



Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club

October 2006 Issue 22

World Champion to play at Palmerston



International Bowls Test Series against Jersey, to be held at Palmerston over the weekend **Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th October 2006.**

You might think that a Channel Island with a population of less than 90,000 could hardly compete with a country with over 50 million people. Even Hampshire has 1.5 million. But a scan of International bowling news reveals that Jersey bowlers can compete on equal terms with the best. So we expect a hard fought (but ladylike!) contest.

The bowlers arrive for practice on the Friday, so the betting aficionados might want to take a sneak preview to assess the odds. Competition gets under way in earnest on Saturday morning with three pairs matches at 10:00am, after the 9:30am opening ceremony.

Although we haven't yet received her membership application (maybe it's in the post?), 3 times World Champion Carol Ashby will take to the green at Palmerston this month. Carol was World Bowls Champion in 2002/3/4. She also won mixed pairs in 2005 with John Price. She became the first woman ever to beat a man in a major world indoor bowls event, when she beat Mark McMahon in the International Open in 2005 in a thrilling sudden-death shoot-out to reach the last 16 in Sheffield.

Carol and five more England International stars will represent England in the Rossborough Ladies

After partaking of Richard's famous steak and kidney pie at lunchtime, the bowlers will stagger back on to the green at around 2:30pm for two triples matches, finishing sometime before 7:00pm.

As if that wasn't enough, they return for another two triples matches at 9:45am on Sunday morning, finishing with singles matches in the afternoon on 6 rinks. Now you know why most of the top bowlers are young and fit!

With all 12 bowlers in action in all sessions you will be treated to a feast of high class bowling. What better way to spend a weekend? Don't miss it.

Ladies Competitions

Ladies, once again, that time in the season has arrived, when we are seeking entrants for the various club competitions. Singles, Pairs and Triples. In addition to these drawn competitions, we are introducing a new competition, namely a Two wood triple, this will be a competition whereby you may choose your own team to play.

Full games will be played:- Singles, first to 21 shots. Pairs to 21 ends and Triples to 18 ends.

In order to make these competitions worthwhile, a good number of entries is required, so ladies please do not be shy and enter your names down for these games. Newcomers are particularly welcome, irrespective of how you view your own skills, you will surprise yourselves at your competence when in competition.

Entrance forms may be obtained from the ladies changing room and must be returned by the 27th October at the latest. The fee for entry is £1.50 per person.

Jill Rowe

Ladies Competition Secretary

Greetings Cards

Thank you to everyone who bought cards last year. We gave the club just under £200.00 from April 2005 till April 2006 which means you have bought an awful lot of cards.

There has been a price rise which would have meant 90p a card but it will be much simpler to raise the price to £1.00. It means the club will have a little extra and that there should not be a further price rise for at least 2 or 3 years. I hope you all agree that this still offers good value for money and that you will continue to support our efforts.

Marion Rose

Youth Team

Palmerston Youth Team Bowlers excelled themselves during the 2006 outdoor season.

Ben Settle, who is our 2005/2006 Indoor Youth Singles Champion, won the Under 18s Hampshire Singles and is Gosport Bowls Club Singles Champion (men's not just juniors). He also bowled very well in the Champion of Champions, reaching the Semi Finals and narrowly losing to Charlie Bailey.

Ben Cope became the Hampshire Under 25s Singles Champion.

Georgina Bailey was chosen to represent Hampshire in the Under 31s Amy Rose Bowl Tournament, with many matches in and around the County.

Laura Jones was the youngest ladies singles contestant in the Portsmouth and Southsea Open Tournament.

Our congratulations go to them for their fine achievements.

Graham Clapham
(Bowls Coach)

Footnote:

Youth Team Bowling should be up and running Sunday mornings this October 10:00am to 12:00noon. If you know any young persons who may show an interest to try bowling as a sport, please send them along. (Equipment supplied)

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

(no letters received - I need your letters please ...)

Social and Fundraising

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The **Summer programme** has been successfully completed. All functions have been fully booked, enjoyed by all who attended. We tried to vary the entertainment to suit different tastes – if you have any comments, criticisms, compliments or complaints it would be helpful if you could put a note into the office addressed to Social Secretary so that we can consider them in our future plans. We still need more helpers on the Social Committee especially those of you who come to the Dinners and could help Malcolm & I with the pre-organisation and assistance at the event.

Unfortunately the busy Winter Bowling Programme leaves Saturday Dinner dates almost impossible. There will be a **Race Night on Saturday Nov 4th** details and Booking List will be on the Board shortly. Members bringing Guests to ALL future social events must name their Guests on the Booking List and ensure that they are signed into the Visitors Book on the night.

