



# Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club

November 2006 Issue 23

## Interview with President Ray

Palm Reader persuaded Palmerstons 2006-7 President Ray Rowe to take time out from his schedule to give an interview for this month's newsletter.

**Palm Reader:** Ray, tell us something about your previous bowling life from when you started.

**Ray Rowe:** I started bowling outdoors about 25 years ago. It was a sport I had been interested in for some time. I was first introduced to the game on holiday at Porthmeor Green situated by Porthmeor beach at St Ives, by a crown green bowler from Manchester (we were in adjacent beach huts - he found I was interested and he took me to the club where we hired a rink, borrowed woods and played in bare feet!). Eventually work took me down to Truro and I was introduced to Bowls proper, at Truro City Bowling club by George Duck. I thought I was going to watch at the Club's "Opening Day" and found I had been included in the draw and was playing for the first time. The club was situated at the end of the road where we lived, very convenient! And soon found that bowling had taken over my life. In those days you had to be at the club by 5.30 in the evening for the draw, there was usually about 35 people taking part in the roll up. If you didn't make the draw there was a possibility that you wouldn't get a game. No one was allowed on the green until after the draw had taken place. I took part in all the competitions both club and county and in some of the Nationals. Shortly after joining Truro I joined the West Cornwall Indoor Bowling club at Hayle, some 20 miles away. I remained at both clubs until I left Cornwall to return to the Fareham area.

**PR:** Did you play any other sports?

**RR:** As a teenager I was a very keen cyclist and was a member of the Belperian Road club. (Ed: from Belper in Derbyshire). When in the Navy I ran in the cross country events.

**PR:** Is there a particularly memorable bowling event you have been involved in?

**RR:** The opening of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club is a memorable occasion for me and Jill. We heard from our family that there was talk of the possibility of a club opening in Fareham whilst we were still in Cornwall. We wrote to the secretary of the project, Reg Metherell. He sent us press cuttings and other information and we joined as founder members, whilst we were still in Cornwall, showing quite a lot of faith in the outcome. We are both very proud members.

**PR:** Have you been on the committee of any other bowling clubs?



**RR:** I was on the committee at Truro City Bowling Club for quite a number of years and served as Committee member, Treasurer, Club Captain, Match Secretary and Deputy Chairman of the committee. This period saw a considerable change in the club. The club had been men only since it was founded in 1913. The ladies were "Tenants" of the male club. They were allocated a time to play in the afternoons and were only allowed on the green in the evening at the invitation of the men, after the men's draw had been completed. It took 2 years and considerable energy to re-write the constitution to include ladies as a mixed club. A new club house was also built and the green surrounds improved (we shifted 20 tons of concrete one day!). When we returned to Stubbington we joined the Crofton Bowling club, at which I served as Vice Captain, Secretary and President.

**PR:** What other roles have you taken on in your time at Palmerston?

**RR:** Match secretary. (Ed: Ray still does this in addition to his Presidential role)

**PR:** Tell us something about the problems of being Match Secretary, and what the trends are.

**RR:** Apart from finding dates which are suitable for each of the teams involved and some clubs finding they have double booked, the main problem associated with being match

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*President Ray continued.../*

secretary is the falling support for games and having to cancel fixtures. I must add that we have a nucleus of players who support the club wholeheartedly in the "friendlies" for which we are grateful. However in a club with a large membership like ours, matches could be better supported by all the members.

The mixed games are better supported than the men only games. The ladies give the club a lot of support and their ladies games are also well supported. Triples matches are popular and we have a few of these matches, which clubs seem to prefer.

**PR:** Why did you volunteer for the post of President?

**RR:** I was approached and asked if I would consider being Men's Vice President to be followed by President of the club. I thought about it and agreed to stand the following year. I have had a fairly broad experience of bowling, outdoors and indoors and have served in various capacities on the committees. Also, I have served on the Palmerston Committee (JMC) for some time and I felt that I could make a reasonable contribution to the running of the JMC. I believe strongly that you should be prepared to put in more to life than that which you take out.

**PR:** What do you see as the most important part of your role as President?

**RR:** Providing good leadership to all the membership. I believe in leading from the front and trying to set an example to others in the club. Giving support to our representative teams and to our newly joined members alike.

