



# Palm Reader

The newsletter of Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club

February 2007 Issue 25

## BILL BOWSHELL

### (1920 - 2007)



**"My philosophy has always been that you get out of life what you put into it. Bowling has certainly enriched my life and I hope that my contribution to the sport has helped to enrich the lives of many others".**

**Bill was justifiably awarded the honour of "Life President Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club"**

Bill was a prominent member of his outdoor club, Crofton, but most people will know him for his great effort in getting Palmerston IBC from a vision to bricks and mortar. As we prepare to celebrate 10 years of bowling at this club it is necessary to remember that a small committee of dedicated bowlers were working on the project for three years before we were able to start building. At the forefront of the planning and negotiating was Bill.

Once we received the go-ahead from Fareham Borough Council Bill worked tirelessly leading discussion, checking plans and breathing down people's necks, especially those of the National Lottery who were essential to the project. Some may say that Bill had a stubborn streak but others will know that he focused on his goal and ploughed ahead until he achieved it.

Always his supportive partner in his projects, Rene kept Bill in touch with developments at Palmerston during his long illness. For a man like Bill, being confined to his bed must have been very frustrating but when I last went to see him he was as bright as a button and asking questions about his beloved club and was still making suggestions.

Those of us who had the pleasure of working with Bill will remember him for his commitment and dedication to Palmerston. His vision for this club was that it would be a first class bowling venue and a stage for international matches. This he achieved and we are all indebted to him.

During his long and busy life (he died just eight days before his 87th birthday) Bill made many friends and enjoyed many successes. His biography will make interesting reading but for most of us it is enough to have known him and worked with him and I am sure that Bill would be delighted that, as far as we are concerned, his memorial will be Palmerston IBC.

*Norman Evans-Rohrs  
Chairman Palmerston IBC*

**Bill had a full and interesting life and a biography is nearing completion for publishing in the near future. Rene has kindly provided the details for the following brief insight into his life story for the benefit of readers of the newsletter of the Club he was very proud of.**

Bill was born on 22nd January 1920 in Camden Town, North London to working class parents – his father was a milkman and his mother a cook.

He had an elementary education, interested in all sport but excelled at swimming, boxing and especially football. He was an Arsenal supporter all his life.

Leaving school at 14 he joined the Post Office as a Boy Messenger, still pursuing his favourite sports, playing in representative games for the PO. At 16 he successfully qualified as a Counter Clerk.

Bill was a Boy Scout from an early age enjoying and contributing

*/continued overleaf ...*

*/Bill Bowshell's story continued ...*

to the many activities of 1st St Pancras Scout Group

In 1940 he was called up to the Royal Corps of Signals as a Teleprinter Operator and sent for training to North Wales – which proved to be the most significant turning point in his life. One Saturday afternoon in Colwyn Bay from his billet window he spotted a young blonde carrying a small case and decided to follow her. "Can I carry your case" he asked. Rene was 18, evacuated from London with the Ministry of Food.

The rest is history – they had 6 short weeks there before Bill was posted to South Eastern Command at Redhill. Preparations were in hand for a 2nd Front in the Middle East. Rene somehow got a transfer back home. London was being bombed.

In 1942 Bill spent a year in and out of hospital following a severe arm injury playing his favourite sport. There were brief leaves and some stolen moments.

His unit had departed – his orders were to report to the War Office. Within months he found himself attached to 'Special Forces' organising teams for the Resistance in the run up to D Day.

A wedding was planned – it would be a Double Wedding with Rene's sister. They married in July 1944 – a month after D Day.

A few months later Bill was called upon to resume his good work in the Far East – not easy for the newlyweds. Based in Ceylon the work continued behind Japanese lines.

It was August 1946 before he saw Rene and his baby daughter Carol. Bill returned to the Post Office and in June 1947 son David came along. In 1951 they moved from Chiswick to Borehamwood in Hertfordshire.

His career progressed into training. Over the years hundreds of students reaped the benefit of his organisational skills including many from less developed countries of Africa. Rene returned to her career – money was needed for holidays that Bill planned.

In 1973, when Carol & David were no longer at home, Bill persuaded Rene to agree to him accepting a post in Malawi with the United Nations where he would be training students from Botswana Lesotho and Swaziland as well as travelling to and from all the countries.

