



Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

February 2005 Issue 13

New Mixed Singles Ladder

We are setting up a brand new singles ladder open to all bowling members, men, ladies and juniors, starting in the next couple of weeks.

In the singles ladder you can play throughout the winter season, as many times as you like, whenever you like. There are few chances currently to play singles, there is the club knockout and the National singles, which are not everyone's cup of tea, particularly if you get knocked out early. Singles is a fine game, with no-one to blame but yourself, not many bowls in the head to clutter things up, and a chance to develop your consistency with four bowls at the basic shot of bowls - the draw. Also for draw bowlers who play mainly lead in their leagues, they have the choice of playing the odd heavy shot when the situation calls for it.

In addition to introducing this new playing opportunity, we have taken the bold step of trying the TV "sets" format. The game will be played over 2 sets of 10 ends each. If the sets are tied, there will then be a 3 end tie-break. All games limited to one 2 hour session to the bell. Additionally, if the jack is driven off the rink it must be re-spotted on the T. We hope you enjoy this innovation, which I am sure will confuse some!

So how does the ladder work? Simple really - You challenge someone above you (there is a limit to how far ahead you can challenge). If you win you swap places on the ladder. If you lose you stay put. In this way players should, after a number of games, eventually settle at a level amongst bowlers of similar ability. So hopefully there won't be many one-sided games and most people will enjoy a tight contest. Of course there will be "upsets", but if you drop down because you have had one of those bad days, you can always bounce back later.

The diagram shows an example of how the ladder will be displayed. There are columns at the side of the ladder names for you to write in challenges you make, which stops others from trying to challenge the

same opponent. Members wishing to join the ladder add their name and membership number at the bottom when they arrange their first match (in this example Bill Gladstone and Dennis Norden).

Because of the new sets format and the need to make challenges we have produced detailed rules to cover various eventualities. Such as what happens if you want to challenge someone above you on the ladder and they refuse- they simply drop down below you and you find someone else to challenge.

And what will happen when the ladies play men? There might be some damaged pride!

But only take it as seriously as you want. Although some will want to prove themselves and try to get to the top, others will just enjoy a change from league triples and fours.

By the time you read this there will be a list for names on the competitions board in the foyer. When we have enough names (perhaps around 2 weeks, but could be sooner) we will set up the initial ladder and you can start.

We will "seed" the initial ladder based on our knowledge of those applying and apologies if we don't know your ability. But don't worry about being too low down the initial ladder. We have a rule that for all new entrants' first game they can challenge anyone on the ladder. This rule will of course apply to all when the initial ladder is set up, so any wrong "seeding" should not cause too much trouble. However see the organiser (Ladder Secretary - Russell Gadd) if you have a strong objection to your initial position.

There is one potential problem we are concerned about, we don't want a singles ladder match to

But please read the actual rules carefully, copies of which will be available at the Steward's desk. As this is a new format, we will probably need to tweak the rules as we gather experience - keep your eye on the board for any changes. In particular, the number of places you can challenge ahead of you on the ladder will depend on how many join, so it may be increased as the ladder grows.

This type of competition will hopefully encourage new bowlers to have a go. Start at the bottom of the ladder and see how far you can get. Also those who fancy their chances can have a pop at those higher up. Wouldn't it be good to find some new talent we didn't know about? This would be a good way to get noticed for bowlers aspiring to get into the Club representative teams.

get in the way of other bowlers who want to play triples or fours, as this seems unfair, even if this is just a roll up. So we have this restriction :- Ladder matches can only be booked up to 5 days ahead. This gives everyone else the advantage of an extra 2 days to book a rink from when the sheets appear on the Steward's desk. If you want to arrange a ladder match further on, you have to wait until 5 days before the intended date before booking the rink.

All matches must have a marker. If you've ever tried to play singles without a marker you will appreciate this rule. If you haven't marked a game before see the guide which has been printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Don't forget, joining is easy and the ladder accommodates all standards. So don't wait - jump on board.

