



PALM READER

December 2021

Issue: 79

The Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Magazine

Christmas Message

The past year has been very difficult for us all let's hope that going forward into the new year will be much better, wishing you all the wonders of the season and beautiful new memories to carry with you, throughout the coming year.



The Board of Directors and Joint Management Committee

President Shirley Hunt

Shirley has chosen Macmillan Cancer Support as her charity for her year as President for all the great work that they do.

There are many Friendly matches lined up to play this year please support Shirley by putting your names forward.

Shirley would like to thank all of the members who have already donated and has listed a couple of ways that your money can help people.

A £1.00 will help a person affected by cancer claim £33.00 in benefits that they are entitled to.

£157.00 could pay for a Macmillan grant to cover the cost of travel costs to and from hospital.

Your loose change will all help, please dig deep.

Shirley

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



CHRISTMAS OPENING

This year we are trialling opening the club during Christmas break for 4 morning sessions on the following dates:

December 21st 2021

December 22nd 2021

December 28th 2021

December 29th 2021

The sessions will be as follows:

9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. **Competitions (Must be booked)**
& Roll Ups

11.30 a.m. to 13.30 p.m. **Mixed Drives**

As this is the festive season, we would encourage members to wear some festive clothing i.e., jumpers, hats etc.

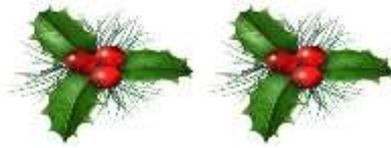
You will need to bring your own refreshments for these sessions as there is no bar or restaurant available.

So, we have an idea of who is going to come there is a list on the notice board please put your name down.

We look forward to seeing you for some festive fun and bowls.

Jingle those Bells

Maggie and Peter Steward



WHAT DID YOU DO IN 2020?

(This is what Keith FLEMING did.)



WHAT DID YOU DO IN 2020? (This is what Keith FLEMING did.) When the coronavirus hit in 2020, I along with millions of others, wondered what to do with my life. There were plenty of things to do around the house and garden, but once they were done, what else could one do?

A lot of people suddenly decided to write their memoirs or become authors and with a nudge from my wife, this is the direction I took. I had lots of anecdotal stories from my time in the police service, many of them amusing, but one or two of them harrowing and thus I began my memoirs using a nom de plume to protect the innocent. This kept me out of mischief for several weeks, but the finished article was not highly polished and I came to the conclusion no one would be interested in what I had written.

However, for several years I have always had a plot at the back of my mind, which involved the city of Portsmouth. Basically, Portsmouth is an island with three main road bridges. What would happen if all three road bridges were put out of action at the same time? The answer would be chaos, with the only way off the island by means of train or ferry. How would the authorities cope?

This germ of an idea became the basis of my first novel called **“Twelfth of September”**. I set the story in the year 1987, when the I.R.A. were very active and the basis of the tale is the I.R.A. intend to blow up the Dockyard Wall in the days before a Royal visit, as well as causing confusion by blowing up the motorway bridge on the M275. At the same time, a gang rob a London jeweller of ten million pounds worth of gems and plan to smuggle them out of the country via Portsmouth Continental Ferry Port. The I.R.A. learn of their scheme and plan to hijack the gang when they get to Portsmouth. All this takes place on the afternoon of Saturday 12th September, hence the title of the book. Just to add to the story, this is the day when a First Division football match is taking place at Fratton Park, when Portsmouth entertain Southampton. Police resources will be stretched to the limit, but to find out who comes out on top, you will need to read the book.

I really enjoyed writing the book and before it was published, I was already well on the way with my second book, entitled **“Quob House”**. I have set the story back in 1982, where Quob House is situated on the downs of the Meon Valley. It is the base for drug smuggling and people smuggling for the sex trade. The owners of

the house have a rather open marriage and the wife has a liking for the young ladies that are smuggled into the country. At the same time there is an arsonist at work in the Meon Valley, with a penchant for setting fire to agricultural buildings, and also a lone frustrated man, who becomes a sexual predator picking up lone women and dumping their bodies along the South Downs Way. This book introduces our hero, Detective Inspector Tom Drake and you can follow his progress as the bodies begin to pile up.

