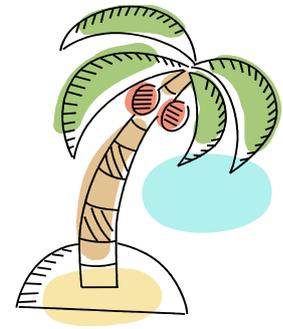


PALM READER

The Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Magazine



September 19
Issue 76

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Member

First of all, a very warm welcome to the new season which is fast upon us. To those that have enjoyed the air-conditioned atmosphere of the club and the outside brethren about to come in from a busy outdoor season this promises to be a really excellent winter.

I have managed to poke my head into the club on a pretty regular basis throughout the summer, indeed I have sneaked on and had a few goes on the new carpet. It has been encouraging to see so many people bowling, particularly on a Wednesday club night. A massive vote of thanks to Maggie and Peter Steward for running these sessions.

In talking to members, it is clear that the overwhelming opinion is that the new carpet is wonderful. I certainly think it will make for some great bowling in the future.

In the same way the new card system appears to be generally well received. I would ask everybody to be patient and cooperative in the early days. Please allow extra time before the session starts when signing your teams in.

As far as my Presidency goes, I know it is going to be a busy year. My charity this year is Parkinson's Disease. Any monies raised will go to the local Stubbington support group. Please be generous if you do bowl a wrong bias please contribute to the fines pot as indicated on the charity table.

Hopefully there will be a number of events on during the year with regard to the charity. There are almost weekly friendlies against other clubs. These matches are played on Sunday afternoons and it is a great way to meet bowlers from other clubs. We are always in need of players. Look out for the information on the friendlies board to the right of the league results. If you require more information please contact either myself or my vice presidents Shirley and Roger Hunt.

One of my tasks as vice president last year was to update the dress code for bowling. Copies can be found in the changing room and behind reception. In particular can I urge all bowlers to ensure they have the correct bowling shoes. If in doubt please ask.

It just remains for me on behalf of my Presidential Team to wish all member bowlers and social members a really enjoyable season.

Neil Roderick

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

MEMBER CARDS

After many weeks of planning and a few hectic days installing and training, our new member card system is up and running.

We installed the hardware on 24 June and started giving out cards and taking payments the next day. Over the next 2 months, despite having less than 200 summer bowlers and 250 social members, we gave out well over 600 cards. So, it appears that many of the winter bowlers have also popped in to pick up their card.

Members' response to the new system has been very encouraging. In just the first 2 months, over 80% of you have chosen to pay rink fees with your card. For bar sales the figure is over 70%. This has very significantly reduced the coinage we have taken. Also, more than half of the top-ups have been made by debit or credit card which reduces the cash we transport to the bank and cuts our cash banking charges.

Talking about debit and credit cards, it's worth remembering that using these instead of cash to top up your member card helps you to reduce trips to the bank or hole in the wall. Getting cash is continuing to get more difficult. I found out last week that the only bank left in Stubbington (Lloyds) is closing in October. However, when you do need cash, it's worth knowing that you can go to the post office in Martin's newsagent to do various basic banking tasks such as paying in or withdrawing cash.

You will know by now that fobs are redundant and you use the card to open the entrance door. There was a hiccup in installing the door card reader which delayed implementation by a week or so. It turned out to be a supplier software fault. The door card reader had to be returned for reprogramming but they pulled out the stops to resolve it, and it is working without problem.

We are now preparing to introduce the card system to the returning winter bowlers. The first couple of weeks of the new winter season will require our dedicated team of volunteers to spend many hours at Palmerston giving out cards and supporting the winter stewards as they become familiar with the till.

You can help during this period by remembering a couple of simple rules. First, when paying rink fees for your league team, pay all your team's fees together. This means if you are paying with 3 member cards all 3 people come up to the desk at the same time. Better still, hand your cards to the skip and he/she can pay all of them. You will get your card back with the receipt, which shows your name, how much was paid and how much you have left.

Secondly, don't wait until 5 minutes before the start of the session otherwise there will be a queue. When the summer bowlers starting using the card, we had queues at the desk but now they have learnt to come as soon as the team has arrived. You will find that the process will speed up as members and stewards get more familiar with it, so please be patient in the first few weeks.

Finally, I'm pleased to say that the accounting processes are working smoothly. July was the first full month of the new processes and the July accounts were produced with no problems.

I'm sure that starting the system in the summer helped to make this a successful beginning and I'd like to thank everyone involved for their patience and support. After the winter bowlers introduction in September I will look forward to my holiday in October confident that everything will be under control.

