



Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

March 2005 Issue 14

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 19th March

10 am

Your chance to hear from
the Committee and to vote.

Don't miss it!

AGM proposals

This year there are only 3 proposals for changes in the Rules and Constitution for members to vote on, as follows:

1. Page 5 Clause 11.4

A representative of the Summer League be added to the list of Officers forming the Joint Management Committee.

2. Page 6 Clause 11.5.1

To read: "The Joint Management Committee shall meet at least 10 times per year to arrange the affairs ..."

Existing: "The Joint Management Committee shall meet at least every month to arrange the affairs ..."

3. Page 18 Appendix 3 Clause 3.7

The following to be added: Mixed Rinks - Min 6 Max 8 members.

End of an era -

Bill Bowshell retires

As most members will be aware, our Chairman, Bill Bowshell has been battling against ill health for some time now. It is with regret that the Board has received his resignation from office with effect from the 2005 AGM.

Bill was one of the few Founders still working for Palmerston IBC and no-one will deny the great debt we all owe to him for his leadership and dedication which resulted in Palmerston IBC becoming such a great and well respected indoor bowls club.

Due to his health problems Bill has not been able to take an active role in the Club's affairs for a while now but he has retained a keen interest in its progress and we recently had two Board Meetings at his and Rene's home.

There were many difficult problems to overcome when setting this club up and Bill was very much the "man of the moment" whose drive and determination carried us through.

Many of the more recent members of the Club will know Bill for the part he played in fund raising and social events but was of course a very useful bowler before his health prevented him from playing.

Bill is a big man with a big heart and no-one has a greater interest in Palmerston IBC than he. He will maintain his interest in our Club's affairs through Rene, who will continue as a Board member and will continue with Fund Raising and Social activities.



We are sure that everyone will join with us in thanking Bill for all that he has done for Palmerston IBC and wish him well in his retirement.

Palmerston IBC Board Members

Ladies report

All our competitions have now been played - the results not being as good as we would have liked, but all were played in a great competitive spirit and to a high standard. My congratulations to all who took part.

This is my last newsletter to you, as you all probably know by now, I am not standing as your captain for the forthcoming year. I have enjoyed my 3 years in office immensely and I thank you all for your support and understanding at times when changes have had to be made. My best wishes go out to whoever takes my place and I hope she will get the same enjoyment and support that I have.

My best wishes and thanks to you all

Jean Evans - Ladies Captain

Mens Team News

Those of you who look at the noticeboards regularly will by now have seen the final table of the Hampshire Club Championship (the Bramley Bowl). We finished the season third (behind Victory and Rushmoor) with wins against the top and bottom clubs resulting in a total of 45 points. Victory were champions with 59 points and our win against them was very satisfying and gave us 6 valuable points. This game went to the wire with our lads getting 3 points on the last end played, giving us victory overall by 2 shots! We finished 10 points clear of relegation, Banister Park making a spirited run at the end but failing to overtake East Dorset. Banister and Chawton Park are relegated and next year are replaced by Atherley and Riverside.

Last month I promised you a final table for the Top 10 competition. Here are the final total points:

East Dorset	75
Victory	62
Dolphin	39
Arun	36
Palmerston	36
Bournemouth	32
Five Rivers	25

This means that East Dorset and Victory go to the finals at Folkestone over the Easter weekend where there is £5000 of prize money to be played for! We were very pleased to finish in the table only 3 points below third and with equal points to Arun who are a strong club. Well done to all who played.

Mixed Singles Ladder update

I am very pleased with the response to the Mixed Singles Ladder. We have 46 members and the matches have started. At the time of writing there have been 10 challenges played, 4 of which were successful and the other 6 not. Hopefully this shows the the initial "seeding" of the ladder was not too far from the mark. In any event, this was a "one-off". The ladder will be suspended over the summer, then start again in September exactly from where it finishes this season.

It is noticeable that most of the games are in the upper half of the list. Is this because these members are more used to organising competition games? Don't be reticent, have a go and make a challenge.

There has been an amendment to the rules which you will see on the board. This was because I forgot to say how you should toss for the jack at the beginning of each set or the tie-break.

Incidentally no tie-breaks have been necessary yet as all games were won just on the sets alone. This has meant that the games have been comfortably accommodated within the 2 hour session, but not too soon (no-one likes to waste the time they have paid for on the rink!).

Finally, there is one concern which is exercising the minds of the organisers: the need for a marker. There has been some comment that more might have entered if there wasn't a requirement for a marker. As a result I have drafted an amendment to the rules (not yet adopted) which would allow a match to be played without a marker, but with the following exceptions to the normal rules:

- 1.reduce the number of ends in a set from 10 to 9 because of the time

factor, i.e. the jack needs to be centred by one of the players and then he/she has to walk down the rink before the end can commence

2.any bowl ending up in the ditch is declared "dead" irrespective of whether it touched the jack. This is because touchers can't be marked without someone at the head, and if you're standing at the mat end you can't even be sure if a bowl actually touched the jack anyway.