Bill and Rene soon joined the local bowls club (the Zomba Turf Club) and became enthusiastic and proficient bowlers, where they both represented

the club in many competitions. After moving to a different part of Malawi, they joined the Limbe Country Club where Bill became a member of the bowls committee. He later went on to the executive of the national bowls association in Malawi and became a selector for the Commonwealth Games. He was very proud of a top rink prize gained during a match between Malawi and a touring English Bowling Association Presidents team on the occasion of the EBA's 75th Anniversary.

He was in Malawi for 6 years. Then, after a year back home in Borehamwood, he retired and they moved to be with old friends in Stubbington. But within weeks the UN wanted him back to go to Kenya on a similar project. It was another 2 years before they could settle down to their new life.

Crofton Bowling Club had opened in 1980 just after they went to Kenya so it was not until 1982 that they could join. Meanwhile other London friends Dot & George Mantle had moved down to join them in Stubbington as well as Rene's sister and her husband.

In no time at all George and Bill were organising the Bowls Club, planning pavilions, fund raising, improving facilities – as well as adding their bowling skills to the teams. Over the years Bill was President 4 times. His enthusiasm reflected on all members.

It was during this time that the campaign began for an indoor green where they could bowl in the winter. At that time the nearest clubs were in Portsmouth, Havant and Southampton and they had long waiting lists.

Bill was Vice Chairman of the initial steering committee (later taking over from Dave Wrightson as Chairman). They battled with local councils for over 10 years trying to persuade them to release ground for the building of an Indoor Bowls Centre in the Fareham and Gosport area. In 1995 Bill's goal was in sight – Fareham offered ground – the Project was on! After a great deal of work (which you can read about in "The Early Days") the project culminated in the opening in 1997 of Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club with Bill as Chairman and President.

Thanks to the team headed by Bill, we are now members of one of the finest 8 rink indoor bowls facilities in the South, capable of hosting International matches as well as providing local bowlers with competitive, recreational and social activities and a relaxed and friendly club atmosphere.

Palmerston remains a permanent memorial to Bill's drive and dedication.

## A message from Rene

On behalf of my family I would like to convey my thanks to Palmerston for making Bill's final farewell such a memorable occasion.

I was greatly comforted by the numerous heart warming cards and messages of sympathy received from all of you as well as your presence at the service.

He was proud of Palmerston and what had been achieved but well aware of the contributions made by many others.

You were all his friends and together I am sure we can continue to maintain the friendly atmosphere he created.

Sincerely - Rene

## Ladies Captain's Report

At present the ladies teams are doing very well. We have won two Riversmeet games and are top of the league.

We also did well in the Vivienne this year, we only lost in the round before the zone final. We also lost in the second round of the Yetton. Much better than last year - well done ladies!

Three of our ladies have also done well in the Nationals. They have won the National Zone Final of the Triples and are in the National Area Finals on Sunday 11th February 2007 at Atherley at 12pm. Those ladies being Pamela Lambshead, Linda Abraham-Keyford and Jill Cook. All I can say is well done to you all and congratulations. We wish you the best of luck and keep going.

*Janet Livingston*  
*Ladies Captain*

## Free Lunchtime Practice

Some members may not be aware of the opportunity to practice at lunchtime in the half hour gap between sessions. You may practice on a free rink between 1.30pm and 2pm, but please observe the following conditions:

Only 1 bowler per rink.

Wait until the rink is clear after the 11.30 - 1.30 session before going on.

Finish at 1.55 to enable bowlers starting at 2pm to prepare for their game.

## Hampshire

Hampshire men had an excellent game against Cornwall at Taunton in the quarter final of the Liberty Trophy. After 5 ends we were looking good with a lead of 39-22, but Cornwall struck back in the next 5 ends to reduce the deficit to 7 shots. However not to be denied, Hampshire surged back in the second half and ran out winners by 124-97. A special mention for Palmerston member Dave Beale who drove to Taunton on the day to add his support.

The semi final is against Somerset on 3rd of March at a venue to be announced. Supporters are very welcome. I understand you will see the legendary David Bryant who still bowls indoors for Somerset - so well worth a day out.

## Men's Nationals Results website

For those men who enter the National competitions, it is sometimes frustrating not to know how the local results are going. If you are at the Victory club you can see a chart on the wall in the men's changing room - but we're only there occasionally when we have a match there.

I have discovered a web site [www.wardbowls.co.uk](http://www.wardbowls.co.uk) which has the results for this area (Area 32) as well as Area 31 to the west and a number of other areas. This is updated fairly frequently depending on how soon Tony Ward gets the information. I spoke to Tony on the phone and he does this all voluntarily - it is not sponsored by the EIBA although I believe he used to be competition secretary at the EIBA.

