



Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

November 2005 Issue 16

Dolphin opens floodgates

I couldn't believe my ears when I heard that Dolphin IBC were recruiting over 100 new members each year. How was that possible? Surely we are told that bowls is on the decline. We can indeed see that from the evidence of our own membership which has been steadily reducing in recent years. We at Palmerston think we are fortunate in being able to attract up to 50 bowlers per year to replace those who leave. So how do they do it?

I contacted Dolphin and they kindly let me in on their secret - Open Days. But as I found out it's not just a matter of holding Open Days - they have a well thought out overall recruitment programme.

For the past several years they have been holding 3 Open Days per year. Each one is well advertised locally. They get mentions in local magazines and plugs on Radio Solent. Most of this advertising is free although they pay a few pounds for an ad in the Echo on the Friday before and the Saturday of the Open Day. However they say their best source of publicity is in fact a banner notice, which is displayed near a crossroads, where waiting car drivers and passengers can read it. In addition they have leaflets which their members help to distribute to family, friends, etc.

Typically about 75 people attend the Open Day, where they are able to go on the green and are instructed briefly just in order to have a go and see if they are interested in taking it further. At the end of this introduction they can sign up for a coaching course which costs £20 over 5 weeks. There are 14 coaching staff who run courses on Tuesday afternoons or Saturdays. With 4 people per rink on 4 rinks (Tuesday) and 5 rinks (Saturday) they can accommodate 40 people per 5 week course. So 3 times per year equates to 120 potential new members, out of which most (around 100) do join.

However it doesn't end with the coaching. They run a 5 week follow-on "novice league" on Sunday evenings at £4 per evening, including shoes and bowls hire, at which there are experienced helpers who organise the matches. To give a little extra spice, there are prizes of wine/chocolates at the end.



At this stage they are still not yet members, but at the end of this 5 weeks, to be able to continue any further they have to make a decision of whether to join the club as full members. After joining there are beginners leagues on Tuesday evening and various drives at other times. So overall they have a very progressive introduction to becoming a satisfied member.

This has led to a significant increase in membership at Dolphin, who currently have over 1000 members. Originally they had a single 7 rink green but later extended the club with another 4 rink green alongside. Anyone who has been to Dolphin at Poole will know of their excellent facilities.

I am sure there are lessons to be learned from Dolphin's well conceived programme and we congratulate them on their success. This certainly provides ideas and encouragement for other clubs such as Palmerston. Indeed we have ourselves started along these lines already with our own Open Day, held in July (see October Palm Reader), when we had 45 people who tried out our facilities, some of whom have signed up for coaching, of which we expect to recruit perhaps up to 15 members.

Many thanks to Mrs Anne Tully of Dolphin IBC who was most helpful in providing the information for this article.

Take all 4 woods!

This is a message particularly for bowlers who are selected for the "Honda Top 10" competition played on Sundays, but may equally apply to other bowlers who play away on another green.

In the Top 10 there are 4 matches, the singles and fours play at one club and the pairs and triples at the other club. So 5 bowlers have to travel to the away venue whilst the other 5 play at Palmerston.

We had a near miss at the start of this season. When the first match of this season was posted on the noticeboard, several players had already ticked off when it was discovered that the Captain discovered a mistake with the venues. Originally he thought the singles and fours were playing at home and the pairs and triples would travel to Poole to play at the Dolphin Club. This was the wrong way round, but fortunately this was spotted in time and the players were advised.

But what would have happened if it hadn't been spotted? When the singles player and the fours team arrived at Poole there would have been a frantic phone call to the Captain at Palmerston who would have had no alternative but to re-jig the away team into a pair and triple and similarly the home "pair" and "triple" would have to be split into a "single" and a "four". The question is - would the four who were expecting only to play with 2 bowls have only taken 2 bowls in their bag? Because now they would be needing 3 or 4! Most do only take 2 as I understand. In this circumstance they would have had to borrow a set from the host club.

Would you like to be faced with having to represent your club with unfamiliar bowls in your hand? And particularly is they didn't have your size, weight or bias. No, neither would I. So the message is clear - take all 4 bowls just in case there's a mix up. Also someone should take some spare stickers (Captain please note!).

It did happen to Victory once and it could happen again despite the best efforts of the organisers.

Our President

Our President this year is Madge Bird, a delightful lady who kindly consented to an interview although she described herself as "not very interesting". My description would be "a breath of fresh air" - speak to her yourself if you see her and you'll see what I mean.

