



Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

December 2004 Issue 12

Please support the Rocky Appeal

Last season when I was County Ladies Indoor President I started a collection on my President's Day for the Portsmouth Hospitals Rocky Appeal which is aiming to raise £2 million to build a unique cancer laboratory on the north part of the car park at Alexandra Hospital.

This would be the first of its kind in the world where it is envisaged that the diagnosis of cancer would be followed within a matter of days with the recommended form of treatment for the particular type of cancer. This laboratory would serve a wide area of Hampshire and indeed other counties.

The appeal fund is masterminded by Mick Lyons who is well known for the many other appeals he has organized. All money collected goes to the charity, there are no administrative costs.

I was able to pay in a total of £1000 earlier this month from President's

Day, the sale of 200 wizard pins, donations for finals week refreshments, and the proceeds from a quiz night. Mick Lyons came to Palmerston on the Anniversary afternoon and presented us with a

ROCKY APPEAL



for a new UNIQUE CANCER LABORATORY

shield to commemorate this. It will be put on display shortly.

My aim now is to collect another £1000 by the end of March. We have already got £69 from the box on the bar, £46.50 from the raffle and £61.85 from the sale of cards and jam on

Christmas close dates

Close Friday 24th December at 2:30pm

Reopen Monday 3rd January at 9am

(The club will open on Sunday 2nd January approx 9am - 2pm for the Top Ten match only. There will be no other facilities available but team supporters will be welcome)

Anniversary Day.

There are pens and pin wizards on the steward's desk both priced at £1, there will be various drives and other events in due course.

Please, please support this worthy cause in any way that you can. Some members are collecting copper coins, others are planning to do something in the new year, will you help?

None of us know what the future holds but we all know friends and relatives who have needed treatment for cancer, think how helpful it would be to cut the time of waiting for the appropriate treatment to be prescribed.

Even buying a pen or pens to put in a Christmas stocking could help and who knows how a wizard on your waistcoat or tie might improve your bowling!

Janet Mudd - President

Message in a bottle

(Promoted by the Lions Clubs of South Hampshire)

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

This simple scheme was launched last year by local Lions Clubs in co-operation with the emergency services. The scheme provides the emergency services with vital details of any illness or allergy, and who to contact, should they be called to your home in the event of sudden illness or an accident.

Your details are stored in a plastic container, which is kept in your fridge. Two small stickers (green crosses) known to the emergency agencies, are attached, one to the fridge door and the other to the inside of your front door.

"Bottles" are free and available from the club, please help yourself if you'd like one.

For more information please speak to Marian (card lady) or phone me on 01489 575270

Marion Rose - Swanwick Lions club

Ladies report

First of all my apologies to you all for this being my first report in the newsletter this season.

Sadly the season for the ladies has not got off to a very good start having lost both the Vivienne and the Yetton competitions to Banister Park. There was some excellent bowling in both sides but sadly "Lady Luck" was not with us.

On a pleasant note I am very pleased to report that we have won the first round of the Egham Trophy. Our opponents were Banister Park again - revenge was very sweet. We are looking forward to winning the next round which is being played against the Isle of Wight on Sunday 5th December at 10am. I would just like to explain that this competition consists of 4 mixed rinks (2 men 2 ladies in each rink) played on a home and away basis (2 rinks home, 2 away). It is run by the ladies under EWIBA (English Womens Bowling Association) rules - so very competitive and worth watching. Please make it a date and come and support your team. Support means so much to the players - there is nothing worse than playing in an empty clubhouse.

Ladies I would like to bring to your attention the EWIBA ruling on dress, a copy of which is reprinted in this newsletter below - please take note.

Last but by no means least I would like to say how delighted I am to have Madge Bird as our Vice President - a lovely lady who I know will support you all so please support her.

My best wishes to you all for a very happy and healthy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Happy bowling

Jean Evans - Ladies Captain

Ladies dress code

Leagues And Roll-Ups

Tailored grey trousers/culottes or regulation grey skirts with two inverted pleats back and front, white collared tops with sleeves, club waistcoats/cardigans or white waistcoats/cardigans/sweaters. Regulation shoes in brown, grey or white are to be worn. Sandals are not allowed (E.W.B.A. rule 20 page 76)

If tights/stockings are worn they must be light brown in colour.