3.you have to warn others on adjoining rinks if you're going to fire (for safety reasons)

Unfortunately we can't agree on this. Personally I am in favour of this amendment as I believe it will allow more games to be played. Others are against as they think it is tampering with the normal rules of bowls. My experience is that most bowlers who are used to competitive singles are likely to arrange a marker. Is it not better that those who are prepared to forgo the benefit of a marker should accept some limitations rather than miss out on the experience of playing singles?

One other point raised is that all players on the list ought to be prepared to mark for anyone else as they would expect someone to mark for them.

What do you think? Please let me know your views. Meanwhile, at present markers are still required for each game so please be prepared to mark for someone if they ask. See last month's newsletter for a guide to marking (this guidance was fairly comprehensive and may appear daunting but once you've done one game it becomes pretty easy and the players will help you out if you miss something).

New Ladies Drawn Triples League

A new LADIES DRAWN TRIPLES LEAGUE is to be started next season on Fridays at 2pm. This is to replace a ladies league which this year only has 6 teams in it with 2 withdrawing, making it impossible to continue in the current format for next season.

The idea for this league is that brand new teams will be drawn out of a hat at the end of this month. These new teams will then form a triples league to play all next season. Hopefully drawing teams at random will produce a fair spread of bowling ability and all concerned will

have good games. You might also find it refreshing to play with new teammates rather than the ones you have been playing with for some years.

Assuming this league is successful it will continue using the same teams in the following season. It is not currently intended to redraw the teams each year.

Ladies wishing to enter this league please put your name on the list in the ladies changing room before the end of March deadline, when the new teams will be drawn.

Committee Notes

The number of visitors using the restaurant facilities for lunch is still a concern. (see letters for further comment on this)

The fan apertures on the rear wall have been sealed in an attempt to reduce the draught problem.

Team Shirts for the Junior Team have been purchased and have been well received.

The "Friendly Match" against London and Southern Counties was cancelled.

Summer Close Down is expected to be 2 weeks from Monday 1st August 2005.

The Treasurer presented a graph showing the amount of income from the rink fees over a 4 year period. The graph shows a slight fall in rink fees over the period. After some discussion the Committee suggested that the rink fees may have to be raised by a small sum. The Secretary will raise the matter at the next Board meeting.

Lesley Howell will be standing for the position of Vice President at the AGM.

It is proposed to hold a "Drawn Triples League" on a Friday next season (see separate article on this)

On inter-club competitions the Palmerston IBC team playing away incur additional costs due to travelling. It was suggested that the normal £2 rink charge be increased to £3.00 for all team members (home and away) and out of this the travel costs of £2 per person would be given to the drivers. This would even out the costs between home and away players but provide the same overall fees to the Club. The Committee agreed the change.

The issue of club members (not coaches) teaching non-members the rudiments of bowls on the rink was raised. This is against Club Rules. The Committee requested that the Secretary speak to the member concerned requesting that he abide by the Club rules.

It was suggested that the Club considers using Tarifold folders to house the league tables thus releasing notice board space. The meeting suggested that one folder be purchased to trial.

It is proposed to start the Summer Leagues on 4th April 2005.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

VISITORS

"Concern is still being raised at the number of visitors that are using the restaurant facilities for lunch." (Ed: this was reported from the Committee minutes last month)

Can you please clarify the ambiguous statement regarding visitors. What sort of "visitor"? Being a founder member, I also belong to an over 50s club, at times we build up a surplus of funds. How to get rid of this surplus? Why not let Palmerston Club have it by booking the restaurant for approximately 25 people for a lunch, (of which 4 are club members), thus supporting the club restaurant.

Through the introduction to Palmerston

Bowling Club, several people have joined as full members and more as social members, no bad thing I would suggest.

"What sort of visitor", does that mean my guests? We have experienced some hostility before re: the lunches booked by members incorporating friends from other clubs, perhaps now is the time to make the position clear once and for all?

Ray Perkins

(Ed: I have been told that the problem appears to be on Sundays when the restaurant often becomes fully booked. Some members have complained about not being able to get in when there have been large parties of mainly non-members who have booked ahead of them. This issue is currently being considered by the Board.)

Greetings Cards

It has been brought to the attention of the Club Management that there has been a shortfall in the money collected for the Greetings Cards. I am sure that the members do not wish to lose the facility to be able to purchase the cards at excellent prices, so therefore it is important that members or friends who take a card remember to put their money in the appropriate box.

It is unfair to expect the suppliers/makers of the cards to subsidise the Club.

We could find ourselves having to search the shops for a decent card if the trend continues.

Ray Gregory - Club Secretary

Unification

March Bowls International contained an update on Unification. The action is mainly coming from the English Bowling Association (EBA) which is the national body for outdoor bowls clubs. They have taken a series of roadshows around the country to inform the county bodies what is proposed. They have called a Special General Meeting on Saturday 9th April in London when they will ask delegates from all the 35 counties to vote on unification.

I understand that some counties have already balloted their members, by asking representatives from each club to vote, and for example Leicestershire was the first and have voted in favour of the proposals.

