



# Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

December 2005 Issue 17

## A star in the East



**No it's not the Palmerston green with the carpet removed! This is Natalie Porter performing one of her gymnastic routines - and with great style.**

Who is Natalie Porter you may ask? She is daughter of proud mum Debbie, who helps Richard in the Restaurant and serves you so graciously and efficiently (and takes over from Richard on his day off on Monday). Many of you will know that Palmerston members raised £360 through raffles and donations to help Natalie compete in the GB squad in an International competition in Lithuania. Debbie's a working mum who has to find a lot of expenses for travel and accommodation as Natalie trains and competes in the sport of Aerobic Gymnastics around the country. Without your generous support Natalie would have had to turn down this tremendous opportunity to represent her Country overseas.

Your contribution almost covered Natalie's expenses of £432 and Debbie also had to find another £294 for her own flight, accommodation and meals. They were overwhelmed by the kindness of

members - please see Natalie's thankyou card pinned to the notice board.

This is the story of that memorable trip to a country somewhere North East of Poland, as told by Debbie:

### Aerobics Gymnastics - Baltic International Open.

A total of 21 gymnasts were selected to represent Great Britain at this competition (seven for the 15/17 age category).

We started our journey, leaving home at 12.30 am on Friday 18th November arriving at our destination in Lithuania at 5pm the same day. Despite being a little tired the gymnasts were changed and ready to train by 5.30pm - now that's what I call dedication!!

Two full days of competition followed with some outstanding routines being performed.

Natalie achieved fourth place with a total of 16.05, only 0.05 off third! Her difficulty score (elements) was the highest in the category, these she successfully competed with no deductions. Natalie was pleased with her performance and

very proud to have represented her Country.

We would personally like to thank all the members who so kindly supported Natalie and made this trip possible.

We asked the gymnasts what the highlight of the weekend was - the snowball fighting!! A normal ten minute walk back to the hotel took some 45 minutes. Did they have fun? Yes I really think they did.

Natalie has been reselected to trial for the GB squad 2006. The trials took place on Sunday 27th November -her personal coach Su believes she may have achieved a high enough result. We should find out sometime in the new year. We will keep you posted. If successful Natalie will be selected for one of the Internationals in 2006.

## ROCKY APPEAL



for a new  
**UNIQUE  
CANCER LABORATORY**

Several other indoor bowls clubs have for a couple of years used a large card for members to sign rather than distributing individual cards.

We are going to follow the same pattern this year. A large card will be displayed on the restaurant glass for this purpose. A donation box for the Rocky Appeal will be there. **Please support this.**

*Ladies Committee*

# Committee Notes

The sub committee looking into delaying the start of the Winter season has now reported. It has been decided that next year this will start on 25th September, a delay of 2 weeks compared to this year, thus giving a break after the end of the outdoor season.

Complaints have been received that the temperature over the green is either too high or too low and the Air Conditioning System has not been maintaining a constant temperature. This is to be investigated.

The Match Secretary, Ray Rowe, has contacted all the clubs who visit Palmerston to play friendly matches to ask if they would still come if there was a total ban on smoking. The responses were that all would still be happy to visit.

A request has been received from some members to fit an additional bell close to rink 8 as the existing one is difficult to hear at that end of the green. This will be considered along with the possibility of fitting a flashing light when the bell rings. (We have 6 deaf bowlers who have no other way of knowing when the bell rings)

The use of "Green Tickets" (given to volunteer stewards as a "reward" for steward duty) has been clarified. These are only to be used for one session and cannot be put towards payment for County or National competitions.

The EIBA has written to ask if Palmerston would be interested in hosting the British Isles Under 25 "Quadrangular Singles Tournament" in January 2007. The Committee has postponed a decision on this until the next meeting.

The EIBA has also asked if Palmerston would like to host the Under 25 World Indoor Bowls Championship in October 2010. As this would be over 9 days, the Committee decided to reject this.

A note was received requesting lady members to be able to wear "pedal pushers" (short trousers like the ones Carol Ashby wore at the recent televised tournament). This form of dress is not currently accepted by the EWIBA and the Committee decided not to allow these at Palmerston.