Representative Games

All ladies playing in these games should wear club waistcoats/cardigans not white ones. White tailored trousers/culottes or regulation white skirts.

Mens news

On 6th November Palmerston's men progressed through the third round of the Denny Cup by beating Longmeadow 100-72, winning on 3 out of 4 rinks. Top rink was a massive 38-8 home win for Tony Cole, Ron Packman, Barry Grinaway and skip Roy Reader - very well done. In the 4th round on 27th November we met Atherley, but lost by 85-65. Roy Reader's rink again proved successful, but with one rink drawing, this was insufficient to cover the losses of the other 2 rinks. However reaching the fourth round of the Denny Cup is a great achievement for Palmerston and the team should be proud of its best run in this competition.

The 27th November also produced the first defeat for our men in the Bramley Bowl, losing all 4 rinks to Victory by 128-52. Although a heavy defeat we should remember that top of the table Victory have strengthened their club this year with imports from Havant and Atherley and their second team were always going to give us a hard match. Additionally most of our Bramley team were playing their first game, as the regular Bramley side were required for the Denny Cup match.

Hampshire news

Hampshire men continued their run in the Liberty Trophy by beating Oxfordshire by 122-100, winning on 5 of the 6 rinks, including all 3 away rinks playing at Oxford. Top rink was the home rink, headed by England skip Martyn Sekjer, who won 24-12.

The team will need to be at the top of their game on Saturday 18th December when they meet Devon (who include TV star Ian Bond). They beat Worcestershire in the last round 135-86. Wish us luck!

Hampshire ladies were less fortunate when they met Kent in the Atherley Trophy at Horsham on 7th November. Kent included 7 internationals and ran out 145-95 winners. Hampshire won only one rink, which included our Under 25 Indoor World Champion Claire Spreadbury (see other article on the juniors "School of Excellence").

Top 10

resurrected

The October newsletter reported the demise of the 'Famous Grouse' Top 10 competition. This has now been resurrected and Palmerston are in it for the first time this year. The original competition was run by Darlington IBC with generous prize money. It was very popular, with clubs entering from all around the country and also from Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Darlington had to give it up as it proved too expensive, as they were providing the prize money with Famous Grouse only providing "products" (canny Scots?).

Confusingly there are now two separate Top 10 competitions, one run by Hull IBC sponsored by a brewery and the other by Folkestone IBC sponsored by a local Honda dealership, Drake and Fletcher.

Atherley and Banister Park have signed up to the Hull competition, whereas most other local clubs, including ourselves, are in the Folkestone one. This means we play a round robin against each of Bournemouth, Victory, East Dorset, Five Rivers, Arun and Dolphin. Matches are on Sundays at fortnightly intervals and we have already played the first two.

We made a great start against Bournemouth on 14th November, winning the singles, triples and fours and only losing the pairs by 6 shots. Overall we gained 11 points out of 15.

It was a different story on 28th November, as we lost all four disciplines to a strong Victory team, who therefore took all 15 points. However we knew we were one of the underdogs in this competition and only just missed out on gaining points, as the Singles and Pairs were lost by a single shot each.

We look forward to another tough test against East Dorset at 10 am on 12th December - please come and support your team. Pairs and Triples will be at home, with Fours and Singles away.

League bowler Swap Shop !

A number of people have mentioned dissatisfaction with the leagues. First some teams are too strong compared to others in the same league. The games between them are so one sided they become farcical, with the losers becoming disillusioned and the winners merely going through the motions of a hollow victory.

Another complaint is that we play the same teams year after year. Also in many leagues only one or two teams have any realistic chance of winning the league, whilst some struggle to win any games.

Personally I don't believe this is necessary, or in fact healthy, as it will lead to people becoming switched off from bowls. So I'm going to "put my money where my mouth is" and try an initiative, purely unofficially.

I bowl in three league teams. In at least two of them, I will look for other bowlers who can swap teams with me within the same leagues. In other words, next season I play for another team in the same league and one of their bowlers plays for my original team. I'll make sure both team leaders are happy with this swap before agreeing to it. Now who is prepared to follow my lead and do the same?