Ladies report

There is not a lot for me to report this time as, sadly, we are no longer in any of the National Competitions - the last one being the Egham Trophy, which we lost to Solent. But all is not lost as we are now into the third round of the Riversmeet Competition - for the benefit of those who do not know, this is a Ladies County Competition run on a league basis, with 2 teams playing home and 2 away. At the moment we have 10 points and are in 4th position. The next round is being played on 12th February - we are playing Riverside (Winchester Club), so why not make it a date and come and support your ladies. The match starts at 10 am, it would be nice to see you.

Sadly we have had and still have some ladies very poorly - Mary Sims, Lynn Grinaway and Rita Reynolds - cards have been sent to these ladies to let them know they are being remembered.

Ladies please don't forget the mixed friendly matches - we always need more names.

Happy Bowling.

Jean Evans - Ladies Captain

Mens news

We continue to do well in the Bramley Bowl holding on to the third spot. Since the December issue, we have played 3 matches, winning against Chawton Park and Rushmoor but losing to East Dorset. Chawton Park were bottom and it wasn't easy but we got all 8 points. Although we beat East Dorset in the first of the two season's encounters, they strengthened their team with England skip Martyn Sekjer, who helped to reverse the previous result. The Rushmoor win (7-1) was a boost as they are above us in the table and they beat us last October. It seems we have probably now scuppered their chances to win the Bramley, and Victory look well set to remain at the top to the end of the season. A win against Banister Park on Saturday 5th February (10am - 2pm) would almost certainly put us clear of any risk of relegation. Your support for our home rinks would be very welcome.

We have now played the remaining four Top Ten matches. We got 4 points out of 15 from each of East Dorset, Arun and Dolphin and 11 from Five Rivers. These results against the best these top clubs can field were very encouraging and bodes well for the future. Unfortunately we haven't seen any table positions yet, understandable really as you will remember that the club organising this competition took it on at the last minute when Darlington withdrew. We hope to let you see the table next month.

Hampshire news

Since the last newsletter, Hampshire men have played two Liberty Trophy games. We won the quarter final against Devon in December. Not unexpectedly, Devon's best performance was by the rink headed by Ian Bond, who gave a tremendous display of accurate firing and precision drawing. However the other Hampshire rinks came good and Hampshire won by 13 shots.

This took us into the semi-final on 29th January against old adversaries Kent, who were previous winners in 2002/3 and who we beat in the first round last year.

This was a thrilling contest, with an atmosphere like the Denny Cup final played at Palmerston in February 2003. There were football rattles, horns and all manner of hullabaloo. There was even a choir! The place was packed and it took full concentration to focus on bowling.

The result unfortunately was a win for Kent, who now meet Norfolk in the final. However this was a great run for Hampshire and shows that we have the making of a team that can go all the way. I am sure there are Hampshire bowlers, currently not in the team, who can add that final strengthening to win in 2005/6.

Hampshire men also began their "Home Counties" series with a win over Sussex, capturing 6 of the 8 rinks. Congratulations to our 4 Palmerston men who played in this match - all were in winning rinks (The team for the next match has just been posted and our same 4 bowlers have been selected again).

In the Home Counties matches no more than 12 Liberty Trophy bowlers can be included within the 32 bowlers in the team. This gives a chance to those who aspire to get into the Liberty Trophy team an opportunity to show what they can do to attract the selectors eye. It is good to see more Palmerston bowlers getting noticed at this level.

AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE MISSED

Your Club is hosting
**THE EIBA UNDER 25
INTER-COUNTY DOUBLE RINK
SEMI-FINAL**

on Sunday 27th February 2005 at 11.45am

**SOMERSET
V
KENT**

Come along and see some of the best youngsters in England on your own green.

Committee Notes

Some members are still concerned about the air temperature over the green, this is despite checks being carried out using a digital thermometer. It would appear that there is a draught at the back end of the green due to the external fan apertures. These apertures are to be sealed to see if this relieves the problem of temperature difference.

The Treasurer advised that some 1500 numbers were sold for the Christmas Raffle and that a shortfall in cash of £6.50 was recorded. A profit of £38.77 was passed to the Fund-raising Account.