Russell Gadd

Hampshire County Womens Bowling association President

Marilyn Williamson was installed as Hampshire County Womens Bowling association President on August 12. We shall therefore be holding several events during this season for the County. The first of these is a fun afternoon for the Heather Clarke Trophy on Wednesday October 9 at 2 pm. There will also be a County game against Surrey in November, a Fours competition in January and the County finals on March 28/29. We hope that ladies will give Marilyn their full support in all these events.

Palmerston is very proud to have her as President from our club.

Janet Madd



PAYING FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS

Club competitions can now be paid using your membership card. When you have paid at the Steward's desk, please attach the receipt to your entry form and post it in the competition box as normal.

Brian Knight



Summer Mixed Drive on Wednesday Night.

This summer mixed drive has been successful with an average of 26 people attending each week. It has been played over 12 ends in a relaxed atmosphere with plenty of banter and joking. There have been a number of new people who have come along and found it enjoyable.

I would like to thank the directors and JMC for their support and that it is worth trying new ideas.

Finally, this has been worthwhile and successful due to the members who have supported it - thank you - it will be run again in 2020.

Peter and Maggie Steward

WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A BRIEF SUMMARY ON WHAT HAS CHANGED OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS:

- Bowls floor replaced. New bowls carpet and underlay.
- New carpet to walkway and ramp.
- New card payment system to minimise the handling of cash and to reduce bank charges.
- Front door access now uses member cards instead of fobs. The old fob system was obsolete
- Accounting systems adapted to new card system
- Computer system upgraded due to our old systems no longer being supported.
- The toilets have been upgraded replacing sanitary ware and cubicles.
- Tables and chairs in restaurant repaired – due to quantity this is still on going.

Brian Morgan



Club Night on a Friday

The idea behind club night is to introduce new members as well as existing members to a fairly relaxed evening playing each other in a mixed drive. The other idea is to give people information about the club, competitions, leagues, mixed drives, where to go for information, as well as answering where possible any questions about the rules for playing a bowls game.

Due to the number attending it has been decided that the club night will be 12 ends mixed drive starting at 6.15 on a Friday night. The club will at the same time have a league playing; most weeks this will leave us with 4 rinks to play on.

All are welcome to come along to have an enjoyable mixed drive with all the banter that happens. The club night will start on the 20th September.

I would also like any comments on what the players want out of this mixed drive.

Peter and Maggie Steward at steward24@virginmedia.com

A LESSON IN HISTORY

There is an old hotel/pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hung.

The horse-drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "ONE LAST DRINK"

If he said YES, it was referred to as ONE FOR THE ROAD

If he declined, that prisoner was ON THE WAGON

More absorbing history

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families all used to pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "piss poor", but worse than that were the real poor people who couldn't even afford to buy a pot, they "Didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain that the water temperature isn't just how you like it think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good in June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide any body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw was piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place the animals for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirty. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor". The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to keep their footing.

As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight, then they would start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot, nine days old". (I always thought it was 'pottage' – like thick soup)

Sometimes they obtained pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon, to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around talking and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach into the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Sometimes people walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial, they were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding A Wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening the coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So, they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would have to sit in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell: thus, someone could be, "Saved by the Bell" or was considered a "Dead Ringer"

And that's the truth.

Now, whoever said history was boring!!!



FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

First of all, I have made it to the end. I must admit there were times when I didn't think that I would.

I would like to first of all congratulate Bill Jackson for his achievements and also being our County indoor President. It is an honour for Palmerston Bowls Club to have him as one of our members.

I would also like to congratulate all of the bowlers who made it to finals week. There was a lot of good bowling that took place, each and every one of you should be proud of yourselves.

My own personal proud moment was when we played against my outdoor club Lockwood in a friendly. The next thing I would like to mention is how thrilled I was to exceed my goal for Macmillan Charity. And a special thank you to Bruce for taking the trouble to grow and donate plants for sale.

I can't give you a final total yet, so far with all of your help I have raised just under £2.000

Coleen Money

NOTES AND REMINDERS

Please be aware that you should not go from the lounge area to the rink area to bowl until the previous players have left your intended rink. Will bowlers please be courteous and leave promptly from your rink when you finish your game.

Car Park please ensure that you enter and exit the car park in the correct manner.

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.

Walking Across the Field A small reminder that if you walk across the field please ensure that the bottom of your shoes are completely clean prior to entering the club as we have had a couple of instances of grass and mud being trodden into the carpet.

Bowling Shoes please ensure that you do not wear bowling shoes outside of the club doors as you could be bringing dirt into the club premises and could damage the new carpet.

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

Oily Substances will contaminate the carpet surface!