**PR:** Now you have been in the post for a few months, what have you found particularly enjoyable?

**RR:** Being involved in the general running of the club and meeting a wide range of individuals from other clubs and associations

**PR:** Is there anything which you don't like about being President?

**RR:** I haven't come across anything yet.

**PR:** Do you enjoy running JMC meetings?

**RR:** Yes. The committee is composed of a number of people who are experienced and bring a certain amount of enthusiasm into the committee and, importantly they all get on reasonably well with each other. This makes for friendly meetings and it is a pleasure to attend and preside over the meeting.

**PR:** Is there anything you are particularly looking forward to this year?

**RR:** Being able to make a good report on a successful season for 2006 - 2007.

**PR:** Each year we lose a few more members who have been here for some years. Is there anything Palmerston can change to help keep more members?

**RR:** The reasons given for leaving are varied, one being advancing years and the member wishing to take life easier, or illness. Another is boredom. We have been running the leagues now in the same format for 9 years, our anniversary will be held next year. Perhaps it is time to re-think the way in which the leagues are run. Perhaps dividing the leagues into accomplished players and those at a lower level of attainment. With promotion and relegation at the end of the season. I know this is done with the men's triples, perhaps this scheme could be extended. I would also like to see some of the more experienced bowlers taking newly entered bowlers "under their wing" and encouraging them.

**PR:** Some of the leagues are only using 3 or 4 rinks. And sometimes the green is not used at all in some of the weekend sessions when there's no friendly match on. Do you see any ways we can fill these gaps?

**RR:** I believe that a small, league of newly entered bowlers has been introduced which will help to fill some of the rinks. Bowling is a voluntary exercise and it is difficult to make league orientated games attractive to everyone. A very good "Club Night" is run on a Friday and is very popular. Perhaps more "organised roll ups" could be introduced on some days. There are other formats we could try such as "Australian pairs" - also perhaps "Matchplay" like golf where it is ends which count not total shots. Perhaps there should be a "dress-down" session where only bowling shoes are mandatory.

**PR:** What do you think are the best features of Palmerston?

**RR:** The club building and the way in which it is furnished provides a very attractive environment in which to play and watch games. The best feature, however is the friendship of the members. The club has built up a reputation locally and beyond, of friendliness and people look forward to visiting the club.

**PR:** What's the biggest issue facing Palmerston in the future and should we be worried about it?

**RR:** There is a general trend throughout the country of a falling membership. Some clubs have lost so many members

that they are on the verge of not being viable. Whilst I do not think that there is cause for alarm at Palmerston it is something that we should keep a "weather eye" on. We should look towards publicising the club a little more. Perhaps an IT expert could be encouraged to set up a web page for Palmerston. A brochure could be produced and information given to the local libraries. Open days could be organised and aggressively advertised.

**PR:** Thankyou Ray for allowing me to let the membership know a little more about you. If I can add a personal thankyou, I particularly remember your brief acceptance speech at the AGM where your wholehearted commitment to the post came across very clearly and I think we are fortunate to have you as our President. I know your year in the post will be appreciated by all our members.

## Presidents Charity Drive

A drive is to be held in support of the Presidents Charity on Saturday 11th November 2006, starting at 2.00 pm. Money from the drive will go towards the "Rocky Appeal" which as you will all know is a very well worth while local charity, the funds of which are going towards a dedicated cancer laboratory.

We are hoping to get the usual very good support from Palmerston members, so please put your names on the list which you will find on the notice board reserved for drives.

The afternoon will provide plenty of fun and some good bowling for you to enjoy, so please find the time and come along.

*Ray Rowe -President*

## New Marketing Director

The Board is pleased to welcome Brian Le Marquer as a co-opted member. Brian has a great deal of experience in marketing and his expertise will, I am sure prove invaluable to us all. We have discussed some of Brian's ideas for raising the public awareness of Palmerston IBC and of course increasing our membership and I am sure that some of these will become apparent within the next few months.

*Norman Evans-Rohrs  
Chairman*

## Mens Captains Report

So near to a good start to the season.

