



# PALM READER

December 2022

Issue: 82

The Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Magazine



## Christmas Message

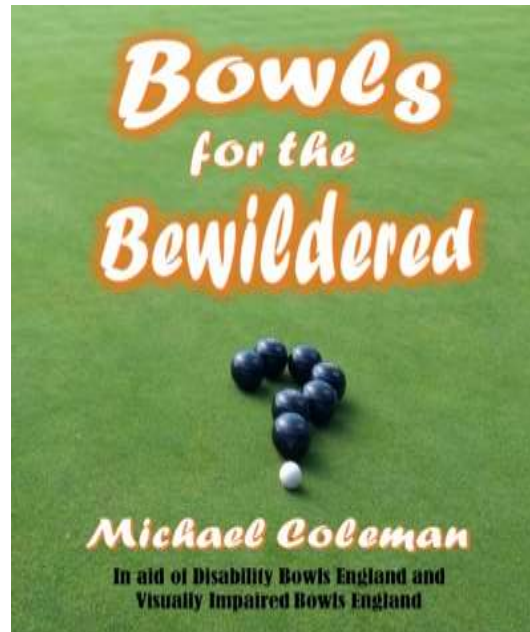
The Board of Directors and the JMC wish you good health, happiness and good fortune for the Christmas Season and the forthcoming year.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

**If you are writing Christmas cards for friends or team members, please try and give them to the person personally, last year many many cards were not collected and eventually thrown out.**

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

# BOWLS FOR THE BEWILDERED



**It's that time of year again.**

"What do you want for Christmas?" asks your Nearest and Dearest.

"Surprise me," you answer, already weighing up which shirt/blouse to send to the charity shop to make room for the new one you'll be glumly easing the wrapping paper from on Christmas morning.

Well, this year can be different. This year you're in a position to answer crisply, firmly and definitively.

"I want a copy of *Bowls for the Bewildered*," you can say.

"Written by Michael Coleman, author and Palmerston bowler," you can add, for the avoidance of any doubt.

Finishing off the request with, "Available on Amazon in paperback at £7.99, up-market hardback at £12.99 and (if you're so inclined) as a Kindle e-book at £6.99." will make it clear that what you're after is a lot less expensive than the new shirt/blouse alternative.

Assuming your N & D takes the hint – which may need to be made more than once – think of the benefits:

- Your virtue gets a boost. For once you'll be able to say, "Just what I wanted" and it will be true.
- You get your bowls fix whilst the club is closed for the holiday period.

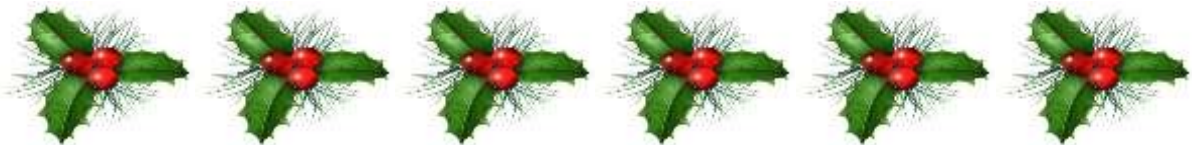
- Your virtue gets a double boost, because proceeds from sales of the book are being donated to the two charities *Disability Bowls England* and *Visually Impaired Bowls England*.
- At 230 pages, with plenty of captioned pictures to study repeatedly, the need to make small talk to irritating relatives will be minimised. Reading them bits might even hasten their departure.

What's not to like?

If you remain unconvinced, take a no-risk peep at the opening pages of the book by finding its listing on Amazon (searching on 'bowls bewildered' will bring it up). Using Amazon's 'Look Inside' feature will let you read the first chapter or so.

Then read this article again, repeating as often as necessary.

Mike Coleman



## **PALMERSTON XMAS CHARITY RAFFLE**

ENTRY £ 1.00 per STRIP (5 Numbers)

CASH PRIZE'S £ 40 - £ 20 - £ 15

And other PRIZES

See TABLE

Name in block capitals on sheet per numbers picked

**WITH PHONE NUMBER**

Take all ticket stubs

PUT ONE HALF IN DRUM KEEP OTHER

MONEY IN RED COLLECTING BOX

**DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE 19<sup>TH</sup> DEC 22**

**USING THE RAFFLE MACHINE**

**WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFED BY E MAIL/ PHONE**

**CASH PRIZES PAID IN CASH**

## **CHRISTMAS OPENING**

Is the Christmas break too long for you – will you be feeling stuck indoors?

Last year Maggie and Pete happily opened the club to allow members to bowl during the break this proved to be very popular, and they have agreed to do the same this year.

