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www.disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk

Newsletter

Chairperson's report

We are just waiting for one more piece of the bigger jigsaw puzzle to be put into place before DBE trustees can update everybody on our future plans as an organisation and I am very sorry for the delay, but this is a very sensitive and emotional decision and we need to be 100% sure, its right for EVERYBODY not just a few in our DBE Family!

We have secured a donation from the Peter Harrison Foundation along with a number of other great fundraising donations, which will allow us to continue to grow the DBE family with Development/Taster Days, Support for Grassroots bowlers to International success, IBD Classification Clinics and deliver a full outdoor fixtures/competitions programme which will take us through until the end of September 2024.

We are very pleased to be able to support "Team England" at the Learning Disability Indoor Bowls International Series at Falkirk IBC, Scotland (24-25 April) as they defend their Munro Cup Title and I am very pleased to inform the membership, we have accepted an invitation to attend the FULL INTERNATIONAL Para Home Outdoor Championships in Ayr, Scotland (28-30 June) against Scotland & Wales, unfortunately this will be part self-funded.

I also wish the thank English Bowling Association Charity Trust, Sporting Highlights Ltd, Bush Hill Bowls, DM Sports Turf Solutions, Aceit Sports and many bowls counties & clubs, family & friends for their support that has helped us to take a (SELF- FUNDED) representative Team of 25 Players, VIs Directors & family helpers to the International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) World Cup Championships 18-31 May 2024 in South Africa which will be led by Sue Davies & Judy Plater and we wish them every success when they pull on the DBE Team England shirt.

As you can see the Volunteers Trustees and the Senior Management team have been working extremely hard to make all this happen, but all this comes at a cost (we lost £350 on the 2023/24 indoor season) and it's now time for ALL the membership to stand up and be supportive of DBE, we don't want to cancel any of the planned Summer Fixtures, Events or Competitions, but will do if they are NOT SUPPORTED.

Finally, we are all human beings and do have feelings!!!!

Steve Watson

DBE Chairperson



Northamptonshire Indoor Bowls Association's President Keith Thatcher made the DBE his charity of the year and has raised a superb £1250. He is going to carry on collecting for us during the outdoor season and we can't thank him enough.

Keith invited Sue and Judy along to play in his last home game of the season and along with team mates Craig Bowler and John Greaves they were the highest winning rink.



EIBA National Championships at Nottingham IBC from 22 March till 13 April

Congratulations to the following DBE members who are competing in the Indoor national finals over the next few weeks.

John Greaves is part of the Wellingborough IBC team taking on Egham IBC in the final of the Egham Trophy on 24 March.

Brett Arkley and his Stanley IBC team mates play a side from Victory IBC in the first round of the Over 50 men's triples on the 25th March

Gill Platt and a team from Wey Valley IBC have reached the final of the Yetton Plate competition and play Lincoln IBC on 13 April.

Good luck everyone

Also don't forget all EIBA matches will be streamed free of charge via EIBATV. You need to create your free account on <https://bit.ly/EibaTV>. This includes the final of the DBE Pairs between Johnathan Stokes and Dave Fisher against Fynn Kyser and Jack Pullin.

DBE Visit to Whiteknights IBC

On Sunday 10th March a team from DBE visited Whiteknights IBC, partly to play a friendly fixture and a chance for Judy to demonstrate bowling aids and help some of the club's members to try them.

Whiteknights' management and their club manager Andy Knapper have been enthusiastic about encouraging and supporting disabled bowlers at the club.

The match in the afternoon was great fun, with lots of laughter and banter across the rinks. There were some fine wins—Captain Dave Fisher, Judy and Adam Melloy were the highest winning rink and Dave presented them with a box of wine gums for their achievement. Gill Platt's ladies rink of Katie King and Jenny Sandford also won and Heather Green, Craig Bowler and John Greaves also had an emphatic win.

Colin Wagstaff with Thomas Martin and Keith Chatfield produced Colin's late come back, after a slow start. Sally Darby, Sue Davies and John and Lidka Hollowell had a close match but also lost.

After the game the teams enjoyed a meal and a raffle, Whiteknights' Captain Gordon congratulated the DBE team on their overall win and said he hoped the team would come again.



