



# PALM READER

March 2023

Issue: 83

The Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Magazine



## **AGM 1st April 10:00am**

Please make every effort to attend your AGM. Details of all officers to be elected and other matters are displayed on the notice board in the entrance lobby. There are a number of dedicated volunteers ranging from our treasurer, various secretaries, rinks management staff and stewards who work throughout the year to ensure the smooth running of our club and to whom we are extremely grateful. We rely on volunteers to keep the running costs of the club to a reasonable level so please think seriously about offering your help as a steward or possibly by joining the rink cleaning team.

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

## MOTORWAY DRIVING ADVICE

Many of us have driven on motorways and some of us for considerably more years than others.

But with the advent of smart motorways, I wonder now how many of us actually know the rules governing driving on such roads today?

I've compiled together a few basics that may hopefully bring you fully up to date with what is required when driving on motorways in the UK and, potentially avoid falling foul of one of the many laws that govern their use.

1) There is no such thing as a "fast lane". If the nearside lane is clear, then you should drive in it unless an overhead road sign is instructing you to do otherwise, or you need to move out of an exit lane for the next turn off. Bear in mind there is no need when joining a smart motorway to immediately look to drive in the second lane. You should only use the other lanes when overtaking and move back to the nearside lane once you have cleared the vehicle you are getting past.

2) When driving on smart motorways, did you know that cameras are placed around overhead electric signs? These are there to capture anyone not adhering to what they are telling you to do. A red 'X' sign means the lane is closed and continuing to drive in one that has one of these over it could land you with a £100 fine and three points on your licence. An arrow sign pointing down to the left or to the right means you should move into that lane. Again, you could face a fine and points for failing to comply.

3) Everyone should be aware of the speed limit for when driving on motorways. The 70-mph law came into force way back on 12th July 1967. One should consider this to be the maximum speed permissible unless directed otherwise by signage. Failing to comply with signs that dictate a lower maximum speed could get you a fine and points. Please note that there are cameras enforcing speed limits even on the slip roads on smart motorways.

4) In the unfortunate event that your vehicle shows signs of developing an issue, suggesting that a breakdown might be imminent, or you are involved in a minor accident, then the use of an ERA (emergency refuge area), or SOS area, might be required. Here are the basic guidelines:

- If you cannot get to an emergency refuge area, you should try to move on to the verge if there is no safety barrier and it is safe to do so.
- In all cases, switch on your hazard warning lights.
- If you stop in the nearside lane, exit your vehicle via the nearside (left hand) door if it is safe to do so and wait behind the safety barrier, if there is one.
- If it is not possible to get to the nearside lane or exit your vehicle safely, then you should stay in your vehicle with your seat belt on and dial '999' if you have access to a mobile phone.
- When the relevant highways authority becomes aware of a breakdown or an incident on a smart motorway they should switch on a 'red cross sign' on the gantries above the lane you're in to stop traffic from entering it.

Article produced by Palmerston bowler, Steve Ellis (serving Hampshire & IOW police officer)

## **NOTES AND REMINDERS**

**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.**

**Car Park,** please ensure that you enter and exit the car park in the correct manner, no cutting corners.

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

**Car Stickers,** Have, you changed your car, do you need a car sticker just ask at the Stewards desk.

**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.

**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.

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

**On the lighter side**

**You are never too old to set another goal**

**Or dream another dream.**

**- Les Brown -**

**You do not find  
the happy life.**

**You make it**

**- Camilla Eyring Kimball -**

## **Palmerston Ladies Report 22/23**

Palmerston ladies have done very well this year in both the team and mixed matches as well as the individual County games.

“Top Club” a mixed team major national competition was one of the first on the calendar and, for the first time we managed to get to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round before being beaten by Chawton Park.

In another mixed National competition, The Egham, we beat Loddon Vale in the first round only to lose to Chawton Park in the next.

Our ladies 'Vivienne Trophy' team did well to beat Dolphin in the 1<sup>st</sup> round but fell to East Dorset in the next. However, we have many new and not so new ladies who are enthusiastic to participate, and we have a good chance next year to follow our success of 2017.

