

Chairperson 's report

My dad once told me "When you have a family son, you will have many sleepless nights worrying about them" Well these past 3 months, I have had many sleepless nights as we have been fighting to keep DBE going , but each day I wake up it makes me stronger to fight harder to keep our great Organisation going as long as we can!

We have started the year on a high and over the next few weeks we will be making some Big announcements about our plans for 2024 and launching a major fund raising campaign and once again I looking for you to support us, It's been over 40 years since Maggy Smith MBE realised there was a lack of opportunity for people with a disability to play the sport of bowls across England and around the world. She fought tirelessly against discrimination and broken promises to provide a structure and focus to bring together like-minded people with a disability in England to play on equal terms with the able-bodied players which has made us such a strong organisation.

Once again, I wish to assure you all that the Trustees and I will fight to the end to try a find a solution for us all, but I wanted to be honest with my DBE Family at the start of the year!!

We are stronger together

Steve Watson



Irish Development Team visit and Test Match

What a wonderful couple of days we had meeting and playing against the Irish squad at Solihull IBC.

The atmosphere and positivity was superb throughout.

There was fun, banter, competitive bowls, a coaching session run by Mal Evans and a win for DBE in the final Test Match yesterday afternoon.

Congratulations to members of both teams. Thanks for such a great start to 2024.

A full report will appear in next month's Newsletter.

Sue Davies



Maggy Smith MBE

It has been over 40 years since Maggy Smith MBE realised there was a lack of opportunity for people with a disability to play bowls across England. She worked tirelessly against discrimination and broken promises to provide a structure and focus to bring together like-minded people with a disability in England to play on equal terms with the able bodied, this has led to the growth of the Charity and made it such a strong organisation.

This fantastic work led to Maggy, being awarded a much deserved MBE, she is a lady loved and admired throughout the disability bowling world, not only for her hard work but also her kindness and sense of humour .

We are lucky to have such a special lady as our President and none of us can thank her enough for what she has done over the years.

Bowls England Bowls Big Weekend—encourage your club to get involved.



Sponsorship for IBC World Championships in South Africa



We are very pleased to announce we have so been offered sponsorship for 2 of the four spaces on the shirts being worn by the team representing DBE at the IBD World Championship in South Africa



The first is DM Sports Turf Solutions.

DM Sports Turf Solutions is a small Greenkeeping business maintaining bowling greens to high standards around Hertfordshire and Essex.

Owner Dan Mackenzie is not only a level 3 qualified greenkeeper but is also a bowler so understands the requirements a green needs, as well as what a bowler wants.

'As a small business but gradually getting bigger, we are pleased to be able to support the disability bowls England team and wishes all the players the best of luck in their games.'

Secondly Sporting Highlights Ltd are very pleased to Sponsor the shirt sleeve for the DBE (Team England) IBD World Championships 2024 Squad

Sporting Highlights was born in 2007 by a great team of sports travel consultants, hugely experienced in the specialist field of sports tours and travel, who all shared the same desire to deliver to supporters an exceptional sporting experience around the world, leading to a growth in strength over the years. We have listened to our clients (friends) and tailored our travel packages to meet expectations with the ultimate aim of enjoying a great sporting event anywhere around the world, by taking all the stress out of travelling. Sporting Highlights can pull back the curtain on this incredible, inspiring, unforgettable world of sport for you, putting you in the front row for sporting experiences that will remain with you for a lifetime. www.sportinghighlights.co.uk



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If you know of anyone who may be interested in sponsoring one of the other sections on the shirt please contact Steve Watson at

steve.watson@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk

Barwell Indoor bowls club friendly match

7 January 2024



For the first match of the new year our DBE team, captained by Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall, played a friendly against Barwell IBC. With four triples playing, DBE had a strong team; the game, although competitive, was great fun, with DBE starting the season with a strong win. DBE's score was 68 to Barwell's 56. After the match there were refreshments and a raffle, Sally-Ann thanked captain Dena Abbott for the club's hospitality. We had a couple of new players taking part in their first game, and we hope they enjoyed themselves and look forward to seeing them in future matches.

