



Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

Issue 6 November 2003

Our President Roy Mudd

Palm Reader: Roy, tell us something about your bowling life and how you started.

Roy Mudd: I started playing bowls in 1989 at the Fareham Leisure Centre, followed by a short mat bowling course. This led to membership of Portchester Bowling Club where I spent about seven happy years playing, and helping to organize the bowling. Following this I became a member of Copnor bowling Club where I enjoyed three seasons on a lovely bowling surface. I decided last year to give outdoor bowling a rest.

PR: Have you served in an official capacity elsewhere than at Palmerston?

RM: I was elected as Captain at Portchester, and this led to an invitation to take up the men's captaincy of Palmerston when it first opened.

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

RM: Having been the men's captain of the club, and led the sides into the winning of the Bramley Bowl, I felt that I had given all that I had to offer in that capacity. The next logical step was to be the President of the club. This is not everybody's cup of tea because it necessitates standing in front of quite large groups of people and talking, as well as chairing various meetings. My working life was doing this, albeit that most of them were children, but numbers varied from 30 to 350 to occasionally 1500 at a large Athletics National Championships so this did not pose too much of a problem. I have always liked to be part of an organizing and directing group, and the Presidency puts me into that position.

PR: Could you outline the role of President as you see it?

RM: The President is a figurehead and a focal point for the club. My aim is to know, and play with most of the members of the club, and to let them know who their "leader" is for the year. I like to be mediator, sounding board, decision maker when necessary, events promoter, and the front man whenever it is necessary. I would like to know people, and be known, raise some money for charities, and see the club be successful in its male and female competitions. I want everyone to enjoy

their bowls at whatever level they play at. It would be nice for the Club to win the Bramley Bowl and the Riversmeet again, and follow this with the Denny Cup / Plate and the Yetton / Vivienne / Yetton Plate.

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

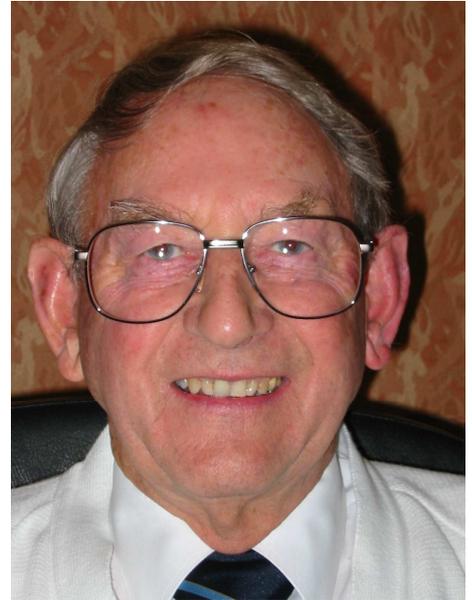
RM: I look forward to every representative match where we entertain visitors, and hopefully send them away having enjoyed the Palmerston Experience. The visit of the Under 25 National sides in January will be a jewel in my year of office. I class myself as fortunate that I shall be president at this time. The foresight of the steering committee in building an eight rink complex has now come to fruition, in that we have an International at Palmerston. This is not an easy function to organize, and it has taken a lot of time by a number of people to get it up and running.

PR: I know you and Janet usually run club night on Friday evenings. Why do you think this is so popular?

RM: We run the Club Night on a Friday during the last session. This is a popular event for those people who want two hours of bowling fun away from the more serious leagues and representative games. Rarely do the participants play a straight game of bowls. There is always something different every week. However, having said this there is always an element of serious practice wrapped up in the fun parcel, like offset jacks, or short, medium and long jacks. The members who attend seem to like this weekly uncertainty of what they are going to be asked to do. This session is a logical step from tuition because the members who play are more than willing to help others and the short bowl, and wrong bias is of no consequence because the next bowl will be better. Harsh words and criticism do not exist in this session, and laughter and banter are the norm. The session is rather like a club within a club, and if a particular person is missing for one or two weeks, then questions are asked as to where they are.

