



Maggy's Celebration event

On December 14th a large number of members, supporters and volunteers gathered at Gedling IBC to celebrate 40 years of DBE with our President Maggy Smith MBE and her husband Colin. Members came from all over to help make this a special afternoon. Sue Davies had worked hard to come up with some fun games on the green which took place in the afternoon. Judging by the banter and laughter which could be heard, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, even those who always get over-competitive at these events!

It was lovely to see past members like David Turner who played at the Internationals in Manchester, former competition manager Stuart Espie, Anthony Page looking so well after his illness in South Africa. and so many of the volunteers from Gedling who have supported us for many years.

After the bowls we all retired to the bar for a buffet produced by Helen Lewis- Wall, as usual it was delicious. Following the buffet Judy had prepared a light-hearted quiz and prizes were given to the winners. There were also prizes for the top four players in the bowls, and for a 'guess who the child was' competition which Sue had also arranged - there were some corking photos, and several people got the genders mixed up!



Lots of memories of 40 years



Lots of fun on the green



Our President bowling!

Maggy's Celebration event Continued

After the fun and games were over it was left to Chairperson Steve Watson to make a speech which, unusually for him, he managed without blubbing!

He explained how he had first met Maggy at Leamington where he had a stand in the retail tent, she was looking for sponsorship and eventually after a while her persistence had worn him down, so he dropped in on a DBE event and was blown away by what he had seen.

Over the last four years since he became chairperson, Steve has steadied the ship financially and gathered a team around him to take Para bowls to a higher level; however, he would be the first to admit that none of this would have been possible if it had not been for the vision and dogged determination of a remarkable woman, Maggy, and her long term volunteers particularly at Gedling IBC but also all over the country.

But now has come the time to hand over the running of Para bowls in England to the two National Governing Bodies, they will take Para bowls to the next level and opportunities are coming for all DBE players.

We all owe Maggy and her husband Colin a huge thank you, and at the end of the evening they were presented with a basket of flowers, some glasses and a bottle of malt whisky which I am sure they will enjoy.

Judy

The last word must go to our President Maggy and here is her message to all of you.

To all DBE members , volunteers and family supporters

It was really wonderful to see so many of you at Gedling IBC on Saturday. I was amazed at the distances many of you had travelled!

I hope that you all enjoyed the day as much as I did .

I would like to thank everyone for your friendship and support over the years and hope that you will continue to move forward under the supervision of Bowls England and the EIBA.

Keep well, keep in touch and most of all KEEP BOWLING!

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year

Maggy.





A message from Helen Lewis-Wall Bowls England Disability Officer

I was privileged to attend the Maggy Smith MBE celebration on 14th December - it was great to see so many of you and recognise the wonderful work Disability Bowls England (DBE) has done over the last 40 years.

With the transition of responsibility for disability bowls transferring to the National Governing Bodies from 1 January 2025, it is really important to me and the team at Bowls England that the great work continues to ensure a bright future for disability bowlers.

I have been working closely with Steve, Sue & Judy to ensure a smooth transition. They really have done a great job for everyone at DBE and my focus is to ensure that continues.

Disability Bowls already has a dedicated area on the Bowls England Website where you will be able to find all the information you need. This area will continue to develop over the coming months, so you have everything at your fingertips. **<https://www.bowlsengland.com/bowling-with-a-disability/>**

In addition to this, Disability Bowls content will be integrated into Bowls England's newsletter, 'The Jack', where the team will share news, stories and celebrate those within our community. If you are not already subscribed, I would encourage you sign up to receive the newsletter here. Content will also be shared across the Bowls England social channels so, make sure you follow across the various platforms @BowlsEngland.

[Sign up to our newsletter - Bowls England](#)

Looking ahead to the season, I have been in touch with all the clubs who have arranged a fixture with DBE and those asking for a fixture – details of agreed matches can be found here. **<https://www.bowlsengland.com/bowling-with-a-disability/>**

We're also firming up plans for disability competitions in 2025 – News relating to disability competitions will be updated on the website and shared across the Bowls England channels in due course.

Bowls England and DBE share the vision that bowls is for everyone and I am excited to see what the future holds as we continue to promote our sport to ensure the sport is truly accessible for all.

All that remains is for me to wish you a happy Christmas and here's to a healthy successful New Year.