The teams were as follows:

Lead	Shiela Hamersley	Lead	Karen Harrison
Two	Keith Chatfield	Two	Alex Comack
Skip	Rhys Taylor	Skip	Fynn Kyser
Score	17—14	Score	16—14
Lead	Dee Worger	Lead	Katie King
Two	Kevin Greaves	Two	Kevin Oliver
Skip	Colin Wagstaff	Skip	Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall
Score	13—15	Score	22-13

Before the game started Mick Harris the President of Kingscroft BC presented the team captain with a cheque for the DBE for £1400, which the club had raised during the outdoor season by donations from members and visitors. One member had given £250 ! Another lady had raised approximately £150 from the sale of knitted toys. Mick's President's Day, which he had sadly been unable to attend due to family illness, raised £350. We are very grateful to Mick and his fellow club members for this marvellous donation.



Ann Trotman Singles

This competition has been running for more than 20 years and is usually well supported. Sadly, this year we only had ten entries, one bowler travelling all the way from Scotland. We normally have double that figure and so I decided to reduce it to one day. Nevertheless, there was a good standard of bowling.

Players drew 'out of the hat' into 2 groups, played a round robin of 3 games followed by a final.

Group 1

Before the last round Jonathan Stokes was top of his group on 4 points and Dave Fisher on 3 points. Then they played each other in the last round. Brilliant game, Dave coming out the eventual winner by one shot.

Group 2

Colin Wagstaff won his group winning all his games, Harry Atkins came runner-up.

The final went right to the wire with Colin beating Dave by 2 shots, it was a really close finish. Disappointing for Dave as he got so close, but thrilling for Colin as he has been so close so many times. Dave has been a top-class bowler for so many years, great to see him still competing and bowling so well.

The atmosphere at these comps at Gedling are always good as the bowlers and helpers all get on so well, it's a pleasure to run them. We all look forward to welcoming you to Gedling in the not too distant future.



Maggy Smith MBE

DBE Unclassified Singles



Another fabulous DBE unclassified singles championships hosted by Gedling indoor bowls club and their loyal band of volunteers.

2 groups of 4 competed against each with some very close games. Group 2 came down to a shot difference between Isaac and Sally; with Sally winning the group. A draw in the round robin match in Group 1 was a repeat of last year's knockout match between Chris and Adam and came down to the last few minutes of the match Adam needing to pick up a 3 only scored 1 and then run out of time to cast the Jack - great bowling by everyone involved and with two newbies joining the DBE family another successful event with Chris Gary winning the championships for the again and will now go forward to the DBE champion of champions at the EIBA national championships 28 March at Nottingham IBC.

Steve Watson

REGIONAL PAIRS COMPETITION FOR BOWLERS WITH A DISABILITY

Saturday 23rd March 2024 from 10.00am – 17.00

This is a friendly Open Pairs competition hosted by Swan Bowlers. The day comprises of a round of games lasting 45 minutes with the semi and final matches being played at 16.00. The first games start at 10.00 so please arrive in time to get set up and our café will be open all day serving drinks and light snacks and the bar will also be open. If you have any special dietary or other requirements, please put them in the end column. Please record who your pairs players are i.e. 1 & 2 play together.

CLUB NAME (if applicable)

Contact name and email:

Mobile

phone _____

NAME	Wheelchair required and/or helper	Any other special requirements
1		
2		
1		
2		
1		
2		
1		
2		
1		
2		

Northampton and District Indoor Bowls Club

Northampton and District Indoor bowls club has always been inclusive and welcoming to all players no matter what their ability . I visited them last year to meet a learning disability group who play there regularly on a Thursday morning. It had proved so popular that the club have set up a group on a Tuesday afternoon. Tony Warren from the club had invited me to come along and see how they were getting on.

