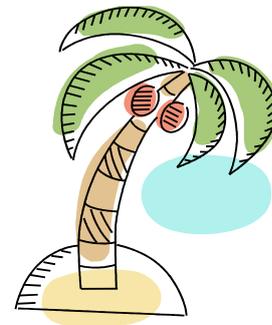


PALM READER

The Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Magazine



December 16
Issue 68

Christmas Message

The Board of Directors and the JMC wish you all the wonders of the season and beautiful new memories to carry with you throughout the coming year.



Christmas Closure

The club will be closed for bowling between the following dates.
Friday evening 23rd December 2016 re opening Monday 2nd January 2017

The Palm Reader comes out three times a year

Is there something that you would like to see included?

If so, please contact me Marie Leonard either by leaving a note for me or at:

palmreader@palmerston-bowls.org.uk

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

SNOW and ICE



palmerston-bowls.org.uk

Be prepared:

1. Give your car a Winter checkup
2. Take a blanket, torch , bright vest, scraper and de-icer.
3. Make sure your mobile phone is charged up.
4. Before leaving check the Palmerston website for up-to-the-minute news to see if the Club is open.

Find the website now while you have time.
And why not have a look around at all the useful information.

palmerston-bowls.org.uk

You don't need to remember this exact address, just put "Palmerston bowls" in your search box, we'll be there on the first page of results.



Race Night

The next Race Night will be on Saturday 1st. April at 7.30 p.m.
Attendees will be limited to 85 with one member allowed to bring one guest.
The maximum numbers on any table is shown and this cannot be raised.
Booking arrangements, and ticket sales will be as normal.
Cost will be stated on the booking sheet and the tickets.

Roy Mudd.



Car Park

Please observe the car park entry and exit flow as there was a very near miss when one car did not follow this and decided to exit where a car was coming in.



On The Lighter Side

A Scott and a Yank were talking about golf, "In most parts of the United States we can't play golf in the winter. We have to wait until spring," said the American. "Och, ye big softies," replied the Scott. "Shurely ye can play if ye put a will to it? We dinnae let the snow and cold fess us." The Yank looked doubtful. "Well what do you do, paint your balls black?: he asked. "No" replied the surprised Scott. "We'll just put on a thick pair of thermal troosers."

A Taffy gets his first golf lesson. His instructor tells him: "You see that little flag pole over there? Just hit the ball and try and get it as close to it as you can." So Taffy gives it a good wackand upon approaching the hole they see that he has ended up 5cm from the hole. "Very good," the instructor says, amazed. "Now, you have to hit it into the hole." "What" exclaims Taffy. "Why didn't you say that in the first place?"

In Africa, some of the native tribes have a custom of beating the ground with clubs and uttering spine-chilling cries, Anthropologists call this a form of primitive self-expression. In Britain, we call it golf.

Are you connected?

Even though the vast majority of members of Palmerston are retired, it's perhaps surprising how many of us now have a home computer or tablet. For some this is relatively new so I thought a few tips might be useful.

Email tips

- Number one rule: Don't click on **any** links in emails. Be very suspicious of links in any sent (or appearing to be sent) from your bank. Even if the email comes from someone you know. Many thousands of yahoo and btinternet accounts were hacked in the recent past. If you have one of these see the next paragraph. I get odd emails from members of Palmerston and my golf club with strange messages and links, no doubt containing viruses.
- When you first sign up for a broadband deal the company will give you an email account - someone@sky.co.uk or bloggs123@btinternet.com. Don't use it. Instead sign up for a free account from a large web company - I recommend gmail (you can find it from google.com). This means when you decide to switch you phone and broadband deal you don't have to change your email address, which is a hassle. And if you still use aol, god help you!
- gmail has millions of users. Every email address in the world is unique. So, you probably won't get your preferred johnsmith@gmail.com (unless your name is zaphod beebblebrox). They will suggest adding a number such as johnsmith439@gmail.com. A little creativity can help to give you something easier to remember, for example 66johnsmith99@gmail.com. Don't use your year of birth.
- Your email account is one of the most important web accounts to secure. Because if a hacker gets into it he can do a "password reset" on any other web accounts you have. Check out what "second factor authentication" they provide. You can get an app on your smartphone or use text messages for verification when logging in.
- If you are brave enough to do internet banking get another separate email address used solely for that. Even better, buy a cheap laptop (such as a chromebook) and use it solely for internet banking. Only use the special email address there.
- Experiment with gmail settings to simplify them - suggested: **General** > Button Labels > text, **Labels** > hide Starred, Important, Chats; show Sent Mail, Drafts, All Mail, Spam, Bin; Categories - hide everything, **Inbox** > tick only Primary, **Chat** > Chat off
- Don't use the same password at more than one place. Write them down in a little book kept at home. Better still use the top password manager LastPass (free). Search Google for ideas how to create good passwords.