At this point in time, Hampshire (outdoor) has asked clubs to notify the Hampshire executive of their vote by 26th March at the latest. So it is up to individual (outdoor) clubs to ascertain the views of their members and report back by this date.

At present it seems there is no movement by the indoor county and national bodies to ballot members. As you will know the EIBA (indoor national governing body for men) are against the unification proposals put forward by the other 3 bodies.

Advanced Coaching

For the information of the members who put their names on the list for coaching, we will be arranging the session on Sunday April 10th 0930 to 1430.

All those who wish to participate are asked to complete a questionnaire (these are on the table near the notice board) and when completed put it in the envelope attached to the notice board. As soon as possible please.

It is important to complete the questionnaire as, apart from the useful information it provides for the coaching staff, we need to know how many members will be attending.

Editorial

The end of the season draws close with the AGM looming. Time to reflect on the past season and decide what to do differently next time. Personally I want to reduce my bowling commitment next time by being in fewer competitions. I know some who will want to reduce their league games. The committee minutes point out a decrease in rink fees over the past 4 years. This trend is compounded by the drop in membership. A club in decline? It's not yet terminal, but we need to start to do something about it.

Who should address this? Not an easy question to answer. I had a look at the club constitution. The Board deal with finance, catering, events, maintenance including the green. (Also, surprisingly, organising, programming and arrangements generally of all games and matches - surely not!) Anything else is down to the Joint Management Committee.

So as decline in rink and membership fees impacts on finance it looks like the Board is the main body to look to. Hopefully we'll learn more at the AGM, but don't expect any easy answers. All clubs have the same problem. Nevertheless, perhaps we need to get more direct focus on this major issue - by appointing a Director to concentrate solely on arresting the decline?

And instead of expecting one brain to come up with all the ideas, let's have 1000 brains on it. A suggestion scheme?

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 October 2005).

Social and Fundraising

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Sorry to say - there isn't one! Not quite true as thanks to Malcolm Chapman - in collaboration with Richard - there are all sorts of ideas being hatched to keep the Social Programme alive during the Summer and Autumn months - 60th Anniversary of VE Day, 200th Anniversary Trafalgar Day, Charity Cabaret Dinners, Race Nights.

Sadly I have to admit that I am no longer able to take on the responsibility of planning, organising, arranging and executing future events due to my domestic circumstances though I shall be pleased to continue to help. Many members will have happy memories of Cabaret and Variety Nights, Old Time Singalongs, Cockney Nights and numerous other celebrations all with the accompaniment of good food, which along with Race Nights, Cheese & Wine Parties, Fun & Games and Bingo Evenings, Quiz Nights - always been well supported - often over subscribed - resulting in a large boost to Club Funds. Bill and I worked very hard on the preparation and organisation of these events but we always had the help of the Social Committee as well as other volunteers.

If these happy days and occasions are to be repeated I urge you to come forward now and help Malcolm in his efforts to form a working group to take responsibility of planning arranging and organising events collectively and sharing the many tasks required for a successful outcome. Just add your names to the Social Committee list on the AGM Notice Board - Social members can also volunteer.

Following Malcolm's recent successful Charity Cabaret Supper for "Kids" (Downs Syndrome Youngsters) and Janet's Fund Raising efforts for the "Rocky Appeal" several other charities have approached us. With the help of you - the members - we can help these good causes. Maybe you have a favourite charity you would like to give support to.

Some newer members may be quite unaware of the happy and enjoyable parties, dinners, cabarets and other occasions we have shared over the past 7 years. I have heard that some newcomers were unaware of the location of the Social Notice Board! Agreed it is not very visible hidden behind the Greetings cards - we must try to display our posters more prominently in future.

Support for the Cabaret Supper on March 5th was very disappointing for the organisers as well as for the Guests, the Entertainer and for Richard. It is essential that we promote business for Richard with Private and Social functions during the Summer when he has no Friendlies to cater for. The Bar also needs more income to help cover the cost of staff wages.

Bill now has to resign his duties through ill health. You can show your appreciation by joining the team to continue his good work.

FUND RAISING PROGRAMME

Winter Bowling Season is drawing to a close and some Fund Raising Projects also 'take a break'!

100 CLUB - Still the March Draw to take place. If Roy is running his usual Friday Club Night on Good Friday 25th the Draw will be made then. Watch the Notice Board

February winners were Section 'A' Ron Greenslade (254) £40, Section 'B' R.F.Reed (707) £40

TREASURE CHEST

By Friday 4th March the Chest had reached the magnificent sum of £230!!

Drawing the Lucky Number that night - Alan Croft chose Key No 3 - Hooray - it opened the Chest and Alan collected £235! Well done.

There are only 3 weeks in which to try your luck! The Chest will be opened and distributed on 25th March unless won before then.

BONUS BALL

This will continue for a few more weeks. Hopefully, with your support, Rita will keep it going for the Saturday Lottery during the Summer.

Bill would like to thank you all for your continued support during the past year. All of these Fund Raising Projects were initiated with his drive and enthusiasm to enhance the future success of Palmerston Bowls Club by adding extra facilities for Members.

Keep up the good work!