If you have any questions, please get in touch via my direct e-mail: **helen.lewis-wall@bowlsengland.com**
Helen Lewis-Wall

Recognition for some outstanding DBE players.

Huge congratulations to John and Lidka Hollowell who concluded a highly successful outdoor season with being named jointly with DBE Open Pairs winner Jonathan Stokes, as Bedfordshire county's Players of the Year - an outstanding achievement for all of them.



The success continued for John as he was subsequently awarded Bedford Boroughs Council Disabled Sports Personality of the Year



DBE Ambassador and Commonwealth Games player Gill Platt was recognised by Sport Godalming at their recent awards ceremony for her services to Bowls and Disability Sport. Gill is not only a great player but also an advocate for disabled bowlers, and as part of her role as an Ambassador for the charity has done much to support and promote disabled bowls in her area. Well done Gill on your very deserved recognition.



Calander of Events until the end of the Indoor Season

5 January	Friendly Fixture	Barwell IBC	2pm
10/12 January	Irish Test Series	Solihull IBC	All day
18 January	Ann Trotman Singles	Gedling IBC	All Day
9 February	Friendly Fixture	Northampton Indoor Bowls Association— Desborough IBC	12 pm
15/16 February	VIBE Open Pairs	Weston Super Mare	All day
22/23 February	Multi Disability Open Singles—Prelim	Gedling IBC	All day
26 February	Friendly Fixture	Against EIBA President s team at Jack Centre	2pm
1 March	EALABA Friendly	Tamworth IBC	2pm
8/9 March	Multi Disability Open Pairs— Prelim	Solihull IBC	All day
29 March to 17 April	EIBA National Finals	Nottingham IBC	All Day
2 April	Multi Disability Champion of Champions	Nottingham IBC	TBC
5 April	EALABA Friendly	Gedling IBC	2pm
14 April	Multi Disability Open Pairs— Finals	Nottingham IBC	TBC
17 April	Multi Disability North v South	Nottingham IBC	TBC
23/24 April	LDIBIS Muro Cup	Wales	All Day
26/27 April	VIBE Triples	Nottingham IBC	All Day

We have some interesting fixtures and matches coming up. If you would like to play in any of them please contact Judy (judy.plater@disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk). I will be around until the end of the indoor season helping the EIBA as things move forward.

We have a game against an EIBA Presidential team on 26 February and they would like to play as many triples as we can manage; it will be a good chance for you to meet some of the EIBA staff and a great way to show off your skills.

The Annual North v South grudge match for the Maggy Smith MBE trophy takes place on 17 April, please let Judy know if you would like to play.

Reminder

The Ann Trotman Singles takes place at Gedling over the 18th and 19th January, if you have entered please can you contact Maggy to let her know you are still attending. These days don't just happen, they take organisation and volunteers and we don't want to waste anyone's time if there are not enough entries.

maggynet2@yahoo.com

And finally...

A little message from me. The last three years have gone with a whirl , there have been to many highs to mention and the occasional lows. I have met some wonderful people, living life to the full and getting the most out of their bowls.

The Ambassador team led by Colin Wagstaff have done sterling work to help promote Para Bowls in their areas and I thank you for the time and efforts you have all put in. Our wonderful band of volunteers, some whom I know have been around for years , can never be thanked enough for the time they give.

In the time I have been with DBE I have travelled as far north as Newcastle and down to the west country, running taster days and talking to clubs about how to become more inclusive and I hope going forward that vital work continues, there are still barriers to be broken down and prejudice to overcome but hopefully, we do seem to be going in the right direction.

Going to South Africa was an experience I won't forget in a hurry! If it could happen it did! but we soldiered on and as well as the trials there was a lot of fun and laughter.

That is the thing I love most about DBE , the fun, the laughter and the overwhelming support you all have for each other, we have all been part of the DBE family. I know it won't be the same going forward but I am equally sure you will all continue to be there for each other.

A special thanks to Sue Davies, we have been at many events together and I am grateful for her support and friendship. I will miss you all but hopefully we will catch up on a bowls green in the future.

Judy XXX

And now for the bad Christmas jokes

Why did Santa's helper see a doctor?

Because he had low 'elf'esteem



What did Frosty's girlfriend give him when she was mad at him?

The cold shoulder



What did the wise men say after they offered their gift of gold and frankincense?

Wait there's myrrh



How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing it was on the house.

