



Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

Issue 4 Summer 2003

Our vital Catering

by Roy Mudd *President*

During the summer season is perhaps a good time to air one's thoughts about the Club, and highlight some aspects in particular.

Without the dedication of the membership, and in particular the fund raising committee, we would not have

The dance floor

The honours boards

The computer systems

The rink handrails

The notice boards

The raffle boxes

The electronic score boards with aggregate, and ends to go facilities.

The electronic message board.

New bowling mats

New jacks

Sets of bowls to cater for novices of all ages.

Xmas decorations

.. to name but a few.

We would be jogging along with what we opened up with, but we have progressed.

The members, and visitors want to come to Palmerston I.B.C. to bowl, and enjoy all the other facilities that go with it, not the least of which is the food.

WE MUST KEEP THIS CATERING FACILITY, and the chef that deals with it so admirably.

There is a sort of flow chart that goes with good catering at any bowls club.

If you provide good meals, and hospitality (the bar), then the membership are happy to come in and bowl, and occasionally have lunch, or attend one of the social functions. Their friends who do not bowl like the facilities, and want to be part of the action. This is why our social membership is full, and there is a waiting list.

Our visiting guests who oppose us in the weekend games always comment on the ambience of the club, and the superb standard of the meals that are produced. Even the vegetarians are delighted with the fare.

All appreciate the reasonably priced drinks at the bar. As we stand, the club is in a good financial state, but what if we lost our catering facility for some reason. Very rapidly one would have to find a replacement of an equal or better standard, and this may not be too easy.

If we were unable to do this, then the spiral would begin. Members would become disillusioned because the bar prices had to be raised to make up for the short fall in the income from the restaurant because members were not supporting it. The food

was not as good, and the choice for Sunday lunch was a take it or leaves it roast beef with ice cream to follow. The income drops so the rink fees, and the annual membership fees are increased to make up the deficit.

Our visitors are not happy with what they have received for the £6.50 or so that they have paid for the afternoon's game, so the next time that we play them, there is a request to drop the number of rinks from eight to six or even five because members of other clubs do not want to come to us. The next year they ask for the fixture to be cancelled, and they do not come at all.

The prestigious events that have come to us have been well catered for and the reputation of P.I.B.C. has been spread from Cumbria to Devon to Kent and Durham, and players talk to others of their experience at Palmerston.

What if we could not provide good refreshments when they were needed! Easy - people would not come.

The real heart of your bowling club is what you can do for the inner man/woman and if this fails then your club fails.

Take a look around you at the indoor clubs near you in Hampshire, and what do you see. The caterers are in disarray, and the downward spiral has begun, not everywhere, but you know where.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

The first thing that you do is to support the weekend "friendly" games as much as you can. I hate the word "friendly" because all games should be friendly - the distinction should be County League / National Competitions / Club Games etc. Put your name down to play in these games. Even if you do not always get a game (and they are shared out) it is good for the captains to have names from whom they can select the teams. This particularly applies to the away games. If we cannot raise a team to go to E.Dorset they are not going to come to us are they ! The spiral of lost revenue begins, and gaps begin to appear at the weekends, and the Chef has no income from games.

Whilst we can sometimes fill in for a cancelled game with a drive, or internal fixture this is not always possible.

I am also asking you to support the restaurant whenever you feel able to, and so keep the "heart" of the club pumping. Lunches, and Sunday lunches are available and social events are a must if you have not tried them.

Above all, don't let the downward spiral affect us at Palmerston. At this time players from other clubs want to come to us - long may it last, but your support is essential.

Thanks for reading this.

Crossword Quick Clues

ACROSS

- 1 Deceived (6)
- 7 And behold (2)
- 8 I possess (3)
- 10 Bowls club east of Fareham (6)
- 13 Dalai Llama's country (5)
- 14 Loadsamoney (4)
- 16 Thankyou (2)
- 17 Here (10)
- 21 Sharp response (6)
- 22 Our men's team are aiming to win this Bowl (7)
- 24 Exists (2)
- 25 Essential requirement (4)
- 26 To or not to, that is the question (2)
- 27 Cornish meat pie (5)
- 28 Wife of Goldenballs (4)

DOWN

- 1 Myself (2)
- 2 Piece of concrete paving (4)
- 3 Zero (4)
- 4 Quixote (3)
- 5 Hello (2)
- 6 Us (2)
- 9 Wins (9)
- 10 Ruling body for men's county bowls (4)
- 11 Ladies county championship (8)
- 12 Convict who helps wardens (6)
- 15 Our county (5)
- 17 Inn (3)
- 18 Amounts no longer owed to founder members (5)
- 19 Marsh grass (4)
- 20 And fro (2)
- 23 Was introduced to (3)
- 26 Little Miss Peep (2)

