



Palm Reader

An unofficial newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

Issue 1 November 2002

Liberty and Denny at Palmerston

Make a note in your diary now for Saturday 16th November 2002 at 12 noon. The English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) has selected Palmerston to host a stage of the prestigious Liberty Trophy, the County championship of men's bowls, played on a knockout basis. This is a second round match so we won't know the actual teams until after the first round on 2nd November. It will be either Middlesex or Berkshire against either Oxford or Wiltshire. Come and see county players in action, possibly with one or two top bowlers as seen on TV.

31 counties are in the first round and our own Hampshire is due to play Sussex on 2nd November at Whiteknights IBC in Reading. This isn't too far away to go to support our lads - in fact we play Whiteknights in friendly matches (on 30 Oct as this newsletter went to press). Three Palmerston members figured in the start of season Liberty trials for Hampshire and two survived to the reserves list in the "shakedown" trial match at Atherley on 27th October, although it is unlikely they will get into the team as in reality there are only a few spots not spoken for by the regular stars.

Hampshire have a strong side, runners up in 97/98 they won the Liberty Trophy in the following year. We have had one Palmerston member in a past Liberty side - the legendary Livi Bell. His photo is on the wall by the bar holding his National Over 60 singles trophy.

Palmerston has also been given the honour of hosting the finals of the national club knockout competitions: Denny Cup and Denny Plate over 15/16 February 2003. They will effectively take over the club that weekend with semi finals on the Saturday and finals on the Sunday. More details in a future edition of this newsletter. We played our first round of the Denny Cup on 26th October. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful against Victory, one of the strongest clubs in this area, so we will now play in the first round of the Denny Plate on 9th November - supporters very welcome. Although Victory have gone a long way in the past, they haven't actually won the Denny Cup. The other really strong club in our area, East Dorset have won it - in 1998, and also last season they got to the semi-final. Of the other local clubs, Atherley (1973) and Longmeadow (1986) have got as far as runners up. These are some of the clubs we face in our Bramley Bowl county league, which gives an idea of the strength of our opposition.

Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of an unofficial newsletter for Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club. The reason this has been started is that some of us think there is a gap in communication. Although the committee work hard to run things, they can't speak to everyone. As a club we need a healthy flow of information and ideas between members and committees. We want everyone to know what's happening, and the committees need to make sure we're moving in the right direction and providing what members want. The main objective is to inform, and to encourage opinion and debate. There'll also be a sprinkling of less serious items for light relief.

Input from members is important. So although I expect the committee members to provide a lot of the information, the newsletter is for the membership as a whole and I'd like everyone to feel they can contribute. This is why it's unofficial and there is no limitation to "official" views and policy.

News - lets have yours, especially people news. Opinions - do you think our leagues could be improved? What alternative forms of competition could we try? What do you think of club facilities - restaurant, bar, changing rooms, car-park, scoreboards, etc. Have you been to another club where something is done better and might work here? Of course we need positive ideas not just complaints. Have you come across any fun items we can share?

You can contribute either by writing an article or a letter to the editor. If you type, this would be best so I don't misread your handwriting. If you use a computer please send it by email which avoids me making mistakes retyping everything (and saves me work!) - the email address is palmed@mail.com and I'll acknowledge receipt of emails. Or put it on a floppy disc (either plain text or a .doc file). Otherwise hand items in to the office addressed to Palm Editor.

Editorial policy is to publish anything reasonable with the strict proviso that it doesn't contain criticism of anyone's character. It could be useful to get constructive criticism of a committee or group's actions so that new ideas are looked at, but remember that officials try hard to do their job to the benefit of all.

I am not prepared to accept anonymous items although I am prepared to withhold your name when I publish if you request it, but this shouldn't really be necessary.

Let's take Palmerston forward into the new millennium.