The Committee discussed the possibility of creating a decisive break between the end of the Outdoor Season and the start of the Indoor Season. At present the Indoor Season follows immediately after the Outdoor Season without a break. Some members feel that this situation prevents them having a break from bowling. The Committee also considered reducing the Christmas Break. After some discussion no agreement could be reached so it was decided to leave the system as it is at the moment.

It was necessary to cancel the Friendly Match against London & Southern Counties due to lack of support.

The Committee considered proposals by a Working Party for some reductions in the number of Friendly Matches the Club plays in a season. It is becoming very difficult to field teams for all the matches that the Club has been asked to play. The Committee considered each match and agreed on the number of matches to be played away from home and also agreed to play only one friendly per weekend.

Norman Evans-Rohrs has accepted the nomination for Junior Vice President Hampshire I.B.A.

Due to the fact that Keith Newman would not be taking up the position of Club President at the AGM (see page 5) the Committee discussed the issue of the nominated Ladies' Vice President (Madge Bird) taking the position of President at the AGM. The Committee agreed that this is in accordance with the spirit of the Club Constitution.

An amendment to the Club Constitution is to be raised to include a member of the Summer Leagues on the Joint Management Committee.

A number of members who took part in the recent Open Fours Tournament have

stated that they enjoyed the tournament very much.

Tony Grant advised that he has enquired into the possibility of having team shirts for the Junior Section. A suitable supplier has been found and the cost of the shirts will be £72.00. The Committee agreed that this is a very good idea and approved the purchase.

Tony Grant informed the Committee that a member queried his decision whilst he was umpiring a match. This could have led to a very embarrassing situation. All bowlers should be aware that if an Umpire is called upon to give a decision HIS DECISION IS FINAL as defined in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Third Edition).

The Committee was informed that a rink that was booked for a County Match was changed without notification to the person that booked the rink. Members have been instructed on a number of occasions that this behaviour is not acceptable. Notification of any change must be agreed with the person who booked the rink originally.

Concern is still being raised at the number of visitors that are using the restaurant facilities for lunch.

A notice has been placed on the tables adjacent to the green stating that they are for the use of non-smokers.

A film cover has been placed over the entrance door windows to prevent the glare of the sun. This is an experiment

League Bowler Swap Shop Update

Remember the article I published last edition in which I put forward the idea of a League Bowler Swap Shop? The idea was to set up a mechanism whereby people could swap with others in different teams in the same league. I put up a list for names on the league notice board.

Well clearly this was an idea Sir Clive Sinclair would have been proud of. It was less popular than the C5 and Betamax put together! In fact no-one came forward. OK I can take a hint. Lets forget it.

Editorial

The question of coaching is revisited in this issue in the letters and in an article by Norman Evans-Rohrs (thanks to Norman for this). Interestingly he mentions successful bowlers saying they haven't done too badly without coaching. Personally I'm not happy with my delivery and would love to get some coaching. But where is there advanced coaching for established club bowlers? If it's available can we arrange to offer it to our members?

Much of Norman's article talks about the unification plan for English bowls put forward by three (EBA,EWBA and EWIBA) of the four Flat Green bodies. The 4th body (the Indoor Men's EIBA) won't support these proposals saying that it is not backed up with a proper financial plan and they estimate it will raise costs from £2 per player to £6. They say the salary bill alone will be £250,000 per annum. It also doesn't include the other flat green "Federation", Crown Green and Short Mat bowls but there's a vague promise to include them later.

I have printed a diagram of the current plan on the back page. My own impression is that it is designed to keep enough jobs for all current job holders. Why do we need a regional level and also who ever heard of an organisation with 4 presidents and 8 vice-presidents? Mind you, I don't like the EIBA alternative either. I believe if there's going to be a unification it should also be a simplification and no one seems to be offering this.

If you have a view on this it seems that you are likely to get an opportunity to make it known this Spring if you are a member of an outdoor club. At present there are no plans to consult indoor-only bowlers.

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 and final Winter Season issue March 2005).

