



# Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

January 2006 Issue 18

## Singles without a marker?

One of the factors holding back some people from playing in the Mixed Singles Ladder is the difficulty of getting a marker. At times, even those used to competitive singles have difficulty. Therefore in order to encourage more participation in the Ladder we are going to try an optional extension to the rules to allow matches to be played without a marker. If this alternative proves popular during the rest of this season, it will be retained permanently.

The main consequence is that, as it is impossible to be certain whether a bowl has touched the jack, and no-one is at the head to chalk the bowl, no touchers are marked. This means that a bowl going into the ditch must be declared

dead (even if it did clearly touch the jack).

Also the number of ends has been reduced slightly to allow time for the jack to be set by one of the players and for him/her to walk back down the rink. I know some people play singles rollups by using 2 jacks, but this will not be allowed as it removes an important skill and tactical opportunity.

Of course you can still play with a marker (which is in fact preferable), and in this case the normal "toucher" rules apply.

Read the details in our new simplified guide below. These don't replace the official rules but should be much easier to read.

Enjoy your next game of singles!

(3) No touchers are marked. Any bowl in the ditch is dead, whether or not it touched the jack.

(4) Warn adjacent rinks if you intend to fire (for safety reasons, and to protect adjacent heads).

(5) Both players should keep a careful check on the scorecard/scoreboard.

### HOW TO CHALLENGE

**Who can I challenge?** Up to 6 places above you. However new entrants can challenge anyone for their first game.

**How do I make a challenge?** Contact the player and agree the details. Then write the date and names on the ladder itself.

**Agreeing a date - Other commitments** All other matches (National, County, Club) take precedence when agreeing a date.

**Booking a rink** Rink bookings can only be made 5 days ahead of the game to allow precedence for other games. No other type of booking (including roll-ups) may be moved to make way for a ladder game.

**What if I refuse a challenge?** If you refuse a challenge you will be dropped to just below the challenger or, in the case of a challenge by a newcomer, by 6 places.

**What happens if the challenger wins?** The challenger jumps to just above the opponent (everyone below moves down one to make room). *This rule has been modified - previously the challenger and opponent would swap places and everyone else would stay put.*

**What happens if the challenger loses?** The ladder remains unchanged.

## MIXED SINGLES LADDER

**How much does it cost?** Nothing. Just pay the usual rink fee when playing.

**How do I join?** Just find someone on the list and arrange a match with them (see below for how to do this). For this first game you can challenge anyone on the list. Then write your name at the bottom of the ladder and add the details of the challenge.

**Is it very serious?** It's as serious or fun as you wish to make it. However all games must be played to the rules. It's not a knockout, you can't drop out of the ladder, so give it a go.

### HOW TO PLAY

**What is the 'sets' format?** Play 2 sets of 10 ends each (or 9 ends if playing without a marker). If the sets are tied (i.e. one set each or both drawn) there will be a 3 end tie-break. However for the tie-break it is the number of ends won that count, not the shots scored.

**Is there a time limit?** 2 hours to the bell; if the jack is set when the bell rings, the end will be completed. You may have 2 trial ends of 2 bowls each if you want to.

**What happens if we run out of time?** There should be ample time, but if not, whatever score is reached will be treated as final, irrespective of how many ends have been played. Also if a tie-break is required and has not been completed, the

last 3 ends actually played will be treated as the tie-break.

**Can I give the mat away?** In accordance with the up-to-date Laws, the winner of an end has "control" of the mat for the next end, i.e. may give the mat away in order to have the last bowl.

**Tossing a coin** At the beginning of the game, toss for control of the mat for the first end. The loser of the toss gets control of the mat for the first end of the second set (even if the previous end was won by his/her opponent). At the tie break you must toss again; the winner gets control for ends 1 and 3, the loser for end 2.

**Can I visit the head at any time?** Yes, but only once per end.

**What if the jack is 'killed'?** It must be re-spotted on the 'T' or, if a bowl is in the way, as near as possible directly in front of it (on the centre line).

**Do we need a marker?** The challenger must ask someone to mark if possible - you'll enjoy the game more. However, you can play without a marker if both players agree, with the following restrictions:

- (1) Only 9 ends per set.
- (2) The jack must still be cast and the other player centres it. The first to bowl must wait for the other player to return behind the mat.