For the benefit of my existing team, please note that I enjoy playing with you, this is no reflection on your company. It is just that I feel a change would be beneficial for all of us.

I've made out a list which I will put on a notice board somewhere. If you want to put your name forward for a possible swap, in one or more of your leagues, write your details on the list. In due course someone else who thinks a swap would be good can contact you and offer to swap. You probably know the players in most of the other teams and can decide if it's a good move.

Someone I mentioned this to thought that some strong teams might seek to become even stronger by a swap - I don't think they will as I've already pointed out, what is the fun in very one-sided games? Hopefully some of the stronger bowlers will recognise that they will get more satisfaction from helping the weaker teams to succeed against strong opposition.

But it's not just strong bowlers who might want a change. Anyone can enjoy the challenge of adapting to a different team. Don't just stick with your mates from the outdoor club - find some new friends. At worst, if it doesn't work out, you can move on in the following year. Not much to risk, potentially a lot more to gain.

Come on, throw yourself into the melting pot and lets have a new experience next year!

Russell Gadd

EBYDS Regional School of Excellence

Tony Grant has great pleasure in reporting that we have 6 juniors who will participate in the "EBYDS School of Excellence" at Banister Park IBC on Sunday 5th December. They are Ben Cope, Erin Fulford, Laura Jones, Abbey Rosam, Ben Settle and Gemma Weston.

There are a total of 32 local juniors who will benefit from a full day's competition and coaching. Initially they are split into 8 groups of 4 bowlers each, who will play each other over 7 ends in three rounds, "Round Robin" format, beginning at 9:30 am. At 2pm, after lunch, the winners of each group (eight players) will go forward to compete against each other in a knock-out. Semi final at 3:15pm, final at 4:30pm.

Coaching will be available for those not successful as the rinks become available.

We have noticed that Group H contains the Under 25's Indoor World Champion, young Claire Spreadbury of Loddon Vale IBC. What an achievement, she still represents England, a very charming young lady.

No doubt a treat in store for parents, grandparents and anyone else who wants to come along. And of course for the young bowlers, who will pick up some valuable experience and have a day to remember.

Juniors news

Mixed Under 17s members of Palmerston IBC played their first match on Sunday 21st November 2004 in the Inter-Club League against 2 rinks from Loddon Vale IBC.

Even with three new members playing for us, we won this game over 14 ends by 3 shots. The combined score being 26 to 23. Our next match is also away, against Atherley IBC.

Well done to the players and congratulations to the EBCS staff coaches, with a big thank you to parents.

Tony Grant

Change to Mens Deadlines

The County Competition Secretary has just informed clubs that the closing date for entries to the County Competitions has been brought forward seventeen days from 31st January 2005 to 14th January 2005.

I understand that clubs have made representations to the Secretary regarding these changed dates, and the matter will now be discussed at the H.I.B.A. Executive meeting planned for the 6th December 2004. It cannot be assumed that there will be any significant extension to this date, or indeed, any change at all.

The implication for our competitions is that those rounds scheduled to be completed by the 9th January 2005 (Quarter Finals), should now be completed by 24th December 2004, if we are to have any chance of meeting this deadline. This would leave just under two weeks for the completion of the Semi-Finals following the Christmas break.

In anticipation of there being little change made by the Executive Committee, all remaining competitors ARE URGED TO GET QUARTER FINALS ARRANGED AND COMPLETED BY 24TH DECEMBER 2004.

Andrew Miller - Competition Secretary

Betty Metherell Trophy

On Sunday November 28th sixty four members, ranging from newly qualified bowlers to founder members, enjoyed a bowls drive to find the 2005 season winner of the Rosebowl and goblet.

After four sessions of four ends the results were, in 4th place with 75 points George Bird, in 3rd place with 78 points Betty Corbett, in second place with 79 points George Martin and the winner with 81 points Ron Greenslade.

Reg Metherell made the presentations, he and his daughter and son-in-law took part in the competition.

A raffle with donated prizes was held, resulting in £84.50 being raised for the Rocky Appeal.