To coach or not to coach ?

by *Norman Evans-Rohrs*

I am sure that it will not have escaped the attention of the majority of bowlers that our sport is in the process of change. Much has been written about 'Unification'.

Many club bowlers have very little interest in the arguments for or against the different proposals for achieving Unification, they are happy with the game as it is.

However why is Unification such a big issue and set to change Bowls for ever?

There was considerable outcry some years ago when Sport England labeled Bowls as a pastime, not a sport, not even a game. It reflected the perceived image that bowls is an old person's way of passing a leisurely summer afternoon in the park. No suggestion that it is competitive and played by people of all ages from the very young to the not so young and men and women can compete on equal terms.

Bowls administrators and many bowlers were outraged that their game was considered a pastime and moves were put in place to change this image.

As I am sure you know Sport England distributes Lottery money to sporting activities, Palmerston IBC a notable beneficiary, though whilst the Unification process was moving at the pace of a very old snail, all donations to Bowling Clubs has been suspended. It is, however, worth noting that Sport England has a league table of sports which receives money in relation to their standing in that table. The top sports are not surprisingly well endowed – football, cricket, tennis leading the table. Bowls is deep in the second division and is ranked below Rounders!

So the leaders of the main Bowling Bodies have been locked in discussion with each other and Sport England representatives to come up with a plan which will bring Bowls into the 21st Century. Not all are in agreement as no doubt you are well aware. The EIBA have registered its disagreement with the EWIBA, EBA and EWBA but Sport England have said that they will accept the agreement arrived at by the remaining three bodies and if the bowling membership agrees with the Unification proposal it will go ahead without the EIBA. Both factions have been setting out their respective cases in the December issue of Bowls International and of course the EIBA have made their position clear in a separate paper sent to

each Indoor club.

So, where is this article leading? I hear you say, bear with me.

All four main Bowls Bodies have made some agreed changes already. A look at the latest edition of our rule book will show that it is now titled "The Laws of the Sport of Bowls". Also there has been substantial change in the Coaching structure and style. Our Coaching structure was criticised because it had only three levels of Coach, Instructor (of Beginners), Coach and Advanced Coach. This has been changed to five levels of Coach so as to satisfy Sport England and to bring us in line with the other major sports. The English Bowls Coaching Scheme was told to be more accountable, up to last year there were no records kept of coaching activity throughout the country.

Also it was charged to make itself more professional in its training of Coaches and in the way it introduced and coached beginners and helped experienced bowlers to overcome problems with their game. Recruitment and training of Coaches is proceeding and the aim is to have at least one qualified Coach in each club. Not everyone who applies to become a Coach will be selected to join the programme. The last thing the Coaching Scheme needs is 'badge hunters'. A prospective coach will need to be committed to the sport. It costs a trainee Foundation Coach £26.50 for registration and books alone, however this figure is under review and will probably be increased to bring it in line with other sports. On top of this will be the cost of upgrading later and the new distinctive Coaches clothing which will be available shortly.

Included in the new Coaches induction training is a Health and Safety section including how to deal with emergency health problems. All Coaches will be expected to undergo a Criminal Records check; especially important if working with children and vulnerable adults.

Two letters in the December Palm Reader raised issues which need to be addressed. One referred to the fact that 90% of bowlers started playing without coaching - and it shows! The object of a dedicated Coaching Scheme is to start new bowlers correctly from the beginning; this is much easier than trying to correct faults that were introduced by a well meaning friend during a taster session. It is evident when looking around a green to see who has been taught to play and who has been

shown by a friend or relative. No one is trying to turn away anyone interested in having a go at bowling, what we are saying is it is much better to direct that person to a member of the coaching staff. Remember if you are not registered with the English Bowls Coaching Scheme you are not insured against any accident which may occur whilst you are showing someone how to bowl. Heaven forbid that anyone should be injured but accidents do happen and your club would then be liable. If a solicitor became involved the question would probably be asked "why was an untrained member of your club teaching someone instead of using a Coach?" This is not scare mongering. We live in an increasingly litigating society.

