

Chairpersons report

By the time you are reading this months Newsletter, the “DBE Team England representative squad” would have arrived in South Africa and preparing for there first round of matches of the International Bowls for Disabled (IBD) World Cup Championships 2024. We wish them all the best of luck on and off the greens .

We would like to thank all our fabulous sponsors Aceit Sportswear, Sporting Highlights, Bush Hill Bowls , DM Sports Turf Solutions , English Bowls Association Charitable Trust and the many clubs, counties and family and friends that have made this self-funded trip possible without your help and the dedication of the squad to fundraise these past 15 months, there would be no “Team England” at these World Bowls Disability Championships.

I had the pleasure of visiting Bournemouth Bowling club to support our BOWRA Buddies and Military Veterans group who play on a bi-weekly basis to welcome Bush Hill Bowls present two special "green friendly" wheelchairs to Mark Bowra MBE who accepted the wheelchairs on behalf of Bournemouth Bowling Club and who demonstrating how the group interact on the bowling green and help to build confidence, provide gentle exercise and camaraderie between colleagues with similar challenges.

We have had the Bowls England Bowls Big Weekend with over 600 events across England and I hope many of you were out in force to showcase how inclusive our sport is and help generate more new players with a disability to join the Bowls Family.

Early June we start our outdoor competitions events to see who qualifier for the Bowls England National Championships 2024 at Royal Leamington Spa. I look forward to seeing many of you over the next few months, keep the good news coming!!

Steve

DBE Chairperson



IBD World Championships

Good Luck everyone bring back some medals!



LDIBIS Munro Cup Championships 2024



The games began with a rousing opening ceremony the games. There was a great atmosphere around the bowls greens, with England the defending champions, getting off to a great start Harry Aitken played a fantastic last bowl in the level 2 pairs game. England led after the first session.

In session two even though Millie Campbell (Wales) had an emphatic 21.3 victory in the singles. However, England secured more points and at the end of the session scores were England 10 Wales 8 Scotland 6.

Session three began with a determined Scotland, despite some close games, winning all four games. After round three: Scotland were in the lead with 14 points England 12 and Wales 10.

The final session of the day was a tense affair with the scores ebbing and flowing across the rinks. The game of singles between Gemma Broadhead and James O'Brien (Wales) was a fantastic with James coming out on top winning 15-13 after a measure. At the end of day one the league table showed the points to be Scotland 20. England 16. Wales 12.

Day two began with the Welsh squad on their best ever points tally and the Welsh triple of Naomi Baelz, triple Harry Gwatkin and Lorna Clark had a close win over the strong England level 1 triple. But it was Scotland who continued to show their skill during the session and the table showed the points to be Scotland 28, England 18 and Wales 14 after the first session of the day.

The final sessions showed Scotland's dominance and they came away with a convincing win. Final table: Scotland 36 England 20 Wales 16.

Thank you to

Marie and Dave Nicholson

After many years of being the team manager of the LDIBIS England Team Marie and Dave Nicholson have decided to take a step back, a huge thanks go to them both for their hard work and promotion of LD bowls. Everyone at DBE wishes them all the best for the future and we hope to see you on the greens in the future,



Winslow Bowls Club Open Event



During the winter of 2022 I met with some members of the committee of Winslow BC in Buckinghamshire who had a new member in a wheelchair and wanted to discuss what they could do to support him and other disabled players. The club itself is set in what had once been the grounds of Winslow Hall and is a lovely setting.

Little could I imagine how committed to becoming inclusive. Their ditch surrounds are quiet high and a conventional ramp wasn't the best option, when I was invited back to their open day recently I was amazed to see how much they had done.

The club had had raised grants through the local Rotary, Lions Club, town council and Winslow and Villages Community Portal. They had built a permanent ramp with handrails, brought various bowling arms, aids and a wheelchair. One of their members was already using an arm, and another had ordered another.

