

Chairperson's Message

It's hard to articulate the pleasure of seeing 70 members of the DBE bowls family together from 19 different counties during the Aviva Bowls England National championships and the pride and joy on Maggy Smith MBE face seeing how far we have come together these past 40 years. These things don't just happen, and I must thank Stuart Espie for running the DBE competitions over the past 3 years and our team of volunteers who work so hard behind the scenes to keep things moving forward.

It was good to listen to members concerns about our future and we have kept a note of all the comments and will pass onto the new review team to process as part of the wider review into Disability Bowls in England both Outdoors and Indoors.

We have been working well with the English Indoor Bowling Association on the Indoor season programme 2024/25 and hope to have some exciting news very soon.

Life has continued for the DBE Management Team and we have been out and about with our Disability Awareness & Taster days and had a fabulous day with the Chelsea Pensions the Royal Hospital with a lot of fun and good banter!!!!

Steve

Aviva Bowls England National Championships 2024



Wow what an amazing time we had at Leamington Spa this summer, after the excitement of the finals of the Open Pairs last month, we were treated to an amazing game in the final of the DBE Champion of Champion singles between Kieran Rollings and Fynn Kyser. The game was live streamed by Bowls England, with John Greaves supplying some expert knowledge on the commentary with Emily Ferguson. What a treat it was , with the game going back and forth, both players, were at the top of their games. They had already being playing earlier in the Junior Pairs , what a brilliant example of inclusivity!

Comments on social media claimed it was the best game they had seen on the live streaming, and we all agreed. It went right to the wire and with the score at 17—18 and Fynn holding the back position and Kieran's bowls at the front, Fynn fired and looked to everyone as if he had the jack to claim the three he needed, but the bowl dipped, the jack caught a bowl and went back up the green to give Kieran the four to win. What a cruel way to end such a great game.

Kieran said ' I thought he had it all the way and was resigned to having lost, I couldn't believe it when the jack went back up the green' he went on to say how proud he was to have won this title for the third time, but he acknowledged it wouldn't be long before Fynn would be holding the trophy.

These two young men encompass everything that is great about DBE, - brilliant skills , excellent play and games played in the right way, with friendship and support. Surely they both have a fantastic bowling career in front of them.



14th December at Gedling IBC

2pm till 8pm

A celebration of DBE for all its members hosted by Maggy Smith MBE



## Maggy Smith MBE North v South Challenge

Saturday 31st August saw DBE members old and new meet for the annual North v South Challenge. As usual it was a lot of fun with plenty of banter and laughter heard across the rinks.

The game was won by the North and Harry Atkin was presented with the trophy by our President Maggy.

In the morning before the game a Classification clinic had been held at the Avenue BC around the corner from Victoria Park. The classification team of Gill Allibone and Chris McGready were able to confirm classification on 7 new players.



After Super Saturday came Sublime Sunday with the Mixed Ability Triples taking place on C green at the same time as the noisy finals of the Middleton Cup and John's Trophy; our own Emma Price was a member of the Somerset John's Trophy team playing in the final.

The Triples was as usual a great display of bowling from everyone who took part. A win for Rhys Taylor's team including Steve Grant and Jamie Pugsley, seen here being presented with their trophy by our great friend Kath Lloyd, from the Friends of English Bowling.



As Bowls England commented on their social media 'it was brilliant to have DBE join us at the Aviva National finals once again this year. Strong performances in the DBE competitions highlighted the inclusive nature of both our sport and the event, alongside the high level of competition in disability bowls'

They described the Mixed ability triples as a fantastic display and said it was part of a fantastic last day of the championships, they went onto say they were looking forward to welcoming everyone back next year.

## Plant Welding Pairs Sunday 15th September, Gedling Indoor Bowls Club, Nottingham

Generously sponsored by Doug Carlin owner of Plant Welding Engineering Ltd

A buffet lunch , tea and coffee were provided to all throughout the day and no entry fees were charged. The sponsorship also covered the rink fees.

There were 16 bowlers competed in the event, from various parts of the country.

Numbers were lower this year than usual in part due to it being held earlier in the month some bowlers were still in competitions outdoors.

Never the less it was a fiercely fought event with many close matches.

The eventual winning pair were Gary Swift and Joe Peplow

Runners up John Greaves and Craig Bowler

3rd place Ray Cross and Kev Greaves

4th place Fynn Kyser and Rhys Taylor.

Money prizes were awarded to all four places.

As usual the helpers at Gedling were wonderful and always look forward to welcoming you all.

We have enough sponsorship left to fund the Ann Trotman Singles after Christmas the 18th and 19th January 2025.

Entries for that event need to be in by the 2nd January. Please let me know if you wish to enter.