The second letter refers to the damage that an untrained bowler can do to an outside green and that outdoor clubs are, by inference happy to take that risk so why not indoor clubs? That raises two issues. Firstly most clubs are keen to take new members and if they do not have a Coach in the club are happy to carry on in the old way of introducing beginners. Secondly people who bang their bowls down do as much damage to an indoor surface as they do to grass; the only difference is that it is immediately evident outdoors because divots fly in the air. However ask the Green Manager at Palmerston about damage caused to the carpet, underlay and wooden flooring resulting from people bouncing their bowls. Some people I have spoken to at Palmerston tell me that they need to bounce their bowls in order to control the weight! How sad is that? They would prefer to cause damage to the carpet rather than ask a coach for help. One thing I have learned during my coaching years is that it is difficult to offer advice to an experienced bowler, you have to wait for them to ask and that rarely happens. Point out a fault in someone's delivery action and you could easily make an enemy for life.

Another view expressed by successful bowlers who have their name on trophies and the honours board is that they had no coaching but they haven't done too badly. I agree but how much better would they be if they had an overview of their game? How much further would they go? Natural talent can be a wonderful thing and can carry you a long way but not many progress to winning the Divisional Finals and on to the National title.

The National squad will have a Coach

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appointed. If gifted bowlers who have made their way into the National team can improve their game why cannot the rest of us?

This article has moved a long way from the original question "To Coach or not to Coach?" The paragraphs about Unification were there to show that Bowls is changing. Where Unification is concerned there is a lot of clear water between the EIBA on the one hand and the EWBA, EBA and the EWBA on the other. But all four bodies are agreed on important items such as the introduction of Child Protection Officers in every Club and the restructuring and modernising of the English Coaching Scheme. Please give support to the Coaches who have trained at their own expense and give their time willingly to improve the level of bowling generally and the image it portrays to the non bowling public. Who knows, this may lead to an improvement in the public's perception of the Sport and television schedulers may start to take us seriously along with football, cricket, tennis, snooker and darts. This improvement has to start somewhere, why not in your Club?

Keith Newman

It is with regret that we have to inform you that with effect from the AGM, Keith Newman will have resigned from all offices within Palmerston IBC. Keith was one of the original founders of this club and was involved in negotiations and planning long before the dream of an indoor bowls club in this area was realised.

Most members will know Keith as the Bar Manager but he has also been the Company Secretary of Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Ltd. since the Company was formed.

Keith has been suffering ill health for some time now, which has resulted in long spells in hospital and recovering at home.

We are sure that members will wish to join us in thanking Keith for a decade of hard work on our behalf and wish him well in his retirement.

The Board of Directors

Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Ltd

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

FAIR PLAY?

No I am not referring to your lucky wicks (I don't get them), I am referring to Pal Club rule 3.11 you all know what it refers to if you do not you are about to find out.

This rule governs the play in triples if a team defaults (that is a team turning up with a player short) you knew that didn't you.

My reasons in saying that it is unfair is as follows.

The Two play Eight Woods.

The Three play Nine Woods. As you see the Two are already at a disadvantage having one wood less.

The second disadvantage is the Nine woods play first and last.

The third disadvantage is that the Eight woods have to deduct a quarter of their score.

It has been conceded by the Indoor Bowls Council that if you win the end you have the choice to retain the mat or give it to your opponent. (53B Third Edition of the Laws of Bowls). This rule of the club 3.11 denies the Eight woods the advantage of rule 53B.

I suggest that the quarter deduction be omitted.

Maybe you have other alternatives?.

Mr. A. Anzalucca.

Dear Editor,

RE ANON

I totally disagree that these persons remain anon, already I have heard speculations to who it might be. Please save innocent persons from possible misjudgement name these persons and make it a rule if you are not prepared to stand up and be counted then your contribution will not be published.

Mr. A. Anzalucca.

[Ed: It might be good sport to speculate on who is the Anon, but this doesn't change the point they have made. I accept such contributions as otherwise they would have remained silent. Is it better to hear the point and wonder who it is, rather than miss the idea altogether? But thanks for your view on this Alec!]