## Bowlers Wanted!

(especially Beginners / Improvers)

to form a team in **Mens Fours League U** for next Winter season from September 2006

**Tuesdays 6:15pm - 8:15pm**

Experience not necessary

Enthusiasm with a smile more important than bowling ability

If interested please contact

Russell Gadd 01329 668807

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was very interested to read in the last edition of Palm Reader, that Charlie Fitzgerald was complaining about skips chalking across the grips of his woods. I have had the pleasure of playing with Charlie for many years and as far as I can remember, he has never had chalk of any description on his woods, neither across the grips nor elsewhere.

Alan Baker

Dear Editor,

Could you please print in bold, underlined capital letters two extracts from the rule book concerning the marking of "touchers"

Rule 60, (vii) states, quote "THAT THE MARKER SHALL MARK ALL TOUCHERS IMMEDIATELY THEY COME TO REST" unquote

Rule 43, (iii) states, quote "as soon as each bowl shall have come to rest, possession of the rink shall be transferred to the other team, TIME BEING ALLOWED FOR MARKING A TOUCHER" unquote

Yours sincerely

R L Norster

*Editor: I believe most club members wait for the next bowl to be delivered before marking the toucher to save time, even though this is outside the rules. Personally I don't mind when someone marks a toucher.*

*Now you have made the point Ralph, I'm sure your opponents will allow you to mark a toucher before ceding the rink to them. If they are about to bowl and say they are put off by you marking a toucher, clearly they should have waited a few more seconds.*

*There are some who like to do things strictly and others who take a more relaxed attitude, which I think is fine*

*provided they aren't bending the rules to suit themselves. I'm sure we can accommodate both types in the spirit of good sportsmanship.*

Dear Editor,

I am about to enter the "Lions Den" or should that be "Lionesses Den"? But then I like to live dangerously.

The comment on "Pedal Pushers" is not strictly true. Carol Ashby commented recently in Bowls International Magazine that "According to dress regulations trousers should be tailored, but there is no mention of length". So she intends continue to wear her style of trousers.

I wonder if the EWIBA will bar Carol Ashby from competitions?

Ladies dress regulations have been the subject of many discussions over many years and I'm willing to wager that they will be for ever more.

Harry Macartney.

Dear Editor,

I would like to go on record that I, and several of my bowling friends, am disappointed that Palmerston has rejected the opportunity to host International events.

What an opportunity to promote the game of bowls in this area and also show the World what an excellent club we have. I wonder what the local population would think about having World stars in their own "back yard". What about all the publicity in the local and national press. What about the commercial advantages for local businesses, i.e. hotels, shops, etc.

A great opportunity to promote and advertise Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club missed!

Harry Macartney.

## Editorial

After the appeal in my last editorial, I was very pleased to hear from a member who would be prepared to organise an International event at Palmerston, and I have passed the details on to the Committee. As this person is currently professionally involved in managing events I hope the Committee can be persuaded in future of the viability of such an enterprise. It shows there are people who have enthusiasm and willingness to help.

I am afraid there are also those who think taking a few days out of their bowling calendar to use the Club for such events is not acceptable. They should bear in mind that this was always part of the agreement on which a Lottery grant was obtained. And we should all remember that we do not own this club, we are merely privileged custodians.

*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 February 2006).**

## Committee Notes

The Committee discussed the EIBA enquiry to see if the Club was interested in hosting the BIIBC Under 25 Quadrangular Series in January 2008. After some discussion concerning availability of members to organise / run the competition over 3 days, costs to the Club and the comments of members following a similar event 2 years ago, the Committee rejected this. Voting:- For 5, Against 7, Abstentions 2.

The reason for the fluctuations in the temperature over the rink has been traced to vandalism of one of the condensers outside the building. The problem has now been corrected. Discussions are ongoing with the suppliers to see if additional protection can be applied to the condensers.

A method to prevent parking in the area reserved for coaches is to be pursued.

Daffodil bulbs have been planted by Roy Mudd and Bruce Bedford, which should result in a splendid display next Spring.

A member's car has been damaged in the car park recently. Stewards are to look at the security screens on a more regular basis in an attempt to spot any problems.

The recent review of membership cards was successful. As a result a number of new membership cards had to be issued.

Please note that on the morning of Saturday 14th January all 8 rinks will be in use for competitions and tuition, as we have a ladies match and two mens matches.