Saturday Dec 2nd – Club Christmas Supper Party – currently being organised. Booking List will be displayed early November. Initially restricted to one Guest per Member. Any vacancies remaining after Nov 20th will be made available to extra Guests. Advice to Members – book early to avoid disappointment

Sunday Dec 31st New Years Eve – Richard and Paul have agreed to organise this special evening as they did so successfully last year. Notice will appear soon but if you wish to give your names to Richard in advance he will be happy to accept them.

FUND RAISING

Treasure Chest – Tickets are on sale every Friday evening from 5.30pm (£1 strip of 5). Draw is made at 8.00pm. If you have the lucky number you will win £5 and also have the chance to choose from the remaining keys to open the 'Treasure Chest'. Next draw will be on Friday 7th October. Friday 14th October brings the arrival of visiting teams from EWIBA and Jersey for the weekend International competition so Club Night and also Treasure Chest are both cancelled. Back as usual on 21st October.

100 Club – To date we have almost 180 members with a few more still coming in which means we can again run 2 Sections with prize money allocated for each Section. List of your allocated numbers for the season will be posted on the main Notice Board as soon as the list is completed. Then the first draw will take place on Friday 28th October, If you have any queries have a word with Ray Morse.

Bonus Ball – Now running twice weekly. You can't miss Rita (or one of her colleagues) sitting loyally at the front desk waiting for your £1 coins to drop into the box for a chance to win £30 on Wednesday or Saturday.

Christmas Draw – Numbered Sheets will be displayed from Friday 7th October. Shopping for Prizes has already been undertaken by Harry Macartney and the display will be organised as soon as possible. An agreed percentage of approx 20% will go to the Club which means over £1000 for prizes if we sell as many tickets as last year.

That's all for now. Have a good bowling season. Thank you for your continued support.

Committee Notes

Covering April - August 2006

In view of incidents which have happened where non-members had gained access and taken members belongings, the idea of electronic locks to the changing room doors was considered. This was rejected on cost grounds.

The reason for having a fob for door entry has obviously not been understood by some members who leave the Club without shutting the door behind them. Anyone can just walk in and pose a risk for members and their belongings. Please ensure that the door is closed AT ALL TIMES and do NOT hold the door open for someone you don't know.

(Ed: Only last week someone I didn't know held the door open for me as I walked out and then he just went in. I realised that I had opened the door from the inside. I walked back in immediately and asked the person if I could help him - he wasn't in bowling gear. He said something about meeting his father who was supposed to be bowling. I asked for his surname and the Steward looked him up in the members list - there was no such name. He then went out and picked up a bike left just by the door and cycled off towards the football club. Was he genuine? You wouldn't leave your front door open - don't do it at the Club.)

Some visitors are not being signed in which is against Club rules (and licensing requirements). It also appears that some members are signing in guests then leaving the Club before their guests leave. Members are reminded that they are responsible for all guests they sign in whilst the guests are on the Club premises. Guests are effectively temporary Club members whilst in the Club with their host, and can therefore use all the facilities of the Club (subject of course to Club rules).

The committee gave a vote of thanks to Ray Morse on handing over the Treasurer's position after 7 years of hard work for the Club. Ray thanked the Committee for their support over this period. The committee also gave a vote of thanks to John Vicary for his years of service as Chief Steward. John thanked all the stewards for their support during his tenure.

It was agreed that the electronic notice board notices should be changed every week, since if notices remain there for long periods people will tend not to read them when they come in to the Club.

The numbers of ladies league teams this season has dropped by 4, but the men's teams are the same number as last year. After some reminding by our Men's Competition Secretary Andrew Miller, numbers for the men's competitions this season are similar to last season. Full details are now on the notice boards (including Mixed Pairs). Also please read the notice about the length of games which was changed at the AGM (all games will be for the full number of ends now - no more 2 hour limit).

Some club members had attended an EIBA (men's English Indoor Bowls Association) Unification seminar. Very little progress has been made. (Ed: from comments in the recent edition of Bowls International it is feared that Unification is unlikely to happen.)

The Board has agreed to implementation of pro-rata membership subscriptions for new joiners. This means that new members joining the club part way through the bowling season will now only have to pay for the months between joining and next September. The previous system meant that some people had deferred joining until the start of the next season, even though they had completed tuition and were ready to start bowling.

Dates of Christmas break: league matches finish on 17 December 2006 and restart on 2 January 2007.

Members will now have seen the "lateral spots" in use for dead ends in league matches in the new winter season. Full rules are displayed in a prominent position on each rink. This only applies to league play and is not to be used for competitions or matches. (Ed: any comments on how it is working out would be gratefully received - please write in and let me know).

The final figure for the Rocky Appeal for last season was £1196.41 - members should be proud of a tremendous achievement for the Club. (Ed: many

thanks to Madge Bird for making it her Presidential Charity and to Janet Mudd for her tireless efforts in making it happen). President Ray Rowe has also decided to adopt the Rocky Appeal for his Charity for his Presidential Year.

