

## Chairperson's Report

First and Foremost, I must thank the membership for some really nice supportive and few **non** supportive comments about our financial situation and decision making. The DBE Charity Trust Trustees are hoping to release an update sometime in March.

Once again we have been kept on our toes during January and we had to make the tough decision to cancel the International Indoor Test Match against Wales; you can read the full statement in this newsletter. We have streamlined the Outdoor Competitions schedule and are very honoured and proud to be asked to be part of the Stoke Bowls Club, Coventry, Centenary Celebrations and we have booked their two greens for the weekend of the 22/23 June to run our DBE Open Outdoor Pairs, Singles Play Off, Ladies Open Pairs/Aussie Pairs during the weekend and hope you will all support us and the club during this unique weekend.

We are very sorry about some clashes of competitions this year, but we had to move things around to fit in the IBD World Championships and these were the only dates our supporting clubs could offer us.

We are so pleased that the English Indoor Bowling Association are going to be live streaming the DBE Indoor Open Pairs Final and once again we can showcase our other events during the EIBA National Championships 2024. Marie & Dave Nicholson (Learning Disabilities) Team Manager have announced the "Team England Squad" to defend the Munro Cup at the Learning Disabilities Indoor Bowls International Series in Falkirk IBC 24-25 April 2024 and once again DBE are hoping to support them.

We are all systems go for the International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) World Championships 2024 in South Africa and would like to thank the English Bowling Association Charity Trust, Sporting Highlights, DM Sports Turf Solutions & Bush Hill Bowls for their support to help make this happen.

Once again, your full support is very welcome during these difficult times.

Steve

## Fundraising Opportunities

Fundraise while you shop follow the link:

[Disability Bowls England Fundraising | Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/disability-bowls-england)

 [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)  
feel good shopping



Why not play the One Lottery to support DBE and have a chance to be w inner.

One Lottery Link - [www.onelottery.co.uk/support/disability-bowls-england](http://www.onelottery.co.uk/support/disability-bowls-england)



Don't forget to let me know if your club is taking part in this years Bowls Big Weekend or if you are attending an event at another club.

Judy

[Judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk](mailto:Judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk)

## Fundraising and the future of DBE

The lifeblood of any charity is Fundraising, Donations & Sponsorship events, and we are no different from any other charity in the country during these difficult times trying to raise money during the cost-of-living crisis.

With the charity sector funding drying up and no Government or Sports Bodies' funding available for disability grassroots development, players performance pathway and administration, we are running out of time and funds to save this great organisation,

Mike McDonagh has volunteered to assist us in raising funds and has written over 100 letters to different companies and potential sponsors to date with no success as they are overwhelmed with requests from charities. We are asking our members to think outside of the box and come forward with some good fundraising ideas or help to kick start our fundraising for 2024?

We endeavour throughout the year to maintain a full calendar of events across England for the different disability groups and our membership with friendly social fixtures, competitions, taster & disability awareness days, club disability facilities guidance and new equipment design assistance, but most importantly we offer a Structure for Disability Bowlers and likeminded across England.

The money raised during this period will be ringfenced and divided equally between:

### Grassroots development Including:

- Increase & retain playing membership across all levels of disabilities.
- Increase the number of Disabled friendly clubs.
- Increase the number of taster days and disability awareness workshops.
- Continue to work on improving Disability bowls equipment and walking aids.
- Provide extra support and training for disability Coaches, volunteers, and regional ambassadors.

### Learning disabilities development:

- Recruit and support a volunteer workforce comprising helpers, coaches, ambassadors & fund raisers.
- Increase the number of Open and Learning Disabilities events across the different Learning spectrum.
- Provide specialist support & training for the Learning Disabilities group of players and member clubs.

### International teams coaching and support:

- Build on the success of the 2022/23 indoor & outdoor season on the International & World stage.
- High level Specialist coaching for the different classification groups.
- Competitive training camps & team building exercises.

