

## Chairman's Report

Wow ,what a fabulous July our DBE members are having—It all started with a Silver Medal for the DBE Outdoor Para Home Nations squad in Scotland followed with more and more our members fighting through the various county competitions and rain in the race to Royal Leamington Spa. We look forward to seeing them on the bowls greens in August, which once again will be a biggest showcase for inclusivity of our sport on the largest bowls stage in England.

Congratulations to all the winners that will represent DBE, their club and county at this year Aviva Bowls England National finals 2024. I am looking forward to witnessing some excellent bowling and the top players crowned national champions 2024. We also had the great honour of friendly social fixtures against the Royal Household Bowls Club Windsor, Bridgman BC and with our fabulous supporters The Friends of English Bowling at Bredon BC

## DBE Competition Schedule – Aviva National Finals

This year to celebrate and showcase how far we have come as an organisation these past 40 years in England, we would like to do something different for our DBE events and hope you will give us your full support, to show we are still “ ONE TEAM DBE – PLEASE”

### DBE Open Pairs Final

**Sunday 25 Aug - 9.15am trials, 9.30am start - Live streamed tbc**

Johnathan Stokes & Jack Pullin (DBE International Shirts) v Craig Bowler & John Greaves (Wellingborough Club Shirts)

### DBE Open Singles Final

**Thursday 29 Aug - 12.45pm trials, 1pm start - Live streamed tbc**

Kieran Rollings (County Shirt v Fynn Kyser (DBE Red/Blue Shirt)

### DBE Maggy Smith MBE North v South Challenge Shield

**Saturday 31 Aug – 2pm start – (18 ends or 2hrs 15 min)**

We would like to showcase how far we have come in the past 40 years and everybody to wear their outdoor club shirt apart from the **12 nominated skips** who we would like to wear our traditional red/blue shirts please

### DBE Mixed Ability Triples

**Sunday 1 Sep – 2pm start (Everybody in DBE Red/Blue Shirts, blue bottoms)**

**I and my fellow trustees** are very aware that there are many false rumours flying around about the future of Disability Bowls England (DBE) as a charity organisation which have been circulating around various social media sites and friendship groups which are causing extra stress and concerns for our membership. We wish to reassure everybody that we have been negotiating hard for the past 12 months with various organisations to ensure the future of Disability Bowls is safe and sound in England and the next chapters of our 40-year history can be written for **ALL** our membership and not just the selected few, we deliver what we promise and not sit back and let the other people do all the work then start rumours!!!

We ask once again that the people who are sharing these rumours in public think about the damage, they are doing to our negotiating process and position as more questions have to be answered, which in turn slows down a final agreement being signed off by all concerned and an official announcement then being made.!!!!

I have no hidden agenda nor am I on the Kings nomination list for a gong this Christmas; Judy is still employed by DBE (21 Hours a week); I and the rest of the Trustees & volunteers are not paid a wage by DBE: We have not spent any charity funds on ourselves. Every penny we have received can be accounted for as our fully audited accounts are published on the Companies House and Charity Commission web sites and finally, we still wear DBE shirts for all social fixtures and All DBE competitions.

To end on a very positive note - With the emergency financial savings we put in place at the end of last year and with the extra donations we have received since Christmas, we are actively planning to take part in the indoor season up to the EIBA National Finals in April 2025 and run Disability awareness, taster days and IBD Classification clinics . More information will be published once we are fully confident, and we have agreed way forward for ALL.

As always, I and the Trustees only have the best interest for Disability Bowls England Charity Trust and its Membership at heart and will continue to drive the organisation forward

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible throughout August and at the Aviva Bowls National Finals 2024.

Steve

## OUTDOOR PARA HOME NATIONS

28 – 30 June 2024

Ayr, Scotland



A busy month of June ended with the Para Home Nations for a second year in Ayr Scotland.

Team manager Sue Davies and selector Mark Bilsby accompanied the following players were selected for DBE Team England to play in the Para Home Nations in Ayr:

- B2 Stephen Hartley, with director Isaac Shieh
- B3 John Hollowell, with director Beata Hollowell (new cap)
- B3 Alison Yearling, with director Elizabeth Shipley
- B4 Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall, with director Jane Herbert
- B6 Craig Bowler
- B7 Fynn Kyser
- B7 Jack Pullin
- B7 Jennie Sandford
- B8 Dave Fisher
- B8 Mike McDonagh
- B8 Mike Robertson (Captain)
- B8 Kieran Rollings

At the Opening Ceremony on the Friday morning Beata Hollowell was presented with her International Cap (no. 67).

Our first match was against Wales comprising 3 x combination triples and 3 x singles. Our three singles players (Sally-Ann, Dave and Fynn) all won their matches with strong performances. Our combination triples had some very close games but Wales just clinched these, so the match finished as a draw with 3 games all but England won on shots difference 88 – 82. We didn't have a match on the Friday afternoon. Scotland played Wales and won 4 – 2.

Day 2 was a long day for the team. Our first match against Scotland was from 9am – 11.45am; we then sat out while Wales played Scotland in the afternoon, which was followed by our second match against Wales which finished at 7pm.

The match against Scotland was 3 x combination triples and 3 singles. Scotland are always tough opponents. Fynn had another good win in his singles; Kieran, Craig and Stephen won their triples, as did Mike R, Jennie and John. The match ended in a 3-3 draw but Scotland won on shots difference 90-77.