PR: What makes you proud to be at Palmerston?

RM: Everyone should be proud of being a member of Palmerston IBC. There is an



ambience about the place. The league set up, the Restaurant, the Representative games, the competitions, the Bar facilities, the social events. You only have to set foot in the building to smell the friendliness. Even the welcome out front with flowers and shrubs takes some beating. I take pride in thinking that most of this is done on a voluntary basis, although we do still need more volunteers. Ask yourself - do you give any help?

PR: What challenges will Palmerston face in the future?

RM: We are coming to the end of a six / seven year period, when the steering committee who set the place up are getting that much older. Some of the major office holders will shortly have to give up because of age and health and there will be a need for the "younger" element who have just retired to step in and take up the reins. If this does not happen, then I fear for the continuation of the club in its present form. We are already experiencing difficulty in the provision of personnel who are willing to give up time during what can be termed "the unsocial hours". Would you like to lock up on a Saturday or Sunday night at 10.30 - midnight? What about a duty on a Saturday or Sunday evening? Employ somebody to do it I hear from various sources. So the rink fees go up to £2.00 per playing session to pay for it - and then follows the outcry! So what do you want? This is the challenge for the next decade.

Editorial

Thanks to Joseph Lee for his letter on the wearing of greys – but I was disappointed that this was the only one. Presumably this issue doesn't excite much interest? So I'll go on to another one – the state of our green. Surely this does concern everyone.

How is our new underlay performing? My personal observation is that the behaviour of bowls is actually worse than before – more 'runs' and more variations in swing. Maybe Greengauge will come and fix these. But my main issue is speed – I was hoping for a faster surface.

Our competitive bowlers will only be too aware that Palmerston is significantly slower than most of the others around. This makes it hard to win away from home and to impress the County selectors at trials. All the top bowlers I have spoken to prefer faster greens. I have been told that we deliberately chose a slower surface as it was thought a faster surface would not suit the majority of club members, who would get 1 or 2 less ends in a league session.

If, as Roy Mudd says, we aspire to winning more honours in inter-club competition and attract National and International events, I believe we need a faster surface like other good clubs have. What do you think?

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 russell.gadd@goldserve.net (the old email address is no longer valid) 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 with the deadline at the end of the previous month.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

The current issue of Palm Reader requests contributions. Can I suggest that as a regular feature you highlight items from the last held Board Committee Meetings, which would I am sure be of interest to the members. I am aware that the minutes of these meetings are appended to the notice board and thus available for members to read. However I am of the opinion that this option is not taken up by many members. For example from the Sept 30th meeting I was interested to note:

Discussions with Fareham BC regarding extra car parking.

The temperature of the rinks to be investigated.

Discussions requested with suppliers of air conditioning units.

Bollards may be placed in the car parks for members only when a Social Event is being held.

The offer of one hour slots for stewards to overcome shortfall.

The repeated requirement for players for friendly matches.

If these items 'grabbed' my attention then perhaps they would also be of interest to many others. I look forward to reading PALM READER whenever it is issued, so please keep up the good work.

Peter Griffiths.

(Editor: Thanks Peter. I have taken your suggestion on board - see Committee Notes on the next page.)

Dear Editor

I would guess that your proposal to scrap "drab greys" was written "tongue in cheek", for I feel sure your pride in Club would not tolerate any lowering of standards. Some form of dress control is necessary – a mild type of discipline which shows that you care for the appearance of your club – otherwise all colours of the rainbow may appear – even the dreaded denim. If you think you can control free choice I would be interested to know how you would do it. You cannot deny that a school – say – with all its pupils dressed alike is a more attractive proposition than one with no dress code at all.

As I see it, bowls is a game which older people can play, younger people are not interested otherwise they would be in the clubs already. After all they wear the proper dress for football, tennis, cricket etc., so why should bowls be any different.