This inevitably led to a third novel called **“The Ditcher”** and it features Fareham Bowling Club. Set once again in 1987, this is the second in the Tom Drake series. A body is found on the bowling green as local drug dealers have a turf war. Then a male London prostitute is murdered on a quiet lane just south of Titchfield and Drake has to investigate. He is side-tracked by a series of “Robin Hood” style robberies as local businessmen are relieved of their money, which is distributed to local pensioners, but eventually his murder investigations lead him to London to seek answers in the corridors of Power. There are many twists and turns in the plot, before all is revealed with surprising results.

These three novels have been published by Amazon and can be found on Kindle as well. However, the bug really took hold and I have written two more novels in the Tom Drake series this year. The next one is called the **“Island Ray”** and is set in 1990 on the Isle of Wight and it is followed by **“Drake’s Traitor”** which is set in 1995 in eastern Hampshire. I hope to publish these books in the coming months.

Just by way of a change, I am currently writing a book called **“The Adventures of Saffy the Cockapoo”**, which is primarily aimed at the children’s audience, but which would appeal to dog lovers aged anywhere from 9 to 99.

The easy bit is writing the stories. The hard bit if you are self-publishing, is to format the book, proof read what you have written, re-read it once again and then get a cover designed for each book. I have been fortunate enough to use Snowden Photography from Gosport who have been extremely helpful in producing book covers for me and they give a professional touch to the finished article.

So, what started out as an exercise in writing my memoirs, has turned into a different hobby completely. I may well re-visit my memoirs and write them in a different style, or I may just incorporate some of the incidents into my stories. Who knows? The sky’s the limit, you just need a bit of imagination and a way with words.

On The Lighter Side

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? **Frostbite**

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? **Claustrophobic**

What are the wettest animals in the world? **Reindeer**

Why was Santa’s little helper feeling depressed? **He had low elf-esteem**

What do you call an obnoxious reindeer? **Rude-olph.**

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? **Stick with me and we’ll go places!**

What does Santa do when his elves misbehave? **He gives them the sack!**



Smile



One of the things I missed during lockdown was to see smiling faces. But... What is a smile?

It costs nothing, but creates much

It enriches those who receive,

Without impoverishing those who give,

It happens in a flash and the memory of it lasts forever,

None are so rich that they can get along without it,

And none so poor but are richer for its benefits,

It creates happiness in the home,

Fosters good will in business,

And is the sign of friendship

It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged,

Sunshine to the sad, and nature's best antidote for trouble,

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen,

For it is something that is no earthly good to anybody

Till it is given away,

If someone is too tired to give you a smile,

Give them one of yours,

For, nobody needs a smile so much,

As those who have none to give.

It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 muscles to smile,

So give away some smiles today make someone's day and most of all have some fun.



LOST PROPERTY BOX

We have a number of items in the lost property box, jackets, lifters, cleaning cloths that need to be collected or they will be disposed of. Please collect them.

“LADIES – WOW WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT!”

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LADIES PLAYING IN THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE TEAM. OUT OF 24 PLAYERS PLUS RESERVES, 10 LADIES FROM PALMERSTON HAVE RECENTLY PLAYED IN THE ATHERLEY TROPHY WHEN HAMPSHIRE BEAT BERKSHIRE.

THOSE LADIES ARE - ELAINE BENNETT, ROSE BEYNON, CAROLINE CUERDEN, JOAN DAWKINS, CHRIS DOIG, MAGGIE EVANS, SALLY KNIGHT, FREDA LLOYD, SHEENA MACK, JOY TRAVERS.