Janet Mudd

Profile of a busy President

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

Janet Mudd: I started playing bowls in 1990 after retiring from teaching, firstly at Fareham Leisure Centre on long roll-out mats, then at Soccer City, then short mat and outdoors at Portchester. I had a couple of years at Victory playing for Solent Ladies and then Palmerston opened! I bowl outdoors at Cosham.

PR: What is your most memorable bowling achievement or occasion?

JM: My most memorable bowling achievement was being part of the winning Triples team in the Hampshire County Outdoor competition last year and then actually playing in the National Finals at Leamington Spa in August 2003. The most memorable occasion was during a bowls coaching holiday in Portugal where I had the honour of skipping a rink with Tony Alcock playing three; this was both exhilarating and terrifying!

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

JM: Yes. I was social secretary and ladies secretary at Portchester for a number of years before taking on the position of Portsmouth & District W.B.A. secretary. I have held this post for seven years. I was also Area County Competition Secretary for 5 years outdoors and am currently County Indoor Competition Secretary.

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

JM: Before Palmerston opened I was invited by Rene Bowshell to be Ladies Vice-Chairman to stand in for her when necessary so I was involved with the work done before the actual opening. I served as Ladies Captain for two years during which we won the Riversmeet competition for the first time. I was a Vice President for two years before becoming President this year.

PR: I know you were Ladies County President last season. Tell us something of the highlights of your year in office.

JM: I had the honour of being the first County Indoor President from Palmerston. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole year. The set up is such a friendly one where everybody plays a part and helps each other. It was so interesting to meet the other County Presidents at the many matches which we played and to visit so many other clubs around the various

counties. It made me very much aware of our own excellent facilities which just go on improving. There were two particular highlights of the year, the first when Theresa Darnell-Langton of Loddon Vale won the National Singles Title at Loddon Vale and the second was when Jean Evans our Palmerston captain was presented with the Riversmeet Trophy..... great!!

PR: Could you outline your role as President?

JM: I see my role as President as one which should maintain the high standards set by each of my predecessors - to welcome visitors, to lead as many of our friendly fixtures as possible and to encourage our own bowlers to take part in these games. We need fixtures against other clubs for all sorts of reasons, to have the opportunity to play against different people of all abilities, to have the experience of bowling at different venues, to fully utilize our rink space and bring in revenue, to enable clubs with lesser facilities to come and enjoy ours and of course to provide our caterer with regular work. Many Indoor Bowls Clubs are now suffering the consequences of not having a permanent catering service which leads to the loss of members.

I chair the monthly Joint Management Committee meetings which deal with any matters relating to bowling. (This committee has no responsibility for financial, security or social matters.)

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

JM: I am very much looking forward to January 12 2005 when the E.W.I.B.A. President will be bringing a team to play against my team which will consist of all the ladies who helped last year at the Under 25 International weekend and others who help the club in a variety of



ways. This should be a most enjoyable afternoon.

PR: Over the past few years there has been a decline in bowling membership even though we have a steady stream of new members each year. Do you think we should be doing something else to attract new members or encourage people to bowl more?

JM: It needs to be appreciated that after seven years many of our Founder members are now unable to bowl but retain their membership as Senior Social members, also it is inevitable that each year we suffer the loss of quite a number of members. Our well run tuition programme ensures that there are always new bowlers joining us throughout the year. It would be good if we were able to attract more junior members but this always depends on older relatives encouraging them to come.

PR: Some of the leagues have declined since we opened and are only using 3 or 4 rinks. What do you think the cause of this is and do you think we should try to do

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President interview

continued .../

something about it?

JM: Some of the leagues suffer because of difficulties with traffic conditions at specific times. If one lives east of Fareham it is virtually impossible to play in the 6.15 session (I speak from experience!). The last session is also one that many people find too late. All the morning sessions are well supported as are the mixed leagues. Perhaps some of the less popular times should be changed from single sex to mixed.

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

JM: The very best feature is the lighting followed by the new temperature controlled heating system and the superb electronic score board.

PR: Is there anything particular you would like to see changed at Palmerston?

