

Chairperson's report

The Indoor season is in full swing and I can see from the many social media posts and updates from Judy that many of you are still going strong in the EIBA national competitions and the friendly social fixtures, which is great news as we push for our sport to be inclusive. The review of Disability/Para Bowls is moving forward with procedures and systems being put in place for a smooth transition of DBE first into the remainder of the Indoor Season - with Judy remaining, in a reduced capacity, as part of the team until completion of the EIBA National Championships in April.

We have also announced in partnership with the EIBA the "Para Team England Squad" to take on the Para Ireland Squad at Solihull from 10-12 January which will be led by Sue Davies as Team Manager, and congratulations to everyone selected. As always, these events do not happen without the full support of our loyal volunteers and if you are available to help during the weekend please contact Sue.

My fellow Trustees and I totally understand that a lot of you are concerned about what is happening after the 31 December and we are working with the EIBA/BE teams to make things right for all our members from the start, as this is the best chance we have had to make our Disability/Para bowls in England programme inclusive, but it's going to take time and patience as we move things forward together. So once again **PLEASE, PLEASE** can I ask you not to bombard Judy, Sue or the Trustees with questions about future plans - we are not being secretive but "**Chinese Whispers**" by a small number of people are still doing damage to our discussion procedures. We will make a full joint announcement when the review is complete and not before!!!

As I have said thousands of times over the past 4 ½ years, "Disability Bowls England is not about the select few, it's about everybody"

I am still working overseas and hopefully will be flying the 11,500 miles home in time for Maggy's bash on the 14 December, if it ever stops raining in the Southern Hemisphere!!!!

Steve

Team Announced for Para Test Series Against Ireland

Disability Bowls England, in partnership with the English Indoor Bowling Association, is pleased to announce the Team England Indoor Para Squad selected to play in the Test Match against the Irish Bowls Federation from 10-12 January 2025 at Solihull IBC as follows:

Classification	Name	Club	County
B2	Stephen Hartley	Exonia	Devon
B3	John Hollowell	Bridgman	Bedfordshire
B3	Alison Yearling	Plymouth Life Centre	Devon
B4	Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall	Barwell	Leicestershire
Directors:	Beata Hollowell	Bridgman	Bedfordshire
	Isaac Shieh	Century Bowling & Sports Club	Middlesex
	Elizabeth Shipley	Barwell	Leicestershire
	Chris Venn		Warwickshire
B6	Craig Bowler	Wellingborough	Northants
	Joe Peplow	Malvern Hills	Worcestershire
B7	Steve Angus	Stanley	Durham
	Fynn Kyser	Wellingborough	Northants
	Jennie Sandford	Grattons	Sussex
	Helen Wood <i>(Captain)</i>	York & District	Yorkshire
B8	Dave Fisher	Colchester	Essex
	John Greaves	Wellingborough	Northants

.Good Luck everyone , please give them your support .



DBE Friendly against Bromley IBC

7 November



DBE captain Gill Platt was warmly welcomed by Bromley Captain Tim Vane. The club could not have been more hospitable with hot drinks and food available for everyone.

Our team of 4 triples began well, but as the game went on ran out of steam; half way through the game they stopped for tea and coffee and afterwards the wheels seem to fall off and sadly the final score was Bromley 71 DBE 57. But that didn't matter as everyone agreed it had been a fun afternoon and very enjoyable.

DBE Friendly against Northampton & District IBC

10 November

Another fun afternoon was had by all at Northampton and District IBC with 4 triples playing against the club.

At the same time the club's LD group, the Pink Flamingos, played against a team from the Parkinson's group which plays weekly at the club. This was the first time any of them had played a proper match and they all seemed to enjoy it.

Our DBE team had some stiff opposition and the only winning rink was Luke Smith, Harry Atkin and Skip Chris Gray.

The Northampton team included 10 year old Alice, who played very well and loves her bowls. After the game we were treated to a cup of tea and snacks and the Northampton captain Richard Lemon presented DBE captain Craig Bowler with the proceeds of the raffle and rink fees, totalling £240. This club is one of the most welcoming and inclusive clubs to visit and their commitment to promote inclusivity is to be commended.



DBE and the Pink Flamingo's

Development Events

Somers Sports & Social Club

31st October 2024



What a busy month I have had, firstly I visited Somers Sports and Social Club in Halesowen. The clubhouse had once been a Victorian residence before being taken over by a local chain-making company, Somers. It was originally a sports club for employees of the company but has now expanded for use by the general public.