When the Club finally opened, many of us had to quickly convert to the indoor surface. The trials were very successful. New faces appeared which is very encouraging. I am aware that several players were away and missed the trials. However it is my intention to hold a further trial around Xmas, so anyone wishing to join the competitive team squads, should watch the noticeboard.

Now to the results. In the Bramley Bowl, we were unfortunate in that the first match against Loddon Vale clashed with the Ladies International. All rinks therefore had to play away - always a big disadvantage - and we only managed one point. In our second match against one of the stronger sides, Rushmoor, we won two rinks but narrowly lost the match by four shots.

The Rushmoor match also clashed with the London & Southern Counties match. Two matches on the same day is not the best scenario. However my grateful thanks go to a few members, who do not wish or cannot devote time on a regular basis, who helped the Club to put out two strong sides. In the L & S Counties match we lost by three shots, by the last wood of the match, when we held a two shot advantage overall in the match.

One positive result was the Denny Cup when we convincingly beat New Milton by 56 shots. We are confident that our next round against Five Rivers will also be successful. (Ed: Stop press news: we beat Five Rivers by 11 shots. We next play Banister Park on Saturday 25th. Coincidentally we also play them in the Top 10 on Sunday 26th)

I made a statement when I stood for election that I believed that the club had enough good players to run two squads. -

A Top Ten squad and a Bramley Squad. The most successful players in the Bramley would join with the Top Ten to play in the Denny and L & S Counties knockout competitions. I still hold to this statement and I am sure that the Larger Squad of players will show dividends with time. Three to Four hour matches on quicker carpets are a totally different ballgame to two hour sessions in club leagues. Concentrating for four hours is mentally tiring and I am grateful to all those bowlers who have made the commitment to play for the club.

I hope you are all enjoying the challenge - all we need now are some positive results.

Good luck

*Eric Brierley*

## Hampshire News

Hampshire men won their first round Liberty Trophy match (County Championship) at Whiteknights in Reading on Saturday 28th October against Berkshire by a very slim margin of 2 shots (124-122). Of the six rinks playing only 2 won, but they won by a sufficient margin to cover the other 4 losing rinks. In the past two seasons, 3 rinks played at home and 3 away but the rules have changed this year and all six rinks play at one venue. Although this means one County has home advantage, it makes for a much better team spirit and all the bowlers appreciate being together and shouting encouragement for each other. We have a home tie in the next round - against Essex at Victory IBC in Portsmouth at 10am on Saturday November 18th. Support welcome.

Hampshire ladies play their first round match against Sussex at Wey Valley IBC on Sunday November 12th at 11am. Two Palmerston ladies are in the team - we wish them a good game.

maintenance of a good bowling surface - even if it's not planned maintenance. Restaurant, Bar, Car Park, Changing rooms, etc., are all vital supporting acts but the actual bowling is the main event.

*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 December.**

## Committee Notes

There has been a significant amount of vandalism over the past few weeks. The incidents have been reported to the police who have taken away video recordings, although identification from videos has been difficult in the past. Following this the Club has installed an upgraded video surveillance system, which should provide better quality recordings.

The latest figures show that around 18 Full members and 20 Social members have not renewed their membership.

Possible reasons were discussed as to why members were joining less leagues this year. Initial comments included - overlap between end of outdoor and start of indoor seasons, certain teams losing heavily each week, too many National / County matches, boredom with the same arrangements for leagues every year. The committee will consider this further and review the situation.

The Board have sought the help of a member experienced in marketing to promote the Club. (A short announcement is shown elsewhere in this newsletter)

The World Indoor Bowls Council have asked if Palmerston would be interested in hosting the WIBC Under 25 World Singles and Mixed Pairs competition in 2010. This was unanimously approved by the committee and we hope to be the chosen venue. (Ed: Great!)

A coaching day to be held on Sunday 10th December - see the list on the noticeboard opposite the Steward's desk if you want to participate.

The last league matches of this year will be on 22 December, recommencing on 2 January.

There was some discussion about bar profits. Some members feel that 1% is too low (i.e. Very little contribution to Club finance) but were advised that this is kept low for the benefit of members.

