



# Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowling Club

February 2006 Issue 19



**Ann Broadhurst**

This is a photo of Ann Broadhurst, Past President of Palmerston 2002/3, who sadly died unexpectedly last year. I only knew Ann through Palmerston but I always found her warm and friendly. She was a strong competitive bowler and skipped many teams to success for Palmerston.

I particularly remember one game where I skipped against her and was impressed how she could combine encouraging her bowlers and playing telling bowls with a gracious and relaxed attitude to her opponent, winning or losing. It was a real pleasure to play opposite her.

I'm sure there's a lot more which can be told by others. It is no surprise to me that she was held in such high regard by the ladies that they have instigated this annual competition in her memory.

## Assistant Treasurer Wanted

A volunteer is required to fill the position of Assistant Treasurer. The current holder has had to stand down due to health reasons. Duties are cash counting and banking 3 mornings a week (max 3 hours a day) and raising computer input documents. If you think you may be able to help, please see the Club Secretary or Treasurer for more information.

*Ray Morse - Treasurer*

## Ann Broadhurst Memorial Competition

This was held just before Christmas. We were pleased to welcome as our guests Ann's daughters Tracey and Mandy, her son Paul and her partner Derek.

63 ladies took part in a series of light-hearted competitive games gaining individual points.

The winner, Mary Lowe was presented with the blue vase and an inscribed wine glass. The vase was provided by donations from the ladies committee and the balance from club funds. Ann would have loved the day as she always enjoyed playing all kinds of bowls, she would also have approved of the vase in her favourite colour.

A Christmas meal followed the games, judging by the many enthusiastic comments it was a very successful occasion. This will now be an annual fixture.

A raffle was held in aid of the Rocky Appeal. The money raised together with money from the large Christmas card, various donations of coins, the contents of the appeal box on the bar and the continuing sale of pens resulted in a total of £404.13 being taken to Q.A.

£66 was raised at the Fours Day, which will be taken along at the end of the season. Please continue to support this very worthy charity by collecting copper coins and buying pens at the desk and raffle tickets at the forthcoming Ladies v Men game and later at the Betty Metherell afternoon. The sooner the money is available, the quicker the laboratory will be in use.

*Janet Mudd*

## Ladies Leagues

Sign up for 2006-07 season. Closing date is 26th February.

There are team vacancies in several leagues – details are on the notice board in the Ladies Changing Room. Why not join up with like-minded players and enter a new team?

The Friday 2 – 4pm “drawn” league has proved quite popular this year so will be run again next season. Please add your name to the list. New bowlers are very welcome and this is a good way to mix with other members.

The teams are redrawn each year, so there will always be new combinations to contend with. We don't leave everything to chance as the Ladies Committee “seed” the draw by drawing names from selected recognised skips, so making sure each team has at least one experienced bowler.

The draw will take place at the end of March and the list of teams will be displayed on the notice board in early APRIL.

*Maureen Cleaver - Ladies League Secretary*

## Natalie Porter

Congratulations to Natalie Porter. You remember the young lady who featured on the front page of the December Palm Reader. (What you didn't pick up a copy? Shame on you!) She has just been voted runner up in the Young Sportswoman of the Year organised by the Portsmouth News. Well done. She sends her grateful thanks to all members who voted for her.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Having attended several of the New Year's Eve functions at the Club, I have nothing but admiration and gratitude to the members who put the time and effort into making them such enjoyable evenings out. Even accepting the old saying "you will never please them all", I have never ever heard a word of complaint.

2005/6 saw a new standard set. Richard and his family put on a really superb evening. Well organised, a sumptuous buffet, followed by a series of quizzes and competitions made the evening slip by at a cracking pace and with great style.

The food was obviously controlled by Richard, but his son Paul acted as MC and held the evening together – a class double act.

Thank-you for a memorable evening. Members, keep an eye open and book early if it offered again, I would have hated to miss it.

Well done to all concerned.

Sincerely

M V Brown

Dear Editor,

I refer to "Committee Notes" (issue 18)

concerning stewards looking at the security screen.

I did a stewards duty recently and the security screen was almost unreadable. The screen was divided into nine segments which were small and foggy. I would suggest that each segment is displayed full screen in rotation and displayed long enough for the steward to have a good look at it. It would also be helpful if the image was clear.