As for declining numbers surely there are enough older people around to enable bowls to flourish. Cost could be a reason, especially for indoors. Could another be the lack of control over the degree of bias in our woods which enables those with "straight" woods to play skittles with the rest of us. Now there is a subject for debate.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph Lee

Warners Holidays discount

Palmerston now has Privilege Holiday Club status with Warner Holidays. This gives our members a substantial discount on Warners brochure prices. On the notice board there are posters which explain in detail what members can expect to save but briefly these include 15% off short breaks, and 10% off other breaks. There are some exceptions which include Christmas and New Year and Bank Holidays. Full details of the offer appear on the poster together with a reference number HC047. This number must be quoted when booking. Bookings are made by telephone and NOT through travel agents.

We are advised by Warners that these offers will continue through 2004.

The Privilege Holiday Club discounts only apply to new bookings made over the telephone and quoting the reference number HC047. The discount can not be claimed on holidays booked previously.

We will also be receiving details of another scheme which will provide good discounts on late availability places. We will get two to three weeks notice of these and if you wish to take advantage of these 'short notice' offers you need to watch the notice board for details. There will probably be a reference number shown on these details to be quoted when booking.

Hampshire IBA Patrons Scheme

The Hampshire Patrons were formed in 1969 and the main aim was and still is to provide support for the Hampshire Bowling Association. In 1969 the Association consisted of six clubs and as other clubs opened the number grew so that when Palmerston opened in 1997 the number stood at twelve, where it remains today.

The Association is mainly financed through capitation, that is, every affiliated club pays a set amount each year for every male bowler registered with it (the Hampshire Women's Indoor Bowling Association also levies a capitation fee and this, together with the men's capitation is taken into account when this club sets its rate of subscription for our members each year).

However this is not enough to keep the Association in a healthy financial position if extra strain is placed on resources by, for instance, a good run in the Liberty Trophy or the Home Counties competition. In addition, the Hampshire IBA supports the Under 25 team, the Under 21's and makes a donation to the Junior Bowlers in the County. It also has to be borne in mind that out of the capitation fee received from clubs in Hampshire, the Association has in turn, to pay a capitation fee to the English Indoor Bowling Association.

From 1969 to 1999 the annual

membership fee to belong to the Patrons was £1.00 and any man over the age of 60 could become a Life member for £5.00. However it became clear, with inflation and rising costs, that Hampshire IBA needed to raise more money to meet its needs. So in 1999 things changed.

The annual membership fee is now £2.00 and Life Membership was dropped (but existing life membership continued to be honoured). In place of Life Membership, a new grade was introduced, Life Patron. This is open to all male bowlers, regardless of age, and costs £25.00. For this a Life Patron receives a certificate which recognises the contribution he has made to the County, and a distinctive lapel badge.

So, what do Patrons do apart from pay money? The answer is of course that they play in matches as representatives of Hampshire Patrons. Palmerston, in common with all the other affiliated clubs, has a programme of games for which it is required to provide a rink. These matches are notable for the friendly spirit in which they are played and are generally enjoyed by all. There is a Patron's Flash which is awarded after five qualifying games in not less than two years. It is intended that the flash be worn on your blazer beneath your indoor club badge. This season a 10

match tie pin has been introduced for those members who qualify. There is also a Patron's Bowling Tour which is a weekend away at the end of November each year. This is very reasonably priced and is very popular (partners are welcome).

Earlier I said that any male bowler can join the Patrons and play in the matches, in which experience or level of competency is not an issue. Therefore the newer bowlers are as welcome as those who have been playing a number of years. These games are a good introduction to friendly competition, as well as a chance to visit other clubs, play on different carpets and enjoy the hospitality which is always a feature of bowls.

The Patron's Notice Board is in the men's locker room. The programme of matches is there together with application forms to join the Patrons and, in good time, an invitation to put your name down as available for selection for the next match.

So, remember to look at the board and if you are a member put your name down for a game - if you haven't joined yet, why not?

If you want to know more, speak to me at the Club or telephone me at home.

