there are only 8 entries in this years Ann Trotman singles , it will now all be played on one day, Saturday 13th January.

This will reduce costs to the charity and the players.

Maggy looks forward to seeing those who have entered in January.



## **IBD Classification Clinics**

Four IBD Classification Clinics were held during 2023 with over 20 players attending, either for review or for new classification. Classifications awarded were: 2 x B6, 13 x B7 and 5 x B8.

This is excellent news and opens up new opportunities for those gaining their first classification.

Special thanks must go to the IBD Classifiers for their time and work running these clinics – Gill Allibone, IBD Medical Classifier; Sue Davies & John Neal, IBD Technical Classifiers.

We are planning to hold more clinics in 2024. These have not yet been scheduled, but details of dates and venues will be published in the Newsletter and put on the DBE website.

If you are interested in attending an IBD Classification Clinic or know someone else who might be, please contact Sue Davies ([sue.davies@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk](mailto:sue.davies@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk)).



Date	Event	Venue	Time
7 January 2024	DBE Friendly	Barwell IBC	2pm
13 January	Ann Trotman Singles	Gedling IBC	All Day
20/21 January	DBE v Northern Clubs	Stanley and South Shields IBC	All Day
26/27 January	Irish Development Series	Solihull IBC	All Day
27/28 January	Unclassified Singles	Gedling IBC	All Day
3 February	DBE Open Pairs	Rugby Thornfield IBC	All Day



**Maiden Singles**

The Maiden Singles was due to take place on 3 December at Gedling IBC, sadly it had to be cancelled due to the bad weather . At the moment there are no plans to rearrange the competition.

## Northampton Bowls Club—Crusaders have a visit from the Minster for Disabled People

One of the fastest growing and enthusiastic sections of Desborough Indoor Bowls club is the Crusaders who meet every week on a Friday. The Crusaders were set up in 2005 by Sue White with the assistance of Carol and Alan Coe to cater for the needs of people with disabilities. Of the club's 340 members 26 are disabled, "The club bowlers are in awe of the Crusaders" commented Club Chairman Geoff Crowther." Most of us struggle to get anywhere near a jack set 25 metres away. These people achieve that with the minimum of fuss overcoming all obstacles in their way. They are in every way inspirational."

In tribute to the efforts of the Crusaders the Minister for the Disabled People, Health and Work Tom Pursglove and the Kettering MP Philip Hollobone visited the club on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November to meet the playing members, their carers and the club members who help to stage the sessions. The two MPs were tempted onto the bowls green in a head-to-head match to learn just how difficult the sport is and just how skilful the players are. Both had a go with bowling arms. Being Honourable members, the match ended in a score draw!!

Both MPs were mightily impressed by the skill and commitment of the members and complimented the club on the convivial and supportive atmosphere that surrounded the session.



**Congratulations to the Crusaders and their helpers**



## Maggy Smith DBE Trip to Potters Resort, Hopton on Sea, Norfolk.



For a number of years Maggy has organised a trip to Potters Resort, the Home of the Imagine Cruising World Indoor Bowls Championships, for some DBE members, their families and the regular supporters of DBE events at Gedling IBC. They always seem to do well and thoroughly enjoy the event, not only the bowls but the entertainments and activities on offer.



‘A group of 52, made up of bowlers with disability, their family members along with Gedling IBC members who always turn out to help and support at disability events regularly held at the club took part ‘reports Maggy.

64 teams competed in the competition over 4 days. Our group entered 8 teams of which 2 reached the final 8 play-offs. Maggy says ‘We had two other teams who only missed out qualifying on shots difference.’

Khalila Hussain, Tim Swann, Colin Milner and Daniel Adams ( DBE ) made it through but lost in the quarter final, missing out to a previous winning team from Erewash.

Jane Parnham, Geoff Greenwood, Steve Parnham and John Newham ( Gedling ) made it to the final playing a team from Ferryhill, Durham- sadly, loosing with a ‘nail biting’ finish.

All of our group gave a good account of themselves and were a credit to both DBE and Gedling IBC.

It was Stars Celebrity Week with Greg Harlow and Andy Thompson MBE hosting and presenting the prizes and in addition to the individual rinks successes the DBE/Gedling team won the overall Top Club Trophy.



Correction in the last newsletter I referred to the Bowls England Big Bowls Weekend on 24—26 May 2024, it should have read Bowls Big Weekend.



## Fundraising and Grant opportunities



In their recent newsletter Activity Derbyshire and Active Notts both highlighted a range of fundraising opportunities in their areas.

Including The National Lottery Community Fund's Awards for All scheme offering funding from £300 to £20,000 for up to 2 years. It can be used to deliver a new or existing activity or to support organisations to change and adapt to new and future challenges. Please have a look on their website for further information.

Also the Community Ownership Fund where voluntary and community organisations can bid for funding to acquire important assets. The closing date for applications is 31st January 2024.

More information about these and other opportunities can be found by emailing either [info@activederbyshire.org.uk](mailto:info@activederbyshire.org.uk) or [info@activenotts.org.uk](mailto:info@activenotts.org.uk).



Formerly known as the Prince's Trust, the King Charles III Charitable Foundation makes both large and small donations to groups all over the country to support them to make a difference in all areas of peoples' lives including under their Health and Wellbeing section, those with a disability.

They offer small grants of up to £5000 a year to approximately 100 local community based organisations the next application for grants opens in January 2024.

They also offer larger grants but the application for these is not open at the moment.

For more information about the small grants visit their website [www.kccf.org.uk](http://www.kccf.org.uk).

If you know of any fundraising opportunities in your area which you could share with other members please let Judy know on [judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk](mailto:judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk) and she can share them.



# CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGE

## HAPPY QUIZZING

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE



Christmas wordsearch—can you find the missing word

### Christmas Sudoku

		4	2		6	7		
	9		1		3		8	
5				7				9
2	4						5	7
		1				4		
9	6						1	3
6				2				8
	3		9		7		4	
		7	8		1	9		

### Number Crunch

43



-15



1/4 of this



X3



1/7 of this



Squared



+16



X4

=

- BAUBLE
- CANDLE
- CARD
- CRACKERS
- CRANBERRY
- GIFTS
- HOLLY
- IVY
- PAPER HAT
- PIGS IN
- BLANKETS
- PUDDING
- SANTA
- SKATES
- TAG
- TREE
- TURKEY
- WREATH

W	S	T	F	I	G	D	P
Y	A	U	R	B	N	R	I
G	M	R	O	E	H	K	G
I	S	K	A	T	E	S	S
A	L	E	Y	H	Y	V	I
Y	W	Y	L	I	P	P	N
R	R	E	L	B	U	A	B
R	E	T	O	S	D	P	L
E	A	P	H	Q	D	E	A
B	T	O	V	R	I	R	N
N	H	X	A	P	N	H	K
A	L	C	G	W	G	A	E
R	A	T	N	A	S	T	T
C	R	A	C	K	E	R	S

### What's the Christmas songs?

- 1 English Tint
- 2 Hackled Shelt
- 3 Baba Nasty
- 4 Mrs Sacha Stilt
- 5 Thy Hog Lion