Most Nationals have now got to the area final stage, so you can see the whole story - remember it for next year when you are involved and want to see how your fellow club members and potential opponents are doing.

## Mens Captain's Report

I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas and the break from bowls. However we are now into 2007 and need to pull all the stops out if we are to maintain our status in the Bramley Bowl league. Our first match against Lodden Vale was looking good until the last few ends. We managed to win 3 rinks out of 4 but unfortunately lost the match by ONE shot.

Our next Bramley match against Rushmoor was somewhat similar, winning 2 rinks and losing 1 rink by 2 shots. Yet again one rink came unstuck, losing by 28 shots. It was not a weak rink - they were beaten by a good rink and an excellent heavy skip.

Last Saturday against Chawton Park we won 2 rinks including a strong performance by Neil O'Donovan's rink away, and this time the losing rinks did not let it run away from them - well done, so we won the match 6-2.

In the Top 10 we have enjoyed two excellent wins in our last matches. In December we beat Victory - always a good result. In our last match we beat Atherley 12 - 3. Two matches to go, if we can win these we could be in the finals at Folkestone. Next Top 10 Against Arun - 18th Feb.

I would like to thank the three players who although picked for a Hampshire Representative game decided to play in the important Top 10 against Atherley. Bill Jackson, Russell Gadd and Andy McKain showed loyalty to Palmerston.

I must also mention that demon singles player - Russell Gadd, who has given us fantastic starts in the Top 10 winning all his singles matches. No wonder he is picked for Hampshire in the Liberty Trophy.

Following our early Jan meeting, I would like to invite those interested in competitive bowling to Sunday evening practice from 5-8pm on 11th February (see sheet on notice board). With help from Tony, we can try a few routines to help our bowling, play some games with different combinations and get to know each other a little better. Nothing too strenuous. All those who have played in any of the teams are very welcome, and anyone else who would like to be considered for the teams in future. Look forward to seeing you on the 11th.

I must finish with the sad news that Bill Bowshell passed away recently. I will always remember Bill, when he was the President watching a very nervous lead playing in his first year in the Bramley. On the numerous occasions that I was short he would whisper to me "make sure you are up". His encouragement meant a lot to me in those early days. We will all miss him but we must thank him for all he has done at Palmerston. He is Palmerston.

*Eric Brierley*  
*Mens Captain*

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

An issue was raised by Eric Brierley in the December "Palm Reader", which has been aired before, about the speed of our rinks, which, he alleges, is slower than ALL the indoor greens in clubs in the South of England. While I sympathise with his desire to assist the team of which he is captain, this team is only a fraction of the total club membership. I agree that consideration should be given to improving the performance of his team but equal consideration should be given to those who like things the way they are. It could be argued that the slow rinks at Palmerston give our club the advantage in home games.

I play outdoors on grass greens in the summer and find that our carpet at Palmerston is more comparable to grass than the fast indoor greens. I suspect that I am not alone in wanting to keep our carpet the way it is. The issue could be put to the test by having a referendum as we did on the smoking ban.

To change the subject, the issue of team handicaps was also raised in "Palm Reader" last month. I agree that there is no fun when one team beats another by a big score but sometimes that is the way of things. In football, teams like Arsenal, Chelsea, Man Utd and Liverpool do not have handicaps when playing weaker teams and I don't think we should go down that track. I have endured some heavy defeats but I immediately put it behind me and look forward to an improvement in my next game. Usually over the years, the composition of teams change due to players leaving and new players taking their place.

Barry McCann

Dear Editor

I must concur with your article in the December issue of Palm Reader regarding team handicaps.

It is the sensible and practical way ahead and its quick introduction at Palmerston would be most welcome, if only to offset the proposal of integrating the current leagues U,V

and W by end of season placings into a "top league U", a "medium league V", and a "lower league W" - since this proposal, if implemented, is forcing the majority of the current players in these leagues to play at different times and / or different days regardless if they want to or not!

Regards

Mick Lowe

*Ed: For the benefit of our other readers who were perhaps unaware of this proposal for next season (to reorganise three mens rinks leagues as Mick outlines above) teams would be promoted or relegated between the 3 divisions at the end of each season. This idea was recently floated by the League Secretary to try to create more closely competitive matches by putting teams of equal ability together. However I understand there was insufficient support for such a proposal which has therefore been shelved. As to a handicap system, I understand this is being discussed by committee.*

Dear Editor

Going up or going out?