George Bird

Dear Palm Reader

Anyone who watched or helped at the last Under 25s bowls or the Denny Cup finals held at Palmerston, will be like me surprised, even amazed, that the Committee has voted one in January 2008 down (Under 25 Quadrangular).

The trouble, as I see it, is a small number of people think they must do everything on their own to the exclusion of others who are willing to do jobs within their capabilities and that frightens them.

Let's look at what other organisations do, like a golf tournament or a sailing regatta, they tell the world about it. Get local firms to lend their name to it, put it in the local paper and on local T.V. Have full catering all through the tournament, with the bar open all day, not run like a

church outing, with the ladies making tea and homemade cakes. As for losing a week's club bowling, that is a small price to pay to have our Club known country wide and with proper management could bring money to the Club.

Above all, tell the members, as some didn't know what was on last time.

Ian F Dobson

Dear Editor,

I joined the Club at the tail-end of last year and have enjoyed the fun and company provided by the members at the Monday and Friday Drives.

However, I feel the Club could be more inclusive towards new members. No information is provided by the club with regard to leagues and ladders; it must be sought out. I am particularly disappointed that having paid my annual fee, I can not become competitive until September, some 11 months after I first came, and this solely enabled by the forming of a new team.

I suggest there should be a new members league or ladder to which all tyros are added automatically, unless they specifically ask not to be included. I believe this would encourage reserved or shy members, and provide a greater feeling of belonging instead of having to ask all and sundry for information on how and when one can take a more active part in the Club's activities.

Patrick Stagg

## Markers Course

Palmerston seems to be suffering from a shortage of people prepared to mark in competitions. This may be due to lack of confidence and experience. The ladies have had a markers qualification in place for a few years now but the men's organisations have not gone down that road. However, Mike Hayward, Hampshire County Coach and a National Umpire has successfully run markers courses for men in Bournemouth and District. This course is based on the old Club Umpire qualification and people who complete the course and assessment successfully will receive a certificate.

Mike has offered to run a course at Palmerston if there is sufficient interest from our members. There will be a charge to participants and the course will require attendance at five sessions; introduction, three practical sessions on the rink and an examination/assessment.

This proposal will be presented to the JMC which will need to allocate rink space.

Please watch the notice board because if the JMC agrees to accept Mike's offer there will be a paper inviting those interested to append their name. Mike has said that he will run a mixed course, men and women if the ladies want to join in.

*Norman Evans-Rohrs*

## New Members

**Introductory Booklet** Unfortunately the introductory booklet given to all new members went out of print before Christmas and is in the process of being updated and reprinted. It should be available around mid-February.

**Drives** Most new members start by playing in the mixed drives on Monday and Friday mornings at 11:30am – 1:30pm. You just need to turn up at least 15 minutes beforehand to get your name down. There are also often drives on some Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Look at the schedule on the Steward's desk for upcoming drives. New bowlers are welcomed as we all know what it is like when you are still trying to get the hang of it and you don't know anyone.

**New Members League** We like to start a new members league each year so that new bowlers can join with others to form teams and enjoy their first season of league bowls. The teams play a match at the same time each week (Monday evening 6:15pm – 8:15pm) through the Winter season. Teams consist of 5 or 6 people, which means you play on average about two thirds of the games. You will be given a schedule of your games at the beginning of the season and for any games you can't play in, you contact one of the "stand-downs" to sub for you.

There is a list on the notice board opposite the Steward's desk for you to put your name down. The league will start in

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## **/ New Members ... continued**

September and run for the Winter season (until March 2007). We need more names to make this viable. Don't miss this opportunity to join in a regular league programme.

**Leagues** If the New Members League is not at a convenient time for you, or you want the opportunity to play in another league why not join one of the established leagues? There are 2 ways to do this. You can put your name down on the list by the bar to slot into an existing team which is short of a member. Or you can form your own team if you can get together with others who want to do the same. Obviously this is more difficult to organise yourself, so you should speak to one of the League Secretaries (Men: Ian Chittenden, Ladies: Maureen Cleaver) and give them your name and preferred League(s). Or drop a note in at the Desk. (Ladies please look for the lists in the Ladies Changing Room). We need more teams for quite a few leagues and it only takes 5 or 6 members to get together to form a team.

