

PALM READER

The Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Magazine

December 2014
Issue 62

Christmas Message

The Board of Directors, and the JMC wish you quiet moments with friends and family this holiday season, and peace and joy for the coming year.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF STEWARD

I am looking to recruit a new Steward to cover alternate Wednesday afternoons, to assist with the collection of green fees, fire evacuation duties, checking visitors are signed in and collecting monies for temporary membership.

If you cannot commit to doing a regular slot can you occasionally spare a couple of hours to cover Stewards holiday.

As reward for your services you will receive vouchers which can be redeemed against your game of bowls.

Please support your club by volunteering now, for further information please contact:

Marie Leonard on 01329 841084

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SMOKING BAN INCLUDES THE
USE OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES ANYWHERE IN THE
CLUB BUILDING

Palmerston Business Park (Off Newgate Lane) Fareham.
Tel No 01329 232005 website: palmerston-bowls.org.uk

BOOKING OF RINKS

Your attention is drawn to Rule 6.1 in Appendix 4 of the Club Rule Book regarding the booking of rinks for club competitions. When dates are being discussed between competitors, they should be entered into the Booking Schedule **IN PENCIL** and marked as **PROVISIONAL**. When a date has been accepted, the other dates should be erased from the schedule and the accepted date marked as **“CONFIRMED”** in **INK**.

Due to scarcity of rink availability to book games, it has been found that a lot of “Provisional” dates have not been erased from the schedule when they are no longer required. This has caused problems for members trying to book rinks.

Following discussion at the Joint Management Committee meeting on 20/11/14, members wishing to book rinks for club competitions should not only mark the dates as **“Provisional”**, but should also write the date they provisionally booked the rink.

ALL PROVISIONAL BOOKINGS MUST BE CONFIRMED OR ERASED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF MAKING THE BOOKING AND NO LATER THAN THREE DAYS BEFORE THE COMPETITION DATE.

Those not complying may find their booking has been deleted by Committee Members.

Lesley Howell and Andrew Miller will assist anyone who is struggling to find rink availability for club competitions, so please approach them if necessary.

N.B. There is a strict system of hierarchy when it comes to booking rinks. National games have priority, followed by County competitions, Club competitions, League games and finally roll ups.

Keith Fleming – Competition Secretary

PALMERSTON LADIES ACHIEVEMENTS !

The Ladies Captain and Vice Captain would like to share with all club members the recent achievements of the ladies playing in the Yetton Trophy, The Vivienne Trophy and the Mason Trophy—where we have enjoyed 100% success so far in all these competitions.

We are proud of the ladies in their commitment and team spirit. We will certainly be trying to repeat these successes in the next rounds. Unfortunately the Mason Teams are playing each other, but we can be sure of a definite win in this competition at least!

The dates and teams are displayed on the main notice board and in the ladies changing room—so please come along and support. You will be most welcome

Maureen Holloway and Rose Beynon

Palmerston Cup

The Palmerston Cup competition for the winter season 2014/2015 is still going from strength to strength as the latest League Tables show. These games take place on Sunday evenings starting at 6.30 p.m. and you can find out which teams are playing by looking at the fixture programme on the club noticeboard or else the club website. The website also has a weekly report of the latest matches and up to date results. Spectators are always welcome and the bar is open on Sunday evenings, so come and watch some of your colleagues match their skills against teams from other clubs. At the time of going to press the latest tables were as follows:

Palmerston Cup Sunday 7 December 2014

| League A | Played | Matches | | | Rinks | | | Shots | | | Points |
|--------------------|--------|---------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|---------|------|--------|
| | | Won | Drawn | Lost | Won | Drawn | Lost | For | Against | Diff | |
| HANTS POLICE | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 274 | 126 | 148 | 47 |
| BANISTER BLUE | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 181 | 141 | 40 | 29 |
| FAREHAM CHEETAHS | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 218 | 207 | 11 | 28 |
| EASTLEIGH RAILWAY | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 230 | 120 | 110 | 26 |
| MEON VALLEY | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 157 | 257 | -100 | 12 |
| ROWNER ONE | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 122 | 191 | -69 | 1 |
| PORTCHESTER SILVER | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 98 | 238 | -140 | 1 |