Palm Reader: Tell us something about your bowling life and how you started.

Madge Bird: I took a course at Henry Cort School in Fareham where I learned to play short-mat bowls. Later I joined Lockwood when it opened. I moved to Fareham outdoors later because of car problems, as I live very close to Fareham's green. I was a founder member of Palmerston.

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

MB: Yes, I was Ladies Captain at Lockwood and also at Fareham.

PR: Being a Captain isn't easy, as you can't please everyone. Is there anything you remember about doing this job?

MB: Yes. It's important to select people who can play together, although it isn't always obvious who they are! When I took a match away if there were 2 who didn't get on I'd pick them in my rink, and we'd all go in my car. At the start of the journey I'd tell the third one to navigate in the passenger seat and talk to me only. The two disagreeables would be in the back seat together. Eventually they would get bored and start talking. It always worked! Oh, and on the way back I never allowed a post mortem.

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

MB: I got a lot of pleasure from bowls and I felt I wanted to give something back. It didn't look like anyone else was going to volunteer so I offered. I didn't look forward to it, it seemed very daunting, especially following the other presidents we have had with their experience and abilities. However I don't regret it now.

PR: What do you like most about being President?

MB: You meet a lot more people, which I

always enjoy.

PR: What do you like least about being President?

MB: Some people treat me differently this year as if I'm somehow different to what I was before, which is of course nonsense. I don't feel I need to be different to be President, it's the same old me.

PR: What sort of extra expenses do you have to pay for being President?



MB: None. At some other clubs and previously at Palmerston, a President had a considerable amount of expenses to find out of their own pocket. A decision has been made (before I became President) by the Club here to pay the President's expenses. So people don't need to be worried about the money side of things if they think they might like to do a term as President.

PR: Some people might be put off by having to give speeches. How do you cope?

MB: It's not too difficult. After the first one or two you soon fall into a routine. You say much the same things each time, and the different bits just come out naturally. I never thought I'd cope that well but now I enjoy it.

PR: I notice you do a Stewards duty on Mondays. Do you regard this as duty or pleasure?

MB: Oh, a pleasure. I have done it since the Club opened. It was a deliberate way of

meeting people. What more could a lady want than a good natter in the afternoon?

PR: Do you think there is any way we can get more people to volunteer?

MB: You can't make people do it. But if everyone does bits, it's more of a club. Unfortunately many people nowadays don't treat it as a club, just somewhere to go and bowl.

PR: What is it like chairing the Joint Management Committee?

MB: I enjoy it. It's a bit like the first time after you passed your driving test. You're in charge! I like quick meetings and to keep to the point. Long discussions don't achieve anything in this sort of meeting. We beat the record last time for finishing early!

PR: Do you play in the leagues / drives / competitions / friendlies ?

MB: I play in leagues and friendlies, and sometimes on Wednesday afternoons in the drive when there is one. I have played in the mixed pairs competition with George but this year I didn't want to commit to this. I enjoy all these although there are sometimes some league games which are a bit too one-sided when you come up against teams which are too strong. I'm sure they don't really enjoy it either.

PR: How can we get more people to play friendly matches, or should we replace friendlies with some other form of bowling event?

MB: Friendlies are OK at the moment because we've cut down on the number of friendlies. We previously used to have them on Saturday and Sunday, but many people can't afford this, particularly couples.

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

MB: Oh a lot of things. Look at it, it's a great layout with lovely facilities - changing rooms, bar, restaurant, car park. What more could you want? There's lots of interesting people - I like the company. We're very fortunate to have somewhere like this to go to in the Winter. It beats watching TV!

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

MB: I'd have to think about it. One thing - I don't like the ladies games to be only in the ladies changing rooms - they should be on the main noticeboard - it's a mixed club, not ladies and gentlemen. But that's not much to complain about is it? Aren't we lucky?

November Membership Check

TO ALL MEMBERS

Ladies & Gentlemen,

At a recent Joint Management Committee meeting it was decided that we must conserve the position of Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club as a private, members only, club.

In the past I have instructed my Winter stewards to make spot checks on members entering the Club, to see if they are carrying their membership cards.

This has not always gone down favourably with some members, but you must realise it is something we can and must do to ensure the privacy of the Club.

The last thing we want is persons entering the Club illegally; if this happens and we are checked by the police or council members it could affect our licences.

To this end we are to impose a full week of checking membership cards ON ENTRY. A member of the Management Team will be at the door requesting to see your card **before you can enter the Club**. The week concerned will be from:-

**0900 MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
to 1800 SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER**

I must emphasise that we do not take this decision lightly; we are not doing it for any other reason than to protect the privacy and facilities of YOUR Club.