As the proposed formation of rinks leagues involving promotion and relegation gained little support, I question the need for continuing the same system in leagues M and N at 6.15 and 8.15 on Wednesdays.

I have a team in league M and am in danger of gaining promotion. I say in danger as this would mean the withdrawal of my team next season. The reason being that I have one new player who no longer wished to play in the later league, a young lad of 13 years who can't play later because of school, three players who do not wish to play at 8.15 and as for myself I already play for a team in league N.

Three of us joined Palmerston in September 2003 and played together in the same team in the novice league, this again is another reason we would not like to disband.

I agree totally with the principle and challenge of promotion and

relegation, but not if it means changing times or days and losing players in the process. I have spoken to other players in league M and have yet to find anyone wanting promotion. After all, the reason people enter a league at 6.15, 8.15 or any other time is because it suits their personal plans.

We are not seeking trophies or promotion; we just want the opportunity to play men's triples at 6.15pm. When I mentioned this to a member of the Committee, he replied we should not have entered that league. I believe if you required this to be a condition of entering either the 6.15 or 8.15 league, many teams in both leagues would probably withdraw. Wednesday is the only night for men's triples and this is a popular format with almost full leagues. In view of the falling number of teams in other leagues each year, it seems counter productive to lose teams unnecessarily.

There is no mention of promotion or relegation within the club rules and therefore I am considering proposing a resolution at the AGM to abandon this system.

If at the end of this season we are promoted then my team "Jack The Lads" will have no other option but to withdraw!!

I would be interested to hear/read other people's views on this matter.

Steve Potheary.

*Ed: Perhaps we could just agree that teams are able to decline promotion or relegation. Maybe you could add the condition "if at least one member of the team leaves". I'm sure we don't want to see teams drop out if it can be avoided.*

Dear Editor

We played our first match of the 2006/2007 season in September, Thursday evening 8.15. The team we played entered their names on the score card and we did the same. I was playing

/continued ...

## /Letters Continued...

out of position at no 2. Our team played well and won 28-6. I was not aware of our team number. The card was submitted and you can guess what came next, the team numbers were entered on the wrong side, creating a loss for my team a 28-6 win for the team we played.

The 2 skips agreed at a later date there was a mistake but this could not be altered. You may not be aware of rule 3.14 which states all scores recorded against the team number on the certified signed score cards will stand. This was the first match of the season and as you can imagine our team morale was low. I think this is a poor rule.

I cannot find in any other club, rules with the same penalty. A mistake was made and most mistakes can be put right, but not this one.

I have spoken to committee members about this match and the result, only to be told "not this one again". I have been bowling 1 1/2 years at Palmerston and Rowner outdoors.

Talking to other members, I am aware this has happened before, they too did not agree with the rule either.

I personally think this is an unnecessary rule, why should there be penalties of this nature in friendly club league matches?

Can a change or deletion of this rule be considered by the board, committee or the person(s) who invented it in the first place?

Yours sincerely

Bryan Webb.

*Ed: I am reminded of mistakes made in golf scorecards (where the stakes are a little higher!)*

*In one of the biggest sporting disappointments for years Mark Roe, right in the thick of things in the Open at Sandwich in 2003 after a brilliant third-round 67, was disqualified along with playing partner Jesper Parnevik. The two players had forgotten to exchange their scorecards on the first tee - "We obviously shook hands on the first tee and forgot to exchange cards. Therefore I wrote Jesper's scores on my card and Jesper wrote my scores on his card. I bet he was happy with 67, but I didn't particularly*

*like his 81 very much. Unfortunately, that was disqualification."*

*That would not have mattered if the scoring officials after the round had spotted it or if they had reminded the two players to check. If it had been spotted before they left the hut new cards could have been filled out. But they did not and although Roe wished that they had and Parnevik felt "gutted" they both admitted: "Ultimately it's our responsibility and rules are rules."*

*Also at the Benson and Hedges Open at the Belfry in 2000, Padraig Harrington failed to sign for a score going into the final round of a tournament that he led by five shots. It was a mistake that was only discovered when the officials at the course wanted to frame his first round record scorecard for the clubhouse. The result was that he missed out on a first prize of £166,000. Harrington, renowned as one of the most laid-back members of the European Tour, was left desolate and distraught. "Am I am getting over it?" he said some four months after the event. "I'm getting there but I am not fully over it."*

*In this context maybe the loss of 2 points in a Palmerston league doesn't seem such a harsh penalty. And if you keep winning by 28-6 (and not making the same mistake twice) you'll probably still win the league!*

The Editor Palm Reader

Dear Sir

Re: Christmas and New Year Celebrations

We just would like to thank the Social Committee and the Catering Team for the super Christmas Dinner Party which was most enjoyable and seemed to be appreciated by all who attended on the night.