If you can help in anyway, please contact Mike McDonagh [mikemcdonagh@msn.com](mailto:mikemcdonagh@msn.com) or [steve.watson@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk](mailto:steve.watson@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk), if you are able to donate, please visit [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/disability-bowls-england-1162133](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/disability-bowls-england-1162133)

**Every PENNY raised is used to continue to deliver our vision of growing and developing our membership and making our sport truly inclusive for all throughout England.**

## Cancellation of Para Indoor Home Nations 2024

It is with great regret and sadness that I have to inform the membership that due to lack of financial support the Trustees of Disability Bowls Charity Trust have had to make the difficult decision to withdraw DBE Team England from the Indoor Test Match against Wales in March.

This will enable us to fulfil the remainder of the 2023/24 Indoor Season and the 2024 Outdoor season without putting the Charity into debt, which would undo all the hard work that has been done over the past 40 years to make our sport inclusive and “Proving Bowls is for Everyone”.

This has been a very tough decision for the Trustees, but with the charity sector funding drying up and no Government or Sports Bodies’ funding available for disability grassroots development, players performance pathway and administration, we are running out of time to save this great organisation that has changed the lives of so many people with a disability by enabling them to play the game of bowls, not only for social and recreational purposes but with the chance of progressing to represent their country at international level.

The Trustees wish to **assure you**, if our financial position changes over the next few months, we will review this decision.  
Steve

Steve

### Outdoor Competition Dates

Some dates for your diary:

**Thursday 2—5 May VI Open Singles , Clarence Pk , Weston Super Mare.**

**Sunday 9 June—Regional Open Singles**

Midlands at Polly BC

East at St Neots BC

South East at Sutton BC

South West at Poole Park BC

**Sunday 9—14 June VIBE National Pairs and Singles , Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa**

**Saturday 22 / Sunday 23rd June –DBE Open Pairs, Open Singles Play offs, Ladies pairs/Aussie Pairs at Stoke BC Coventry.**

**Sunday 7—12 July Open VI Tournament Hastings**

**Sunday 21 July -DBE Men’s Pars at Rugby Railway BC**

**Monday 19th till 22nd August VIBE Outdoor Triples at York BC**

During Bowls England Aviva National Championships at Victoria Park , Royal Leamington Spa

**Sunday 25 August DBE Open Pairs final**

**Thursday 29 August DBE Open Singles Final**

**Saturday 31 August Maggy Smith MBE North v South Outdoor Challenge Trophy**

**Sunday 1 September DBE Mixed Triples**

**Check out the website or contact Stuart for entry details.**

**[Competitions@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk](mailto:Competitions@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk)**



## What a great start to 2024!



Over 26 and 27 January we welcomed a development team from the Irish Bowls Federation to Solihull for a couple of days of practice, a classification clinic, a coaching session with Mal Evans and a test match .



This was the first time that the Irish Bowls Federation have sent a para team over and it was a great pleasure and privilege to host the event. Hopefully there will be more of these events in the future and we very much look forward to meeting up with everyone again. There was a great buzz throughout both days with banter, fun and positivity in spades.



Day 1 started with some skills tests across 6 rinks, much laughter could be heard across the green and it proved a great ice breaker. The second session was quick format pairs with players re-drawing for partners every four ends. In the afternoon the teams played a 'trial' test match, some great skills were displayed and with honours even it was all to play for on Day 2.

Day 2 began with a Classification clinic ;5 of the Irish team and 3 DBE members were up for assessment or review.

We were delighted that Mal Evans, Director of Coaching at Bowls England, was able to come and run coaching sessions for us that morning as well. Mal is an excellent and experienced Coach and all the players and management were totally engrossed and involved with what he had to say and how he demonstrated ways to learn and improve skills. It was good to see everyone participating fully in the session, and equally good to hear all the laughter and banter across the rinks .

The final event was the Test Match in the afternoon, consisting of 5 pairs games. There was some great bowling across all five rinks. Khalila Hussain and Emma Price had a great win 23-9 against some tough Irish opposition; Alex Comack and Colin Wagstaff put in a big finish winning their last 7 ends but losing narrowly by 10-13; Dave Wood (directed by Rick Sippitts) and Phil Dutton (directed by Elizabeth Shipley) were in strong form and won 29-5; Kevin Betteridge (directed by Jayne Sippitts) and John Hollowell (directed by Lidka Hollowell) also had an excellent win 27-4. The final match was a nail-biter with Colin Milner and Craig Bowler down by 1 with one end to play, needing 2 to win – holding one shot with his last bowl still to play, “Captain” Craig drew another and clinched the game.