John Vicary - Chief Steward

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Palmerston is fortunate to have several volunteer members who man the reception, book in players, Hoover the carpet and secure the premises. In recompense these wonderful members are given vouchers (£1.50) to use against rink fees.

A peculiar situation arose when my partner and I played a club doubles the other day, a match that plays over the 2 hours and thus costs £2.00. To pay our dues I handed over my £2, a voucher and 50p. Oh no - not acceptable, according to the Steward and a Committee member who happened to be standing nearby.

Could someone please explain why these vouchers are acceptable for a 2 hour session but not acceptable (plus 50p) for a club competition. If this is the case, who made this distinction and why?

Eric Brierley

MORE LETTERS PLEASE!

Christmas Closure Dates

Close Friday 23 December 14:30

Reopen Monday 2 January 09:30

Did you know?
Palmerston Catering's not
here just for tasty meals and
great value Sunday lunches

*Friend or relative
getting married?
Ask for a quote*

*Special birthday
coming up?*

**Want the special
occasion without the hard
work? - We'll deliver!**

*Silver or Gold? We
can do any colour
anniversary*

Buffet or four-course meal, hot or
cold, the choice is yours!
Contact Richard for further details

01329 232214

Advanced Coaching

There is another opportunity to participate in advanced coaching on **18th December**. This will follow a similar format to the coaching held at the end of last season in April, when around 30 more or less experienced bowlers attended.

This one day course was requested by those who realised that, despite in some cases many years of playing bowls, there were weaknesses in their game which might benefit from some help. Coaching is not just for beginners, even club champions were put through their paces last time. Comments from the participants after the last course were very favourable and some expressed an interest in attending the next one. Well here it is and you need to get your name down on the list opposite the stewards desk.

The course starts at 9am and you will be split into small groups which will go on different rinks in turn. On each rink there will be a qualified coach who will take you through one particular aspect by demonstration and structured practice. One rink will have a video camera and everyone will get a unique chance to see themselves in an action replay on TV!

You need to bring your own packed lunch but drinks will be available. The day will finish around 4.30 to 5pm with a feedback session.

This is a day of fun, effort and reward. Don't miss this opportunity to fix that problem which has been limiting your scores. Get your name down before the list fills up.

A slow start

Only two challenges have been played in the **Mixed Singles Ladder** in the 7 weeks since the start of the season. This is in stark contrast to when the ladder was launched towards the end of last season, when 27 games were played in about the same period of time. I have been wondering what the problem is and can think of the following possible reasons:

1. When launched, the ladder was a new innovation which aroused curiosity as well as interest.

2. There was a front page article in Palm Reader, prominent red/yellow arrows on the board where it was displayed and it was "plugged" on the electronic noticeboard. Have many people have just forgotten about it?

3. A number of those in the ladder are involved in the early rounds of club competitions, so may want to play these as a priority leaving little time for the ladder.

4. More ladder games last season were played by bowlers who are used to arranging competition games. Some of those who don't enter the competitions but put their name down in the ladder didn't make any challenges, so although they thought they would like to play on the ladder, is the organisation of a game too unfamiliar or difficult for them?

5. Is this a casualty of the overlap of outdoor and indoor bowling? In other words do people need a break before they can re-ignite enthusiasm for bowling? Perhaps playing the leagues is enough until the Christmas break.

6. Going back to an issue raised last year, would more people play if they didn't have to arrange a marker?

7. The ladder is now positioned permanently in the corner of the competitions notice board, just above the competitions entry box. Have people just not noticed it?

I would be grateful for feedback from ladder members as to why they haven't played yet. If there is something we need to change to make this more attractive we can only do this as a result of your input. I'm hopeful that the challenges will pick up after Christmas when people have had a break from bowling and competitions are reduced. Until then, remember there are no formalities and no fees to join, just make a challenge and enter it on the sheet.

And just a reminder that after Christmas, any existing ladder members who have never made a challenge will no longer be treated as new entrants, so will be limited to challenging up to 6 places above them.

Men's competitions

This year's entries to the competitions were disappointingly down on previous years. However, there are still sufficient numbers to provide a good competitive challenge and the results coming in seem to bear this out.

