



Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

Issue 9 March 2004

Palmerston top County Leagues

We have two very happy captains. Jean Evans and Barry Grinaway both expressed delight as their teams have each won their County Leagues this season. Well done you ladies and men of Palmerston.

The ladies have won the Riversmeet trophy even though there is still one game left between Five Rivers and Havant as neither of these two sides can catch up. Having lost the first game of the season, we adopted winning ways and after that never looked back. Soon we headed the table never again to be overtaken during the season. This win is especially satisfying as we were runners

up in the previous two seasons, so this is a success which has been on the cards for some time. It is particularly pleasing to our own Janet Mudd, HCWIBA President, as this is the first year that Hampshire County Womens Indoor Bowling Association have run this competition. It used to be run by the Five Rivers club in Salisbury but they opted to pass it to the County Association from this year. This also helps to explain why Five Rivers are in the competition, as the rest of the clubs are all from Hampshire.

Games take place on Saturday mornings and consist of 2 home rinks and 2 away rinks. There is 2 points for each rink win and 4 points for the overall total score, making 12 points the maximum result. The games start at the same time in the two different venues and the telephone lines are buzzing between the 2 clubs as the game progresses to let each rink know how the team overall is doing. This information is usually posted on the big scoreboard at each club (if the organisation is efficient!) and can be vital to the participants as the game draws to a close if the overall score is very tight. It is an exciting game to play and an even more exciting game to watch (or nerve-racking if you are in Jean's shoes!).

The men have won the Bramley Bowl. In this competition there are 2 divisions: the upper division competes for the Bramley Bowl, the lower division for the Trisham Trophy. We are in the upper (Bramley Bowl) division and play each opponent twice in the season. The bottom two of the Bramley division are relegated and replaced by the top two of the Trisham division. As you can see from the table on the back page, Atherley and Longmeadow are relegated. The two

teams coming up next season are East Dorset and Chawton Park.

The format is similar to the ladies Riversmeet, as we also play on Saturday mornings, two home rinks and two away rinks. 1 point for each rink win and 4 points for the overall score. Maximum 8 points per match.

We won our first game and headed the table all season. As many of you will know, we had secured the championship even before the last game of the season. This is the second time we have won the Bramley Bowl, the first was in 2001 when Roy Mudd was Captain.

Both Captains plan to have a team photograph taken (Saturday 3 April around 10am) and also to award each player a small memento.



Jean Evans - Ladies Captain



Barry Grinaway - Mens Captain

Committee Notes

Lunches will not be available on Mondays for the time being

The Saturday evening league contains only 4 teams and is to be cancelled next season.

Due to lack of support for friendlies most matches in future will be restricted to 6 rinks instead of 8.

The amount raised to date from members for financing the Temperature Control System is £10,895.

Some members were trying to book rinks for rollups more than 1 week in advance – this is not allowed and any such bookings will be deleted.

At the last count there were 121 vacancies for Full Members, the highest for the past 4 years. There are 16 current vacancies for Social Membership which will be offered to people who are on the waiting list. 6 Social Membership vacancies are held over for Full Members wishing to transfer to Social membership. The waiting list for Social Membership is still closed. There are also 17 Senior Social membership vacancies.

Membership breakdown is

Female 347 (inc 2 juniors)

Male 532 (inc 6 juniors)

Full member vacancies 121

Total Full membership limit 1000

Social 211

Social vacancies 39

Total Social Membership limit 250

Notice to all members

Please be advised that, at the end of the Winter season, all items left on the top of the lockers in either changing room **WILL BE DISPOSED OF.**

Joint Management Committee

Editorial

First, apologies for the later arrival of Palm Reader this month due to my computer failing, thankfully now cured. This will be the last issue this winter season. I hope to produce one in the summer for the summer indoor bowlers, then the next will be at the beginning of October.

I have heard second hand that some ladies think Palm Reader doesn't have enough content relating to ladies and has a mens bias. There's a very simple answer to this - I print what I can get from the ladies. I am thankful for the Ladies Captain who provides regular reports containing news of the ladies teams. If I can get any more from other ladies I would be grateful for the chance to publish it. Competition news, County news, rule changes, dress codes, whatever.