Fun at JMC

JMC? Ah, the Joint Management Committee. No not a circle of pot smokers but the officials who are responsible for the running of the club. It is a separate body from the Board of Directors who legally control the club -and the JMC deal mainly with bowling matters only. We meet once a month and you'd be amazed at the fun and games behind those closed doors of the committee room. Interested? Read on.

Most committee members drift in around 9:15 for a 9:30 start although Ray Gregory (Club Secretary) is generally buttonholing someone even before the meeting starts. Make no mistake, Ray is the powerhouse factotum behind the JMC without whom things would surely collapse.

The meeting starts when Ann Broadhurst (our President) calls us to order. First item is "Apologies" (or who can we talk about today). Things now get going with the last meeting action points progress. We then have reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, Men's Committee, Ladies Committee and Uncle Tom Cobley. Occasionally these give rise to debate but a few eyelids are now beginning to droop. Wish I'd had that cup of coffee.

Next - Correspondence. Whoaa! The main event. Suddenly the mumbling fidgeting and snoring stops and the atmosphere becomes electric as all ears are tuned to hear the letters being read out. OK the official stuff is important but mundane. It's when we get letters from members, often raising a grievance, that things become interesting. The committee members are constantly amazed at some of the opinions and attitudes of bowling members who are sufficiently moved to write. A wide range of topics is raised, from fees to food, from central heating to heated accusations. On occasions a letter has been written by a committee member actually sitting in attendance! Never a dull moment!

However don't get the impression we aren't grateful for these missives. On the contrary, it's often how we discover a problem. Besides how else would we get through 2-3 hours of official business without going stir-crazy?

Perhaps now this newsletter is up and running some of this correspondence will be sent to the editor for publication (although he has told me that he won't publish anything derogatory about particular individuals). So you may get to share in the fun yourself. However if you really want the inside track there's no substitute for volunteering to help on the committee - look out for the annual elections at the AGM, or just offer help on an unofficial basis by letting one of us know you're interested.

League news

Ladies by Sheila Bromley

We are at the beginning of a new season of indoor bowling at Palmerston and already our ladies leagues are running smoothly, after the first few hiccups were sorted.

The format of League B Tuesday 2-4pm has been changed for a trial period by splitting it into 2 divisions. From comments I have already received this could prove to be a success. If this is confirmed at the end of the season more changes may follow. Your comments are always welcome.

There is a "substitute" list displayed on the notice board. Please use it. Those named are waiting for a league game.

Leagues F Monday 6:15 - 8:15pm and League I Friday 2 - 4pm are running well below their full capacity. I would like to see these vacancies filled in 2003-4. Remember the old adage "use them or lose them"!

Men by Ian Chittenden

We are in Week 6 at the time of printing and I am very happy to say that the new formats seem to be working well in the Wednesday evening Triples as results in the league tables show, also throughout the other leagues there are 14 leagues that have 4 or more teams vying for the top positions, this shows that the standard of bowling in the leagues has increased which is to the benefit of the club and indeed to the bowlers playing in the leagues.

A few general comments - The hardy annual, Skips not making sure the results on the scorecards are recorded correctly to the right team number, already we have had occasions of this happening. With regards to make up of the leagues there are vacancies for 18 teams over all the leagues so if you feel you could run a team please watch for the team vacancy list for next year which I will promulgate on the notice board about February 03.

The League Cups by Ian Chittenden

The competition for both Rinks and Triples are competitions which allow all the league winners to compete in along with a number of runners up. Ladies, Mixed and Men's Teams compete in a knockout format with finals being played in finals week, the winning of these trophies is an achievement within the club, after battling through a league season and then the knockout competition to win.

Events Calendar

3-10 November 2002: Bupa Care Homes Open, Sheffield. BBC TV coverage of the last 4 days.

Saturday 16th November 2002 12 noon: Liberty Trophy match at Palmerston - see main story.

Sunday 17th November 2002 2pm: Palmerston Anniversary match - men v ladies - look out for this fun day on the friendlies board.