JM: Yes, very much! I would like to see a later start to the season so that we did not have to come straight from finals outdoors to league play indoors. Most people like to take a holiday when the outdoor season finishes and this makes it difficult to fill the league teams. It could also help to make the Christmas closure shorter, I hear lots of comments about this but no one ever makes a proposition!

PR: Last year Roy said the challenge for the next decade will be filling the gap left by retiring committee members. At the last AGM we had no nominations for Vice President (automatically becoming President after 2 years). Can you suggest a solution to this problem?

JM: It is a huge commitment of time, two years as Vice President and then one as President. It has to be appreciated that most weekends and at present many Wednesdays will be taken up with matches which really leaves very little time to maintain a social life, do the shopping and cleaning. Perhaps the worst part is having enough white skirts/trousers freshly laundered to cope with all the matches! Again I speak from experience of both!

PR: Thank you Janet. I am quite staggered to think of the time you have given and continue to give to Palmerston and other local bowling groups, and would like to record my personal gratitude for all these years of dedicated service, a sentiment which I am sure is also shared by our members. May you continue to enjoy your year as President of Palmerston.

Social and Fundraising

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The Festive Season is upon us and Richard is having a very busy time providing his usual high standard of seasonal fare for members. There are already a number of bookings for **Christmas Lunch** Menu which will be available from Tuesday 7th December. You will find booking details on the Restaurant Notice Board.

Autumn Race Night in November was well supported and enjoyed by all - thanks to the lucky punters £213 was paid into the Fund Raising Account. News of the next Meeting in 2005 Programme below.

Christmas Party Evening - Saturday Dec 11th 7.00 for 7.30pm - Preparations are well in hand ensuring that this will prove to be a memorable occasion. **Tickets** £11 (including Buffet, Entertainment and Lucky Draw) **available from Bar**. Please get your tickets as soon as possible so that numbers can be finalised and Table Plans organised.

PROGRAMME FOR 2005 (Jan to March)

Members must appreciate that the Bowling Calendar for this period is very busy with Friendlies and Competitions particularly at weekends. It is important that you give your support and encouragement to these fixtures.

Winter Race Meeting - Saturday January 29th - list and Tickets in New Year

Private Charity Cabaret Dinner - Saturday February 19th - on behalf of 'KIDS' (Downs Syndrome / Disadvantaged Children) details from Malcolm Chapman 02392 581285

Buffet Supper & Cabaret - Saturday March 5th - watch Notice Board for details

Charity Race Meeting - Saturday March 12th - proceeds to 'Rocky Appeal' (We are aiming to achieve a 2nd £1000 Donation to this worthy

cause before the end of President Janet's Year)

Pre-Easter Dinner - Saturday March 19th - details yet to be planned (Club's AGM at 10.00am)

Easter Sunday Lunch (proposed) - Richard will advertise in good time

FUND RAISING PROGRAMME

'100 Club' - Winners for November - Section 'A' No 88 R.Hooper (0665) £40 Section 'B' No 97 R.F.Reed (0707) £40. Draw for the big Christmas Prizes (£125 & £60 for each Section) will be made on Friday 10th December prior to the commencement of the Christmas Draw at 7.00pm. Each Section will have 1st Prize £125 - 2nd Prize £60. Watch out for the Winners!

Treasure Chest - The Lucky Key has still to be found - there are only 6 keys left!! By Friday 3rd December the Chest will contain in excess of £200 !! Tickets on sale from 5.30 to 8.00pm on Friday nights!

Bonus Ball - Wednesday numbers now available though you all seem to favour the Saturday draw which is mostly over subscribed in advance! Look out for Rita's Lucky Bag on the table in front of Notice Boards.

Christmas Draw - The Draw will be made on Friday 10th December at 7.00pm - This means you only have a few more days in which to buy your lucky numbers!

Pleased to say that the Treasurer reports a more satisfactory balance in the Cash Box - please keep it that way. The last 'Club Night' of the Year will be on the same evening as the Draw so it's sure to be a great occasion.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for your support with special thanks for the help received from Malcolm Chapman, Bruce Bedford and many others. It only remains for me to wish you a very Merry & Peaceful Christmas with Good Luck & Good Health in 2005!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Re: Coaching Course November Issue 11

Firstly I would like to say that coaches do a fantastic job and they give up a lot of their time for the club. However, are we now saying that members are no longer able to bring relatives or friends for a game of bowls to see if they would like to take up the sport (with the correct footwear).