**Summer Bowling** Many members play outdoors in the Summer but bowling still goes on here at Palmerston for those wishing to continue indoors. The format is one session of league triples per day starting at 10am until about 12:30pm. Also there is usually space for extra bowlers who turn up ad-hoc and team composition is more flexible to cater for holidays. On Friday morning there is a drive rather than a league and the usual Friday Club Night in the evening. There are more details on the competitions board opposite the Stewards desk and the lists have just gone up for people to register for a team. Note that you need to be quick to get your name down for the popular days.

### **Are you in the New Member League on Monday evening?**

What will you do next year? Why not form a team to play in one of the established leagues? You need to act now to get into next year's league programme. There is a list of team vacancies on the noticeboard by the bar. Why not contact your fellow Monday bowlers and ask around. If you are interested and don't have a full set of names contact one of the League Secretaries (Men: Ian Chittenden, Ladies: Maureen Cleaver) and give them your name and preferred League(s). Or drop a note in at the Desk. We need more teams for quite a few leagues and it only takes 5 or 6 members to get together to form a team. But act soon as the list will be taken down shortly.

# Social and Fundraising

*by Rene Bowshell - Social Secretary*

## **SOCIAL PROGRAMME**

Pre Xmas and New Year events were all highly successful. Richard was kept very busy and did a superb job. (**Editor:** This was obviously much appreciated by all concerned - see letters to the editor)

**Winter Race Night - Jan 28th** Thanks to the organisation by Janet & Roy (plus the usual reliable team) I understand the evening went well. The pre booking of tables enabled you to sit with your chosen friends. The next meeting will probably be in June.

## **Programme Feb-April 2006**

**Sat Feb 25th** - Quiz, Bingo, Fun & Games Evening - combined with Cheese & Wine Party. Many of you will remember these evenings previously when we organised the food ourselves. We are negotiating with Richard to cover the cheese etc. but help will be needed to run the games and quiz etc. You probably know that my personal involvement is currently very limited but Harry Macartney will be looking after the organisation of this event. Please give him your support. Tickets will be £4 including food and glass of wine.

**Friday Mar 3rd** - Dinner and Quiz Evening run by Macmillan. Members may wish to support this worthy charity by getting a table together. Ray Gregory will give you further details.

**Saturday 11th March** - Coffee Morning - 9.30 to 11.30am This annual event is one of our most lucrative as far as fund raising is concerned as it is all down to the generous efforts of you - the members! Home made cakes, jams, marmalade (Seville oranges now in season) and clever handywork appear like magic - all much appreciated! Ladies come forward and volunteer to man the stalls and serve the coffee - what would we do without them! Start gathering your unwanted gifts, spare utensils and hand made items now but please keep them at home until MARCH - the Committee Room is beginning to look like a Charity Shop!

**Friday 17th March** - Mayor of Fareham (Leslie Keeble) - Dinner & Quiz Evening In aid of the Mayor's local Charities - Your support will be appreciated. Book a table when the list goes up. Malcolm Chapman will have further details 02392 581285

**Saturday 26th March** - Cabaret Dinner - Malcolm is currently negotiating for some entertainment for this date - maybe the return of one of our favourites! Details as soon as we have them.

**Saturday April 29th 2006** - Murder Mystery Dinner. Booking is now confirmed and deposit paid. Further details will soon be published. Tickets will cost £15. Several of you are already listed but there is plenty of space for some more names. You will be asked to make up groups of 6 on each table wherever possible in order to take part in the 'who dunnit??' mystery of the evening. You will appreciate that in view of the high cost of this venture we shall be asking you to pay for your tickets well in advance.

The **Summer programme** has not yet been finalised.

## **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'. Since it was restarted on 6th January there has already been one lucky winner. There is already £40 plus this week's income waiting for the correct key number to be selected. Try your luck next Friday! My thanks to Bruce & Ray for taking over while I am unable to get there.

**Bonus Ball** - Running as usual twice weekly

**100 Club** - List of your allocated numbers is displayed on the Notice Board. Congratulations to December Winners - P. Whiffing and Liz Web each won £125 Reg Metherell and Jill Evans Rohrs won £60 each - just in time for Christmas! January winners were A. Davis and P. Carter who won £40 each. Next draw on Feb 25th.