It has been brought to my notice that there is still some confusion over the duration of men's singles and pairs games and the rink fees which are payable for these games when a double session is booked. A rule change was agreed at the 2004 AGM that all Singles matches would be played to twenty-one shots, and Pairs matches would be played to twenty-one ends, thus requiring a double-session slot to be booked, **EXCEPT** where there is **MUTUAL** agreement to play to the bell over one session. All other matches at present are played to the bell up to and **including** the quarter-finals. For semi-finals and finals **all** competitions are played to their full length.

With regard to rink fees, it was agreed by the JMC (Sept 2004) that rink fees for double session matches would be £2, in line with the county fees. This was felt to be sensible, as finalists of club competitions go on to the county competitions.

Some people have suggested that we run a two wood open (i.e. mixed men and ladies) singles competition. Is there sufficient interest out there? I would welcome any feedback.

So far there have been no "hiccups" in games being arranged and played. This obviously makes my job a lot easier, so I would like to say thank you - please let this situation continue!

*Andrew Miller -
Men's Competition Secretary*

Please let me have your feedback - don't just discuss it at the bar with your mates - put it down on paper!

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 December 2005).

Russell Gadd - Editor

Hampshire

Hampshire men took on Surrey in the first round of the Liberty Trophy Inter-County Championship knockout competition on 29th October, winning by 123 to 99 shots. This included wins by all 3 rinks at Egham, skipped by Graham Standley (Longmeadow), Adam Tidby and Julian Haines (both East Dorset). At the home venue of East Dorset, Richard Shelley (Victory) lost and Russell Morgan (East Dorset) drew. Peter Ward (East Dorset) won but did not finish all 21 ends, as so many had been killed that by the time they came to the last one the result was not in doubt.

The next round is on Saturday 19th November against Kent, who beat us in the semi-final last year, so it will be tough.

By coincidence the Hampshire ladies also play against Kent on Saturday November 19th in their first round of the Atherley Trophy (the ladies County Championship) at the Whiteknights Club in Reading. We wish our 3 Palmerston ladies in the team Pam Lamshead, Jill Cook and Joyce Bradlaugh a good game. Kent were winners last year so a hard match is in prospect. Keep your fingers crossed that both men and ladies can triumph over Kent this year.

Congratulations to Ben Settle of Palmerston who played alongside Michael Comley (Banister Park), Lee Trowern (Victory) and Michael Hutley (East Dorset) in Hampshire's Under 25 double rink match against Essex on October 23rd at the Victory club. Although our home side won by a massive 31 shots to 8 it was only just sufficient to wipe out the away rink's 28 - 6 loss. The climax was on the final end at Victory, the game at Essex having been completed, where Hampshire were holding an overall 2 shot lead (mobile phones have their uses!). With only the skips to bowl, the Essex skip added a second, but unfortunately in trying to put in his second for a winning bowl, he disturbed the head and reduced the count to one. So Michael Hutley did not need to bowl his last wood.

Best of luck when the lads play Sussex on Sunday November 20th for a place in the quarter final.

Committee Notes

Some members have raised concerns about the selection of players for the Friendly Matches. Some feel that they are being overlooked. The Committee agreed that as this was just the beginning of the season there is plenty of time for members to get a game(s).

The temperature in the restaurant is felt to be set too low - the matter to be investigated.

536 members have returned the questionnaire on the subject of smoking in the Club. The responses to date are: For Non-Smoking 271, For Smoking 246, Non-committed 19.

There are 48 Full members and 46 Social members who have not yet rejoined. This gives a shortfall in Annual Subscriptions of £4,250.

20 Full Members have resigned and 15 Full Members have transferred to Social Membership. 5 members have requested to go on hold for health reasons.

Due to lack of support it is unlikely that the League Cup competition will take place.

At present entries for the ladies Club Competitions are very low. It may not be viable to hold some competitions.

Some concern was expressed over the lack of green etiquette in the League AB where there are several inexperienced bowlers in the same team. (Editor: Please see the article on the back page)

There are still some weekend sessions without a Steward. Members help is needed please (see below).

Occasional Sunday Stewards required

12.30-15.45 and 15.45 - 19.00.

These are listed on the OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD opposite the stewards desk. Write your name on the list to volunteer.

If you are new to Stewarding and are interested in doing one or more sessions please contact the Chief Steward John Vicary by phone on 01329 283881 or leave a note at the Stewards desk. Introduction to the various tasks will be given and John would be with the person for their first session, so there should not be any difficulty for a newcomer.

Please remember it's YOUR Club.