A local Parkinson's group play every week and another group of learning disability players also play on the Tuesday. When I visited it was great to see so many of them enjoying themselves, I had taken along some bowling arms , UBI launcher and other aids for the groups to try. One of the group had been struggling to release his bowls and was very taken with a bowling arm.

The club has recently brought a bowls rollator , (seen in the photo) which has proved very useful for the Parkinson's group. It was great to see a club being so inviting and welcoming to all — Proving Bowls is for Everyone!



Judy

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue	Time
3 February	DBE Open Pairs	Rugby Thornfield IBC	All Day
10 February	DBE Friendly Fixture	Oxford & District IBC	2pm
16 to 18 February	VIBE Indoor Pairs	Nottingham IBC	All Day
24 to 25 February	DBE Classified Singles	Gedling IBC	All Day
2 March	EALABA Friendly Fixture	Gedling IBC	2pm

North v South competition for

Maggy Smith Trophy

8 April 2024

Nottingham IBC



Don't forget to let Stuart know if you would like to play in our annual grudge match for the Maggy Smith trophy.

Classified Singles

Entries are now open for the PD Classified singles competition over the weekend of 24 and 25 February at Gedling IBC See if you can qualify for the Champion of Champions event taking place during the EIBA National Championships on 28 March at Nottingham IBC



Please contact Stuart directly if you would like to play in either of these events; do not comment on Facebook or reply to the newsletter, it may be missed .

Stuart's email address is

competitions@disablitlybowlsengland.org.uk

DBE National Pairs Final to be Televised



We are pleased to announce that the DBE Open Pairs Indoor Final will be Live Streamed as part of the [English Indoor Bowling Association](https://www.eiba.org.uk) National Finals from Nottingham IBC at 9am on Wednesday 27 March.

All EIBA match's will be streamed free of charge via EIBATV. You need to create your free account on <https://bit.ly/EibaTV> and enjoy some of the best bowlers in the country battling it out to become our 2023/24 National Champions! 🏆

DBE v The Northern Clubs

On Saturday & Sunday 20th & 21st January 2024 South Shields IBC & Stanley IBC hosted the 3rd Annual Disability Bowls England v The North challenge. This year's event was again played over 2 days.

16 DBE members travelled from around the Country to play against 16 players from 4 Clubs from the North East, South Shields Vipers, Gateshead IBC, West Denton IBC and Stanley IBC.

The DBE team were

Keith Brenton	Gary Swift
David Stern	Steve Angus
Colin Wagstaff	John & Lidka Hollowell
Lisa Devlin	Mac Otton
Barry, David & Marie Nicholson	Brett Arkley

Stan Day

The format for the weekend was 2 sessions of 1 rink of 4 bowl singles (2 Sets of 9ends, 1 end tiebreak if needed), 3 rinks of 3 bowl pairs (2 Sets of 8 ends, 1 end tiebreak if needed), and 3 rinks 2 bowl triples (2 Sets of 8 ends with a 1 end tiebreak if needed). With 2 Points for a set win, 1 point each for a tied set and 1 point for tiebreak win

There were some close games on session 1, with DBE leading The North by 21 points to 9 points. After the fantastic buffet lunch, the North came out strong and again showed their skill and by the end of the 2nd session the points were DBE 14-18 The North.

So with all to play for, the second day started with DBE battling hard to kept the pressure on, the morning session finished DBE 17-13 The North. After lunch, DBE came out all fired up and again kept the pressure on and with some close games, DBE finished the second session 18-11 The North. The final overall score over the weekend were DBE 70-51 The North.

Trophies were presented to the winners DBE & Runners Up The North, by Stanley IBC Chairman Keith Christopher with the silver salver presented to new DBE Member Brett Arkley representing DBE..

Many thanks again to South Shields IBC and Stanley IBC and their members for hosting the event.

Steve Angus