Sunday 24th November 2002 12 noon: Hampshire Under 25's against Sussex/Kent Under 25's "Double Rink" at Palmerston. One rink is played "away" so we will see the home rink here. The standard of bowling expected is high as all these players are likely to be in the current Hampshire senior Liberty squad.

Sunday 5th January 2003: England senior ladies International team practice match against the men's Hampshire team at Palmerston. Surely some opportunities here for humbling the men!

5-19 January 2003: World Indoor Singles at Potters - tickets 01502 730345. BBC TV coverage is now to be limited to the quarter finals onward.

Coaches Corner by Tony Grant

Once again "Winter Season" is here with a fresh influx of beginners to our sport. Along with our dedicated band of coaches and instructors, over a period of sessions of 4 weeks they will have been taught the basics and hopefully then with further practice join in the club drives and progress yet again to the friendly games and leagues.

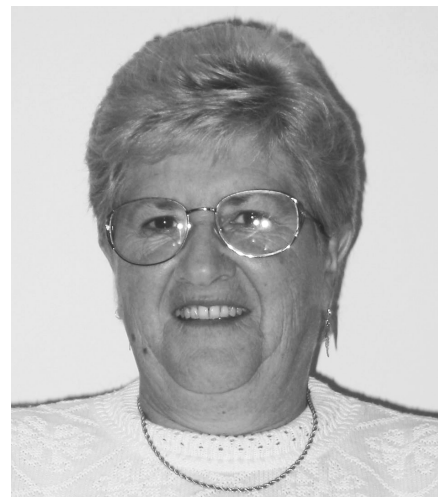
Congratulations to three club members who recently passed the coaches exams. Wally Chase, Graham Clapham and Norman Evans-Rohrs. And finally we started teaching two seven year olds, having the forethought to purchase 3 ¼" size bowls. Our thanks to our Club Officers.

Club Junior News

Congratulations to Ben Settle. He was selected to play in Palmerston's first Hampshire IBA Clubs "Bramley Bowl" match against Atherley on the 19th October again in the following week in our "Denny Cup" game against Victory at Home. Also on 27th October the Under17's mixed selected Hampshire match against Surrey Under17's at Chawton Park.

We've managed to recruit two young ladies - one with experience who bowled for the Under19's Hampshire players this summer, Miss Jade Oswell who plays outdoors at Anglesey BC.

Interview with the President



Palm Reader recently caught up with Ann Broadhurst, current Palmerston President. Here is the interview:

Palm Reader: Ann, tell us something about yourself. For example how long have you been playing bowls and what clubs have you belonged to.

Ann Broadhurst: I have been playing over 20 years both indoors and outdoors. Outdoors I am a member of Bridgemary. Indoors I was a founder member of Palmerston, before that I bowled at Atherley and then Victory.

PR: Without being modest, what are the highlights of your bowling achievements?

AB: Outdoors in 2002 winning the county fours and going to the National Finals at Leamington. Indoors I got to the National Championships at Potters in 1998 in the pairs.

PR: Have you served in an official capacity elsewhere than at Palmerston?

AB: Yes, at Bridgemary I am Ladies Secretary. Also in 2001 I was Ladies P&D President.

PR: Could you outline the duties of President?

AB: I chair a number of committees and meetings, particularly the Joint Management Committee and the AGM. I preside in friendly matches, which, apart from sorting out any problems, means welcoming the visitors and making a speech after the meal. Sometimes I'm not able to be there, for example in men's matches, in which case someone else is nominated "President of the day" in my absence.

PR: Are there any President's matches in the bowling calendar?

AB: Yes, Sunday 9th February 2003 is my President's day when the ladies play the men, which is always fiercely contested! (Ed: A popular event - if you want to get in on this look out for this match appearing on the friendlies board

early in the new year).

PR: Why did you volunteer for this post?