The match against Wales late on Saturday afternoon comprised 6 x Pairs. There were strong wins for Sally-Ann and Stephen, Mike R and Jack and Fynn and Mike M. So, another drawn match at 3 all, with England winning on shots difference 99–70.

On the final day we had our second match against Scotland with 6 Pairs games. If England had won by 5-1 or possibly 4-2 with a good shots difference there was a chance of winning the Trophy. However, Scotland proved the stronger team on the day winning 4 out of the 6 games, but good wins were recorded by Mike R and Jack as well as Fynn and Mike M.

Scotland won the Para Home Nations Trophy, England came second and Wales third.



Para home nations continued

There were some excellent games throughout the 3 days with the result going down to the wire and the overall result not decided until after the final match.

To quote Captain, Mike Robertson: "We battled hard and, I believe, were not far away, a few 1 or 2 shot losses turned the tide."

The whole England team played well and the team spirit and support across the green was evident throughout the event. Special congratulations to Fynn Kyser who won all 4 of his games – 2 Singles and 2 Pairs – and bowled exceptionally well.

Thanks to Mike Robertson for taking on the role of Captain and for once again doing a fantastic job. Mike has a wealth of experience and is always positive and encouraging, win or lose.

Thanks also to all the helpers and supporters, not forgetting the "Bredon Barmy Army" who travelled north in force to support Jack and the whole squad.

Although disappointed not to win the Home Nations Trophy this time, England are determined to turn the tables on Scotland in 2025.

Sue Davies  
July 2024



## Disability Bowls Match against Royal Household Bowls Club Windsor.



The Royal Household BC in Windsor has been in existence since it was opened by King George V and Queen Mary on 18 June 1921.



The club is set in the grounds of Windsor Castle and they hosted DBE in a friendly fixture on 6 July with Team Captain Gill Platt in charge.

The weather was awful, sun, wind, hailstones and rain.-but nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the team. A wedding was taking place nearby complete with a military band , adding to the sense of occasion.

With four rinks taking part everyone had a great afternoon and enjoyed the meal afterwards. With a win for DBE it was a great afternoon and in her Captain's speech Gill echoed the thoughts of many by hoping that the fixture could be repeated next year, although hopefully in better weather!



## Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Venue	Time
28 July	DBE v Friends of English Bowling	Bredon BC	2pm
7 August	DBE Friendly	Eastbourne BC	2pm
10 August	DBE Friendly	Sawtry BC	2pm
15 August to 1 September	Bowls England Aviva National Finals	Victoria Park, Leamington Park	All Day
25 August	DBE Open Pairs final	Victoria Park, Leamington Spa	9.15am
29 August	DBE Open Singles Final	Victoria Park, Leamington Spa	12.45pm
31 August	Maggy Smith MBE North v South Challenge	Victoria Park, Leamington Spa	2pm
19/22 August	VIBE Outdoor Triples	York BC	All Day
1 September	DBE Mixed Ability Triples	Victoria Park, Leamington Spa	1.30pm

### DBE Fixture against Bridgman BC

Captain John Hollowell led a strong DBE team played at Bridgman BC, on 20th July.

'In lovely weather everyone had a great afternoon with the game being played in the right spirit', John reports, DBE won on all three rinks winning overall by 56-35 and the afternoon was finished off with tea and home made cakes.

Thank you to everyone who played and Bridgman BC for your hospitality.



## Report on DBE Men's pairs at Rugby Railway BC on 21 July

On Sunday 21 July 11 pairs gathered at Rugby Railway BC for the annual Men's pairs competitions. Players came from as far away as Yorkshire and Kent and it was good to see some new players taking part and friendships being made.

Five players didn't have a partner and a big thank you to Steve Grant for stepping in and making it an even number : the teams were as follows:

Kieran Rollings and Craig Bowler

Daniel Adams and Colin Wagstaff

Steve Grant and Luke Smith

Michael Purves and Tim Swann

Fynn Kyser and Rhys Taylor

Alfie Orvis and Daniel Rogers

Mike McDonagh and Steve Stockley

Ryan Richmond and Russ McCreadie

David Houghton and Richard Newson

Peter Cave and Steve Simmons

Chris Gray and Isaac Shieh

The first round games took place and the losers went into a Plate competition. With some outstanding bowling by everyone and with the weather holding the players enjoyed the matches. Lunch was provided free of charge by the club and Mick Sharp, a club member, presented the prizes. Club member Vanessa, organised a raffle with the proceeds going towards DBE.

The pairs final between Steve and Mike and Chris and Isaac was won by Steve and Mike, who always prove a strong partnership; you may remember they won the DBE Open Pairs at Leamington last year. Chris and Isaac had played well all day and it was an excellent game.

In the plate competition Kieran and Craig, who had made a shaky start earlier in the day, and with Craig struggling with man flu , dominated the final against Peter and Steve and came out on top.

A big thank you to everyone at Rugby Railway BC and all those supporters who came along for the day.





To all our members who have qualified for the BE Aviva national finals at Royal Leamington Spa. Here are a few I know about if you are not listed please let me know and I can let the rest of our members know via social media .

Kate King Buckinghamshire Women's Fours

Khalila Hussain Wiltshire Women's Pairs

Kieran Rollings Northamptonshire Men's Under 25 Pairs

Mike Robertson Huntingdonshire Men's Triples and Middleton Cup

I know some of you are still involved in county semi finals and regional finals, good luck to everyone and go smash it !

**Proving Bowls is for Everyone**