Collecting Tubs

If your club or association would like one of our collecting tubs for a fundraising event to support DBE please contact Judy

Judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk



Date	Event	Venue	Time
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 Champions	Nottingham IBC	9am
6 April	DBE Friendly Fixture	Watford IBC	2pm
8 April	DBE North v South	Nottingham IBC	12pm
13 April	EALABA Friendly	Tamworth IBC	2pm
19/21 April	VIBE Triples	Nottingham IBC	All Day
24 April	LDIBS	Falkirk, Scotland	All Day
2/5 May	VI Open Singles	Clarence Park, Weston Super Mare	All Day
7 May	DBE Friendly Fixture and Taster session	Aylesbury Town BC	2pm

Classified Singles Qualifiers Weekend

At the end of February the classified singles early rounds were held at Gedling IBC. DBE President Maggy Smith and her fabulous team of volunteers organised the event as usual. It ran smoothly as normal despite a couple of last minutes drop outs due to illness or family bereavement.

There were some very close games and excellent bowling, it was great to see some new members taking part.

In the B6 final Craig Bowler came out on top beating Joe Peplow .

The B7 section was split into two leagues with each players competing against each other on a round robin basis. Jonathan Stokes won his league comfortably but the other league went down to the last game between Fynn Kyser and Helen Wood. With Fynn being the eventual winner.

The final of the B7 section between Jonathan and Fynn was an excellent game; it looked like it was going to be a win for Fynn, but Jonathan rallied and fought back to win.

The B8 section was depleted to 3 players and they played each other. John Greaves won both his games and goes forward as the B8 champion . Dave Fisher beat last year's champion Anthony Page to be runner up.



Craig, Jonathan and John now join Unclassified winner Chris Gray at Nottingham IBC on 28 March to compete in the Champion of Champions event.

With three players from Wellingborough IBC competing the club has had an excellent year.

Good Luck to all of you.



Dates for you Diary Summer 2024

DBE Competitions

Contact Stuart Espie for more information: competitions@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk

9 June	DBE Singles Qualifiers	Midland : Polly BC East : St Neots BC South East: Sutton BC South West Poole Park BC
22 June	DBE Open Pairs	Stoke Coventry BC
23 June	DBE Singles Play off	Stoke Coventry BC
21 July	Men's Open Pairs	Rugby Railway BC
25 August	DBE Open Pairs Final	Victoria Park Leamington Spa
29 August	DBE Singles Final	Victoria Park Leamington Spa
31 August	Maggy Smith MBE	Victoria Park Leamington Spa
1 September	DBE Mixed Triples	Victoria Park Leamington Spa

DBE Outdoor Friendly Fixtures.

We have some interesting games arranged for this summer, if you would like to play in any of them please let Judy know:

judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk

7 May	Aylesbury Town BC Bucks.	This will include a taster session for potential new clubs and players.
8 June	Supermarine BC Wilts	
6 July	Royal Household BC Windsor	The clubhouse is an old building and there is no wheelchair access. We can only take 36 people including visitors due to security restrictions
22 July	Bridgemans BC Bedfordshire	
28 July	Friends of English Bowling at Bredon BC Glos	
7 August	Eastbourne BC Sussex	
10 August	Sawtry BC Huntingdonshire	It is the clubs 50th Anniversary
2 September	Salisbury BC Wilts	
4 September	Chelsea Pensioners at Royal Hospital Chelsea	We can only take a maximum of 22 players and spectators
11 September	Goodwood BC Leicestershire	
27 September	Swale Indoor Bowls Club	Joint fixture with MS Swale disability group

Get your name down and enjoy the fun!

DBE Friendly at Rugby Thornfield



This year as part of Rugby Thornfield IBC's 50th anniversary celebrations, a team from DBE were invited to play a friendly fixture against the club. Rugby Thornfield's captain Doug welcomed DBE captain Colin Wagstaff and the team to the club.

A special thank you to Sandra Groves for stepping in at the last minute when one of our players was unwell. She must have been our lucky mascot as of the five rinks playing she, together with lead Luke Smith and captain Colin, were the only winning rink.

Despite the result everyone enjoyed their afternoon. It was good to see some of our newer members playing and hopefully this hasn't put them off from playing more games with us.

Aylesbury Town BC Taster Day and Friendly Match

On 7 May

Wendover Road, Aylesbury HP21 9NJ



Why not come along and see some great bowling and try bowling aids and have a chat about Para Bowls and how to make your club more inclusive come along.

Bowls is a sport most people can play, it is a great game for all ages and disabilities, physical, sensory, visual or learning.

Disability Bowls England can offer advice and support to clubs and individuals. Please contact info@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk or check out our website www.disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk. For more information.

This event is supported by the Peter Harrison Foundation