The League Cup competition will not be run this December due to lack of support.

Entries for the ladies competitions have improved considerably.

A request has again been made to publish the ladies competitions on the main competition notice board. The Ladies Secretary said she would put the ladies matches on the main notice board.

The Ann Broadhurst Trophy Competition will be held on 21st December 2005

## Palmerston Mixed Fours Tournament

Saturday 21st January 2006

Only 4 places left!

## Mens Team News

Palmerston men made a good start to the season in the Bramley Bowl competition, winning games against Riverside and Atherley but then Victory and East Dorset beat us.

Unfortunately the last game was played on the same day as the Denny Cup, which meant finding 32 bowlers to play in both competitions. We had to field a less experienced Bramley side, who fought well, but unfortunately lost against a stronger East Dorset team. This means we are now in fourth position in the table. Next week (Saturday 10th December 10am), we play top of the table Rushmoor, so all support will be most welcome.

Our Denny Cup campaign was fought well this season, with wins against Five Rivers and Dolphin. Although we just pipped Banister Park in the Top 10 competition, we were 10 shots adrift when we played them in our third Denny Cup game. Banister's reward is a date with the strong Crystal Palace club and we wish them well.

The other National competition we play in is the "Top 10" on Sunday mornings and we are doing extremely well in this against some of the best clubs in the area. There are 15 points available per match and we took 13 in our first match against Dolphin. We also had good results against Banister Park (8-7) and East Dorset (7-8) and are currently lying second in the table with 28 points behind East Dorset with 34 points. The top 2 clubs go to the finals in Folkestone around Easter, but it's much too early to book the hotel as there are another 4 matches to play! There are clubs reputedly much stronger than Palmerston looking to overtake us. Despite not always being able to field all our best players due to other commitments, it would be nice to keep it up and dent a few reputations!

We enter two teams in the London and Southern Counties Over 60's Inter-Club Double Rink and this year both teams suffered first round defeats, against Worthing Pavilion and Arun. We also lost in the first round of the London and Southern Counties Single Rink competition against Banister Park.

Stop Press News 3rd December: We have just beaten Arun in the first round of the London and Southern Counties Challenge Shield (knock-out) 77-76. This match was played by most of the team who lost last week against East Dorset, so they will be especially pleased (I won't be able to call them "less experienced" in future!). Well done, a great result and best of luck in the next round in January.

## Ladies Captain

Hello Members

I have taken on being Ladies Captain, being voted into the position. I am trying to be as fair as possible, with the help of a few ladies, in selecting our teams.

I am sure you must be aware we lost the Yetton in the first round and in the Vivienne we went out after two rounds.

Having lost quite a few of our good bowlers taking a year off etc., out of all the lady members, we only had 34 names volunteering to play. We really do need some more ladies before we start the second half of the indoor season. Also please don't forget the friendly games.

Here's hoping for better success in the future.

*Janet Livingston - Ladies Captain*

Stop Press: The ladies won their Yetton Plate match against Riverside on 1st December by 93 shots to 64 - well done.

## A message from Norman Evans-Rohrs

Thanks everyone for your messages of support and encouragement, especially Tony Grant, who visited at Midhurst and kept everyone informed, which helped a great deal. I am gradually improving - progress is slow but positive. I am looking forward to coming up to the club.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In July this year I underwent a serious operation and was in Queen Alexandra Hospital for 5 weeks. I was very ill at one stage and was in the intensive care ward for a week.

My wife visited me every day and brought me 'get well' cards from members of this lovely Club. I was overwhelmed with the numerous cards I received and am sure that knowing how many people were thinking of me and wishing me well ensured, in no small measure, that I pulled through.

Thank you all

Barry McCann

The Editor

Thank you and congratulations on your excellent article on 'Green Etiquette' in the last issue of Palm Reader.

One point I would like to have clarified, under the heading, "after the bowl has been delivered:-

Para 1 implies that the bowler may remain on the mat until his bowl comes to rest.

But Para 3 states that the bowler must be behind the mat before the bowl stops.

Which is correct?

I hope that your article is just the first of a series of such articles.

