

### Chairperson's report

I must thank the many members and the wider bowls family for their kind words of support to me and my fellow trustees, after the announcement of DBE disbanding on the 31 Dec 2024, we had spent 12 months of negotiations with various organisations to try and find the perfect solution for **All** our members not just the few and are very confident that the Bowls England/EIBA partnership is the best way forward and more information will be published once the review has been completed.

For those sceptics and keyboard warriors, we have kept your comments and will pass them onto the review team, and to those who have made personnel allegations against me, I have a long memory!!!!

On the brighter side it's brilliant that two DBE Open finals are being live streamed at the Aviva Bowls England National Championships and I am really looking forward to the Maggy Smith MBE North v South match. As we can once again showcase how far we have come in the past 40 years and by wearing our club shirts show how inclusive a sport bowls is becoming.

Steve

**Steve Watson DBE Chairperson**

More from Leamington next month with a full report on ;  
 DBE Singles Championships  
 North V South Challenge  
 Mixed Ability triples

### Aviva National Championships at Leamington Spa

#### DBE Open Pairs



The DBE competitions began with a closely contested open pairs final.

Jack Pullin and Johnathan Stokes took on Craig Bowler and John Greaves, it was a game of 3 parts. Johnathan and Jack started out like wildfire, going into an early 7 - 0 lead, with Johnathan in particular playing very well and setting up the heads for Jack.

When Craig and John got the mat they changed the length and with some excellent bowls, in particular conversion shots from John, he and Craig got their noses in front.

The crowd and those watching on the TV at home were treated to a high-class game, which in true DBE style was fun as well as displaying an excellent standard of bowls.

In the last few ends, Johnathan and Jack got their mojo back and broke away to record a deserved win. Johnathan commented " It was the 5th time I have made this final but it is always special, and with Jack beating me and my then partner two years ago, it was great to win it with him this time"

Jack paid tribute to their opponents and commented it was anyone's game. He also thanked the friends and family who supported both teams and all the people from DBE and Bowls England for making the game happen.



## Friendly Fixtures for September

Date	Game	Venue	Start time
2 September	DBE Friendly	Salisbury BC Wilts	2pm
4 September	DBE Friendly	Royal Chelsea Hospital Pensioners BC Chelsea	2pm arrive by 11.30am
11 September	DBE Friendly	Goodwood BC , Leicester	2pm –MORE NAMES NEEDED
21 September	DBE Friendly	Watford and District Bowls Association- Hemel Hempstead BC	1.30pm– MORE NAMES NEEDED
27 September	DBE Friendly	Swale IBC	12pm—MORE NAMES NEEDED



### Ever thought about becoming an Umpire or Marker?



The English Umpires Association is very keen to encourage more of you to become markers and umpires. I was approached by Bernie Hill from the association who explained they are very keen to be more inclusive and encourage people to consider becoming markers and eventually umpires.

The EBUA runs courses to explain the roles to you, these are interactive and fun and it is worth checking their website to see when the next one near you is taking place.

On these courses you learn how a good marker can make a game and a bad one ruin it, and the importance of the role is explained.

- You will learn the basic laws of the sport
- The correct use of markers equipment with a series of on the green exercises
- Interactive tips and tricks for practical marking and time management



If you enjoy marking at local level there maybe opportunities to take part in other national events. If you enjoy marking you may want to consider becoming an umpire, like our very own Steve Alway who is a DBE member and was the Bowls England Umpire of the year .Steve was busy at Leamington during the Aviva National Finals where he worked on a number of days.

Also recently qualified as a marker and taking part during the national finals was DBE member and Munro Cup representative Harry Atkin.

If they can do it why not you?

Check out the EBUA website [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk), where you can also find a guide to practical marking and lots of other interesting information.

## DBE v Eastbourne BC



On 7th August DBE visited Eastbourne BC after an absence of a couple of years.

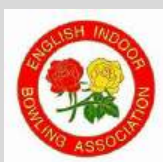
The team had travelled from as far away as Melton Mowbray , Berkshire, Wiltshire as well as more local players. Sadly a couple of people had had to withdraw at the last minute and a big thank you to the two substitutes , Bill and Paul who captain Colin Wagstaff persuaded to play.

The team received a warm welcome and excellent hospitality from the club's members. At half time DBE were in front on 2 out of the 4 rinks, but Eastbourne fought back ;DBE managed to keep their noses in front and record a win , much to Colin's and everyone else's delight.

## DBE Indoor Season Friendly Fixtures

We have the following matches arranged for the 2024/25 season. If you would like to play in any of the games please let me know [judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk](mailto:judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk)

DATE	Venue	Number of rinks/triples
6 October	Five Rivers IBC Wiltshire	4 triples start time 2pm
11 October	Leicester County Indoor Bowls Association Melton Mowbray IBC	3/4 rinks start time 12.30pm
11 November	Northampton and District IBC , Northamptonshire	3/4 triples start time 2pm
8 December	Mid Glos IBC , Gloucestershire	3 triples start time 2pm
5 January	Barwell IBC Leicestershire	4 triples start time 2pm
11 January	Northamptonshire County Indoor Bowls Association	4/6 rinks TBA
29 January	EIBA Presidents team, Essex	6 rinks TBA



## DBE v Sawtry BC



DBE received an invite from Sawtry BC in Huntingdonshire to play a match as part of their 50th Anniversary celebrations. Captain Mike Robertson led a strong team, containing 4 Commonwealth Games players. There were a couple of late calls offs, partly offset by a player Mike wasn't expecting and a borrowed player, who turned out to be a Hunts Middleton cup player, Joe Randell.

Joe and Sophie Morton spent at least 10 minutes rearranging the bowls into the shape of the 50 for the team photo! President Karen Leader welcomed Mike and the team, Mike presented her with a DBE Pennant to commemorate the day.

The result of the game was 2 rinks win for both sides. The 'loaded' triple of Joe, Craig Bowler and Kieran Rollings unsurprisingly were the highest rink, but Dave Fisher's rink also won. The other two rinks skipped by John Hollowell and Mike had good games but sadly lost.

After the match they enjoyed an excellent and extensive buffet, Karen chose to give her 'top rink' prize to the DBE highest winning rink, the one skipped by Kieran. Mike responded to the club by thanking Karen and the members for their hospitality and congratulating them on their anniversary, the success of it's members and the club's legacy of inclusivity. Sophie mentioned to Mike 'that Craig Bowler's a bit loud isn't he', 'yep that's just Craig' Mike replied.

Sawtry had been fundraising and presented Mike with a cheque for over £250! Mike thanked them and went onto to say what a great afternoon they had all had, making new friends and cementing old friendships and proving 'bowls is for everyone.'

Mike Robertson