| League B | Played | Matches | | | Rinks | | | Shots | | | Points |
|------------------|--------|---------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|---------|------|--------|
| | | Won | Drawn | Lost | Won | Drawn | Lost | For | Against | Diff | |
| BANISTER GOLD | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 223 | 115 | 108 | 32 |
| ROWNER TWO | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 195 | 132 | 63 | 24 |
| LOCKSWOOD | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 136 | 104 | 32 | 14 |
| FAREHAM TIGERS | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 108 | 94 | 14 | 14 |
| FAREHAM PANTHERS | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 144 | 213 | -69 | 10 |
| PORTCHESTER GOLD | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 97 | 245 | -148 | 2 |

A FEW REMINDERS

Have you changed your car, phone number or address? If so please can you inform Lesley Howell

Bowls Stickers

If you are playing in a match, please ensure that you have the correct stickers on your bowls. These can be purchased from the stewards desk.

Bowls Shoes

A couple of members have been observed walking into the club in their bowls shoes. This should not be done as then going onto the rink in the same shoes could damage the green.

Used postage stamps are collected and given to Canine Partners Charity. There is a box in the ladies changing room. We also collect milk bottle tops.

Bras are collected for the Air Ambulance Charity they should be put in bags and placed in the large bag in the ladies changing room.

Bonus Ball, you have to be in it to win it. The bag with the numbers is on the table as you come into the club. Please remember to put a pound in the tin for every number you take.

Bowls Road Show

The next roadshow will take place on Thursday 15th January between 10.30am and 2.30pm

Moving the mat up the green

I discussed this subject with someone who bowls in the same team as me and he was misled as to how to aim when he moved the mat a long way up the green. He was aiming at the same point on the far bank, which is wrong.

To explain this I will relate it to a known property of how a bowl runs on a level surface and hope that using diagrams will illustrate the principle. This analysis is for people who use a point on the bank to aim at. Some people aim their bowl a different way and I'm not sure if this article will help them.

When you launch a bowl from the mat, if you want it to finish on the jack (on the centre line of the rink), you must obviously start it on the correct line, in other words use the correct initial delivery angle. Looking at the diagrams this is the angle formed between the centre line (shown with dashes) and the slanting line representing the initial direction that the bowl travels along when it is released from the hand.

I think most of you will know that there is a curious fact of the physics of bowls (technically this is due to a phenomenon called "precession"). The fact is that it does not matter whether it is a long jack length or short jack length, the angle you need is always the same. When I first learned this some years ago I was surprised and delighted at how the power that governs this universe has simplified things for us as bowlers – we don't have to learn a lot of different launch directions, just one.

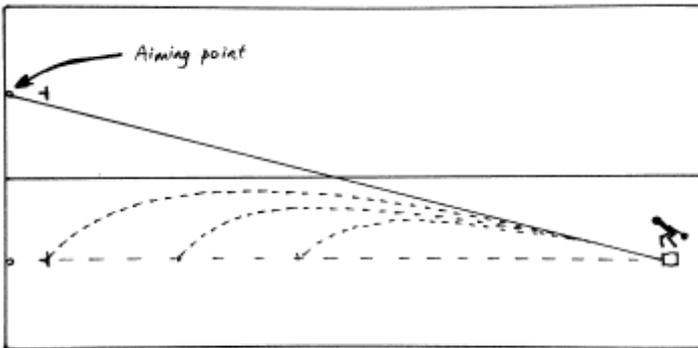


DIAGRAM 1 (not to scale)

So you can use this to determine your aim. For example you can align your feet along this line using this constant angle - some people do, and that's all they need to know. But most people I have talked to aim at a point on the bank. Often this is the number disc in the next rink (which I shall assume for the purpose of this article) or perhaps a foot or two outside or inside this, depending on the bias of your bowl. **Diagram 1** illustrates deliveries from a mat on the T where the jack is at varying positions from a short length to a long length. The aiming point is the number in the next rink, and is the same for any jack length.