As regards bias, I have to admit that I know a lot more about the men's competitions and leagues since I play in them, so I can't help putting more men's detail in any articles I write. As far as the ladies competitions (and friendlies and leagues) are concerned they are largely a closed book to me. And no wonder since they are run largely in great secrecy behind closed doors. I have at times asked various ladies how they are doing in the competitions but it would take a braver man than me to venture into the ladies changing room where the competitions boards are displayed. As I've said on other occasions, I'd like to see more integration between mens and ladies bowls, one step in this direction would be to put all the competitions on the same notice board in the main body of the club. How about it ladies?

And while I'm in full flow on this, how about admitting mens or mixed fours to the ladies Monday or Thursday 6:15pm session (both woefully undersubscribed at present) so that we can make this a promotion / relegation league in tandem with the 8:15pm men's session, which would also become a league open to mens, mixed and ladies teams? I know in the Monday 6:15 slot there is a novices league this year, but with a year's experience we can't class them as novices any more and the better ones will be able to rise to the top division without changing their bowling night. Also some of the strong ladies can form teams to challenge into the top

division and really test themselves rather than inflicting a weekly drubbing on the weaker ladies teams.

This year's AGM seems set for a hot discussion on the issue of membership applications and in particular under what circumstances should we reject an application. Like me, most members are unclear about the process. The rules say that an application must be posted on a noticeboard for 14 days, but doesn't say why. How many of us bother to flick through these applications? What should we do if we see an application on the noticeboard from someone we might object to? I presume you have to raise it with a committee member. Also if an applicant is rejected, what is the legal position of the club if an applicant wants to challenge their rejection? If the committee gives a reason tantamount to "this person is an undesirable" could this be interpreted as defamation of character? Would the committee members themselves be personally liable? We can't expect the committee to shoulder the burden of risking legal redress although we do need some safeguards against admitting people who are likely to significantly upset other members and at the same time we shouldn't reject anyone without good cause.

What do other such bodies such as tennis or golf clubs do? If there are any lawyers amongst you members can you help us out on the legal side here? If a few of you do a bit of digging before attending the meeting you can advise us and assist us to make the right decisions. And if you think there's a better way to proceed, help us by drafting an amendment to the rules.

Russell Gadd - Editor

You can contribute to the newsletter either by writing an article or a letter to the editor. If you use a computer please email it to russellgadd@fastmail.fm 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.

All issues will be produced monthly during the winter season with the deadline at the end of the previous month. Next issue Summer 2004 (probably July).

Bowls Stamping

There has been some confusion over the introduction of the new World Bowls stamp. This appears on all new bowls and has been in use only for the past couple of years. You can easily tell if your bowl has the new or the old stamp: the new stamp is oval whereas the old one is hexagonal. This signifies that the bowl passes the new test for minimum bias. This test has been revised because it was found that testing centres in different countries were not consistent : bowls passing the test in one place might fail the test in another place. This was clearly an unsatisfactory state of affairs and the new testing equipment is designed to be consistent across the world.

Currently if you play Internationally you need the new stamp. There was the sad case of a young bowler selected for Scotland who appeared at Palmerston for the recent Under 25 International and whose bowls did not have the stamp. He was not allowed to play.

Of course none of us at Palmerston (currently!) play internationally but the new stamp will be phased in to other competitions in time. In fact for the ladies, some have already had to have the new stamp if they qualified for the recent National Finals at Loddon Vale. Jill Cook

got to these finals (the last 16 in the country – well done Jill!) and she had to have this stamp on her bowls. You'll notice that she had recently changed to a set with the new stamp.

For the men, there has been recent talk of having to have the new stamp in October if you are selected to represent Palmerston in a National competition for example the Denny Cup. We now know this is not correct, as Bowls International included the following information in their March issue:

WITH bowlers in England expressing confusion and concern over the phasing in of the new World Bowls stamp, an emergency meeting of representatives from the four national governing bodies released the following directive which supersedes any previous one.

All composition bowls (not lignum vitae) must bear a legible stamp from 1985 or later.

EWIBA (Ladies Indoor): Only competitors qualifying for the final stages of any national championships require the new stamp from this season (2003/4).

EIBA (Mens Indoor): Only competitors reaching the final stages of any national championships will require a new stamp from next season (2004/5).

EBA and EWBA (Outdoor): All competitors qualifying for the national championships will require the new bowls stamp from next season (2005).

