

Chairperson's report.

What a very emotional end to the 2024 outdoor season at Hemel Hempstead bowls club with our very good friends from Watford & District bowls association, and a tough drive home with so many happy memories going through my head of the great 4½ years we have had together.

But it saddens me to hear that some members are boycotting the friendly fixtures because they feel let down by the trustees which I find incredible as we are just about to start the full review of disability bowls in England to establish the new chapter of our history as an inclusive sport. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who have contacted the trustees to see how they are and offer thanks for what has been achieved these past 40 years so you can go out and play bowls with likeminded people without having to worry how it all comes together, so you can enjoy yourselves.

For those people who keep abusing the trustees and our loyal band of volunteers, last year we gave up over 4,305 hours of our time for free (value in kind would be worth £49,249 using minimum wage) to run the organisation to make this happen, and if I was you, I would seriously think about whether you want to be part of the new organisation or be on the outside throwing stones into a pond to get a ripple reaction.

The review of Disability/Para Bowls in England has commenced and we have had our first information exchange meeting with both Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) with many more meetings to come, but once again I would be very grateful to those members to stop emailing or phoning for updates. This is very complex situation and ALL parties concerned need to work through how disability/Para bowls is going to fit into the bigger picture so we can play the game of bowls in England and around the world. Once the full review is complete there will be an official announcement made to ALL.

To give you a taster of what's to come - We are very pleased to announce, Judy Plater and our loyal band of volunteers will work in partnership with the EIBA Team to deliver a FULL Disability/Para Bowls Indoor Season program 2024/25 including Friendly Social Fixtures, Multi Disability Open Competitions & EIBA National Championships events, more information will be published shortly.

We are also very excited to be adding an **International Para Indoor Test match against the Irish Bowls Federation Para Team at Solihull IBC from 10-12 January**, and hope many of you will come along or offer your support to help Sue Davies run the weekend. If you are available to help please email sue.davies@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk.

We will continue to support **Team England Learning Disability squad 2025** at the Learning Disability Indoor Bowls International Series 23/24 April in Wales.

We are very pleased about the announcement that the **Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2026** will include Bowls and Para bowls, which will be played indoors for the first time at a Commonwealth Games, between the 23 July- 2 August 2026 and look forward to further announcement of formats etc

Finally, I will be away working overseas doing my day job from the end of October to early December and leave you in the very safe hands of Judy Plater, Sue Davies & Mike Robertson who will be your main DBE points of contact. I will be still receiving regular updates from the DBE management team on the running of the DBE Charity Trust organisation and from Bowls England/EIBA on the review process to keep the organisation moving forward.

Please be kind - we are Volunteers who are trying to do the best for ALL our Members so you can play the game of bowls!!!!

Steve



Bowls and Para Bowls have been chosen as one of the sports chosen for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.



You can sign up for the Glasgow 2026 newsletter at

www.glasgow2026.com/register-your-interest?dm_i=7FT3,7SEH,ZFGKS,Y7PP,1

Match Reports

Five Rivers IBC -Salisbury

6 October 2024

Five Rivers indoor bowls club gave a very friendly and warm welcome to our DBE team . Five Rivers captain Ann and DBE captain Colin greeted read out the cards and before play commenced held a moments silence for DBE member Heather Green, who recently passed away.

The team were;

Rink 1 Sue Taylor, Beth Lacey, Richard Ball

Rink 2 Matthew Fellows, John Luke Morgan, Colin Wagstaff (captain)

Rink 3 Kieran Parks, Terry Boswell, Gerald Ward

Rink 4 Ady Aspinall, Liam Tucker, Jamie Pugley.

Rinks 2 and 4 won there games

Overall score was DBE 55 five rivers 71

Thank you to all the DBE members who played, it was a lovely day, with refreshments of tea ,coffee and biscuits served after the game . It was good to see some new members take part and we hope they enjoyed the game.

Thanks also to Sandra Groves for the photo's and report.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Type of match	Venue	Time
7 November 2024	DBE Friendly	Bromley IBC—Kent	2pm
10 November 2024	DBE Friendly	Northampton & District IBC—Northants	2pm
8 December 2024	DBE Friendly	MidGlos IBC— Gloucestershire	2pm
14 December	Maggy's DBE Celebration	Gedling IBC—Notts	2 till 8 pm

Leicestershire County Indoor Bowls Association

At Melton Mowbray IBC

16 October 2024



Captain Colin Wagstaff welcomed Leicestershire chairman John Poulton to his home club of Melton Mowbray. Unfortunately we had struggled to get a full team for the match but Colin had invited some members from the host club to join the DBE team, he integrated them into the side and judging by the laughter and banter across the green everyone seemed to enjoy their afternoon.

This game highlighted the skills and experience of our players and the opposition agreed that their opinion of disabled bowlers was enhanced by the game.

The final score was Leicestershire 93 DBE 81, with the highest winning rink for DBE being Nigel Mays (from Melton), Kev Greaves and John Greaves, winning 27 –12. The only other winning rink was Ray Casey (from Melton) Craig Bowler and Chris Gray.

After the game the teams enjoyed a social meal and it was the end of a great afternoon.



Maggy's DBE Celebration



14th December 2024

At

Geldling IBC , Nottingham

From 2pm till 8pm

Come along and join Maggy and the team to celebrate

Disability Bowls England—back where it all started at Gedling IBC.

For a fun afternoon of bowls, games and a social occasion , with a buffet.

If you would like to join us I need final numbers by 15th November, please let me know if you are going to attend by email at

judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk

Let's get together and celebrate all the great things about DBE.

Great things about the DBE Family...



DBE /EIBA Indoor Competitions 2024/25



Time to think about the 2024/25 indoor competitions, being run this year in conjunction with the EIBA.

The Singles takes place over the weekend of 22/23 February at Gedling IBC. It will be an Open Multi-Disability competition, with classified and non-classified players competing against each other in leagues, with the winner of each league going forward to the Champion of Champions at Nottingham IBC on Wednesday 2 April as part of the EIBA National Championships. The draw will take place on the day to see which group you will be in; groups may include players from any classification, non-classification or learning disability. It is anticipated that you will play 3 games in a day.

The cost of entry is £5.

The Multi-Disability Open Pairs takes place on 8 and 9 March at Solihull IBC. It will be an open draw with the first round losers going into the Plate competition. The winners and runners up go forward to the Championships finals at Nottingham during the EIBA Championship on Monday 14 April.

The cost of entry is £10 per pair.

The Maggy Smith MBE North and South Indoor Challenge Trophy takes place at Nottingham on Thursday 17th April 2025.

If you would like to enter please contact Judy (judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk) by 31st December 2024

Please be aware the Competitions@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk email has closed down and the only way to enter these events is via email to Judy. You will receive confirmation of your entry and payment details. Payment must be made in advance for each competitions, no refunds will be made if you withdraw, unless in exceptional circumstances or if the competitions are cancelled.

All these events need volunteers to make them run successfully, if you can help please let Judy know.