We were also pleased that we had decided to see the New Year in at Palmerston as this turned out to be a very pleasant evening with good food, entertainment and friendly atmosphere.

We would, therefore, like to express our appreciation for all the hard work that made these events so successful. Long may it continue!

Many thanks.

Estelle and Chas Jenkins

## Two new Directors

I am pleased to welcome two new members to the Board.

Graham King has agreed to shadow Ray Gregory our Company Secretary, who as most members will be aware is planning to leave the area. Graham will be able to ensure a seamless transition of Ray's duties.

Peter Carter is the liaison between the Board and the Bar Supervisor and together with Rene, will maintain the link with the restaurant. Both of these new members bring appropriate skills and experience to their respective roles and I am confident that they will be of great benefit to Palmerston.

**Norman Evans-Rohrs**  
**Chairman**

## Coaching Day

**Sunday, 4 March, 2007**

As the proposed Coaching Day on Sunday 10 December 2006 had to be cancelled at short notice, we now have a new date Sunday 4 March 2007, 9.00 am - 4.00 pm. The cost will be £8.00 for the day to include a Buffet Lunch in the Committee Room with free tea and coffee throughout the day.

All 8 rinks will be used as follows:

- Australian Pairs
- Gambler's Jack
- Play Equidistant Jacks - seen and unseen
- Video Clinic
- Off-Centre Jacks
- Beat the Shot
- Measuring
- Wedge

For the 10 members who asked to be transferred from 10 December 2006 to the new date of 4 March 2007, I have put their names at the top of the list on the board in reception. It would be helpful if they would either tick their name or cross their name out if they no longer wish to come.

**Audrey Packman**  
**Chairman, Palmerston Coaches**

## Editorial

It was sad to hear of the passing of Bill Bowshell, without whose great efforts Palmerston might never have been built. Even when he was confined to his home, he was always enthusiastic and keen to hear of current events at Palmerston and lend his support. I am especially grateful for his support of Palm Reader which he complimented on several occasions. He was always forward looking and would want to see Palmerston adapt to necessary change in order to survive and grow. He will be sadly missed but I am sure his legacy will be here for a very long time.

I am sorry there was no January newsletter, the reason was due to lack of material to publish. The next edition will be in March, the last newsletter of the Winter season. I hope this will be able to provide a full report on the survey and also include articles about the forthcoming AGM. So if you have issues you want to air at the AGM, please consider sending something to me for the March newsletter, so that you can put forward your views for others to think about before they go to the meeting.

Finally I'd like to say well done Palmerston again for your fantastic support of Natalie. Great!

*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. 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.**

## The Survey

Just a quick note to thank everyone who completed and returned the questionnaires sent out with the last Palm Reader and to give a brief update.

There has been a fairly good response with over 130 returns to date (if you mislaid yours and still want to complete one it is not too late, please pick up another from reception and hand it in to the office). The information that can be gained from this is helpful and the more we have the more representative the information will be. From a quick scan of the answers I would say that overall it supports the impression of a well run club with good facilities that the members enjoy and are happy with. There were a number of areas highlighted that can do with some attention and these will be brought to the attention of management. Of course membership decline is an area we have to try to address and your comments support the fact that we have to work harder at getting the club known and to make it easier for new members to join us and play the game as beginners.

All the results are now in the process of being reviewed and analysed in detail and I will get a summary with suggested actions posted on the notice board or in the Palm Reader for your information in due course.

I'll also use Palm Reader to keep everyone abreast of marketing actions scheduled for the coming year as they are firmed up and to request help where applicable. For example quite a number of the returns mentioned getting posters available to create awareness which is definitely something we will do, and when these are printed we will need help to get them circulated and up onto notice boards around the area.

**Brian Le Marquer**

## Committee Notes

Ray Rowe (President and Match Secretary) has written to 15 clubs who play friendly matches against us asking if they had any objections to playing the matches in greys (as opposed to whites). To date 6 clubs have responded and all were prepared to play in greys.

The League Secretary suggested the Club may like to consider a handicap system for the Mens Rinks and Triples leagues (no mention of the ladies leagues?). After some discussion this was referred to the Men's Committee so that if they agreed, a proposal could be formulated and referred back to the full JMC.