L Clark

Dear Editor,

Green Etiquette

It annoys me when skips (often very experienced skips) chalk across the grips of my woods. I have added a toothbrush to my equipment so that I can clean the chalk off. Why is it necessary for them to do this? I think it could be classed as poor etiquette.

It is also noticeable how many chalk marks have appeared on our carpet lately. Could it be that bowlers are not using the approved 'carpet friendly' spray?

Charlie Fitzgerald

Editor: A reminder that only spray chalk marked "Carpet Friendly" may be used at Palmerston. This is because other sprays are oil based and they leave a sticky deposit on the carpet, which attracts dirt and affects the running of bowls. So leave your outdoor chalk at home and buy a "Carpet Friendly" spray, available at the Steward's desk for £3.50. My own experience is that these last a surprisingly long time, the first I had lasted over a year (and my two teams' bowlers do make contact with the jack occasionally!).

## Editorial

The Times they are a-changing. Literally. The Committee have taken note of increasing calls for a break between outdoor and indoor bowling and next year the Winter season will start 2 weeks later, with a smaller gap at Christmas. Hopefully this might inject a little more enthusiasm into the Leagues and the Mixed Singles Ladder. Of course there will now be no time to play any special competitions at Christmas, such as the League Cup, but this had already fallen by the wayside through insufficient interest.

I am dismayed that all recent requests of the EIBA / EWIBA to hold National or International competitions at Palmerston have been turned down, although one can understand the Committee's reluctance knowing how poor we are at attracting volunteers. What more could one wish for than to host the Under 25 World Indoor Bowls Championship in October 2010? Think of the tremendous interest this would generate locally. Might it not be very good for increasing our profile and attracting more members? A little lateral thinking could possibly accommodate this considering the above problem of the indoor and outdoor seasons running into each other and a lessening interest in the leagues. Of course there are a pile of issues to work through, the greatest probably being people to organise this. Given sufficient commitment, surely we could do it. Is anyone prepared to come forward to mastermind such an event?

*Russell Gadd - Editor*

## Bereavements

Most members are aware that in the event of the loss of a loved one the Club has always been willing to offer the use of the Restaurant (when requested) for friends and family to gather to say a fond farewell.

We will continue to offer this facility to members but in fairness to members participating in matches over the same period an application form will be introduced on which the applicant will agree to confine activities to the Restaurant area where a Bar will be operated. A Club Officer will be in attendance to direct mourners into the Restaurant and supervise the proceedings.

*Rene Bowshell - Catering Director*

## Club Treasurer

Despite the vacancy for the post of Club Treasurer being advertised with Subscription Renewal letters, and again in the recent Palm Reader, no one has so far shown any interest, either by enquiring as to what is involved or volunteering their services to fill the post.

The Annual General Meeting is only 4 months away by which time the new Treasurer needs to be in place. Unless a volunteer is found very shortly, the Club will have to consider going outside the Club Membership to find someone, and if this happens we shall be in a situation where a salary will have to be paid. This could be costly, even by recruiting someone part-time.

*Ray Morse - Treasurer*

*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).**

### Christmas Closure

**Close** Friday 23 December 14:30

**Reopen** Monday 2 January 09:30

# Social and Fundraising

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

## SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Christmas is almost upon us so this is the last 'bulletin' for this year. Tomorrow (Saturday 3rd) we shall be enjoying our **Christmas Party** with the much valued co-operation of the Fareham Musical Society who are putting on a special show for us. This will be preceded by a festive Buffet superbly presented by Richard and his expert staff. The Bar staff will make sure we are well lubricated ready for some singing and dancing before the end of the evening! I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Richard and Liz for all that they contribute to the success of these social occasions throughout the year.

Our **Cabaret Dinner** on November 12th when we were entertained by the Brookfield School Jazz Band was well acclaimed by all those lucky enough to get tickets!! Yes – it was a 'sell-out' – 110 people attended. We will certainly invite them or one of their other Bands back next year – all very talented youngsters.

Many of you will be looking forward to attending one of Richard's **Special Christmas Dinners** during December. These seem to have become an annual fixture with their popularity growing every year – assurance enough that everything will be perfect.