Norman Evans-Rohrs

(Patrons Delegate)

023 9255 3046

Committee Notes

Following Peter Griffiths' suggestion (see letters) I have extracted various items from the latest Joint Management Committee minutes (which you can see for yourself on the noticeboard) as follows:

Information on the current EWIBA and EIBA dress codes is to be posted in the appropriate changing room.

The method of controlling the temperature on the rink is still under discussion with consultants.

The problem of finding members to do stewarding duties, especially Sunday pm has still to be solved. It has been suggested that the Team Leaders of the teams playing on Sunday pm be contacted to see if they can assist. (Editor: Why not ask your stand-downs to take a tour of duty if they are not needed to bowl?)

Team Leaders of the teams due to play over the weekend of the Under 25 International are to be notified that the green will be closed for Club events. Make a note in your diaries - this will be the 3 days Friday 9th January to Sunday 11th January 2004.

Instead of using a coach to take members to the recent match at East Dorset (in Christchurch) club members cars were used. This proved very successful.

It had been suggested that we hold a Mixed Club Singles competition - this will now not go ahead (at least for this season).

The Stewards are to be asked to look occasionally across the car park to note anything suspicious as there was recently some damage done to a member's car.

All new members will receive a car sticker as part of their start-up pack.

It has been noted that the sandwich cabinet does not always contain any sandwiches. This matter will be brought up at the next Board Meeting.

The President of the British Isles Indoor Bowling Council, Mike Willis, has written to say how much he enjoyed his day at Palmerston for the Under 25 trial.

The club has been asked by the EWIBA if Palmerston would like to be added to their list of clubs prepared to host National and International Events, and we have agreed. Let's look forward to some top ladies bowling in future (and hope we might some day have a member starring in this).

Bowlswear Direct are expected to bring their roadshow to the Club on 11th December.

Yet again, chewing gum and sweet wrappers have been found in the ditches around the green. (We must all be aware that if we see anyone discarding items in the ditch, they should be politely reminded that this is completely unacceptable - if you don't feel able to take action yourself please speak to the steward.) Prior to any match with visitors an announcement about the Club policy concerning chewing gum should be made.

A number of Social members have requested that they be permitted to "have a go at bowling". It was suggested that perhaps one session could be given over to this. A date of 29th November at 9:30am has been proposed (Editor: I think this is a good date as there will be a Bramley Bowl match on that day and potential members will hopefully see good bowling and the excitement of keenly contested games in progress - with coloured shirts!)

The issue was raised as to whether the Club should be closed officially at 8:15pm at the weekend (since there is no league at 8:15 on Saturday or Sunday). This is to be discussed further.

Social Scene

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

October events were fully booked and provided enjoyable entertainment as well as £232 for Club Funds. The popular 'Race Night' was again acclaimed by all. The next one will probably be on January 17th. Tickets for this event must be bought in advance to ensure correct catering requirements. If you list your name, get your ticket or cross your name off!

Upcoming events:

November 15th we have a **Cheese & Wine Evening** together with all the usual Fun & Games, including our 'Novelty' Bingo as well as a few Quizzes. Tickets (£3.50) are on sale at the Bar to cover an excellent Supper and a free glass of wine. It's an evening of hard work for the Organisers but well worth while.

November 29th is **St. Andrew's Eve!** Time to 'Don your Tartans' and enjoy a Highland Gala Dinner specially presented by Richard. With 'Glenda' to entertain us for some Highland Flings you can be assured of a rousing evening. Table and Menu Booking on Restaurant Notice Board, but you must get your lucky Raffle Tickets from the Bar (£2.50).

December 13th - Club Christmas Party. Catering details are still to be finalised as Richard has to cater for a Friendly Match in the afternoon. We do have an excellent 'Duo' booked for our entertainment. Watch the Notice Board for final details, but remember to get your tickets early as this is sure to be a 'sell out'.