Dear Editor

With reference to members wishing to bring relatives or friends to the Club to see if they would like to take up bowling, they

may not realise that a facility for this is already in place within the Coaching Scheme.

Several people have used this facility already and after further coaching have joined the Club. There are in fact four more people waiting for this opportunity after Xmas 2004.

If anyone wishes to take advantage of this facility they only have to contact the coaching team and something can be arranged to suit everyone.

Wally Chase - Coach

Dear Editor

Introduction of Guests

I was interested to read the letters in Palm Reader on guests and agree that we should be encouraging people to come and see the facilities and try the game.

I also believe that the coaches do a first-class job in introducing new players to the game, having benefited from that experience myself.

I think that the control point should be that nobody should be admitted to membership without being certified as ready to play by a coach. This may be merely an interview, as the prospective member may already be a very accomplished player. New bowlers would be required to do the coaching preparation to be certified for membership.

There are some colleagues of mine who would like to come and try the game. I intend to inform them of the dress code, ensure they hire shoes and bowls and supervise them. I hope they will have some fun and be encouraged to join. However I feel uncomfortable that this arrangement could be considered to breach club rules as they will not have been through the coaching preparation.

I hope common sense will prevail and the club will welcome my initiative to introduce some prospective members to our club.

Lots of people retire every year and are prospective members who would benefit from joining our club. I would recommend a well publicised Open day without dress code for any member of the public to come to see PIBC facilities, perhaps see some exhibition match and have a go themselves, with coaches on hand to advise, on request, how best to overcome initial difficulties.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Jackson

A Guide to Marking

If you play singles you don't have a skip so you need a marker to centre the jack, to tell you which bowl is shot, etc. Being a marker for a game of singles can be rewarding. Not only are you providing a valuable service for fellow bowlers, you can enjoy watching the game and maybe pick up a few pointers as to tactics employed (although, like the "experts" on the bank, you probably would have played the game better!).

Here is a guide to marking a game of singles. Hopefully if you are a novice marker or even already have some experience, you will find useful pointers here to help you provide a good service to the players. Your goal will be to be perfectly efficient but hardly noticed!

Read law 60 of "Laws of the Sport of Bowls" Third edition.

Introduce yourself to the two players. Ensure you know which bowls belong to which player (note differences on score card if you wish). Advise which player is "home" and which is "away" on the scoreboard (should be as card).

Inform them you intend marking touchers before the next bowl is delivered.

Toss or witness the toss of a coin to decide who has the choice of bowling first.

Find out if the players intend to have 2 trial ends and how many bowls they intend to take per trial end. Note that players may use all 4 bowls per trial end except in Palmerston Club Competitions which currently only allow 2 bowls per player.

For the trial ends you should tell the bowler where his bowl finishes in relation to the jack (e.g. jack high, 2 feet short, one yard through, etc.). Take care when using the terms "jack high", or "a bowl short" or "a bowl through" that you know exactly what these terms mean. Distances are taken to the point of the jack or bowl which is nearest to the bowler, so that "Jack high" means the front of the bowl is level with the front of the jack. Front means nearest to the bowler on the mat. (There is a diagram on the notice board in the foyer which illustrates these points.) Although in theory we should now be using the term "jack level", most still use "jack high" - even the TV markers!

During the game, at the beginning of each end carefully record the score for the previous end and update the scoreboard, don't feel rushed to do this by an impatient player waiting to deliver the jack. Then check that the mat is central and straight,

centre the delivered jack, and retire to a position 2 yards behind and to one side of the jack. Don't obscure the rink marker as some bowlers like to see this.

When the jack has been cast, and you have centred it, it is your responsibility to ensure that the jack is not less than the minimum 23 metres, it isn't up to the players to agree.

You may need to move towards the jack as a bowl approaches to check if the bowl touches the jack, otherwise remain still. You don't need to move to check whether the bowl just delivered is shot (unless you are asked) as this might distract the player ready to bowl.