Congratulations to Captain Craig and Team DBE – winners of the Friendship Trophy

Sue Davies DBE High Performance team manager thanked all the players, directors, supporters, friends and management of DBE for making it such a success, and Solihull IBC for allowing us to use their excellent facilities over the two days.

Great News!



We are delighted to announce that we have been fortunate to receive a donation from the English Bowling Association Charitable Trust to help with the expense of the trip to the IBD World Championships in South Africa this May.

A big thank you must go to the Trust for its support. If you don't know, the EBACT, offers grants to bowlers and their dependants to help them to play bowls, this includes support with the purchase of disabled equipment.

Details can be found on their website

[www.englishbowlingassociationcharitabletrust.co.uk](http://www.englishbowlingassociationcharitabletrust.co.uk)

The organisation is supported by both Bowls England and the EIBA.



Bush Hill Bowls is excited to be backing DBE's players at the 2024 IBD Championships in South Africa this May.

It's a sponsorship that continues Bush Hill Bowls' commitment to developing innovative enabling equipment for bowlers such as the (recently introduced) Royce Rollator and the Bowls Royce<sup>®</sup> wheelchair. Say Bush Hill Bowls founders Denise Rolland and Jerry Sanders, "Hundreds of indoor and outdoor bowlers at every level enjoy enhanced mobility with our products, from club bowlers to Commonwealth Games medallists. Thanks to our partnership with Disability Bowls England, the visibility of a wide range of mobility and delivery aids as well as branded bowling aids from Drakes Pride, Taylor Bowls and Hunter Bowls is better than ever." [www.bushhillbowls.co.uk](http://www.bushhillbowls.co.uk)

## DBE Friendly Fixture at Oxford and District IBC 10 February

Despite some hiccups and a couple of late withdrawals DBE fielded a team to fulfil our fixture against Oxford and District IBC. Many thanks to Peter and Paul for stepping in at the last minute.



Captain Colin Wagstaff was greeted by captain Marilyn and both exchanged pennants. There were 4 rinks of triples and a 'spider's competition before the game. The DBE team fought well but it wasn't to be ;the final score Oxford 94 DBE 51 .After the match we all sat down to a meal and a raffle.

## Inspirational Face book Post from Katie King on Girls and Women in Sports Day

I wanted to share this fantastic post from one of our newer members Katie, I think it says everything that is important in Women in Sport and Para Sport. You are a star Katie, now we just need to get a DBE shirt small enough to fit you !

'Happy girls & women in sports day

I have only been a bowler for coming up to 5 years but the opportunities it has given me especially in this last year playing for not only both my clubs but for the DBE & the VPs as well in quite a few locations around the UK

I am SO proud to be part of it, it's the only real thing in my life that I am really passionate about & absolutely love! That passion hasn't faded it's just grown, I'm lucky to have such body confidence so much so I don't mind getting sweaty & having my hair up in a ponytail it's what every female should be able to do.

I played for the Amy Rose last year which was just such a wonderful experience, I am super competitive in everything I do.

Please encourage the girls/women you have in your life to take up sport it is honestly hand on heart the best decision I have ever made changed my life FOREVER and the only real thing that makes me equal to everyone else '



Next month is cerebral palsy awareness month , keep an eye on our social media pages for some items highlighting some of our CP members,

### Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue	Duration
2 March	EALABA Friendly	Gedling IBC	2pm
10 March	DBE Friendly	Whiteknights IBC	2pm
16 March	DBE Friendly	Rugby Thornfield IBC	2pm
22 March to 13 April	EIBA National Finals	Nottingham IBC	All Day
27 March	DBE Pairs and Plate Finals	Nottingham IBC	9am
28 March	DBE Champion of	Nottingham IBC	9am and final at 12.30
6 April	DBE Friendly	Watford IBC	2pm
8 April	DBE North v South	Nottingham IBC	12pm