**The days of opening will be 19, 20, 28, and 29 December.** There will be mixed drives starting at 9.30 until 11.30 followed by bookable rinks and mixed drives from 11.30 to 1.30.

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

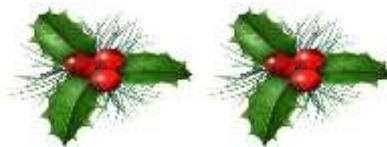
You will need to bring your own refreshments for these sessions as there is no bar or restaurant available.

**So we have an idea of who is going to come there are sheets in the weekly schedule on the Stewards desk please put your name down.**

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

Jingle those Bells

Maggie and Peter Steward



A pirate walks into a bar with a steering wheel on his pants, a peg leg, and a parrot on his shoulder. The bartender says, "Hey, you've got a steering wheel on your pants."

The pirate says, "Arrrr, I know. It's driving me nuts."

## **NOTES AND REMINDERS**

**League Team Skips**, please make sure score cards are filled in properly, Initials and surname or full name as some of you are only putting Christian names and this is not correct.

**Refreshments**, if you purchase drinks from the bar and take them down on to the rink, please make sure you take your empty glasses back to the bar when you have finished with them.

**Spillages**, if you spill a drink on the table, please wipe it up, leaving fluid on the tables damages the varnish on the table.

**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 onto 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.**

### **Inspirational Quote**

Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive good things and good people will be drawn to you.



## **WANTED**

The good, The bad and The average

**All Bowlers  
PALMERSTON IBC  
NEEDS YOU**

TO PLAY IN THE FRIENDLY MATCHES 2023 ALL DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THE NOTICE BOARD OR CONTACT ROGER HUNT MATCH SECRETARY

IF YOU ARE A BEGINNER OR EXPERIENCED BOWLER ITS A GREAT WAY TO MEET NEW FRIENDS FROM THE HOME CLUB AND VISITING CLUBS, HAVE SOME FUN AND HAVE A GREAT GAME OF BOWLS AND ENJOY A MATCH MEAL.

SUPPORTERS, FRIENDS, AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME.  
BAR FACILITIES AND MATCH MEAL AVAILABLE TO ALL

**IF THESE FRIENDLY MATCHES ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS.  
THEY MAY DISAPPEAR IN THE FUTURE.**

**DETAILS:** The match starts approximately 2 pm Sunday on the selected dates. The game consists of 18 ends no trial ends 1 point scored only on the first ends. No dead ends. The jack gets re-spotted if it goes out of play.

**Teams:** open triples 6 rinks and 18 players

**Dress code** White top or Club Shirt: Grey bottoms, Flat sole bowling shoes.

Followed by match meal. Any special dietary requirements contact Roger Hunt match secretary. Guest and supporters welcome.

Bar facilities open and tea and coffee are available (cashless bar purchases: club card, credit or debit card only)

### **Cost**

Per playing member to include meal £11.50

Non playing guests and supporters £9.50 for match meal if required.

**PALMERSTON IBC FRIENDLY MATCHES BOOKED**  
**ON THE FOLLOWING DATES**

**15th JANUARY 2023 AGAINST TONGHAM**

**12th FEBRUARY 2023 AGAINST LOCKSWOOD**

**19th FEBRUARY 2023 AGAINST COWPLAIN**

**26th FEBRUARY 2023 AGAINST PORTCHESTER**

**18th MARCH 2023 AGAINST BANISTER PARK (AWAY)**

**WE ALSO HAVE INTERNAL FRIENDLIES**

**5th FEBRUARY 2023 METHERELL TROPHY**

**26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 INTERNATIONAL**

**ALL PLAYERS ARE WELCOME REGARDLESS OF SKILL**

**MATCH MEAL AFTER GAME**

**AND PRIZES FOR TOP RINK**

**A guy goes into a lawyer's office and asks the lawyer:  
"Excuse me, how much do you charge?"**

The lawyer responds: "I charge £1,000 to answer three questions."

"Ruddy hell – That's a bit expensive, isn't it?"

"Yes. What's your third question?"

## **PALMERSTON CLUB SHIRT**

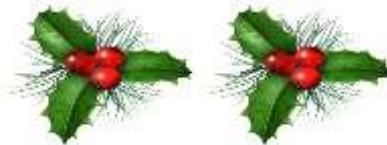


**MENS**

**LADIES**

All members of Palmerston Bowls Club can purchase a club shirt from the Stewards desk, they are £18.00 and can be worn at all roll ups and games.

They are quick to dry and do not need ironing.