The ladies are considering the purchase of blue fleeces similar to the ones used by the men.

There is a problem with getting ladies to play in the ladies league at 2pm on Friday. It has been suggested that the Friday 11:30am roll-up might be willing to change to 2pm. Ray Gregory will ask the Friday roll-up regulars if they would be willing to change.

## Social and Fundraising

*by Ray Morse - Social Committee*

### Xmas Draw

A successful Xmas Draw was held on 16th December with over 80 prizes on offer. Thanks to all who bought tickets, and to those volunteers who helped with the draw. A special vote of thanks to Harry Macartney for his hard work in purchasing most of the prizes, and creating the display.

The Balance sheet was as follows:

Tickets sold 3000 x 50p = £1500  
Cost of Prizes £1220  
To Club Funds £280

### 100 Club Xmas Draw

The following were successful winners in the Xmas 100 Club Draw:

Group 'A' £125 R H Dollery, £60 A Baler  
Group 'B' £125 M Wingfield, £60 S Hammond

### Social Diary

It is intended to hold a **Coffee Morning** towards the end of March. Volunteers will be required to assist in the running and providing items for sale. Final details of requirements will be advertised on the Notice Boards when the date is finalised.

There is a possibility that a **Cheese and Wine Party** will also be held before the end of the Winter Season. This will be confirmed when date etc is known.

# Natalie Porter Fund raising

# Thankyou from Natalie



In April Natalie will be going, as part of a four gymnast team, to Tokyo to compete for Great Britain in the World Cup Gymnastics Competition.

Her air fare alone is costing £550 plus other costs which will be approximately £1000 in total.

We raised some money last summer for her to go to Los Angeles and so we thought we would try to help again.

A raffle consisting of all donated items was held during the week beginning January 22nd with tickets available all week, plus many donations, and a full bowls drive on Sunday 28th, all of which resulted in the most incredible amount of money being raised.

This was £672

Ray Rowe, our President, presented Natalie with this at the end of the drive and wished her every success.

Many thanks to all those who helped make the venture so successful.  
**Palmerston members are simply the best!**

## ROCKY APPEAL



for a new  
UNIQUE  
CANCER LABORATORY

**We have now collected over £6000 for this over the last two and a half seasons.**

Many thanks to all who help, those who bring in copper coins and 5p pieces, those who organise drives and competitions, all the members who support club night who pay 20p in addition to their rink fees, those who have made donations for a variety of reasons and those who continue to purchase pens from the desk.

This bowling year we have paid in £1291.80 so far which includes £620 given in donations for our Golden Wedding lunch and £96 from the "Xmas Card". There will be additional efforts made between now and the end of March including a raffle at the Men v Ladies match on Sunday February 4. Also on this day we hope that Mick Lyons, the brains behind this appeal for the new cancer laboratory, will be able to join us to present us with a third shield.

It would be great if we could get our total up to £7000 by the end of the current season.

*Janet Mudd*

Dear Everyone at Palmerston,

I would like to say thank you very much for to everyone who helped to raise £672 towards my trip to Tokyo in Japan for the Aerobics Gymnastics World Cup Championships. I was completely shocked by the amount of money raised and my mum was speechless, it takes a lot to make mum speechless!!

I am very excited about going to Japan in April and I am looking forward to competing against all the other countries.

It is such a shame the trip has to be paid for by the families of those competing. I would have loved for mum to come with me but she would have to win the lottery first!

Thank you to everyone again, I am very grateful.

Love from Natalie Porter x

## .. and Debbie

We as a family extend grateful thanks to all the members and visitors who have, over the past couple of weeks shown enormous generosity. We were quite overwhelmed by the amount of money raised to assist Natalie with her up and coming trip to Japan. We really would have been hard pressed to raise the money but once again Palmerston jumped into action and led the way to ease our minds with raising some of the funds.

Natalie's trip will cost in the region of £1100 so the £672 raised has paid for her flight (£566) and gone some way to covering the remainder of the trip.

The atmosphere at the club last Sunday was electric and everyone joined in the spirit of the day with great enthusiasm.

Very special thanks go to Janet and Roy Mudd for their indefatigable support and for organising the event last weekend They always have encouraging words of wisdom for Natalie and show a great deal of interest in how she is doing. Our thanks also go to Jill Rowe for organising the raffle. Over 60 prizes were donated.

The words 'Thank You' seem inadequate for such generosity!

We will let you know how Natalie does after the event.

With Kind Regards

Debbie and John