However when you move the mat up the green, in order to maintain the correct delivery angle the aiming point moves inwards, as in **Diagram 2**. So if you have moved the mat up the green to the furthest legal position (23m from the far T) the aiming point has moved a few feet left.

If you want to cast your mind way back to school days, you can even calculate the exact aiming point with a little geometry. To

keep the angle the same, you have to preserve the ratio between the "mat to bank" distance and the "aiming point to your rink marker" distance. This preserves the shape of the triangle. If you ask Andrew you will know that from a mat on the T the distance to the far bank is 34.6m. When the mat is moved up the green as far as possible (9.6m up) this distance comes down to 25m. So the distance along the far bank between your own rink's number and the correct aiming point is $25/34.6$ of the original distance which was 1 rink width (the distance between the 2 rink numbers). As rinks are 4.6m wide your aiming point moves $9.6 / 34.6 \times 4.6 = 1.3m$.

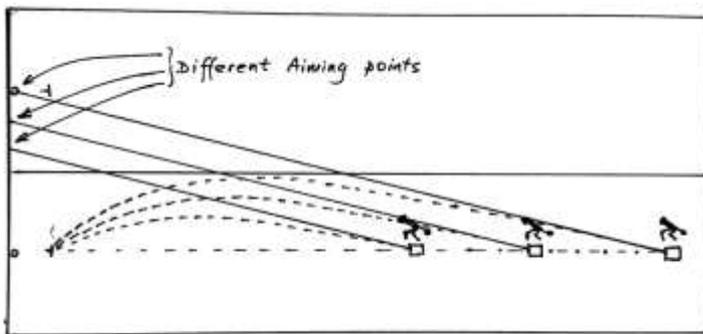


DIAGRAM 2 (not to scale)

that $25/34.6$ is 72%, i.e. just under three quarters. So you can stand on the mat and imagine a point $3/4$ between your own rink number and your basic aiming point, and relate that to the "mat fully up" aiming point. Then you know, from any given mat position in between, how far to move your aiming point. (Beware: it's not 72% of the half-rink distance between the rink number and the vertical rink-edge marker, that's only half of the adjustment required).

Of course when you are standing on the mat you need to estimate this by eye. Perhaps an easier way to think of it is

This ratio never changes unless you are playing away from Palmerston on a green of different length, such as at Worthing, which is longer, or at the other end of the scale at New Milton, which is very short. Also of course you have to reassess your full-length aiming point as it will depend on the speed of the green.

Russell Gadd

Canine Partners' - Brood Bitch Tina's News

Thank you very much to all those who continue to collect old ink cartridges, stamps and bottle tops. Your generosity has been very much appreciated and through 2015 Canine Partners (CP) hope that you will continue to let us have your old stamps and ink cartridges – they have stopped collecting the bottle tops.

Last year, many of you met Tina – a very pale yellow Labrador who has puppies for the charity and Guide Dogs (GD). This year saw all of her first litter (2012) start working for both CP and GD. Her second litter (2013) have moved into further advanced training; the pups from this years litter are now 8 months old and are well into their 'socialization' training with the Puppy Parents.

This April Tina had 8 puppies, a mixture of yellow and black puppies, and she proved herself to be a well rounded mother. She enjoys having the pups and caring for them, but she is very quick to let them know that at 6 weeks they should be standing on their own four 'paws'.

Some of you will also remember that I brought another dog, Gino, in last year. He was a very friendly, bright Golden Retriever/Labrador cross. This October we met him and his Partner; he has been working for the last year and is very happy, enjoying in his new life. He is adored and has enabled the Partner to return to work after several years of struggling to manage with her disability. He astounds us as he can now do many tasks, as well as putting his toys away and removing his own working jacket!

Thank you again for all your support and interest.

Tina Williams - Puppy Parent/Brood Bitch Holder for Canine Partners.

Gino at work



Jiminy, Jagger, Judy and Jester



Are you a good `Driver`?