So what do you need to do if you want to prepare for the eventual need to get the new stamp? First, find out if you really need it. Only a few of us need to worry about this just yet, i.e. those of us who enter a National competition with a realistic chance of getting into the finals.

Of course you can buy yourself a new set of bowls. But if you like the ones you currently use you can get them retested and restamped. The way to do this is to send (or take) them to the Pershore Bowls Centre near Worcester. The address is Unit 18, Pershore Trading Estate, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 2DD . Tel 01386 552411 email pershorebc@btconnect.com

However be warned that you need to book – don't just turn up, as they can only deal with a small number of sets in a day. They will also offer to repair any imperfections, etc. If you plan to go, talk to your friends and take a few sets up to share the petrol costs. But remember, if you have particularly narrow biased bowls, there's no guarantee they will qualify.

Ladies Captain's report

It is with great delight I am able to tell you that our ladies have won the Riversmeet competition. After being runners-up for the past two years it is extra pleasing and really well deserved. Each one of the ladies have played with great dedication and team effort throughout and as their Captain I am so very thrilled and proud and will have great pleasure to receive the winning trophy and cheque (£100 for the Club) from our County President Janet at the Presentation Afternoon at Five Rivers IBC in Salisbury on 14th April.

Our congratulations go to Barry and his men on winning the Bramley Bowl.

A card was sent to Sylvia Blake, on behalf of you ladies, wishing her well, but sadly, as you probably know, she passed away. I attended her funeral – a lovely service befitting a lovely lady.

This being the last newsletter of the season I would like to thank you all for your support and the concern you have shown me.

Jean Evans

Dates for your Diary

March

Saturday 27 : 10:00 am AGM

Monday 29 : Deadline for league registration and payment of fees

April

4 Sunday : Last league games

5 Monday : Summer leagues start

13 Tuesday : Club Competition finals start

17 Saturday : Club Singles Finals and Presentations

19 Monday : Club closed for Temperature Control System installation

May

3 Monday : Club reopens

July

26 Monday : Club closed for summer holiday

August

9 Monday : Club reopens

September

13 Monday : Winter league programme starts

Club Competitions 2004/5

Men

Entry forms are now available for the 2004/2005 Club Competitions for Men. Please complete your entry forms as soon as possible.

Put the full fee in a pay slip envelope, add your name to the envelope, and post with it with your completed form, in the Competitions Box.

The closing date for all entries is Sunday 27th June 2004.

Competitions in 2003/2004 have been successful and enjoyed by all. New and experienced players alike have contested many well-fought games with some producing unexpected results. Contributing to the success has been the willingness and enthusiasm of players of all skills to compete. Long may it be so!

I hope everyone who took part in 2003/2004 will do so again in 2004/2005. Further, I hope that in 2004/2005 we shall have even more entries than in previous years.

Competere cum Dignitate - To Compete with Dignity - our club motto. I invite all new members, and more established members who may not have entered before or recently, to join in. It is relatively easy to make up pairs or triples teams. It is easiest of all to enter as a single. You have the opportunity to meet and play with folks you may not normally see. Learn from playing with better bowlers. If you are considering it and would like more information, some encouragement, or help with finding a playing partner, just stop me and ask. I will do all I can.

Derek Arnold

Mens Competition Secretary

Ladies

Ladies Club Drawn Competitions:

The various Ladies Club Competitions are now progressing to their final stages and will be finalised during the week beginning 13th April. The Finals Day will be held on the 17th April. The contestants have produced some good bowling and have found participating to be an enjoyable experience.

If these competitions are to be viable, both financially and to provide a good run up to the final stages, we need more entries. Next September the Drawn Competition Entry lists will be going up again and it would be nice to see a majority of our Lady members entering. In particular members who have joined the club recently or are new to bowling.

We often hear the excuse that "oh I am not good enough to enter competitions". When observing members playing in the leagues it becomes obvious that most of our members are capable of putting up a good show, competitively. By not entering, due to reticence, members are depriving themselves of what could prove to be a rewarding and certainly a very enjoyable experience. So how about it Ladies, have a go and get your names down on the list when the lists are next published.

Jill Rowe

Ladies Competition Secretary

Situations Vacant

Are you lonely and fed up with the long boring winter evenings?