### **Inspirational Quotes**

In every day there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact.

No one is perfect - that's why pencils have erasers.

Virtually nothing is impossible in this world if you just put your mind to it and maintain a positive attitude.

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

The sun itself is weak when it first rises and gathers strength and courage as the day goes on.

It is often the small steps, not the giant leap, that bring about the most lasting change.



## **PALMERSTON MENS CAPTAINS REPORT**

Well Christmas is nearly upon us and signals the half way point in our winter season.

The Men's and Mixed teams have had their best run in the Top Club and Denny Cup for many years this season. They progressed in 3 rounds of each competition, so well done to all the men and ladies who played in these games.

This season we entered the Wessex League (played on Sunday mornings) and won our first fixture against Chawton Park.

On this season's sign-up sheet for the Bramley League, we had 'new' players show an interest in playing these competition games (2 woods, 21 ends)

We have played 2 games and introduced the new players into rinks: winning 1 and losing the other. Well done and enjoy the rest of the season.

This is a great chance for new players to represent the Club, so please contact me if you are interested in playing; it's not too late for this season.

Finally, a big thank you to all the players for their commitment and support to the Palmerston teams. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New year.

Thank you

Brian

Men's Captain



## **ART EXHIBITION**

I really enjoyed exhibiting my work at the club and thank you to all the members for their support and terrific words of encouragement. Those comments really made it a special week for me and spurred me on to produce some new work.

You purchased 31 pictures and ordered 23 commissions of my existing works or your own pictures. Thank you so much. I will probably be back bowling about July 23

Please contact me at the club if you have anything you like converted to a picture.

Thanks again Brian Hopkins

# What did Covid do to us?

## Membership

Palmerston survived Covid in reasonable financial health, but we are significantly down on numbers of members: 3 years ago, we had well over 700 bowlers. After Covid the low point was about 540. It has increased a little since then but is still below 600. We will have to make special efforts to increase bowling members back to our target of 800.

## Leagues

What about the leagues? Compare the number of teams in the leagues in 2019 and 2022.

	2019	2022		
League	Teams	Teams	Reduction	
Mon 9.30am Men's Triples	14	10	4	
Mon 2.00pm Ladies Triples	9	6	3	Ladies
Mon 4.00pm Mixed Fours > Triples	9	6	3	
Mon 6.15pm Open Triples Intermediate	10	13	Up 3	
(Mon 8.15pm Australian Pairs)	11		11	Folded
Tue 9.30am Men's Triples	14	11	3	
Tue 11.30am Mixed Triples	14	14	0	
Tue 2.00pm Ladies Triples	12	7	5	Ladies
Tue 4.00pm Men's Triples	14	10	4	
Tue 6.15pm Open Fours	12	6	6	
Wed 9.30am Men's Triples	15	13	2	
Wed 11.30am Ladies Triples	9	7	2	Ladies
Wed 6.15pm Men's Triples	13	12	1	
(Wed 8.15pm Open Triples)	6		6	Folded
Thu 9.30am Mixed Triples	14	12	2	
Thu 11.30am Mixed Triples	15	11	4	
Thu 2.00pm Ladies 2 Wood Triples	10	5	5	Ladies
Thu 4.00pm Men's Triples	13	10	3	
Thu 6.15pm Open Triples	10	9	1	
Thu 8.15pm Australian Pairs	11	7	4	
Fri 9.30am Men's Triples	15	9	6	
Fri 2.00pm Australian Pairs	12	10	2	
Fri 4.00pm Australian Pairs	12	12	0	
Fri 6.15pm Men's Pairs	8	8	0	
Total	282	208	74	
	8 full	1 full		

## Conclusions:

1. Number of teams declined from 282 to 208, a loss of 74 teams, which is more than a quarter of the total.
2. 2 leagues folded: Mon 8.15pm Australian Pairs and Wed 8.15pm Open Triples.
3. In 2019 there were 8 full leagues (14 or 15 teams on 7 rinks). Now we have only one full league - Tuesday Mixed Triples.
4. Ladies' leagues are struggling. There are 4 Ladies leagues and only 5-7 teams in each.
5. Men's Triples was almost fully subscribed in 6 leagues in 2019. Now none are full although the numbers are reasonably healthy
6. Mixed Triples was full in 2019 comprising 3 leagues. One league remains full and the other 2 only reduced slightly. Clearly a popular format.
7. The Monday 6.15 Intermediate league has actually increased. This is a league controlled by Lesley which she feeds new members into.
8. Australian Pairs is still popular enough to attract some people to play at 8.15pm – 10.15pm. It seems unlikely that any other format would be viable at that time.