I would suggest that 90% of our members started playing bowls without any coaching lessons. There is no doubt that any new player would benefit from coaching, but please don't stop members from bringing relatives or friends from having a go. I thought the club was trying to increase membership.

Alan Mills

Dear Editor,

Re: Coaching Course

I felt I must comment regarding the incident of 'potential bowlers' being 'turned away'. I am all in favour of keeping up standards re dress code and so fully support the action taken in this respect. However I totally disagree that to have a try at bowling, one must first take correct coaching.

I can see no harm whatsoever in experienced bowlers introducing a family member or friend to have a go. As far as I am aware there is no such ruling in outside clubs, where damage to the greens could be considerable - so why this problem indoors?!

I suspect that the majority of bowlers, like myself, have never received coaching. I have the greatest admiration and respect for all the members who take time out to coach, but let it be optional not enforced. Surely we need to encourage members, not put obstacles in their way.

Several members of my family, who live away, have voiced interest, only to be "put-off" by me. I have heard of similar accounts by other members.

Already we have quite a fall in membership, so come on Palmerston, let's have a rethink on this issue and hopefully we can fill rinks and attract more members.

Barbara Hall

Dear Editor,

Is our Membership Falling?

Perhaps this is something to do with the league structure. Some teams are very experienced, whilst others are comparative novices. This results in some very one-sided games. There is no pleasure for either side in such a mismatch!

I know that suggestions to alter leagues have met with disapproval, mainly because members reluctance or inability to change times. So may I suggest a compromise?

Split each league in two, top half play each other twice as often, bottom half the same. Then at the end of the season promote and demote 2 teams from each half. After a few seasons there would be a general levelling out.

This suggestion means no change for competitors but, regrettably, a little for the league secretary.

Anon (Name requested to be withheld)

Dear Editor,

The letter in last months Palm Reader from Charlie Fitzgerald almost had me crying in my beer. He prepared his case for our sympathy to his cause by referring to his twice weekly duties of Hoovering, dusting, ironing, gardening and preparing meals and picking up Mrs F. after her game at 1130 and having a chat to his very few friends. He then delivers the sucker punch by seeking our support for changing the dress code for him to have 30 minutes free practice from 1.30 to 2 pm in the smart clothes he wears to pick up Mrs F.

The sob story does not work Charlie. Despite your downtrodden life, you are such a nice man, I refuse to believe you only have few friends and what is wrong in wearing greys to pick up Mrs F.? I say keep to the dress code despite Charlie's tale of woe.

Yours sincerely

Barry McCann

Dear Editor,

Has the men's selection committee ever considered running 2 men's representative teams? 1st team to play in the Denny & London Counties, 2nd team to play in the Bramley.

I believe there is much to be gained by such a policy!

1) More bowlers will experience competitive bowling at a higher level and hopefully improve their skill level.

2) Less demand on the time of senior players,

I realise that initially we may lose our Bramley League position, but surely this is acceptable in the long term prospects of the Club.

Anon (Name requested to be withheld)

Dear Editor,

I would just like to say that despite all the promises, I do not believe that the smoke situation has improved at all. The bar area, and the surrounding rinks, continue to stink of cigarette and cigar smoke, making it most unpleasant at the club. There are many more non-smokers than smokers amongst the membership, and I am very disappointed that so much fuss is being made about chewing gum spoiling the ditches and yet there does not seem to be any concern about the passive smoking which is spoiling our lungs and throats. Is it safe to deduce that therefore the ditches are more important than members' health?? The risks of passive smoking have been well proven and documented, in short cigarette smoke kills! Is this not a strong enough motive to take action against it??