We had 3 representatives at the Men's Hampshire IBA Annual General Meeting, including our Chairman Norman Evans-Rohrs, who is Hampshire Senior Deputy President. (This means he will be Hampshire President next year). New County shirts have been commissioned for bowlers to wear when they are representing the County at appropriate matches - it is hoped this will include regular inter-County Presidents matches, which were previously played in ordinary white shirts, as well as Liberty Trophy and Home Counties representative matches. Previously team shirts were obtained from sponsorship money, which is no longer available for this purpose. Members playing for Hampshire will be invited to buy their own shirt (at a discounted cost) or hire them on a per-game basis (proposed charge £2).

The Summer season has been well attended. Next year the sessions will start at 9:30am instead of 10am. Instead of providing prizes for Summer league winners, it was decided to buy 2 bowls lifters and a balancing stick for members who need them on a short term basis. These items may be borrowed from the Stewards desk and you must sign for them. They must be returned at the end of the game (ready to be used by someone else) and may not be taken from the Club premises.

A number of members suggested that the temperature over the green is too high. Some members have complained it is too low! The temperature was checked and recorded at an average of 21.4 degrees Celsius (70.5 Fahrenheit).

Honorary Life President Bill Bowshell has written to the Club to suggest we hold a special event to celebrate our 10 year Anniversary (proposed date Sunday 18 November 2007) and the Committee agreed. A working party has been formed to manage this event. We await further details nearer the time.

A Bowls Evening was organised at the end of last season by Janet and Roy Mudd to help with financial support for Debbie's daughter Natalie following her selection for the Great Britain Aerobic Gymnastics team for competition in both Italy and the USA. This enjoyable evening raised £400 and Natalie and her parents were present to receive a cheque with the best wishes of members. This is her thankyou letter (original available at the Stewards Desk):

Dear Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club,

Thank you very much for your support with raising the money for me to go to America.

I enjoyed the whole experience out there. While I was in America we spent a day in Hollywood which was really good fun, we all got to see the Hollywood sign on the hill. Half of the team also decided to go to Manhattan Beach for the day and while we were there we swam with the dolphins and sea lions in the water and pelicans flying around over the top.

The competition was brilliant and we really enjoyed performing along with all the other nationalities.

The American people were so friendly; they could not do enough for us.

The Shopping Malls were enormous and everything was larger than life. The shops were completely different to those we have here. The staff were really polite.

The hotel was really posh and our room was always tidy when we got back!!

We had a Jacuzzi and a great swimming pool which was brilliant, we had such great fun in there too.

We did train very hard and got the most out of the whole experience.

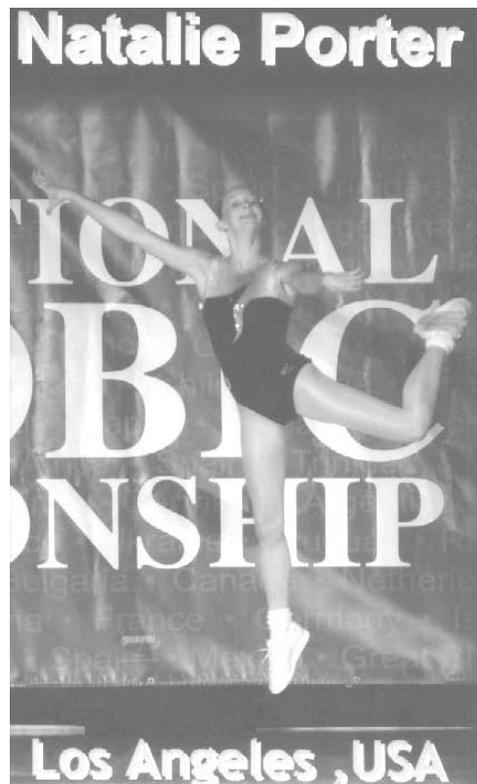
I have been invited to go to Hungary in October and Lithuania in November but I think mum is losing the will to live with all the expense.

I was very lucky to have the chance to go to Italy and America which would not have been possible without everyone's help. I came 8th in Italy and 17th in the Worldwide Showcase in America. I have asked mum if I can go again next year - she went a funny colour!!

Thank you once again for your support.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Porter



Editorial

With the good weather we have had in the past few weeks it seems too early to be playing indoors again, even though we have started the season later this year. But maybe we feel that way every year.

The beginning of the season also requires us to pay our annual subs and I note that this year there are over 100 members who had not paid by the beginning of October, 1 month after they were due!

Granted the club was closed earlier in September, but there has been ample time to pay. There are some who have been seen playing on the green so we should expect their money soon, but how many of these 100 will decide not to renew?