Social and Fundraising

by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

With the Winter season well under way and the clocks turned back we are already planning our activities for 2006 remembering that the purpose of running these social events is twofold – firstly to bring pleasure to you the members and secondly to help in raising money for Club funds.

Autumn Race Night held on October 15th was certainly successful on both counts. When I arrived to check the Door at 6.50 75% of the punters had already arrived and by 7.30 Roy had sold out of horses! Horses No 1 & 2 excelled themselves and will have to be rested next time!! A thoroughly enjoyable evening for 102 people with a bonus of £190 going to Club Funds. The Raffle in aid of 'Natalie Porter Fund' was also very successful. Your generosity enabled us to present Natalie with a cheque for £360 to help her on her way to Lithuania on November 18th to represent UK in a Gymnastics competition. Appreciation cards from Natalie and Debbie are on the Notice Board.

Sat. Nov 12th – Cabaret Dinner – Our efforts in securing the services of Brookfield School Jazz Band have proved popular – we are already fully booked. Tickets are available (£11) from the Bar – Remember we start Dinner at 6.30 for 7.00pm. Should be a very successful evening – no doubt we shall be asking the Musical Director if we can have them again!

Sat. Dec 3rd – Club's Christmas Event – not yet finalised but probably a festive Hot & Cold Buffet followed by Musical Entertainment. Watch for details.

Sat Dec 17th – Addition to Programme if there is sufficient response - Richard and his staff will organise an extra Christmas Evening with a Special Dinner in case any of you were unable to get booked in for the Special Xmas Sundays.

Sat Dec 31st – Richard and ALL his family are organising an evening to welcome in the New Year. Ask Richard if you need more information.

Proposed Programme for 2006

Sat Jan 28th – Winter Race Night – When the list is displayed you will be asked to book 'Tables' (as we do for Dinners etc.) so that you can be sure of sitting with your own group of friends. List will go up on 2nd January 2006.

Sat Feb 25th – Quiz, Bingo, Fun & Games Evening – possibly combined with

Cheese & Wine Party. Many of you will remember these evenings previously when we organised the food ourselves. We would have to enlist Richard to cover it now with some help from us.

Friday Mar 3rd – Quiz Evening run by Macmillan which some members may wish to support.

Coffee Morning – One Saturday morning in March. Still unable to fix the date but you will hear in good time so start gathering your goodies together.

Murder Mystery Dinner - A provisional date has been booked – Saturday April 29th 2006 – We shall now need you to confirm your interest so that we can safely pay the required deposit. Tickets will Cost £15 (including Dinner).

FUND RAISING

Treasure Chest – Tickets are on sale every Friday evening from 5.30pm (£1 strip of 5). Draw is made at 8.00pm. If you have the lucky number you will win £5 and also have the chance to choose from the remaining keys to open the 'Treasure Chest' which holds the Funds. 6 or 7 weeks have gone already and the number of 'keys' to choose from has been reduced accordingly. Meanwhile the amount of the 'Treasure' has grown to well over £100 Make sure you have the chance of winning it next Friday.

Bonus Ball – Now operating for both Wednesdays and Fridays National Lottery Draw. Look for the 'Magic Bag' on the table as you come into the Club. Incidentally there have been some shortages in the cash recently when all the numbers have been sold. Make sure you put £1 (not 1p) in the box for each number taken. The Club is always the loser!

100 Club – The total number of members participating grew to 91 in each Section (A & B) List of your allocated numbers is displayed on the Notice Board. First draw was made on Friday 28th October - £40 winners were A. Bedford 0764 (Sec A) and B. Prince 0927 (Sec B) November draw will be on Friday Nov 25th

Xmas Draw – Blue sheet has now been completed (£250) and the Green sheet is well under way. Treasurer is pleased to report 'no shortages' in cash box so far! The 'Prize' table is looking very attractive with additions coming every day. You need to buy your numbers quickly if you want to be one of the winners – There are only FIVE more weeks to go before the Draw on Friday 9th December!!

Green etiquette

The latest Committee minutes note a beginners league where several members are not observing normal green etiquette. I thought it would be useful not only for them but also more experienced members to publish some helpful guides to behaviour on the green. I looked up several web sites and made up the compilation below. Maybe you recognise some of the common problems one encounters and I hope this will possibly assist you in helping to make others' bowling experience more of a pleasure than an irritation.

When a bowler is on the mat

If you are on the bank, do not distract bowlers who are bowling towards you, by moving or walking across the end of the rink. Wait until the bowl has been delivered, then move.

The kicking about of bowls should cease until the bowl has been delivered. There is nothing worse than the click/clack of bowls when you are trying to concentrate.