**Xmas draw** - The 5th sheet was completed bringing an income of £1250. Pleased to report there were no shortages in the cash box this year. Over £1000 was spent on prizes. £210 went into Club Funds. Thank you for your support and to those of you who donated prizes.

Social Committee wish you a healthy & happy 2006.

## Committee Notes

The green carpet has been stretched which resulted in an improvement in running speed.

City Sports will be holding a "Roadshow" on Thursday 9th February.

Linda Maple has resigned as Vice Captain and Janet Chinn has agreed to assist in the position until the AGM.

It is proposed to hold a number of ladies practice matches during the season.

The Club was presented with £30.00 following the Ann Broadhurst Memorial Competition in December. The date for this year's competition is Wednesday 20th December 2006.

The communal Christmas Card raised £100.00 for Charity. An excellent result.

A number of new members have added their names to the new starters league list. It would be nice to get newcomers into the league environment.

It was reported that new members are having difficulty in finding their way around the Club in terms of competitions and leagues. It was suggested that a form of written guidance would help a great deal. The Club Secretary stated that there is a document that should suffice, but it is out of print at the moment. A review of the document and reprinting will be actioned.

The Committee was advised that some members (not coaches) are attempting to instruct other members/visitors, possibly non-bowlers, on the rink. Members are reminded that only qualified instructors are permitted to instruct on the rink. This is to protect the valuable bowling area.

The Committee was informed that some members are inviting non-members to bowl without booking them in. Members are asked to make sure that they book in all guests.

It was stated that the rink booking sheet is not being correctly used. Some members are making multi-bookings and then some of those members do not appear. This is bad practice and prevents other members arranging a game.

Cigarette butts have been found on the rink concourse. Members are reminded that smoking is only permitted in the designated bar area marked by orange tape on the carpet.

The Smoke Extractor controller has been positioned so that the duty steward can switch on/off the extractor.

It will be necessary to close the Club for 2 days so that a full inspection of the electrical systems can be carried out, provisionally from Monday 3rd April (to be confirmed).

## Editorial

Unfortunately there are a few members who have missed out on getting an introductory booklet so they have been left in the dark about how they can make the most of their new membership. A new booklet is being prepared so they will shortly get the information.

However this wouldn't have happened if someone had taken up my suggestion last year (December 2004 Palm Reader) that we should appoint a "New Member Friend" who would make it their business to make sure each new member is given all the information and practical help to get involved in bowling activities.

It wouldn't be a difficult job for an experienced member who knew all the ropes. In fact it would be very rewarding to be able to set people on the path to enjoying all the facilities we have. Particularly for someone who is sociable and enjoys chatting to people. All they'd have to do is to make sure they make contact as early as possible (the first coaching session?) and actively follow up as people become full members. It must be very daunting for a reticent person to get involved. First impressions count – let's make them favourable. If anyone's interested let me know and I'll try to get it put to the AGM in March.

Having made an appeal now for several months for a new person to come forward as Treasurer it seems unlikely we will fill the post. On top of that our Assistant Treasurer has had to give up her job on health grounds.

There must be some of you who could help but perhaps are unwilling to commit to a big job.

Personally I think the job could be split up and perhaps two or three people could combine different skills to cover most if not all of the job, leaving the Finance Director or an outside professional to pull it all together. Also maybe some parts could be done by 2 people doing alternate weeks. Whilst this is not a simple option, it may save us considerable expense and give the opportunity for some of you to help out our "community". The Treasurer has prepared an outline of the tasks involved. If you are at all vaguely interested, please ask the Treasurer (Ray Morse) or the Club Secretary (Ray Gregory) for a copy. You might be able to help but you won't know unless you find out more.

Please listen to these appeals for help. A Club is people not premises and you can make a difference.

*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 March 2006).**

## AGM

**The AGM is to be held on Saturday 25th March at 10am.**

This is when members vote for who our next year's Committee will be and also on any proposed amendments to the constitution and rules. This is your chance to have a say in the running of the club. We will need more volunteers next year to replace members retiring. Around the end of

February, the Club Secretary will set up a notice board showing the Committee positions open for nominations and also will put up an envelope for any proposed amendments. Note that proposed amendments must have a proposer and a seconder in order for them to be considered at the meeting. Any member of the Club is entitled to stand for an office or make a proposal. So now is the time to be thinking about what you might want to do.