The Secretary Ray Gregory has advised that he is moving out of the area in the near future. It is likely that his duties will be split between several volunteers. (Ed: Anyone wishing to assist please contact Ray).

## Editorial

Those who came to see the International Ladies were not disappointed. There was some fine bowling and a rare treat to see a World Champion in action (the men were mesmerised!). I note the Committee are now enthusiastically supporting the holding of other International events. And we have a newly appointed Marketing Director. Things are looking very positive.

I wholeheartedly support Derek Arnold's plea for action on green inconsistencies (see Letters). A lot of people are justifiably complaining about certain rinks. First and foremost in our expenditure priorities must be the

# Social and Fundraising

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

## SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Winter bowling season is now well under way and the busy Christmas period is upon us. The **Race Night on Nov 4th** looks like being another successful one thanks to organisers Janet & Roy. Tickets are on sale for **Christmas Party on Dec 2nd** – details are on Notice Board. Remember to book early - tickets currently limited to one member one guest - any remaining spaces after Nov 20th will be opened up for any additional Guests. Event for **New Years Eve** is now advertised – let Richard know as soon as possible if you are interested in coming along. That's about all for 2006 – where has the time gone!!.

## 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'.

On Friday 3rd November the 'Treasure' grew to £100 with 8 keys only remaining. Try to find the right one next Friday.

**100 Club** – If you are one of the 181 members who joined your name and number will be shown on one of the 2 lists on the main Notice Board. The first draw took place on Friday 27th October and the lucky winners Mr J Sykes and Mr P Soden – congratulations!

**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 are displayed for you to choose your lucky numbers for 50p each. Shopping for Prizes has been undertaken by Harry Macartney and the display so far looks pretty impressive. One sheet (500 numbers) has already been completed and £372 has been banked. Prize purchases exceed that so keep buying those numbers!

Thank you again for your continued support.

## **Special Christmas Lunch**

The Restaurant has always provided 2 Special Christmas Lunches usually on 2 Sundays preceding Christmas. This year both lunches are already fully booked and several members are naturally disappointed.

In view of this Richard has agreed to organise an additional Special Christmas Lunch on **Saturday December 16th**. You will find the Booking List in the Sunday Lunch Book on the Desk but you are advised to book early as numbers will be limited. Members already on the Reserve waiting list will have priority.

## **Hire of Palmerston Restuarant**

The Restaurant is available for hire by members for family celebrations, birthdays or other occasions. Application forms and Conditions of Hire are available from Desk Steward or Richard (Caterer). The Caterer will provide details of menus and prices for your requirements

Current hire charges are as follows:

Daytime events (including funerals) - £40 plus VAT (£47 inclusive)  
Evening functions-Dinners, Buffet etc - £80 plus VAT (£94 inclusive)

For further information phone Rene Bowshell (Catering Director) on 01329 663967

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

There is a club rule that players should not arrive at a rink until all players in the previous session have vacated it. A lot of members either do not know of this rule or they are ignoring it. Most times when I am gathering up my bowls after a game, I am jostling with players around the table who have already arrived for the next session.

Barry McCann

Dear Editor

It would be helpful to know that the Board of Directors is providing for remedial work to the greens area in the near future.

Rinks 4,5,6 and 8 have straight runs and kicks. Rinks 2 and 3 play more consistently but can be troublesome. Clearly some of the wooden panels, or the panel supports, are distorted.

Repeated carpet stretching has not compensated for these problems. Changing the underlay is not a solution.

All eight rinks bowl more slowly, and with a much narrower line, towards the bar than when bowling towards the scoreboards. This indicates a general slope down towards the scoreboards. Rink 1 is slower than all others.

Visiting and playing on greens in other Hampshire clubs, some of them less prosperous and attractive than Palmerston, it is clear their greens generally play more consistently and truly than ours.

I know other members share my concerns.

Our Board ensures that the club's assets receive regular maintenance and it plans for periodic carpet and underlay replacement every 10 years or so. The work to rectify rink supports and slopes is beyond the scope of such routine maintenance. That is why I would like to know that we do have plans for the remedial work to be done at an early date.

Yours truly,

Derek Arnold