## Ideas to consider:

1. Clearly members are reluctant to play up to 10.15pm which reflects people getting older and perhaps because there are less members at full time work. Would we be able to reinstate Australian Pairs on Mondays? Is Wednesday also an option?
2. Another possible way of using the late slot after 8:15pm would be to extend the earlier slot to playing a full game. We usually get about 12 ends in a 2 hour league game. Instead of playing to the bell, play a full 18 ends which would take about another hour. This could be done for the 6:15 leagues: Tuesday Open Fours, Wednesday Men's Triples or the Friday Men's Pairs. What do the teams in those leagues think?
3. Could we slot in another Mixed Triples league as there may be some who would like to join existing leagues but can't as they are full? On Wednesdays?
4. The Ladies leagues are close to being unviable. With only 5 or 6 teams, the same opponents come round every 5 weeks. Some will undoubtedly soon fold. Can we combine two of the ladies leagues?
5. Perhaps convert a Ladies league to Mixed Triples?
6. Some new members only play in the Monday or Friday Mixed Drive or book rinks on their own. How do we persuade them to join the leagues? They just need confidence and ideally to join with 1 or 2 more experienced bowlers. Are any existing league bowlers prepared to help make up a newbie team in next year's leagues?

## Feedback needed

Last year when I asked for feedback from members about ideas for the leagues, it was disappointing that only 3 people responded. **Will members please give this some thought and let us know what you think.** Then the League Secretary has something to go on when she organises next season's leagues.

Feedback by email to [emails@palmerston-bowls.club](mailto:emails@palmerston-bowls.club) or just hand a note to the steward.

*Russell Gadd*

## **Green Etiquette.**

1. Be conversant with the Laws of the Game and observe them.
2. Respect the decision of the umpire.
3. Be punctual to commence play at all matches and come to each match correctly attired.
4. Keep quiet and refrain from moving when players are on the mat.
5. Stand behind the mat whilst your opponent bowls.
6. **Always stand still at the head when a player is about to bowl. Movement at the head, or talking at the mat, is very distracting.**
7. Always allow your opponent the right to the head as spelled out in the laws of the game.
8. **Walk close to the centre of the rink, with minimum delay when changing ends.**
9. Do not delay play. Always play your bowl with minimum delay.
10. Never deliver your bowl before the previous bowl has come to rest.
11. Keep track of play and be ready to bowl when it is your turn.
12. Every player at the mat end should assist collecting the bowls when the end is completed.
13. **Always pay your skip respect by waiting for their decision. Do not step onto the mat and indicate which way you intend to play. Wait for the skip's instructions.**
14. Never applaud lucky bowls - accept them graciously.
15. Never complain about lucky bowls, they tend to equal each other out over the season.
16. **Respect the green's surface at all times:-**  
  
**Do Not**      **a/ DROP BOWLS ON THE GREEN**  
                  **b/ STAND ON THE EDGE OF THE GREEN**  
                  **c/ STAND ON THE EDGE OF THE BANK**  
                  **d/ WALK IN THE DITCHES**
17. Always inform your opponent if you wish to leave the green.
18. If you lose, be a good loser, and do not blame your loss on; other people, the green or weather conditions.
19. **Win or lose, always shake hands with your opponents and thank them for the game. Do not be too proud of your win today, because the position could be reversed tomorrow.**
20. Offer your opponents a drink after the game.
21. Always be polite to Markers and Umpires, they have given their time to assist you in your game.

**ABOVE ALL, ENJOY THE GAME OF BOWLS FOR ITS PLEASURE AND FOR LASTING FRIENDSHIP**

## BACK HOME

If I had the power to turn back the clock,  
Go back to the house at the end of the block –  
The house that was HOME when I was a kid,  
I know that I'd love it more than I did.

If I could go back there at my mothers knee,  
And hear once again all the things she told me,  
I'd listen as I never listened before,  
For she knew so well just what life had in store.

And all the advice my dad used to give,  
His voice I'll remember as long as I live;  
But it didn't seem really important then;  
What I'd give just to live it all again.

And what I'd give for the chance I once had,  
To do so much more for my mother and dad;  
To give them more joy and a little less pain:  
A little more sunshine – a little less rain.

But the years roll on and we cannot go back,  
Whether we were born in a mansion or in a shack;  
But we can start right now – in the hour that's here,  
Do something more for the ones we hold dear.

And since time in its flight is traveling so fast;  
Lets not spend it regretting that which has passed;  
But let's make tomorrow a better day  
By doing "good things to others" – TODAY.

(Author Unknown)