THE NEXT ROUND IS AGAINST SUSSEX ON 18TH DECEMBER, AT ADUR.

THIS IS A TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT FOR PALMERSTON TO HAVE SO MANY LADIES IN THE COUNTY COMPETITIVE TEAM, AND AS A CLUB, WE PASS OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THEM AND WISH THEM SUCCESS IN THE NEXT ROUND.

How can Palmerston leagues be improved?

I'm pleased to report that we have enough members wanting to play Australian Pairs on Thursdays at 8:15pm, so this new league will go ahead from January with 6 teams. Although a small number, it goes to show there is demand for the 8.15-10.15 slot. Perhaps we should consider opening another one next season on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Looking at the leagues in general it is clear from the number of empty rinks that there is much potential for improvement. Obviously, there was a big hit from the pandemic with reduced memberships (around 630 full members now, about 100 less than 2 years ago). I have made up a table (see below) showing the number of teams in the leagues over the past 3 winter seasons. The final column is the number of rinks used by the league in 2021. The pandemic has clearly been a shock to the system.

The low numbers are not just due to the pandemic. There is also a long-term downward trend. When the club opened back in 1997 leagues were so popular that it was sometimes difficult to get rinks for competitions. Many leagues were full and there were even leagues at weekends including evening. But comparison with now is not straightforward. In 1997 most members were outdoor bowlers who were enthusiastic to play their sport in winter for the first time. Since then, over the years there has been a gradual decline, partly because of an ageing membership, but also for multiple other reasons.

As we approach Christmas, having so far survived without another lockdown, it is time to look beyond the pandemic to think what the new normal will look like. This is where you the Palm readers come in.

I am asking for your opinions. Why have the leagues continued to decline year on year? What's wrong with them and what should we do about it? (It's also good to let us know what you like about the leagues). The leagues are the lifeblood of Palmerston and they should appeal to most regular bowlers. If you haven't joined a league why not? If you haven't enjoyed playing in a team or are dissatisfied for any reason, let's hear it. What changes would make you keen to join a league team? Do they need shaking up - if so how? Should we have a different form of bowling to replace some leagues?

If there are ideas worth exploring, we can either try to implement them, or we might want to do an online

survey to gauge their popularity, like we did in June 2020 during the first lockdown. Of course, we don't want to change what works and it may not be easy to make certain changes, but that's no reason not to at least consider it. But the first step is to find what you the bowlers think.

You can hand in your thoughts at the steward's desk addressed to me or Lesley. Or send an email to emails@palmerston-bowls.club. If you give your name, these will be taken in confidence and not divulged to anyone else. Alternatively, you can submit anonymously.

Russell Gadd

Number of teams in leagues over 3 seasons

	2019-20	2020 (6 rinks)	2021-22	2021 Rinks used
Mon 9.30am Mens Triples	14	10	10	5
Mon 2.00pm Ladies Triples	9	4	6	3
Mon 4.00pm Mixed Fours	9			
Mon 4.00pm Mixed Triples		5	7	3
Mon 6.15pm Open Triples Intermediate	10	7	9	4
Mon 8.15pm Australian Pairs	11			
Tue 9.30am Mens Triples	14	12	11	5
Tue 11.30am Mixed Triples	14	9	11	5
Tue 2.00pm Ladies Triples	12	6	7	3
Tue 4.00pm Mens Triples	14	9	9	4
Tue 6.15pm Open Fours	12			
Tue 6.15pm Open Triples		10	8	4
Wed 9.30am Mens Triples	15	13	12	6
Wed 11.30am Ladies Triples	9	7	7	3
Wed 6.15pm Mens Triples	13	12	12	6
Wed 8.15pm Open Triples	6			
Thu 9.30am Mixed Triples	14	10	13	6
Thu 11.30am Mixed Triples	15	10	11	5
Thu 2.00pm Ladies 2 Wood Triples	10			
Thu 2.00pm Ladies Triples		6	5	2
Thu 4.00pm Mens Triples	13	7	8	4
Thu 6.15pm Open Triples	10	11	9	4
Thu 8.15pm Australian Pairs	11			
Fri 9.30am Mens Triples	15	10	9	4
Fri 2.00pm Australian Pairs	12	11	10	5
Fri 4.00pm Australian Pairs	12	8	9	4
Fri 6.15pm Mens Pairs	8	7	8	4
Total	282	184	191	
Total excluding 8.15pm	254			