Remember to chalk a toucher immediately it comes to rest (allow time to fall if necessary), as the next bowl may be a "firing" bowl giving you very little time. Chalk bowls twice, one each side, as it may be moved later hiding one of the marks. Chalk only on the running surface, not across dimples. If a bowl is in such a position that chalking it would disturb it, then inform the players that you nominate it as a toucher. You may be able to chalk it later but be sure to remember which bowl it is. However use of a spray chalk (carpet friendly) puffer, available at the Steward's desk, avoids any risk of disturbing a bowl.

If the jack or any bowls enter the ditch then the following occurs:

1. Indicate the position of the jack with a white marker
2. Remove any bowls which have not touched the jack
3. Chalk a toucher which goes into the ditch during its original course after touching the jack
4. Indicate the position of any touchers with a coloured marker.

Do not step into the ditch when chalking or measuring a bowl as you may disturb a bowl or jack.

On completion of the end, remain at the head until the players tell you the number of shots scored. You may be required to measure disputed shots. Remember to wedge any bowls which are tilting or standing upright on their running surface, then you can measure with more confidence. Do not move the jack or any bowls whilst in the act of measuring. Some players prefer to do their own measuring, do not be offended, it is their game. Request the players to remove any non-counting bowls from the head before you

start measuring, they may be in your way. **DO NOT REMOVE THE BOWL YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE SHOT. NEVER TURN BOWLS OUT - THIS SHOULD BE DONE ONLY BY PLAYERS OR OFFICIAL UMPIRES.** Just indicate the result of the measure and ensure the players understand the result. Ask the players for confirmation of the result of the end.

During any end you may be asked a variety of questions. Answer only the question asked and offer no other information. Only answer questions asked by the player in possession of the rink. Remember immediately a bowl comes to rest possession passes to the next player to bowl and he/she has possession until his/her bowl stops.

Typical questions and suitable answers:

Which bowl is shot? Point to shot bowl.

Who is holding shot? You/opponent by name.

Have I got 2 shots? Yes or (even if they have 3 shots) No.

What is the situation? (Here you are really being asked 2 questions, who is holding shot and how many) "You are holding 3 shots" or "You are 2 down".

How short was my last bowl? / How far through was my last bowl? When asked for an estimate of distance, don't use your arms as this is often too imprecise, state an estimate in yards/feet/inches.

When asked which bowl is shot and you cannot be absolutely certain, advise the player "it is a measure" or indicate a measuring motion with your hands. It is better to be on the cautious side rather than give a wrong impression to the player. However, remember it is your opinion you have been asked for not an accurate assessment. No actual measuring is permitted until the end is complete.

Other useful points are:

Make no movements behind the head when a player is bowling.

Keep away from the head (unless asked a relevant question).

Do not talk to people on the bank as this distracts not only the players but you also.

If the jack is cast to less than 2 metres from the rear ditch then use a 2 metre stick (or the T) to position the jack. Remember the front of the jack (nearest the mat) must be

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level with the end of the stick or the top of the T, i.e. at the exact 2 metre point.

On completion of the game ask BOTH players to sign the card (you and any umpire may have to sign), and make a note of the time. For some competitions you may need to add your name to the card (on the back if there's no room on the front) e.g. MARKER: JOHN SMITH.

If you mark in a tournament an umpire should be present to make any final decision. If he/she is called out do not stand over him/her but move well away unless asked for assistance by the umpire.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS: Scorecard and pen/pencil, chalk, measure, wedges.

USEFUL EXTRA ITEMS: Callipers, feeler gauges, long string measure (for ditch), 30 metre tape. (Ask to borrow the umpire's kit from the office if necessary).

N.B. Always wedge a bowl which is not lying flat - more than one wedge if necessary.

USEFUL MEASUREMENTS:

1. Minimum jack length 23 metres
2. Minimum distance between the mat and a rebounding jack 20 metres
3. Minimum length bowl 14 metres

Want to start up a new League team for next season?