Editorial

Summer is here and isn't it glorious! As I write this, Wimbledon tennis fans are enjoying their strawberries and Pimms at the end of a month of sizzling summer weather. The outdoor bowlers' patience following a wet start to their season is being rewarded. Maybe the indoor bowlers at Palmerston are wondering how much it would cost to fit a sliding roof a la Millennium Stadium! On the other hand remember those thunderstorms? Maybe we'll settle for the electronic noticeboard. Whatever the weather and surface, I hope you're enjoying your summer bowling.

It was decided to produce a single summer edition of the newsletter which I expect will be mainly read by the indoor bowlers, but hopefully a few copies might find their way around the clubhouses of our local outdoor counterparts. Whilst there isn't much actual news to impart, there are several important messages from your committee which need to be communicated. These messages all have a common thread. Bowls organisation relies heavily on mutual self-help. Unless enough people give what they can, either their time or their support, things will go downhill and costs will keep rising.

Just to illustrate, using a personal observation, some of you will know that I am not playing outdoor bowls this summer, but have taken up golf. What a difference in cost! Golf is ten times more expensive than bowls. How fortunate we Palmerston bowlers are. We won a fortune on the lottery and we're continuing to receive free labour from our hard-working committee members and others who put in long hours for no money. In this age of commercialisation (junk mail, credit card debt, buy one get one free, fat cat salaries, £30m transfer fees, ...) let's recognise the value of what we have. Be a part of it.

You can contribute to the newsletter either by writing an article or a letter to the editor. If you use a computer please send it by email to 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.
Next issue October, deadline 30th September.

End Rink (miscellaneous items)

At the AGM the President, Roy Mudd, announced that the club was intending to purchase an Electronic Noticeboard. This noticeboard has now been purchased, paid for with money raised at the various Social events, and will be installed and fully operational by the time the Club opens for the winter season in September.

5 teams have entered for the "Novice League" for the coming season. Although this is one team short it is proposed to continue with the league as planned. If another team can be found before or during the season it would be very welcome.

The results of the rink lighting experiment with the different diffusers has concluded that there were areas of the carpet that were not properly lit and the resulting uneven lighting was unsatisfactory. Investigations of alternatives to solve the lighting problems are continuing.

ASSISTANCE URGENTLY REQUIRED

by Ray Morse - Treasurer

At the Annual General Meeting in March I announced that I intended to stand down as Club Treasurer in March 2004, and asked for volunteers to come forward prior to September to take over this position. This decision made mainly due to health reasons.

Despite that announcement at the AGM, notices displayed at the Club, and in the May edition of the Advertiser, no one has so far come forward.

As time is getting short I have found it necessary to review the position. I am now prepared to carry on as Treasurer keeping the accounts etc in conjunction with the Finance Director ONLY IF someone is prepared to assist two or three mornings a week to count, check and bank the cash takings, and assist in keeping the accounts. Approximate time involved 8-9 hours a week.

I am sure that there must be someone among the membership, full or social, who is prepared to carry out this important task.

Either contact myself or Ray Gregory at the Club - 01329 232005 or contact me at home on 01329 236642

Juniors corner

In a special effort to recruit more juniors, Palmerston is giving free membership for one year from this September 2003 with no joining fee. Along with free use of bowls and shoes we are providing free coaching from fully qualified coaching staff. All you have to do is to turn up in smart casual clothes and try it out.

Our coaches work within the English Bowls Coaching Scheme to ensure you learn the right way from the start. This is part of our Youth Development Policy run by our Youth Development Officer Tony Grant, who is also Hampshire County Coach and an EBCS Advanced Coach. All coaching staff are familiar with the "Child Protection Act" and "Protection of vulnerable people" and Parents/Guardians are asked to sign their agreement when membership is taken.

Once you get going, if you want to there'll be a chance to play in a team against other junior bowlers. And if you really get hooked you might later play in leagues. You can take it to whatever level you want. Goals can be achieved.

Realistically you might become good enough to play for Palmerston's own full adult teams as we're always on the lookout for promising new players. Then there's Hampshire juniors and Under 25's. The sky's the limit - this area has a couple of young bowlers who have played for England and even one who has played in the recent World Championships. You might have thought it was a game for old people - well almost all of the bowlers who reach the finals of the National Championships or who play for their country are in their twenties and thirties.