Is your fridge a security risk?

Heard of the "Internet of Things"? A growing number of people these days are buying household equipment which connects to the internet. It used to be just your new TV or Video Recorder. But now all sorts of devices want to be "connected" - fridge, washing machine, doorbells, even light bulbs. The theory is that you can stay in control of your home by logging on to your smartphone or laptop while you are away. Put the oven on for to cook your meal while you are returning home. Use your outside webcam to see who is ringing the bell.



All very well but unfortunately because they are made as cheaply as possible the last thing the designers think about is good security practices. Some of them have appallingly bad protection. They can often easily be used to hack into your computer at home because they connect through the same equipment. It's a disaster waiting to happen to you.

And not only to you but to the internet as a whole. In October, there was a massive attack on a large section of the worldwide web infrastructure. Many of the largest sites were taken offline such as Twitter and Paypal which have many millions of users. Just days before the attack experts

had warned of increasingly sophisticated botnets - but they are powerless to stop them.

To do this takes serious resources - the "botnet" was created from household and everyday devices - DVRs, cameras and even kettles. Hackers have actually published the program code (called Mirai) on the internet which will enable other copycat attacks in future. More worryingly, it was "becoming still more sophisticated".

So, what to do? Unless you have sufficient in-depth technical knowhow (and even then, it's tough), the only solution is not to buy these things. Tell your son, daughter, grandchildren of the risks and hope they pay attention. In time security, will probably be better. Home routers will isolate IoT devices from your computer, phone and tablet. But until then better to avoid for now.

Russell Gadd

Three spots up

This is a cry I hear a lot and I groan inwardly each time. As soon as the jack is centred the skip tells his lead how many spots it is from the T. Or if on the T, they make a T with their fingers. Is this really a good idea? I don't think so, unless your sight is very poor.

Do you think a number will help you nail the jack? You may bowl trying to remember the last time it was 3 spots up. Was the mat in the same place as your 3-spot memory? Is this enough information? Or will you use it to doubt what you are seeing?

My take is that it encourages you not to really look where the jack is and get a feel for the length. It's too easy to be a bit casual about it.

It's a physical game not an intellectual one. You don't walk faster or slower by remembering how many inches the fast or slow step is. You should learn to trust your feeling brain to assess it and keep your mind out of it.

But of course, this is just a personal view. I may be wrong. I know a very successful bowler who insists on knowing how many spots. I just mention it so you think about it, and decide for yourself. If you agree with my view, you could ask your skip to keep quiet so you can be sure of looking properly.

Russell Gadd

NOTES AND REMINDERS

Dress Standards

Just a quick reminder that the club standard dress for leagues / drives / roll ups is

Women

White blouse or tee shirt with collar, grey trousers or skirt and if required light blue waistcoat / cardigan (can be obtained from club) with authorised shoes.

Men

White shirt or Tee shirt with collar, grey trousers and if required white short or long sleeved jumper or cardigan with authorised shoes.

Please be aware that you are not supposed to go from the lounge area to the rink area to bowl until the previous players have completely left the rink area.