I met with Anna Wood, the club's Development Officer who is on a mission to upgrade the club's facilities and bring it back into full use. The club has a Crown Green. I first met Anna at Leamington when she had come along to get some information, and she had asked me to visit the club. At the moment it is rarely used, but Anna wanted to talk about how they could attract new members and improve access and inclusivity. As well as the bowls the club also has sections for Rifle Shooting and Archery, and they hope to include children's football, pickle ball; the building also has a room they hire out to the local yoga group amongst others. The club is investing a large sum of money to change the under-used tennis courts into a multi-sports surface. Anna is a keen bowler herself and her husband has taken over responsibility for maintaining the green.

There are loads of opportunities for the club to grow and provide the local community with a first-rate facility, and I wish them the best of luck.

Leicester Mobility Centre

1st November 2024

The next day I made a trip to the Leicester Mobility Centre to take part in an event organised with the charity Limbpower. The event had been organised to introduce some of their clients to sporting activities that they could take part in. A massive thank you to lead Ambassador Colin Wagstaff for coming along to help.



Although they didn't have a proper bowls green, we improvised using an area of the corridor, some bowls, a mat and a jack. I had taken the bowling aids along and they proved interesting to a number of the attendees. We had about 15 or so people taking part including some of the staff, and some of them were really keen. One gentleman had played as a child with his granddad and wanted to see if he could play from a sitting position; he loved it, and after we explained about bowling wheelchairs he was keen to take it further.

A lady who had a go explained she had recently started playing short mat in her village hall and loved it, she was interested in trying the full size game. Colin and I were able to point her towards a local club.

One lady who was a double amputee was very unsure as to whether she would be able to deliver a bowl, but with a bit of encouragement and advice from us both she is now making arrangements to contact Colin and have a go on a proper carpet. She wasn't the only one who wanted to try playing, so all in all it was a very successful few hours.

I suggested to some of them they come along to the Friendly fixture at Barwell IBC in January to see some of our players in action, I know you will make them welcome. Judy



Essex Coaches morning at Falcon IBC



On 13 November I made a trip to Essex after an invite from Essex Bowls Coaching Association who wanted some advice about coaching disabled people and advice on the correct way to use bowling aids.

I was joined by Jerry Sanders from Bush Hill Bowls who brought his full range of wheelchairs, bowls Scooter, rollators etc to demonstrate.

The coaches and attendees were all interested to listen to what we had to say and keen to try the bowling aids. The session began with a chat from Jerry followed by a chance to try the aids and ask questions



We then had a session on coaching VI players and an explanation of classification. A number of attendees had come along and wanted to ask about funding and accessibility at their clubs, it was great to find so much enthusiasm. One lady commented that she had attended a similar session DBE had run before at Falcon and been inspired by the session to persuade her club to invest in some of the bowling aids, and this had proved very successful with older and new members.

It was an excellent session and I wish all the Essex coaching team best wishes going forward.



Contact information

Bush Hill Bowls
250 Bury Street West
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Phone; 02083621780
Email: sales@bushhillbowls.co.uk

Essex Coaches
Email:essexbowlscoaching@gmail.com

Bush Judy

Upcoming events

8 December	DBE Friendly Fixture	Mid Glos IBC	2pm
14 December	DBE Celebration Event 	Gedling IBC	12 till 8pm <i>Sorry now full</i>
5 January	DBE Friendly Fixture	Barwell IBC	2pm
10/12 January	Irish Test Series 	Solihull IBC	All day
18 January	Ann Trotman Singles	Gedling IBC	All day



The closing dates for the DBE/EIBA Multi Disciplinary Singles and Pairs is 31st December.

Singles 22/23 February at Gedling IBC

Pairs 8/9 March at Solihull IBC

Email judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk if you would like to enter.



DBE v EIBA Presidents Team

26 February at Jack Centre Latchingdon

2pm

We have a fixture against an EIBA President Team in February please make yourself available it will be a great opportunity to meet some of the EIBA team and to showcase our sport.

If you can play please email me

judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk



EIBA President

Pauline Adams

Final Newsletter

December 2024

Next month will be our final newsletter. I would like it to be a celebration of all things DBE.

If you have any stories or photos of your time with us particularly in the early years or would like to let the rest of us know what the DBE has meant to you (be nice!), please get in touch.

Judy