A delightfully caring, stunningly tall, balding, septuagenarian, eloquent, cultured, and articulate gentleman, having an interest in the propagation of lithops, lewisias and helleborus niger

seeks gentleman possessing three oblate spheroids, a fleck, speck or diminutive sliver of calcium carbonate and a genuine, one pound coin of the realm. (Signing on fee – as commanded by the viziers of the PIBC) Such a paragon of virtue is invited to join Team No. 70, 'The Palmerston Follies' on Wednesday evenings in League N. (Men's Triples)

Applications to: Team Leader - **Dennis W *i *e *e *d** at **01329 235977**.

Press Officer

Having been involved with Palmerston publicity and press reporting since 1995 and with an increasing bowls associated work load the time has come to stand down as the Press Officer for Palmerston IBC with effect from the end of this indoor season..

I will be pleased to talk to anyone who is interested in taking the job on and explain what is involved. I therefore invite anyone who has been looking for a way to help Palmerston and play a part in maintaining the Club's high reputation to contact me.

Norman Evans-Rohrs

023 9255 3046

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Things New

I strongly support the idea of a singles ladder competition – in the form you described. It should be possible to launch this for the first matches to be played early in the 2004/2005 season. My proposals would maximise the end game interest. I suggest:

2 hours maximum per match. 4 woods per player.

Matches of 2 Sets, shots per set to count. 7 ends maximum per set.

If first set takes more than 1 hour, second set reduces to 5 ends

Tie-breaker of 3 ends – needed only if sets level. Ends to count.

Visits to head allowed after 6 woods delivered.

Challenger is to offer 3 fixtures, 1 weekday, 1 weekend, 1 evening, none closer than 3 days to date of offer.

Opponent must accept one offer or concede.

Challenger provides the marker.

The initial ladder would be drawn. Thereafter new entrants enter on bottom rung. Matches can be at times to suit the individuals. In addition the Club, through a Competition Secretary, could nominate particular days or sessions as preferred for ladder matches.

Ladies and Men could operate separate ladders. However my preference and strong recommendation is for just one ladder in which both sexes compete on equal terms.

Is that one innovation too many for the traditionalists?

It would not be practical to allow ladder matches to exceed 2 hours. However in the Club Competition for Men I believe it should be practical to allow Singles to be played to 21 shots in the round of 16 and perhaps even in the round of 32. I would support a motion at the AGM to implement such a change for 2004/2005.

Derek Arnold

Dear Palm Reader

In response to your column in last months Palm Reader about the leagues, I also feel that we could introduce some new

formats to make them more interesting.

In those leagues that are only about 4 rinks, maybe we could split the squads and create a couple of pairs leagues. We could also introduce a full 21 end league.

I also like the idea of playing more singles games. I for one like to play singles and would like to see one or two more singles competitions.

Andy McKain

Dear Palm Reader

You keep talking about change and variety in the leagues and the club. I think the first thing the members should think about is friendly matches. These bring in outside money – money that without them members will have to find, if we do not go away to play clubs will not come to us. There are still other clubs who still like to play single sex friendlies, so support for these matches is needed.

To help with the drop in the internal leagues and to bring more players for competition leagues, I would suggest what I think is a most exciting game and that is two wood triples.

I also think if we are after young people we should advertise externally as so few people know about us, it's all word of mouth in the senior circle.

Yours, Ian Dobson

Dear Editor

This country is noted for its democracy. A good example is that our President is able to table a proposal for the A.G.M to ban ex members from rejoining Palmerston B.C. for 5 years if they have previously left to join another local club. But surely it is everyones right to resign their membership whenever they wish. Should they wish to rejoin they should be judged on their merits including their attitudes when they were last a member, not on which club they joined or why they joined that club. The proposal for a 5 year ban is totally extreme and I hope that the majority of members of the club will see this proposal for what it is - unnecessary - and reject it totally.

Eric Brierley

Dear Editor

We the undersigned were shocked to learn

that the Committee have rejected an application by Lee Trowern to be readmitted to Palmerston IBC and would respectfully request that they review this decision immediately.

For the benefit of those who were not well acquainted with Lee, he was a junior member of Palmerston for several years up to 2 years ago, when he left to join Victory IBC. Not just a junior member, but almost a mascot. You could virtually guarantee bumping into Lee when you came here in the evenings or weekends. He was the kingpin of the junior squad and was always a willing helper and enthusiastic bowler. One year he was made "Junior bowler of the year". He left because he was given to understand by outside parties that he would have more chance of County and National honours at Victory. Who can blame him for having ambition?