**Sat Dec 17th** – Cancelled due to staffing problems and lack of response

**Sat Dec 31st** – Richard and ALL his family are organising an evening to welcome in the New Year. I believe this is now fully booked but Richard will advise you of any cancellations.

## Proposed Programme for 2006

**Sat Jan 28th – Winter Race Night** – List will be available when the Club reopens on January 2nd 2006. You will be asked to book 'Tables' (as we do for Dinners etc.) so that you can be sure of sitting with your own group of friends. Janet & Roy will be 'in charge' of this event whilst I am recovering from a minor op on my right hand in early Jan. (Editor: I hope this recovers in time for you to do our next newsletter article!)

**Sat Feb 25th – Quiz, Bingo, Fun & Games Evening** – possibly combined with Cheese & Wine Party. Many of you will remember these evenings previously

when we organised the food ourselves. We would have to enlist Richard to cover it now with some help from us. Please let me know if you are able to help.

**Friday Mar 3rd – Dinner and Quiz Evening** run by Macmillan. Members may wish to support this worthy charity by getting a table together.

**Saturday 11th March - Coffee Morning** – 9.30 to 11.30am

This Annual event is one of our most lucrative as far as fund raising is concerned as it is all down to the generous efforts of you – the Members! Home made cakes, jams and clever handiwork appear like magic – all much appreciated. Ladies come forward and volunteer to man the stalls and serve the coffee – what would we do without them? Start gathering your unwanted gifts, spare utensils and hand made items after Christmas but please keep them at home until MARCH – the Committee Room is beginning to look like a Charity Shop!

**Friday 17th March** – Mayor of Fareham (Leslie Keeble) – **Dinner & Quiz Evening** in aid of the Mayor's local Charities – Your support will be appreciated.

**Murder Mystery Dinner** - A provisional date has been booked – **Saturday April 29th 2006** – There is a notice on the Social Board on which we ask you to confirm your interest in this event. We can then safely pay the required deposit. Tickets will cost £15 (including Dinner).

## 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'! Tonight (2nd Dec) with only 4 keys left to choose from - the Chest will contain in excess of £220!! If the money isn't won tonight – next week (9th) there will be only 3 Keys and at least £250 in the Chest. This will be the last Treasure Chest until next year so unless the right key is chosen the 'Chest' will be opened and the 'Treasure' shared. Come along and share the excitement.

We shall start off with the 13 Keys again at first Club Night of the New Year on Friday 6th January.

**Bonus Ball** – It is probable that this will be temporarily suspended over the Christmas period to restart maybe for 7th January 2006. Meanwhile - for the next week - you can use your £1 Coins to buy a couple of Xmas Draw lucky numbers!! Time to say 'thanks' again to Rita and her helpers for continuing their efforts week by week – best wishes for 2006.

**100 Club** – List of your allocated numbers is displayed on the Notice Board. Congratulations to Dawn Green and Patricia Wood who each won £40 in the November Draw. The December Draw will take place on Friday 9th December when there will be 2 prizes of £120 and 2 prizes of £60. The Draw will take place prior to the main Christmas Draw (around 6.30pm)

**Xmas draw** - I think the first thing to do is to thank you all for your generous support of the Draw this year – having already completed 4 Sheets we are now on to the 5th Sheet!! And even that is filling up fast. You have until Thursday 8th Dec to buy your final numbers – the Draw will be made on Friday 9th December at 7.00pm. We have already spent more than £980 - Prizes are still being added. In addition at least £100 worth of prizes have been donated thanks to the generosity of members. Come along and enjoy a happy (and hopefully fruitful) evening next Friday (9th). If you are unable to be there the list of winners will be displayed so that you can collect and sign for your prizes. Good Luck!

Thank you for your support throughout the year - it's been a busy one for me and I appreciate the help I have had from you all. We now have to think of a programme for the Summer and if you have any brilliant ideas please tell the Social Committee or even join us at our next meeting in January.

Seasonal Greetings to one and all. We look forward to many more happy occasions in 2006

**STOP PRESS: Treasure Chest still not won - don't forget your chance of a ticket on Friday 9th December - also the night the Christmas draw takes place - not one to miss!**