(As at end August 2021)

NOTES AND REMINDERS

Please remember players may only go on to the rink when the players from the previous match have left. League matches must not begin before the bell rings, but jacks may be delivered and centred.

If the jack has been correctly cast and centred before the bell sounds the end may be completed.

There may be times when a game cannot be played and needs to be played at a later date. The game should be played within 14 days and if there is difficulty the game should be played by the end of the season, teams can only claim the points by mutual consent and if the game cannot be played.

Car Park, please observe the car park entry and exit flow

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 shoe is completely clean prior to entering the club as we have had a couple of instances of grass and mud being trod 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 rink carpet.

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 previously been found on the green and is difficult to remove and it damages the carpet.

Pedestrian Walk Way, please ensure that you do not park over the lines on the walk way, park inside the lines of the parking bays only.

Overshoes, For anyone who needs to go outside of the club in their bowling shoes please get a pair of overshoes from the steward's desk and put them on.

Mobile Phones: please switch off your phone when you come into the club or at least put it on to silent mode.

Club Night

The club night has been running for about 10/12 weeks with an average attendance of 10. The purpose of club night is to get new members and existing ones to have a fairly relaxed couple of hours playing a mixed drive. The club night makes that session played economically viable.

Club night for the future needs to get up to 18 attendees per week, and to do this we will discuss with people some change ideas that I have. In the past Club night was attended by about 30 every week, with a mix of new and existing members.

Due to the suspension of club night, ideas are wanted on how this can be rejuvenated in 2022. Any ideas send to steward24@virginmedia.com

SNOW AND ICE



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. Just put “Palmerston bowls” in your search box and click the link to our site.



Bookings are now being taken so take advantage and don't be disappointed, Sundays are booked up very quickly, speak to a Team Member.

Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Christmas Weekday Menu

Starters

Roast Parsnip and Rosemary Soup

Florida Cocktail

Fan of Melon with Fruit Coulis

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### *Mains*

*Traditional Roast Turkey and all the Trimmings*

*Braised Steak with Mushroom Gravy*

*Poached Salmon with White Wine and Dill Sauce*

*Chestnut, Leek and Mushroom Tart (v)*

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Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding

With Cream or Custard

Mincemeat, Cranberry and Almond Pie

With Cream or Custard

Eggnog Custard Tart

Mulled Wine Pear Belle Hélène

Other options are available to order from the chef's dessert menu board.

*£14.00 per person ~~ Prices include VAT
We accept credit and debit cards*

Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club

Christmas Weekend Menu

Starters

Roast Parsnip and Rosemary Soup

Prawn Cocktail

Meat Pâté, Salad Garnish and Toast

Fan of Melon with Fruit Coulis

Mulled Pear with Roqueforte Salad

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### *Mains*

*Traditional Roast Turkey and all the Trimmings*

*Braised Steak with Chasseur Sauce*

*Baked Gammon and Apricots*

*Chicken, Brie and Cranberry Pie*

*Poached Salmon with White Wine and Dill Sauce*

*Chestnut, Leek and Mushroom Tart (v)*

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Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding

With Cream or Custard

Gingerbread Sponge Pudding

With Cream or Custard

Meringue Snowman

Baileys Cheesecake

Festive Baked Alaska

Cheese and Biscuits

~~~Tea, Filter Coffee and Mints~~~

*£18.00 per person ~~ Prices include VAT*

*We accept credit and debit cards*