The open event was very well supported even though it was wet and cold. It is great to see clubs like this one who are doing all they can to welcome bowlers of all abilities and disabilities.

Judy



Paul Baker

Sadly this month we lost one of the nicest men in bowls, Paul Baker, he had bravely battled Pancreatic cancer for some time but he lost the fight on 3rd May. We send our heartfelt sympathies to Sandra and his family.

Paul's funeral takes place on 5th June at Grimsby Crematorium, Sandra has asked any DBE members attending wear their DBE shirts.



Date	Event	Venue	Time
24/27 May	Bowls England Big Bowls Weekend	Nationally	Various
8 June	DBE Friendly	Supermairne BC Wilts	2pm
9 June	DBE Regional Singles	Midlands: Polly BC East: St Neots BC South East: Sutton BC South West: Poole Park BC	All Day
22 June	DBE Open Paris	Stoke Coventry BC	All Day
23 June	DBE Singles Play Off Ladies Open /Aussie Pars	Stoke Coventry BC	All Day
28/23 June	Para Home Nations	Northfield BC Ayr	All Day
6 July	DBE Friendly	Royal Household BC Windsor	2pm

Para Home Nations Team Announced

Sue Davies (DBE Performance & Team Manager) is very pleased to announce the DBE Team England squad for the Para Outdoor Home Nations 28 – 30 June 2024, Northfield BC, Ayr, Scotland

Congratulations to everyone selected.

- B2 Stephen Hartley Tavistock BC Devon
- B3 John Hollowell Bridgman BC Bedfordshire
- Alison Yearling Plymouth Hoe BC Devon
- B4 Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall Kingscroft BC Leicestershire

Directors

- Jane Herbert Kingscroft BC Leicestershire
- Beata Hollowell # Bridgman BC Bedfordshire
- Isaac Shieh Gerrards Cross BC Buckinghamshire
- Elizabeth Shipley Hinckley BC Leicestershire

- B6 Craig Bowler Wellingborough BC Northamptonshire
- B7 Fynn Kyser Countesthorpe BC Leicestershire
- Jack Pullin Bredon BC Worcestershire
- Jennie Sandford Lindfield BC Sussex
- B8 David Fisher Colchester West End BC Essex
- Anthony Page Congresbury BC Somerset



Aylesbury Town BC Friendly Match

7 May 2024



The first game of the outdoor season got off to a great start with a resounding win for DBE on all five triples. The club had invited us along as a number of their members are also members of the DBE and they wanted to introduce others who could be interested in joining.

I went along early to have a chat with them and show them the bowling aids and equipment available to them. One of their members is partially sighted and was very interested to know what he could do to improve his play. Fortunately Sarah Marshall and her director Linda were there and could give him some tips.

Our captain for the day was Craig Bowler, who before the game asked for a minutes silence in memory of Paul Baker who has recently passed away after a brave struggle against cancer. He went on to assure Aylesbury's captain Rosie, that we had come for a fun afternoon but as always we had come to win.

Sadly Heather Green who was due to play was in hospital and unable to play but I roped in Peter Adkins (Luke Smith's grand dad to sub) and Ray Gray who had brought Chris along to play and filled in for Stuart Hall who could not play as he has also been unwell. We all wish them both a speedy recovery.

After a fun afternoon full of laughter and banter, (if John Greaves said it once he said it a hundred times 'I don't play outdoors!', it didn't stop him and his rink of Chris Gray and Keith Chatfield, beating the club president Linda Hewins). This time though he was denied highest winning rink by Colin Wagstaff, who together with Peter and Aylesbury town player Katie King had a very convincing victory. Helped in part by the fact that unlike the last time Katie and Colin played on the same rink, Colin didn't keep knocking her shot woods off the jack. Craig presented the rink with Lottery scratch cards, and Katie's good fortune continued as she won £5!

It was a great afternoon and thank you to all those who took part.

Judy