Yours, Lynne Maule

Dear Editor,

SPECULATE TO ACCUMULATE

Having seen the prizes for the Xmas Draw already on display, I am rather surprised at the quality and value of them. I am aware that more prizes will arrive as and when the sheets are filled as more money will become available, but surely it would be wiser to have a really good display first with one or two quality prizes (like a TV for instance) to encourage people to buy more tickets. Also as a point of interest ALL money collected should go towards the Xmas raffle and not for club funds as we have other fund raising functions the rest of the year.

Yours sincerely

Mary Lowe

Committee Notes

The work on the Car Park Extension was due to commence as the Fareham B.C. have authorised the work to be put in hand. (You will of course have now seen the works in progress at the back of the existing car park).

The question of a break between the end of the Summer Season and the start of the Winter Season will be discussed at the December meeting.

There has been some progress on finding stewards for the Sunday slot.

Cloth Badges are now on order and should be available within the next two weeks.

Following requests from the members the temperature over the green has been increased by 1 degree and the temperature in the restaurant has been increased by 2 degrees.

An analysis of members following the registration for the new season has indicated that the Full Membership numbers have dropped by just 4%. Some of the reduction is due to members transferring to other categories of membership.

Some members have complained that booking roll-ups has become very difficult due to the rinks being occupied for national, county or club matches. It would appear that some booking for roll-ups have been superseded without notification to the members concerned. **THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN.** Members must be notified of any change. It is appreciated that at this time, when competitions must be completed, some disturbance to playing arrangements will occur. Every effort must be made to keep this to a minimum.

The ladies were pleased to appoint Madge Bird as their Vice President.

The following clubs have cancelled friendly matches against Palmerston due to them not being able to find appropriate teams:- Preston IBC, Wandsworth IBC and London Civil Service IBC.

The working party on Friendly Matches has reviewed the Palmerston programme and submitted their suggestions for the consideration of the JMC to be discussed at the December meeting.

It has been requested that the area adjacent to the green in the smoking area be made a non-smoking area by moving the table further away from the green. The matter is to be reviewed.

Chewing gum has been found on the green. This has occurred on a number of occasions recently.

Reinstating the availability of sandwiches in the cool cabinet is to be raised at the next Board meeting.

Greengauge Ltd will be visiting the Club to carry out maintenance of the green on Tuesday 16th February 2005.

Sweet papers etc. have been deposited in the flower containers around the green. Members are requested to use the waste bins provided.

The issue of legislation concerning the Club being able to ask members to show their membership cards on entering the Club (raised by a member in a previous newsletter) is being looked into.

The JMC was asked to consider the option of making the Club a non-smoking Club in light of possible legislation. The meeting agreed that any such change would have to have a majority mandate from members.

Avoid the Overlap ?

Several members have complained about the overlapping of the outdoor season with the commencement of the indoor winter league programme. A suggestion has been made that next season the indoor leagues start a week later and the Christmas break be shortened by one week. This could result in a change of date for the League Cup Competition, so any comments from members would be most welcome.

Maureen Cleaver

- Ladies League Secretary

Editorial

Thankyou to the members who have sent in letters this month. You will note there are two members who wish to remain anonymous. I am happy to publish these letters as I know who they are and can vouch that they are full members and respect their request to air a point of view without attracting personal attention.

Another two members raise a point which has a bearing on attracting new members. With 4% fall in membership this year (nearly 40 bowlers) see committee notes - this is a real issue. I want to mention a slightly different point regarding new members. Not about attracting them but about what we do to integrate them into the club.

A member brought up this point to me in conversation recently. He had a personal experience (not this year), which meant his intended entry for competitions was turned down after the closing date, because he was not fully aware of the entry requirements. I don't want to go over old ground, but this showed that he didn't get the right advice at the time.

Do new members get all the help they need?

A few years ago I was a (temporary) member at a club in Swindon and they had a New Member Secretary, whose job it was to see that all new members get the information and advice they need to become involved in all club activities and events. Should we have one here? Perhaps, more importantly, is anyone willing to fill such a role to help new members?

How easy is it to join in the leagues? How successful is the "New Starters" league and what happens in the following year? Have you considered playing in "Friendly Matches"? How about entering the club competitions? Should there be club competitions for beginners?

I'd like to hear from any recent new members who can tell us of their experience of starting at Palmerston.

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 2005).

***Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
to all
members***