The League Team Vacancies list is now on the Leagues board

You have only until 19th February to register any new team for next season 2005/6

League Team Registration 2005/6

Chits and envelopes will be available from 21 February at the Foyer desk

£1 per head per team

Place in competitions box

Closing date Sunday 27 March

Social and Fundraising

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

After the busy period at the end of 2004 life is a little quieter on the Social front. Club and Private functions leading up to Christmas were very successful and Richard has received several letters acknowledging the excellent standard of his services as well as those of the Bar Staff.

2005 Programme got under way on January 29th with the Winter Race Meeting. About 70 Members and Friends enjoyed the 'flutter' - the horses were running well!

As a result £93 was paid into Club Funds. One small request - if your name is listed please don't cross it off at the last minute without informing me as suppers are already ordered and have to be paid for. Meanwhile I would like to acknowledge the valuable assistance received from Bruce and Norma, Roger West, Roy Mudd, Ray Morse, Norma Wheeler as Bill & I are unable to be there - without them there would be no Race Nights.

Saturday March 5th - Buffet Supper & Cabaret - Details are not yet finalised but as soon as arrangements are confirmed posters and booking lists will be displayed on the Social Notice Board

Saturday March 12th - Charity Race Meeting - The Charity is 'The Rocky Appeal'. Janet is coming to the end of her Presidential Year and is hoping she can reach her 'Target' at this final event. Please give her your support.

Saturday March 19th Pre Easter Dinner 7.00 for 7.30pm Look out for the Seasonal Special Menu and book your tables early

Sunday March 27th - Easter Lunch. Richard will be advertising this Celebratory Lunch in good time. Make sure you book your table early.

Fuchsia Fanatics - Yes it's Gardening time again and Bruce Bedford is busy bringing on all his Fuchsia plants! He will be pleased to give a little show again and bring some plants that we can buy - probably in March. Look out for the date.

Coffee Morning - Possibly March 12th if we can get enough Helpers! Please start collecting your books, videos, CDs, DVDs, Jigsaws as well as some home made goodies and other knick-knacks but no clothes please (except Bowlsweat)

Summer Season - During the Summer we like to keep Richard and the Bar staff busy especially at Weekends. If you have any ideas for Theme Dinners, Midsummer

Celebrations, Fun & Frolic Suppers etc. please tell us about them in this newsletter and help us to get them organised. We have nothing planned as yet but no doubt there will be a Midsummer Race Meeting!

FUND RAISING PROGRAMME

It has been agreed that some of the monies we raise be used for the enhancement of the surrounding gardens. With Spring in the air the boxes and troughs will soon need replenishing. If you have any other improvements in mind Bruce - just go ahead!

100" CLUB - Lucky Winners of the December Draw were:-

Section 'A' Ray Morse £125 Bill Bowshell £60 .

Section 'B' J. Daish £125 A Hounsham £60 - Very welcome Xmas gifts!

January Draw - Section 'A' R. Hooper £40 Section 'B' E. Hollidge £40

If you would like to know more about joining the '100 Club look out for details when you receive your Annual Subscription letter!

Treasure Chest - By Friday 4th February the Chest could contain as much as £120! - So far this year no-one has chosen the right key to open the Chest! Have a go on Friday - £1 for five numbers.

Bonus Ball - Rita still persuades you to take a dip into her lucky bag for a chance to win £30 every Wednesday and Saturday. Keep up the good work Rita -(ably assisted by Tony and Leslie Howell).

Christmas Draw - Point taken - Next year we will buy the bigger and better prizes early rather than wait for the sale of tickets. This year several members donated substantial prizes which were much appreciated. We trust the winners of the Butchers Tokens enjoyed the festive fare! A lot of hard work goes into the organisation of the Draw - Sheets to be displayed, Cash Box to be emptied and checked, prizes to be shopped for and transported from all over the place, display tables to be set up, lists and sheets to be prepared before the Draw - to say nothing of the Draw itself when we have to ensure that all prizes are correctly allocated and listed. Only about £40 went into Club Funds! If you think you can do a better job or even just give us a hand please volunteer.

Enjoy the rest of the season!

Bowls Masterplan