And if you want to see top class skill with action, adrenaline and excitement come to Palmerston in January 2004 when we'll be hosting an Under 25 International match - you'll be amazed. But don't wait until then - try it out for yourself.

So parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. spread the word. Our doors are open. Come on in and enjoy a wonderful sport. If it was good enough for Sir Francis Drake to keep the Spanish Armada waiting why not give it a go?

Contact Tony or Club Secretary Ray Gregory at Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club, Palmerston Drive, Fareham. Tel: 01329 232005.

Ladies Captain's report

by Jean Evans

Ladies

Naturally at this time there is little for me to report. However I would like to say how much I enjoyed being your captain last season and appreciated the support you gave me. I look forward to seeing you all again in September. I was very proud of what we achieved - reaching the zone final of the Vivienne competition and being runners up in the Riversmeet competition. Hopefully we will be winners next season. I know it will not be for the lack of trying.

One request I would like to make, ladies, is please support the ladies friendly matches. I know there is possibly many of you who think your bowling is not good enough. To you I say please put your names down and give them a try - they are lovely games which I'm sure you would enjoy. Details will be put up in the ladies room. Ladies Competition forms will be available in the ladies room from 1st July. It is hoped that as many ladies as possible will take part. The date of the Finals week will be noted on the forms.

Stewards

by John Vicary - Chief Steward

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all I want to say a very sincere thank you to all the Stewards who have supported me during the 2002/2003 winter season. You have all worked very well and helped me a lot by coordinating sessions between yourselves for covering family events, sickness or whatever.

THANK YOU.

Secondly Ladies and Gentlemen I wish to point out that your Board of Directors and the Joint Management Committee, working many hours (unpaid) in my estimation do a great job. They run the Club in terms of what needs to be done, what improvements can be made, what do the members want and where the money can be found to do these things. But they do not run the bowling on a day to day basis - the Stewards do this.

It is not an onerous task, far from it. You meet a lot of lovely people and it can be a very enjoyable and sometimes hilarious experience and I say that from a personal point of view.

It is not necessarily a case of a session every week. I have several pairs who work together on alternate weeks. With enough people we could all do it every other week or once in three weeks, but that means quite a few volunteers.

Fortunately I was able to give up my fortnightly stint when I had a volunteer who offered to take my place. This allows me

freedom to take over when Stewards have family, car or other problems at quite short notice.

However I have at least two Stewards who feel unable to continue for the next winter season. They have done well, performing the duties for about five years and I sincerely thank them for their dedication. This means that I am going to have to fill their slots and so I need new volunteers.

In case you are not aware the sessions for Stewards are as follows: 09:15-12:30, 12:30 - 15:45, 15:45 - 19:00 and 19:00 - 22:30.

I put it to you that to give up four hours of your time to be a Steward not only helps the Club but can be an enlightening experience as you'll get to know many new personalities quite well over the course of the season. It's a pleasure to get out of the house, often during miserable winter weather, to come and be uplifted by the banter and merriment of a group of bowlers who are also glad to get out and meet people. Don't forget that for each session you also get two "Green Shield" stamps giving you two free games on the rinks.

Please consider that without Stewards your Club would not be able to open. And if we had to employ paid Stewards your subscriptions would be much more expensive.

I know I have "gone on a bit" but I felt that the point had to be made.

We have an absolutely splendid club but it does need more support in this area. I hope I can receive this support from the members. If you think you can help just call me on 01329 283881.

Subscriptions

Please note that the same as for 2002, subscription reminders will not be sent through the post, thus saving a significant amount of money. The renewal letters will be available in the Club for you to collect from about the middle of August. Subscriptions are due on 1st September and club officers will be on hand to take yours when you visit.

The simplest way is to pay your money when you collect your reminder letter : the rates are £65 full members and £17.50 social members.

As explained in the article on juniors elsewhere in this newsletter, juniors subs are being waived for this forthcoming membership year.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed

WOW!!! What a weekend Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club has just hosted. All reports which I have so far heard have been overwhelmingly favourable. The visitors couldn't stop praising the catering, both the quality and price and everyone I spoke to was astounded by the low prices at the bar.

I was equally amazed by the carnival atmosphere in the club, people were actually having fun, and enjoying the game of bowls! The colours were great, both of the players' shirts and of their woods. The supporters were many, and were in real party spirit, clapping, cheering, chanting and blowing whistles, it was a wonder to behold.

One of the things that really stood out was the ages of the players, there were men under the age of 60! In fact not only were they under 50, and even 40, but most appeared to be in their 20s, and some looked to be teenagers!

This was bowls in the 21st century, and I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Come on Palmerston, let's get 'With It!' Before we get left out of it!