My wife had been getting on at me about my poor `Driving` abilities and it was beginning to get me down to such an extent that I was beginning to doubt myself thinking that perhaps I was not as good a `Driver` I thought I was.

It is important when you `Drive` to know what you are doing and why you are doing it. Planning ahead and getting your speed right can be critical. After all, you don't want to crash into anything do you?

Yes, I am talking about car `Driving` and not `Bowls Driving`.

Sheila my wife had decided that the only way to answer her doubts about my driving skills was for me to take a driving test. Having ridden motorcycles all my life and taken numerous tests in the process the question of doing the same in a car

... Are you a good `Driver`? (continued)

had not really even occurred to me, after all a bike and a car are like chalk and cheese aren't they.

I first took my Advanced Motorcycle Test some 25 years ago and have since covered many thousands of crash free miles. I consider myself to be a good rider. Today we over 65's are bombarded by adverts and TV programmes with questions about our suitability to drive or ride on our busy roads of today. At the age of 76 even I began to wonder about my own capabilities all though I really knew deep down that I was the best driver in the world. Oh yes we all tend to think that we are better drivers than we actually are don't we!

Hampshire County Council offer us over 60's an `Appraisal Drive` for £30, go to www.hants.gov.uk/roadsafety/driviver-training and click on `DRIVER TRAINING` and then on to `OLDER DRIVER APPRAISAL`.

In my situation I really needed rather more than that as I wanted to know how good or bad a driver I really was. The answer was to take a RoSPA Advanced Driving Test that would tell me precisely what my driving skills were by awarding me either a, Fail, Bronze, Silver or a Gold pass.

I had decided that I would not tell the examiner Barry Kenward, an ex-Police Driver, that I was in fact an active RoSPA Motorcycle Tutor and had been instructing for some 25 years. After all a car has 4 wheels and a bike only 2 doesn't it! Sheila, having urged me to take the test, somewhat reluctantly agreed to accompany me by sitting in the back seat, with the examiners permission I must add.

So off we drove from Porchester where the Examiner lived along the busy A27 through Cosham where I hardly knew one lane from another but I managed to find my way through after a bit of unscheduled lane changing. It was then onto the M27 and to Havant town centre that was quite busy, but I seemed to cope OK with a bit more lane changing to make progress through the traffic. The A3M gave some opportunities to make good progress in the outside lane but the narrow lanes that Barry then took me down were diabolical as the borders were so overgrown that forward vision was severely restricted, so when a big 4 x 4 appeared there was some firm braking followed by me reversing some 30 yards into a tiny passing point that I had previously seen with stinging nettles hanging from my mirrors I might add. So we carried on along some beautiful roads with wonderful scenery, not that I could admire them too much as my attention was on the road ahead as it should be of course.

Back at Barry's house he commenced his de-brief and questioning that lasted, wait for it, some 1.5 hours!!! At one time he even asked me to leave the room to speak privately to Sheila. Was he trying to prepare me for the bad news I wondered? At the end I felt quite drained by it all fully prepared for the worst.

You can imagine my utter relief when Barry said that he was awarding me a GOLD Pass as I had given a very competent drive. I must now ask RoSPA if they can help me to improve my bowling drive too as I have no illusions whatsoever in that respect I can assure you!

Gerry Gooch

Don't buy a Windows computer

You will have seen the leaflets I put around last week (I'm the person who looks after Palmerston's computer systems). If you have a computer you may have already looked at the blog and followed the link. If not, are you thinking of buying your first computer? Perhaps your son / daughter / grandchild is encouraging you to get one. It's getting more difficult to avoid as large companies, banks and even the Government are trying to get people "online". Some of you will no doubt succeed in your resistance to this, but for those who are tempted to buy one, read on, because I want to persuade you to think carefully before taking the plunge.

What follows leans heavily on the information in the website www.howtoreplaceyourpc.com, which I mentioned in my blog. To get the full story, read that before you buy. These are the first two paragraphs of that site - there's a lot more:

"Getting a home computer used to be so simple... you had two choices: a Windows PC or a Mac

... Don't buy a Windows computer (continued)

and the Mac was twice the price, so more than 95% of computers sold were Windows. Now you're wondering if you should get an iPad, or one of those incredibly cheap £200 Chromebooks, or maybe, just maybe, you could just do everything on that smartphone you already own and love so much.