My email is

[maggynet2@yahoo.com](mailto:maggynet2@yahoo.com)

Maggy

## DBE Lottery

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The last DBE Lottery draw takes place on 26th October, the lottery will then be closed down on 31st October .

Thank you to everyone who has supported this fundraiser.

THANK YOU

## DBE Taster days and Club Support

Steve and Judy have been on the road again promoting Disability Bowls and offering advice to clubs.

Despite the announcement about DBE being disbanded, it hasn't stopped us continuing to support clubs and individuals and encouraging them to become more inclusive.

On 5th September I went to West Backwell Bowls club in Somerset and met with 10 of their members to discuss how they could adapt their facilities and improve the experience of disabled bowlers in their area by encouraging more people to take up the game. Despite the awful weather, (it rained all day which made for an interesting 2 hour drive) the club could not have been more welcoming. We chatted about ways they could attract new members and minor adaptations they could make to their facilities to make them more accessible.

You may remember West Backwell BC won the Bowls England award for Inclusivity and Diversity earlier in the year, they are definitely a forward thinking bunch keen to grow their membership and get more people bowling. A huge thank you from me for the warm welcome on an awful day for the weather and the delicious lunch - I can't wait to see what you get up to next.  
Judy



Later in the month following on from a promise made during Bowls England's Big Bowls weekend Steve visited Totton and Eling BC in the New Forest.

The club had invited other clubs and interested parties from around their area to come along and try out some of the bowling aids available to players and discuss inclusivity with Steve. It was a great day with lots of interest and good to see so many people taking part. As Steve says, DBE doing what it does best.



And now for Indoors....

We have the following matches coming up over the next couple of months, please put your name down and play they are good fun, and a great way to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

Date	Match	Venue	Time
6 October	DBE Friendly	Five Rivers IBC , Salisbury	2pm
16 October	DBE Friendly	Leicester IBA Melton Mowbray IBC	2pm
7 November	DBE Friendly	Bromley IBC Kent	2pm
11 November	DBE Friendly	Northampton & District IBC	2pm
8 December	DBE Friendly	Mid Glos IBC	2pm



## Olveston and District Bowls Club

*I received the following recently from Alan at Olveston and District BC and thought I would share it with you, it is great to see a club taking the initiative and doing all they can to promote disability bowls in their area. What a fantastic range of bowling aids they have. If you know of anyone who maybe interested in joining them please contact Alan direct.*

*Judy*

Dear DBE,

I would like to ask you to help share amongst the DBE community Olveston & Districts Bowls Club ( ODBC ) achievement in raising funds and purchasing the below bowling aids.

Our current list of equipment has just about been filled and is being well used by a group of people recovering from the symptoms of a stroke. They are extremely grateful for what's on offer from our club and so impressed with the equipment itself.

Also, club members are also using the same equipment to aid their continuing pleasure of playing.

You will see from the attached photographs all the equipment bought and the use of it by members of the public & club members.

This will also enable bowlers from other clubs within the counties we come under, being able to play at our club, knowing we can now supply them with the best equipment to use.

Other club players can also come to ours and try out the equipment before buying items for themselves or their clubs.

We are sending and advertising all the above to the two main counties we come under, Bristol and Gloucestershire. We are advertising through the local press, inviting members of the public of any age, who think they may need assistance in trying out bowls, to come to ODBC and give it ago.

Doing all the above, ODBC want to demonstrate that bowls is open to all and is all-inclusive.

Next season now that we have this equipment, I can only see this growing, as word gets around about what's on offer at ODBC.

Olveston Bowls Club have to say a huge thank you to the generous donations received.

To date, through Grant applications we have collected £5,550 from the following,

Sports England Lottery Fund - Boost Charitable Trust - Thornbury Lions.

Kind regards

Alan Lambourne

ODBC Level 2 Bowls Coach and member of DBE.



## DBE visit to the Royal Chelsea Pensioners



One of the highlights of our season this year must be the friendly fixture played at the Royal Chelsea Hospital. What a great day and a fun afternoon.



I think it would be fair to call the playing surface sporting but it didn't really matter. We started our visit with a short guided tour of the Royal Hospital and an explanation of its history and the work it carries out. Then we adjourned for tea and coffee before battle on the green commenced, with a resounding win on all four rinks for DBE. They must have enjoyed it as their Commander, Major Steve Andrews, has invited us to go back again! After a lovely meal in the Great Hall we retired to the pensioners club for a drink and the speeches.

Our Chairperson Steve Watson said how proud he was to bring a team to such an iconic venue. He had previously visited in June 1981 on Founders day with a close friend whose granddad had been a pensioner, and here is the evidence ...

He hasn't changed a bit!

We were restricted to taking 24 people in total so hopefully if we go back some more of you can play, it was a great day and I can't tell you how honoured I was to be captain. Judy



What we did during summer 2024



Hope you had a good one