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

Canine Partners are most grateful to all who sent in their used stamps. One person even sent in their complete stamp album. A huge thank you to you all. They are also collecting used computer cartridges, these can be left in the ladies changing room and Molly Williams will collect them.

Mobile Phones Please remember to switch your mobile phone off or at least put it on silent when you enter the club.

Volunteers Needed There are a number of dedicated volunteers ranging from directors, treasurer, various secretaries, rink management and stewards who work throughout the year to ensure the smooth running of our club and to whom we are extremely grateful.

Please think seriously about offering your help to volunteer as a steward or rink cleaning team.

Glycerine Do not use glycerine near the carpet. It can be applied to hands in the toilet or changing rooms only.

Oil Based Chalk Please do not use any oil-based chalk or marker pens to mark the touchers.

HIBA County Finals Report

The Matches in the morning played at Palmerston IBC on 6th April 2019 produced some convincing wins.

The Victory Four of Dale Evers, Mike Leeson, Terry Smith & Adrian Ash got off to a fast start and after 7 ends were leading 15:2. The next 8 ends were shared at 7 each. So the Victory Four won the Fours final by 22:9 against the Loddon Vale Four of Jeff White, John Holmes, Ashley Nethercliffe and Gary Lovett.

The Triples was a similar story, this time the Cummins brothers, Alan, Chris & Pete from Banister Park, after 9 ends were leading 15:3, but they continued in the same vein and won comfortably 24:7 against the Palmerston Triple of Ian Stafford, his son Barry Stafford and Colin Jackson.

The pairs result was in doubt for a long time. After 9 ends the score was 8 each. After 14 ends the Atherley pair of Martin Wise and Wayne Stewart were still in the game, only 3 down. The Chawton Park duo of Barry Smith and Nathan Beeson finished strongly to win by 20:10.

The afternoon brought us firstly a convincing win by Ashley Nethercliffe of Loddon Vale against Danny Smith of Victory by 21:6. This is the fifth time that Ashley has won the Under 25 Singles Championship.

Following that, there was a real battle for the County Singles Championship. The match was tied at 10 each after 12 ends. After that Russell Gadd of Palmerston just inched ahead and stayed ahead but after 18 ends, he was still only 3 shots clear. David Bines of Atherley kept up the pressure, but Russell kept his grip on the match and managed to win 21:16. Over the years, Russell has been in three County Singles Finals before successfully gaining the Championship at this fourth attempt.



The match of the day was the Mixed Pairs final. The Palmerston pair of Tracy and Tony Farrington were playing against the more experienced Chawton Park pair of Margaret Holden and Adam White. Although the ends were shared, as they won 8 ends each, some remarkable conversion shots from Tracy made all the difference. The Farringtons scored three fours and two threes for a terrific win against the strongest of opposition 21:10.



The over 60 2 wood triples Final between two Victory teams was played on 4 April as some of the players were involved in EIBA finals at Nottingham on 6 April. The match was a classic, both teams playing well and after 17 ends the match was tied. Dave Watts, Dale Evers and Adrian Ash gained the crucial shot on the last end to win 16:15 against Charlie Bailey, Len Reeves and Barry Starks.

Thank you to Palmerston IBC for hosting the event and to the supporters and spectators for attending to help make this a special occasion for the players.

Bill Jackson

HIBA Competition Secretary.



I Dreamt

I dreamt that death came the other night and heavens gates swung wide.

A Kindly Angel came to me and ushered me inside,

And there to my astonishment stood folks I'd known on earth.

Some I had judged as quite unfit or of such little worth.

Indignant words rose to my lips, but never were set free as everyone showed stunned surprise,

No one expected me.

Conditions of hire for the restaurant.

When a member completes an application form for the hire of the restaurant, he or she should read the conditions of hire stated on the back of the form.

Condition 8 must be adhered to. The member responsible for the booking must forward to me a list of the people attending. Also, the member must ensure that he or she personally sign in everyone when they arrive. This is a clause in our insurance cover. It is also an instruction from the fire and safety officer.

For safety reasons the member must announce the locations of the fire exits.

When the member signs the declaration for the hire of the restaurant, he or she has agreed to be responsible for the safety of the people attending.

Sylvia Wrightson



We need your email address

Now that a lot of members have email addresses, we can save money by sending out our renewal notices by email. Using second class post costs up to £500 even if we put husband and wife letters in one envelope.

To avoid spelling mistakes, the best way to tell us your email address is to send an email to

emails@palmerston-bowls.club



Please DON'T make a hole anywhere in your MEMBER card. 3 people have already done this and their card stopped working. And don't put it in your back pocket and sit on it!