AB: It's easy to just turn up for games and go away again, letting someone else do the work. Bowls is run on a 99% voluntary basis and I have had a lot of enjoyment out of the game in the past 20 years. I wanted to put something back. Actually I was asked to become Ladies Vice President and I agreed but I was at the time unaware of the Palmerston tradition for appointing Presidents! I consider it an honour to represent Palmerston in this way. (Ed: Each year the President is the previous year's Men's or Ladies Vice President, alternating each year. So Vice Presidents hold office for 2 years and then become President for 1 year. Next year watch out for Roy Mudd!)

PR: What makes you proud to be at Palmerston?

AB: It's such a friendly club with good atmosphere and very good facilities. When people come here to play friendly matches against us they are very complimentary and they look forward to coming back again next year.

PR: If there's one thing you'd change at Palmerston what would it be?

AB: I can't think of anything. Of course there are some issues, but nothing of any concern.

PR: What issues?

AB: Well, some of the leagues are suffering. We need more ladies to get involved in some of the leagues, for example 2-4 pm on Friday and 6:15 to 8:15 pm on Monday. I'm sure there are some ladies who once they're involved would enjoy it. Also it would be nice to have more ladies competing for places in the ladies teams, but you'll have to talk to the Ladies Captain about that.

PR: Why do you think the leagues are suffering?

AB: One reason I've heard is that some teams are overwhelmed by the strong

teams. Maybe we need to make some changes here. I hope members will respond to the newsletter and let us have their ideas on how to do this.

PR: What challenges will Palmerston face in the future?

AB: I think we are financially fine (Ed: perhaps I should check this with the Finance Director?) but in bowls generally and in many other sports there is a gradual decline in membership, so we need to continue to attract new members, particularly the younger element. One problem we face is that there is no break between indoor and outdoor seasons. Indoor bowls has grown so much over the last 10 years: originally we were created to fill the long barren winter months between bowling seasons. Now there is a danger of having too much of a good thing. Let's have a couple of weeks break at least. Unfortunately this needs cooperation between the indoor and outdoor ruling bodies - not an easy thing to achieve.

PR: Well Ann, thanks for your time. Finally - what do you think of this new newsletter?

AB: I very much welcome it and I think people will enjoy reading it. I hope you get a lot of members to write in and let you know their views. It's a good way to air issues and suggestions so we can move Palmerston forward and make the most of the next 5 years as we have the first 5.

Treasury Notes

by Ray Morse - Treasurer

Repayment of Founder Member loans

At the Annual General Meeting in March this year it was announced that the loans made to the Club by Founder Members in 1996 would be repaid this September. It is pleasing to be able to report that since the 9th September all of these loans have been repaid. These repayments included

all those that had left the Club over the past 5 years and for whom we have addresses. A big thankyou to the 38 members who donated their loan to the Club - they will be getting individual letters of thanks in due course.

Direct Debit

At the AGM it was also announced that consideration was being given to a Direct Debit system for the payment of Annual

Subscriptions to take effect from September 2003 if 50% of Full Members agreed to use the Direct Debit system. To this end questionnaires were sent to each member with their subscription renewal form asking for a Yes or No. Regrettably the response has been poor. Only 502 Full members responded of which only 304 said yes. It is now highly unlikely that we will now use this way for payment of Annual Subs.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

In recent weeks the process of selecting men's teams to represent Palmerston for inter-club leagues and knockout competitions has been a little less exclusive and opaque. There is more openness and contact with members outside the established group of regular Bramley Bowl men.

The reasons include, in what I see as the selectors' priority order:

- 30th November, Bramley fixture clashes with LSC Shield. That day we field 8 full rinks
- Established Bramley group continues to shrink, members leaving area or moving clubs.
- Alarm; 2001/2 we almost lost Bramley Division 1 status, having won the Bowl in 2000/1.
- Other members asked for a more transparent selection process, implying more inclusion.