Have you, changed your phone number or address? If so, please can you inform Lesley Howell to enable her to keep her records up to date.

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.

Ditches, please do not step into the ditches as this breaks off the rubber spikes. One hand on the bank and remove the bowl from the ditch with the other hand.

Chewing Gum, please refrain from chewing gum whilst bowling as gum has been found on the green and is difficult to remove and it damages the carpet.

BOOKING OF RINKS, 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**, but please also write the date you provisionally booked the rink.

When a date has been accepted, the other dates should be erased from the schedule and the accepted date marked as **“CONFIRMED”** in **INK**.

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.

PBC....Palmerston Book Collection

Now that the dark, cold winter evenings have arrived it's that time of year to curl up with a good book! Where else would you get such a wide range of paperback books for 30p or hard backed books for 50p than at PBC! If you want to add to your book collection just have a quick look through the great books on offer in the Foyer or in the Ladies changing room. It's also a great place to find a new home for those well-loved books you no longer have room for as donations are always welcome!

Remember all proceeds from the PBC go to the Club so please support the PB Collection whenever you can!

Many thanks to all those bookworms out there who are always looking at and donating to our club library.



PALMERSTON CUP

As we approach the end of the year, the Palmerston Cup is now reaching a crucial stage for some of the teams. There are three leagues in the competition and only the top two teams in each league will qualify for the knockout quarter final stages. They will be joined by the two best third place teams from the three leagues.

In **League A**, Fareham Tigers have already qualified and have yet to drop a rink in the competition. It looks as though Banister Park Gold will probably join them, but Milton Park who are third have a game in hand on them. The outcome of this league will be decided on 8th January 2017 at 6.30pm when Milton Park play Fareham Tigers.

In **League B**, the picture is not clear at the time of writing (5.12.16). Any of four teams, Banister Park Blue, Meon Valley, Fareham Panthers or Bridgemary Red could qualify and the final league games are on 15th January 2017.

In **League C**, Eastleigh Railway, the winners of the competition for the last two years, look to be a strong contender for qualification having yet to drop a rink. But Lee on the Solent and Lockswood A also have a chance to progress, with these two teams meeting each other on Sunday 18th December 2016. Final league matches take place on 22nd January 2017.

The knockout stages of the competition take place during February 2017

A lot of your friends and bowling colleagues (men and ladies) take part in these competitions. Why not come down to give them encouragement and see some wonderful bowling at the same time. All matches take place on Sunday evenings starting at 6.30 p.m. and what is more the bar is open to quench your thirst. Full details of the games can be found on the club noticeboard and also on the club website.

Keith Fleming
Competition Secretary



Palmerston Men's Captain Report

We started the year with a fairly productive period of trial matches, with several new faces looking to show promise.

Denny Cup/Plate

We lost our first round of the Denny Cup against Worthing Pavilion 57:66, and were automatically moved into the Denny Plate where we had a little more success beating Worthing 97:55 before coming up against a very strong Adur team and losing 55:88.

Over 60 Double Rink

We entered two teams into this competition and each had a similar fate winning the first and losing their second.

Challenge Shield

Although we had entered this competition, there was as usual a clash between this comp and the Bramley Bowl. Although we had been informed by the League Secretary that (if Banister Park agreed) we could rearrange the Bramley Bowl, Banister Park would not agree, so we had to concede.

Bramley Bowl

Throughout the season each team has 8 fixtures to complete. Having played four so far, we are leading the Division with 4 wins from four matches. We have had some very good results East Dorset 84:70 Atherley 84:77, Banister Park 73:64 and lastly but by no means least an excellent win against Chawton Park 86:63.

I look forward to see how we fare after Christmas.

Graham King

On the Lighter Side

A beggar walks up to a well-dressed woman who is shopping in Knightsbridge and says: "I haven't eaten in four days." She looks at him and says: "God I wish I had your willpower."

"I'd like my wife to be beautiful, well-behaved, smart and rich," the bachelor said. "Oh well," his friend replied, "then you have to get married four times."