New Years Eve: It has been decided that the usual format of bowls/quizzes

and buffet on New Years Eve needs a change. Richard is prepared to provide a set meal at about 7.30pm for **tables of 8 (pre-paid in full)**. After this there is the option of going and seeing the New Year at home, or staying with canned music and seeing in 2004 at midnight. The bar will not be open, but bottles of wine may be purchased, or you can bring your own drink for the table. Details will appear on the Social Notice Board so that you can show your interest.

Fund Raisers - At the time of going to press the **Friday night 'Treasure Chest' is still unclaimed** and currently contains £190 - should be well over £200 by the coming Friday for the lucky winner who selects the correct key number.

Friday October 31st was the first Draw for the **'100' Club**, winners names are on the noticeboard. Your support of this event has enabled us to create 2 'Clubs' both with over 90 subscribers. Your personal numbers are listed on yellow lists on the main Notice Board. Winning numbers will be selected using our new random enumerator 'Tumbling Tom' and the 2 x £25 Winners names will be displayed on the board and advised by phone if possible.

Christmas Draw prizes are on order and we will soon have our usual table of valuable prizes and special gifts on show. Meanwhile get your names down on the numbered sheets if you want to be one of the lucky winners. The Draw will take place on Friday December 12th at 7.00pm.

Programme for 2004 is currently in production. More news in the next issue.

Ladies Captain's report

by Jean Evans

The ladies bowling season is well and truly taking shape - already one main competition namely the Vivienne has taken place. We played Arun last year we were the victors and naturally were hoping to achieve the same this year. Sadly this was not to be - a disappointing result. The girls did their very best as always but were not quite strong enough on the day, as I feel Arun came with the intentions of beating us at all costs and they did just that, putting us out of the competition for this year. Bad luck girls, I am still proud of you.

Our next big competition is the Yetton on 6th November at 2pm - the girls are playing ladies from Ryde IBC Isle of Wight - hopefully we will do well. Good luck girls, I know you will do your very best.

The Egham Trophy competition takes place on Sunday 23rd November at 9.30 am. This is a mixed competition - 2 ladies and 2 men in each team, 2 rinks home and 2 rinks away. We are playing Five Rivers Club, Salisbury. Good luck to you all.

It would be nice to see more members supporting these events, it means so much to the players so please come and cheer them on.

The first ladies friendly is on Saturday 22nd November at 2 pm, we are playing Somerset County Ladies at Bristol, travelling by coach - so no driving to worry about. The list is up in the ladies changing room, so please put your name down - I need 32. Come and enjoy a great afternoon - there are a few extra coach seats for any visitors that would like to come.

I would like to see more names being put down for the mixed friendlies - please give them some thought.

End Rink (miscellaneous items)

Cards: Advance warning - from January 2004 the card prices from the wholesaler are increasing. We have been fortunate that this is the first rise since January 2001. The new price will be 80p per card. I'd like to remind everyone that all the profit from the card sales is given to the Bowls Club so for the few who seem to regularly forget to pay, you are depriving your club. There is almost always a shortfall of money equating to between 5 - 10 cards. If anyone has any comments please would they address them to me. Thank you to everyone who buys and supports my small effort to help the club. (Marian Rose)

With Christmas approaching Members are reminded that the **Alphabetical Letter Rack** near the Leagues and Friendlies Notice Board is for the distribution of official mail only. Greetings cards must be handed out personally or posted. Any cards left in the Rack will be removed.

Ladies Christmas Dinner will be held on Tuesday 9th December 6.30 for 7.00pm. Lora has been booked to entertain - everyone seemed to enjoy her last year. Menu and Booking List will be displayed shortly in the Ladies Changing Room.

There will be a **New Year Bowls Drive** on Jan 1st 2004 at 2.00 pm with tea and biscuits and prizes.

STOP PRESS Congratulations to the **Hampshire** men who knocked out Kent on 1st November, winning by over 20 shots in the first round of the **Liberty Trophy**. Kent won this coveted trophy last year so we must now be a strong contender for the title. Next match is on Saturday 15th November against Dorset at the Donyatt club in Somerset at 12 noon. Any supporters would be most welcome.