All loud talking should cease until the bowl has been delivered. Some bowlers even speak to the bowler on the mat when they are about to deliver.

Other bowlers at the same end should stand well back out of eye view and not crowd the bowler ready to deliver. Many times you will see other bowlers nearly alongside the bowler about to deliver. This is 'in vision' and very off-putting. (Rule 44 states that bowlers should be a minimum of 1 metre behind the mat)

If you are not the one giving instructions to the person about to bowl, stand well back from the head and allow all others at the head a clear view.

When at the head, bear in mind that some bowlers like a clear view of the rink markers.

Standing in the head directly behind a white jack in white shoes can make the jack difficult to see.

Bowlers in the head should keep perfectly still until the bowl has been delivered.

If the last bowl was a 'toucher' and you are at the head do not leap forward with your chalk just as your opponent is about to deliver the next bowl. You may nominate a toucher verbally and then chalk it when the next bowl is on its way.

If you are the one at the head who is giving instructions, do not leap forward with last minute instructions when your fellow teammate is about to deliver. This is extremely off-putting and they are likely to deliver a bad bowl.

If you are the bowler delivering the bowl try to deliver it smoothly onto the green. You will see some bowlers 'throw' it, more than deliver it, from their waist. You will hear a loud 'thud' as the bowl hits the green when delivered in this way. In this case the bowl will damage the underlay as it bounces. Players carrying out this practice should be warned.

Before stepping on the mat to bowl make sure you are aware of the bowlers who are bowling on the adjoining rinks. How many times have you been set on the mat about to bowl when the bowler at the opposite end on the next rink steps onto the mat and launches their bowl towards you? Or sometimes it is the bowler at the same end on the next rink whose bowl is likely to cross paths with yours. Just wait a few seconds for your turn.

After a bowl has been delivered

When the bowl has been delivered the bowler who sent it still has 'possession of the rink' until it comes to rest. The opponent who is to bowl next should stand back away from the mat until the bowl stops rolling.

Wait until the last bowl has completely come to rest before bowling the next opposing bowl. How many times do you see an opposing bowler whose turn it is next, step onto the mat and bowl their bowl before the previous bowl has come to rest. This will also annoy your skip as he/she will have no opportunity to instruct you in what type of shot they want.

If you follow your bowl after delivery you should follow it all the way up to the head, or return behind the mat before it stops. Remember that you should be past the jack when your bowl has come to rest.

Try not to run on the green. It can damage the underlay.

When you have delivered your bowl and you are watching it, hopefully going towards the position that you have chosen, be careful where you are walking. After delivery, some players are so intent on watching their bowl that they do not look where they are moving. You see people moving sideways to the edge of their rink to watch their bowl go into the head, which is quite unnecessary anyway. This often interferes with bowler's view on the adjoining rink.

When a bowler has delivered his/her last bowl don't walk in front of the bowler who is trying to see their bowl go into the head. Follow him/her up the rink but keep back. And walk down the centre to avoid encroaching on an adjoining rink.

When Measuring

The result of each end (including measuring where required) is determined between the threes (or twos in triples). Other players should not normally interfere.

Don't move your own shots in order to measure for doubtful ones. You should ask your opponent to remove those he/she does not dispute.

If you are not involved in the measuring, be careful moving any bowls until the measuring has ceased. I have seen bowlers start to kick the outside bowls back and they have accidentally moved a bowl which the other team thought was 'in the count'

If the opposing bowls are close, then get the bowls measure out straight away and measure them. I have seen bowlers, for several minutes argue and eye up the bowls and even measuring with their feet when they have a measure in their pocket. If you are finding it physically difficult to get down to measure you can ask a teammate to measure for you.

Palmerston Mixed Fours Tournament

Saturday 21st January 2006 - a fun day with a little competition

To be played by teams of 4 consisting of two ladies and two gentlemen.

An all day event starting at 9am. Teams will be drawn into two leagues and each league will play 4 games of 7 ends (win 2pts, draw 1pt and shot difference if necessary). The leagues will play alternately throughout the day. The winners of each league will play a final game over 7 ends to create a tournament winner. Each finalist will receive an individual prize.

The restaurant and bar will be available during the day for lunches, refreshments, sandwiches and drinks.

Entry fee £3-00 (per player) for the day.

Closing date for entry 31-12-05. See the noticeboard alongside the bar.

All who played last year enjoyed the day and if you haven't entered before, come along and enjoy it this year.