The selection changes have benefited me, having now played in two trials and my first ever Bramley fixture. Perhaps unwisely, some might say ungratefully, when the first trial teams were listed, I told our Club Captain I suspect selectors may revert to old ways if or when we are knocked out of the LSC Shield. I was reminded it might then be better to stick with successful rinks rather than risk new talent.

To strengthen Palmerston men's inter-club teams, long and short term, the recent selection and recruitment changes should

be sustained and extended. Selectors could adopt the following:

- Publish overall and rink-by-rink results, with names, for each match.
- Publish and maintain a Squad List showing players who are normally available and who will be considered for playing at each selection meeting.
- Recognise that a significant number of league members play as competently as many regular Bramley men but have not come forward this year because they feel discarded, overlooked, that previous trials treated them unfairly, or just need encouragement.
- Approach such members as a group and individually to enrol them as Squad members.
- Hold 3 winter trials. Little used Squad members could form rinks to challenge and win a Bramley place from an established rink.
- Provide other opportunities for Squad List to play and be trained together.
- Hold trials with selectors observing, not playing. Avoid segregating new applicants.
- Propose training needs for individuals applying for, but not ready for, the Squad List.

Members could do more to strengthen and develop Palmerston's inter-club competitiveness:

- Make themselves available if approached or if they think they have the ability and performance.

- Reconsider the proposed merging of Monday and Thursday 8:15 Rinks Leagues and constructing from them a two-division league with promotion and relegation.
- Be open to other initiatives aimed at increasing our inter-team and inter-club competitiveness.

It is a delight to belong to the Palmerston Club. It is an honour if asked to play to represent it. I hope this letter contributes to enhancing our performance and the pleasure of all competitive members.

Yours truly,

Derek Arnold

People News

New member Pam Lamshead has been appointed Secretary to the Hampshire County Women's Indoor Bowls Association. Palmerston now have two officers on the Hampshire committee as Janet Mudd is Senior Vice President. This means she will be President in the 2003-4 season so that Palmerston will be hosting several Hampshire ladies matches and the County finals.

Bowls hotshots from Palmerston reported in the October edition of Bowls International: Mike Buck, Ann and Peter Etherton; Audrey Crump, Bill Coker, Edna Lee.

End Rink (miscellaneous items)

Photos have been taken of through lack of support. Part of the committee members to enable reason for this appears to be a members to recognise them, and poor experience reported recently will be displayed in a prominent position - so if you have a query or problem you can approach any committee member to take up the matter.

Numbers playing in some leagues are quite low. One possible solution for the 6:15 - 8:15 Monday session proposed was a mixed league instead of the current ladies league. A notice has been posted on the noticeboard, although at present there doesn't appear to be sufficient interest in this. More proposals welcomed.

Most members have either renewed their membership for this season or resigned. At the last meeting there were 71 members who have been sent reminder letters, split as follows: Full 26, Social 37, Junior 8. The number of juniors on this list is a concern.

All lady members who have requested lockers have been accommodated. There are still some men waiting for lockers.

We are to have new bowls racks. There was an incident when someone perched a bag on top of our current rack. The bag crashed to the floor narrowly missing someone's feet. Also bowls are still being placed on the floor rather than in the racks. It is hoped that the new design and a new location will help as far as possible to avoid accidents, although it is up to members to be sensible.

A ladies friendly game against East Dorset had to be canceled

Local Under 25 International Matthew Marchant (Victory) qualified for the World Indoor finals by winning a qualifying tournament at Crystal Palace when he beat World Indoor Ladies champion Carol Ashby in the final. Let's wish him well at Potters in January.

Entries for the ladies competitions has now closed with 40 ladies having put their names down for singles, pairs and triples. Unlike the men's competitions, the pairs and triples are drawn - the draw is to take place any day now (beginning November). Singles are played at times arranged between the contestants but the others are played on set dates on Wednesday afternoons (Ed: what about the workers?). There is no fours competition.