Of course you might be tempted just to get another Windows PC, because that's what you always do. But, it's worth investing a little time in figuring out what type of computer to get as you are going to be spending a lot of time with it. Along the way let's see if we can do some really cool things, like **waving goodbye to viruses, permanently protecting your family photo collection and maybe even saving you a lot of money.**"

I am going further and saying DON'T buy a Windows computer. I haven't talked to that many Palmerston members about their computer, but two of them I have spoken to have already fallen for the "call from Microsoft" scam (more detail is in my blog). An enormous criminal industry has grown up attacking this one type of computer. These guys are making billions of dollars a year scamming normal folks trying to use a computer at home. Think your anti-virus is going to save you? The sad thing is, most of those victims had anti-virus software as well. Talk to your friends - I'll guarantee you'll soon find someone whose computer is running very slow now and/or is exhibiting strange behaviour.

Here's another paragraph from howtoreplaceyourpc.com:

"At any one time we have a workshop full of Windows PCs that have been infected by nasty software. In almost all cases they have up to date anti-virus software. And don't listen to people who tell you that you just need "stronger" anti-virus software, those infected machines we see have every anti-virus software you have heard of and all sorts you have not."

It's not just viruses. There is also a lot of "free" junk software which seems to invade your PC. Also a friend at the club told me that their recently bought laptop had adverts all over the place.

So is it just Windows? Fortunately the practical answer is yes.

"No computer is immune to infection. The important thing here is the relative risk. Infections on Windows are extremely common, I certainly see more infected home PCs than I see clean ones. Worldwide we are talking hundreds of millions of PCs with some quantity of Viruses or Junk Software. At the other end of the scale the most secure system on the market today is iPad. That's only ever had one security scare (WireLurker) and it only applied in China to people who ignored all the security advice."

So what to buy? From the above you might think of an iPad. If it does everything you want, fine. I have one and they are great. But a bit restrictive as any "tablet" is.

If you want a proper keyboard and bigger screen I recommend a "Chromebook" or one of its close alternatives "Chromebox" or "Chromebase". A Chromebook is a laptop, but instead of running Windows, it runs a operating system from Google called Chrome OS. But the most significant thing is it operates almost exclusively through the "Chrome" browser (similar to Internet Explorer in Windows), which means you are actually doing all your work on Google's servers on the internet. Your files are stored remotely and backed up automatically, which is another big benefit. If your grandchild smashes it or it eventually dies, all your valuable documents, pictures, etc are safe. You just buy a new one, switch it on and it's all there. It boots up in seconds. As well as not having to worry about backups, you don't have to do any updates, etc. It is all handled centrally by Google.

I could say a lot more but space is limited. We've just bought a "HP Chromebook 14" from John Lewis (£229). Now I don't have to worry about falling under a bus. Janet can dump my sophisticated computers and just carry on with the Chromebook.

Oh, and its far safer to do your internet banking on. As also is an iPad:

"People look at me in amazement when I say do your online banking on the iPad not on your Windows Laptop. You can see them thinking "but that can't be safer. It's smaller, it must be less powerful, it doesn't have any anti-virus software, how can it be safer?". But it is. It's safer because the security was designed in from the ground up. With a system like Windows it was added on long after the system went to market, which is how an entire criminal industry has evolved to take advantage of Windows."

Russell Gadd
palmerston-bowls.org.uk

Social

The Club Christmas Dinner Dance being held on the 13th December is being well supported. The evening will have a Christmas atmosphere and we are confident that everyone will have a good time. The entertainer is Gary Matthews who we had at our party last year and his entertaining was very good.

Due to lack of support at last year's New Years Eve party, next year we are celebrating with a New Year Dinner Dance on Saturday 17th January 2015. Gary will once again entertain us who will make it a very enjoyable evening.

Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday next year and we will be celebrating the event with a Dinner Dance. Phil Owen as always will make the evening a great success. We have an Irish Night arranged on Saturday 14th March, and a group of Irish Dancers will entertain us. Their dancing is a treat to watch, an event not to be missed.

We will be arranging a Club Dinner evening on Saturday 28th February 2015. The poster and booking form will be posted on the notice board one month prior to the function date. We hope that it will be well supported as we have reserved future dates during the year for Club Dinner evenings.

The Social Committee appreciate the support of those who attend the Club functions and we endeavour to make sure you have an enjoyable evening. It's your support that makes the Functions a success. We do require you to make sure you complete your menu choice before 7days prior to the Function. It will eliminate the necessities to make phone calls to obtain menu choices, and will also help Debbie with the catering.

We also need you to purchase tickets before 7days prior to the Function. We cannot confirm the number attending when ticket sales do not tally with the number of names entered on the booking list.

The Social Committee thank all those who attend the Social Functions. Your support is appreciated.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Sylvia, Shirley, Brian Social Committee

Restaurant Update

It's now nine months since Debbie took over the business, now known as DJC catering, to manage the Club Restaurant. It's not always easy to take over from someone who had been established for 16 years, but Debbie accepted the challenge and had her own positive ways of how she would run the restaurant.

Debbie has introduced staff uniforms, and also name badges. The staff has also had training to give customers a friendly and efficient service. During Sunday lunchtime there is a greeter at the entrance to the restaurant to greet and welcome the customers.

Debbie offers an excellent daily menu choice, which has received many compliments. She also offers an "open hatch policy" which I know is appreciated by those who like a coffee & rock cake on Mondays, and other varieties of cake during the week. All freshly made by Debbie as a personal service to members.

The same level of personal service is offered in the evenings for Club Functions, Friendlies and Private Functions.

When there is a change of management, new policies are introduced and changes made. The policies and changes Debbie has made are for the benefit of the members and Club. It's because of her love of the Club and her job that she works and strives to offer and maintain a personal and rewarding service.

Sometimes the volume of work required in the restaurant, i.e., open hatch service, lunches, friendly meals, can be very demanding, but Debbie will always strive to maintain a good level of service.

I believe with any new job the first year is a "settling in" year. From then on you can sometimes see ways to "streamline" the work. If Debbie can find ways to "streamline" I am sure she will achieve that.

WHEN IS A JACK ILLEGALLY DELIVERED?

You will have seen reference to the rink dimensions in another article in this issue. I'd just like to highlight one other dimension that is well worth remembering; when everyone is looking at each other pondering on whether a jack has been cast the required 23 metres, this figure can save a lot of time (and arguments). I have witnessed this on many occasions and even seen umpires called on to measure jacks in county and national games which have clearly been in by at least 2 metres.

The dimension is 9.6 metres or perhaps it is better to think of it in terms of 9.6 dots as marked on each rink. This is how the length is arrived at:-

The length of the rink from "T" to "T" is 32.6 metres.

The minimum length of the jack from the front edge of the mat to the front edge of the jack is 23 metres.

Therefore 32.6 less 23 gives a total of 9.6 metres – in other words if you take the distance from "T" to the front edge of the mat PLUS the distance from the "T" (at the other end of the rink) to the jack and this is less than 9.6 dots (as dots are spaced at 1 metre intervals this means 9.6 metres) then you have a legally delivered jack. Greater than 9.6 dots means the jack has been sent less than 23 metres.

Andrew Miller - Rink Manager

Lighter Side

The Bowlers' own language – how to translate

The Sport of Bowls has its very own language which can totally mystify anyone who hears it, but hasn't had the pleasure of throwing a bowl in fun or earnest. For the information of the uninitiated, here are a few terms translated into standard English.

"Good weight!" = lousy line

"Good line" = lousy weight

"Good back bowl" = you were lucky you didn't put it in the ditch

"Could be in their way" = that's in my way

"That could be useful up there" = that bowl is closer to you than it is to the jack

"Get it next time" = you sure didn't get it this time

"He's surprisingly good" = you're surprised he ever makes a shot

"I'd bowl with him any day" = he always buys the first round