Lynne Maule

[Ed: I know this is rather late as it refers to the weekend in February when the Denny Cup Finals were played at Palmerston. Unfortunately I had just gone to press with the last newsletter when I received this. I have included it now because it is a fine reminder of a great spectacle at Palmerston. Thanks Lynne.]

Social Fund Raising Programme

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

Activities have continued during the Summer. Organised Social events, weekly Bonus Ball and Club Nights are raising funds which help to provide many extra facilities. The Fund is currently low after paying the basic costs for the Electronic Notice Board shortly to be displayed in the Club Foyer.

Our latest Project is the installation of an integrated Dance Floor in the Restaurant. The 'Portable' one has served us well for 5 years but the raised edges have proved to be a safety hazard. We aim to have the new floor laid before the commencement of the Winter season. The next Social event is a Cabaret evening with a Hot Buffet which will take place on Saturday July 5th. Booking List on Social Notice Board - inclusive tickets £9.50 available from the Bar.

On Saturday August 30th - something quite different! A Grand Supper of course - but with entertainment offered by an 'Oom Pah Pah' Band! Further details to be published shortly along with advice of our Winter Programme.

The June Race Night was another success raising £166! Next 'Meeting' will be in October.

Thank you for your continued support.

Summer closure

Palmerston will be closed for 2 weeks from Monday 28th July, reopening on Monday 11th August.

However the committee is still active even in this period. Rink Manager Tony Grant will be closely monitoring Greengauge as they lay our new underlay. The underlay will affect the speed of the green and should remove several "runs" which have appeared due to the wear in the 6 year old existing underlay. You can rest assured that the new underlay has been chosen after expert advice, as their representative, Welsh international John Price, recently visited the club to discuss the specifications. It is expected that the carpet will initially play somewhat faster than at present, but is expected to settle down after a few weeks.

Hampshire & IOW games

The Hampshire and IOW Games is a competition between 15 areas of the county playing in a total of 14 sports all on one day. One of the sports is indoor bowls and Palmerston was invited to send a team to represent Fareham.

Our team consisted of Jackie Miller, Andrew Miller and Roy Mudd. They played at Havant, in the format of a round robin tournament contested by 12 of the 15 areas.

In a strong performance we collected 7 out of an available 8 points, finishing second only to Riverside who gained the full 8 points, although at the end of the day, in the overall reckoning from all the sports, Fareham were unplaced.

ACROSS

- 1 Has the No1 failed or fooled? (6)
- 7 See this spells a greeting (2)
- 8 Four letters point Eastwards indicating mine (3)
- 10 Sounds like I'm not the owner of this local club (6)
- 13 Country where I wager we'll get a cuppa (5)
- 14 You don't have to be to afford his meals (4)
- 16 Part time soldiers thanks (2)
- 17 Lord, what a club! (10)
- 21 Confused rotter provokes angry response (6)
- 22 Apple of the men's eye on Saturday mornings? (7)
- 24 Asserts that this looks like singles (2)
- 25 Essential to be a dunce before she married? (4)
- 26 See 20 Down (2)
- 27 Meat pie previously? Yes. (5)
- 28 Beckham to play for Peterborough? (4)

DOWN

- 1 The first person to get yuppie flu? (2)
- 2 A lump from this laboratory (4)
- 3 Sweet nothing (4)
- 4 Godfather puts it on (3)
- 5 Elevated greeting (2)
- 6 You and me come after Friday. (2)
- 9 Successes of the Portsmouth club? (9)
- 10 Initially governs County bowling (4)
- 11 It's a Southampton bowling venue? Are they real mixed up! (8)
- 12 Helpful convict to have faith in? Yes (6)
- 15 Hot workers in this county (5)
- 17 Did you hear "Don't be short!" back in the bar? (3)
- 18 Arranged debts, also not rearranged. (5)
- 19 Tall grass somewhere about East Dorset (4)
- 20 (and 26 Across) Hamlet's dilemma (2)
- 23 Acquainted with weathermen (3)
- 26 Miss Derek's perspiration? (2)

See page 1 for quick clues

President's Charities

During the 2003-4 season I propose with your help, to support four charities.

These Charities are :-

Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

Breast Cancer Research

The Macmillan Nurses

The Haslar Hospital Radio Service

I hope during the year you will at some time be able to make a contribution to these causes, and whatever I manage to accrue will be divided equally amongst the four. We have already started with the summer bowlers, and they are bi-weekly making a donation to my charities, and to the PIBC Fund Raising Account. Thank you for your support.

Roy Mudd President

Cryptic Crossword

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