Lee is only 18 years old and still finding his way in the world. We consider that, given the chance and some guidance, which he will get from many members here, Lee will become a stalwart member of Palmerston. We can think of no reason why he should not be admitted to membership and can think of many reasons why it would be very wrong to reject him.

We trust that his refusal was not the result of the implementation of Roy Mudd's proposed policy (see the AGM proposal in the envelope on the easel) which would of course be ultra vires as it has not yet been approved by the membership. May we say this is a policy which we will strongly oppose when this is discussed at the AGM.

Do we not remember the story of the prodigal son in the Bible? Our prodigal son has returned. Are we to shut the door in his face?

Yours Sincerely,

Derek Arnold
Eric Brierley
Clive Chambers
Peter Cook
Neil O' Donovan
Russell Gadd
Eric Hopgood
Bill Jackson
Andy McKain
Ron Packman
Brian Sims
Fred Voller
Dennis Wren

Social Scene

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

February was a quiet month socially apart from a very successful **Charity Dinner and Cabaret** where - thanks to a lot of hard work by Malcolm Chapman and Bob Harvey - £650 was raised and presented to Diane Fenwick on behalf of Fareham Charity "KIDS" - Educational Trust for Children with Special Needs. About 30 of our members supported the function.

March is proving more fruitful for our Fund Raising activities. On **Tuesday 9th Bruce Bedford** kept us well entertained with his limitless knowledge of Fuchsia propagation and development. We also had the opportunity to buy some of his strong and healthy young plants to give us an early start to our Spring Gardening. He also gave a 'slide' show which warned us of the dreaded enemies waiting to attack our young plants - and told us how

to deal with them! Bruce has promised to provide some more plants for sale at the Coffee Morning on **Saturday 20th** (9.30am) - they will be in great demand so be sure to come early.

Race Night on **March 13th** was the usual success. It has been decided that Social functions in the Restaurant must be limited to a maximum of 100 to comply with fire and safety regulations and we appreciate the disappointment of some members who were on the 'reserve' list. In future Race Night Tickets must be bought in advance - there will be **no tickets** available on the Door! If necessary we will give priority to Members by restricting the number of 'Visitors' to 1 or 2 per Member in accordance with demand. Now for the Good News!! The Evening raised £160 for Club Funds!

Annual Coffee Morning at 9.30am on **20th March** is now well advertised. Many thanks to those of you who have offered to help on the day. Contributions are beginning to arrive but we still need some 'bottles' for the Bottle Stall. Helpers are asked to arrive at 8.30am if possible as we are unable to 'set up' the stalls on Friday afternoon as we usually do. Andrew Miller has promised to treat you to another display of his specialised woodwork exhibits. Don't miss out on these and other bargains!

Entrance 50p - Coffee & Biscuits. Last year we raised £450 - let's beat it!

On **Easter Saturday April 10th** Richard is presenting a seasonal Dinner. Details are published on the Social Notice Board. You are advised to book your table and choose your menu quickly as the list is fast filling up. There will be a Grand Raffle on the night and some pleasant background music will complete the evening.

Summer Programme is not yet finalised mainly because the Social Committee is desperate for more members to help with organisation and provide some new ideas. Please put your names up on the AGM Board now. We only have 4 members and with Bill incapacitated at present we are barely able to keep up with the all important Fund Raising Projects. We do envisage a Cabaret Dinner or similar event to celebrate **60th Anniversary of D Day** probably on **June 5th** We have provisionally booked an artist. Costs in this area are rising so if you know of anyone you have seen please let us know. We will try to arrange a **Summer Race Meeting** for **July 10th**. Richard may be able to offer some 'theme' Dinners or even a 'Cordon Bleu' Gourmet Dinner! Dates will have to be confirmed so you will have to keep your eye on the Social Notice Board especially when the current season ends.

Fund Raising

100 Club - March £25 winners - Will be drawn on Friday 28th March

Bonus Ball - Winners on Notice Board

Treasure Chest - Reaching exciting levels once again !! Friday 19th March 'Chest' should contain £330 with only 4 keys remaining. Again - you have to be 'in' to 'win'! This may well be the last chance this season!

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

County Leagues Final Tables