Open Singles Circuit Grand Final

Bill Jackson plays under the pseudonym Bill MacJack on the Open Singles Circuit.

This is to avoid confusion with Billy Jackson the former PBA World Champion.

This year Bill qualified for the Grand Final, played at Northampton on 29 October, by finishing No. 43 on the Ranking list.

His first round was against Martin Timms of Welford IBC, who is the current Bristol Open Champion. Bill won the first set 7:5, but lost the second 3:7. This meant a 3rd end tie break. When Bill had one bowl left to play, the score was one end each but Martin was holding match lie with 2 bowls one foot behind the jack. However, Bill MacJack managed to draw the shot and win the match.

The next match was almost as exciting. Bill was drawn to play Neil Smith an England international player who is the current Barwell Open Champion.

In the first 7 end set, after 6 ends Bill was one shot ahead, but lost 2 on the last end. In the second set after 6 ends Bill was 2 behind which meant he needed 3 in the last end as he had lost the first set. Bill only managed to get one.

This meant MacJack lost 5:6, 4:5 against a top ranked bowler.

Neil went on to win two more matches but lost in the semi-final to Gary Smith who then beat Mark Royal in the final.

This month Bill will be playing at Westlecot on 11th, Barwell on 18th and Dolphin on 27th December.

The draws are online on Open Singles Circuit web-site.

Bill Jackson

On the Lighter Side

I went to my nearby Pharmacy, straight to the back, where the Pharmacists' high counter is located.

I took out my little brown bottle, along with a teaspoon, and set them up on the counter. The Pharmacist came over, smiled, and asked if he could help me. I said, "Yes! Could you please taste this for me?"

Seeing a senior citizen, the Pharmacist went along. He took the spoon, put a tiny bit of the liquid on it, put it on his tongue and swilled it around. Then, with a stomach-churning look on his face, he spat it out on the floor and began coughing.

When he finally was finished, I looked him right in the eye and asked, "Now, does that taste sweet to you?" The Pharmacist, shaking his head back and forth with a venomous look in his eyes yelled, "HELL NO!!!"

I said, "Oh, thank God! That's a real relief! My doctor told me to have a Pharmacist test my urine for sugar!"

I can never go back to them, but I really don't care, because they aren't very friendly there anymore!

Hampshire Patrons Section.

Again, this season, Palmerston has been asked to provide players for the Hampshire Friendlies and Patrons matches; here is a short update as to the progress so far.

Hampshire Friendlies

On 20th October the County played Surrey at Wey Valley IBC and were successful by 112 shots to 104. The top rink was from Palmerston: Rob Dawkins, Jeff Passmore, Brian Hopkins, and Dave Heather. Well done chaps!

Palmerston players, Brian Hopkins, Rob Dawkins, Jeff Passmore and Dave Heather also helped Hampshire retain the "Don Gough" trophy at Moonfleet 2000 IBC on Sunday 6th November, with a victory of 124 shots to 119. The match was closely fought throughout with a notable recovery by the Executive rink being 22 shots to 4 down before recovering to lose by only 5 shots

On Sunday 11th the county team travel to Taunton Deane to play Somerset.

Patrons

On Saturday 29th October the Palmerston team of Tony Jennings, Neil Roderick, Martin Johnson and Walter Metcalf helped the Patrons win 139 to 58 at Loddon Vale.

On Sun 13th November Martin Johnson, Neil Rodrick, Bill Noble and Brian Hopkins represented the Patrons in a game resulting in a loss for the Patrons of 87 to 144 against a strong Atherly team. The Palmerston team faired the best out of all the rinks by drawing their match 21 all.

On Saturday 28th January 2017 at 2pm the Patrons will be visiting Palmerston after a few years' absence. We will require 6 rinks to make up the Palmerston team, so please keep an eye on the notice boards in the near future for the sign-up sheet.

If you are interested in playing in the Patrons see the notice board at the end of the men's changing room or contact B Hopkins 07808 855739