I believe falling membership is the biggest challenge we face. I know it is a national trend, but some clubs have

found a way to buck the trend. I think the only way to do this is to hold more open days.

We had one in 2005, which was relatively successful. I say relatively because, although this is in no way a criticism of our first one, others have gone further. I reported on Dolphin's open days last season. I recently came across a web site of Camberley Indoor Bowls Club who had an open day last March. Here are some extracts from their report of the day: *Opening its doors to one and all, Sunday's Open Day saw us welcome over 400 visitors. It was a great response to the good work done throughout the club in promoting such an event, probably a first of its kind and surely the way forward in providing such a positive experience for visitors to enjoy a first bowls experience.*

... and the Social Team running an amazing Cake/Raffle & Bottle stall it all made for a colourful and interesting day

... the following outdoor clubs who 'took a table' and were on hand to promote their outdoor bowling activities - Cove /

Hawley / Watchett / Camberley.

They also involved some bowls "celebrities" i.e. Internationals Andy Thomson, Carol Ashby & Robert Newman. (Maybe when Carol comes to Palmerston, we should ask her what she thought of it).

We don't have to do it their way, but I'm sure Palmerston can take the next step after the start we made last year and then make it a regular event. It's vital to our survival.

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. 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 November.

Palmerston

AGM report

As less than 20% of members attend the AGM, I thought the rest of you would be interested in knowing something about what went on at the last one in March. This is the forum where members hear reports from the Board, vote on major issues and elect next year's officers.

I have extracted some details from the minutes of the AGM, but if you want to read the whole thing, it can be found on the noticeboard opposite the Steward's desk or on the table underneath.

Bill Jackson, our Financial Director, reported on the finances. Last year he reported a healthy situation, but this had deteriorated for the latest year, with an operating deficit of £9k compared to the previous year's surplus of £20k. Income was down by £13k and overheads up by £16k. Bear in mind when you look at the financial report that this relates to the season 2004/5 (to September 2005) so any trends which are present will have already run for a further season up to the present time.

Because we had a deficit, also with reduced membership numbers, we have had to raise charges.

A proposal to raise the session fee from £1.50 to £1.80 was agreed by those present, although there was an alternative proposal to raise it to £2.00. Whilst this had a lot of support (and it would be much easier in practice to collect round pounds) this was narrowly defeated, partly because there were objections to the proposal not having been officially put forward before the meeting. No doubt all of you are now used to the new charge.

A couple of other minor points about

finance. Bar profits were down but still positive at £1k (about 2% of sales). And Social Activities continued to contribute a healthy amount of £5k, showing how important these are to the Club even just in financial terms.

Whilst discussing the question of raised fees, a point about annual subscriptions was strongly made by a couple who had recently joined. Their friends had completed the tuition but had put off joining because the rules ask for a full annual subscription even late in the season with only a few bowling weeks left. Although this point was not relevant to the proposal being discussed, it was duly noted by your Board and you will be pleased to hear that they have subsequently changed the rules. New members will now only have to pay a pro-rata annual subscription when they join in respect of the remaining months up to the following September, which is much more sensible.

There were rule amendments regarding the running of Club competitions. Previously men's matches were limited to 2 hours up to the semi-finals. Last year we removed the 2 hour limit for singles and pairs. This year the rest of the competitions followed suit. So now there should be no confusion. All Club competitions are for the full number of ends specified in the rules (21 shots for singles, 21 ends for pairs, 2-wood triples and fours, 18 ends for 3-wood triples). This already previously applied to the ladies, it now applies to all.

This means you need to book a double session for most matches (except the new 2 wood singles

competition, where 2 hours should be enough). Look at the notice above the Steward's desk for the charges for double sessions.

Because of removal of the 2 hour time limit, the special Club rules on trial ends and visiting the head were removed, as these were only designed to save time. You can use all your bowls on trial ends (instead of being limited to 2) and you can visit the head at any time.

A number of new committee members were voted in. The following were automatically elected as there were no other nominations: Janet Chinn (Ladies Vice Captain), Janet Gadd (Treasurer), Tony Grant (Men's Vice Captain), Harry Macartney (Mens Vice President), John Vicary (New Member Liaison). There were elections for 2 contested positions. Eric Brierley was voted in as Men's Captain and Bob Prince as Chief Steward.

The position of President is held for one year, so the outgoing President Madge Bird made a well-received speech and handed over the reins to Ray Rowe for the new season.

I won't try to paraphrase Madge's speech, you can read the full transcript which is attached to the minutes. There's also the address by our Chairman Norman Evans-Rohrs.

Of course this article is only a black and white summary. The AGM is always a colourful meeting with a number of opposing views being aired and there's no substitute for being there in person. Although you might be giving up a Saturday morning, where else would you get such live entertainment! I recommend it to you.