Palmerston ladies entered two teams in the national 'Mason Trophy' for the over 60's. Although one team fell at the first, the other team fought their way to the 4<sup>th</sup> round before being beaten by.... you've guessed it ..... Chawton Park!

The “Yetton” is a ladies prestigious National knockout competition, where the first round losing teams get a chance to play in the almost equally prestigious “Yetton Plate”  
The Palmerston ladies excelled themselves in the “Plate” by knocking out some very strong teams to reach the National Quarter Finals. We drew Torquay Utd and played at a neutral club, Dorchester, which was approx. halfway.  
Unfortunately, the rinks suited Torquay more than us and we were slow to adjust. Over the course of the match, we got very close to drawing level many times only for them to pull away again. The Palmerston ladies tried valiantly but lost 93 – 85.  
We must at this point thank the club management for their support in providing a coach and to the many supporters who came and did their best to push us over the line. It was very much appreciated.

Both Caroline Cuerden (ladies Captain) and Mo Browne (vice) would also like to thank the club, Debbie and staff for supporting the teams by providing refreshments at each home game and special thanks to all the ladies who have given us their time, enthusiasm and flexibility.

The following Palmerston ladies have managed to fight off some strong opposition to get to the Hampshire Women's County Finals on the weekend of the 1st/2nd April at Banister Park. Any support gratefully received.

Ladies Pairs - Maureen Hill & Mo Browne v Kath Patrick & Jackie Watts (Victory)

2 Wood Triples - Rose Beynon, Tracy Farrington & Mo Browne vs  
Margaret Leppard, Beryl Collier and? (Chawton Park)

3 Wood Triples - Chris Doig, Joan Dawkins & Maggie Evans vs  
Sue Milton, Cindy McLoughlin & Cynthia Hamilton (Longmeadow)

Fours! - Kay Stockley, Maureen Hill, Mo Browne, and Debbie Chamberlain have also got to the County Finals with a good deal of help from Rosemary Jasper who twice stood in as reserve. They will face Lorraine Slater's team from Banister Park.

**Mo Browne**

**Ladies Vice Captain**

## PALMERSTON MENS REPORT

We are coming to the end of the season, so here is a short report for the year.

1. All the Bramley games are now completed, and we finish 3<sup>rd</sup> on shot difference to Chawton Park. We required 10 points from our last game against Victory to come 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league and win the Trisham Trophy, our score was 9 points Palmerston – 1 point Victory. This meant we tied on points for Trisham Trophy but lost on shot difference by only 12 shots over the season. So close, well done to all.
- 2.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE after matches played 18 March 2023							
	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Shots For	Shots Against	Points
Loddon Vale	7	6		1	600	498	51.5
Chawton Park	7	5		2	572	497	44.5
Palmerston	7	5		2	563	500	44.5
Atherley	7	3		4	550	536	33.5
Riverside	7	4		3	515	525	32
Banister Park	7	3		4	530	561	29.5
East Dorset	7	1		6	484	581	23.5
Victory	7	1		6	464	580	21

3. The Wessex League games have finished, and we were placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 9 teams, a great effort for our first season.

Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Points
1	Dolphin	8	7	0	1	777	501	276	105
2	Chawton Park	8	5	1	2	742	519	223	88
3	Victory	8	5	1	2	696	561	135	86
4	Atherley	8	6	0	2	668	558	110	85
5	Palmerston	8	5	0	3	610	614	-4	73
6	Bournemouth	8	3	0	5	651	667	-16	57
7	Banister Park	8	3	0	5	619	635	-16	53
8	East Dorset	8	1	0	7	453	791	-338	19
9	Five Rivers	8	0	0	8	466	836	-370	10

Well done to all the players that took part in these leagues and hope you enjoyed the competition

I am stepping down as Men's Captain after 6 years of running the teams. Thank you to all the players, supporters, and members over the years; it has been a great honour to represent Palmerston in this position.

Regards

*Brian Hopkins*

Men's Captain

## TIME

Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all.

Yes, I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

However, here it is ~ the last quarter of my life and it catches me by surprise.

How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first quarter and that the fourth quarter was so far off that I could not visualize it or imagine fully what it would be like.

Yet here it is ..... my friends are retired and getting grey - they move slower, and I see an older person now. Some are better and some in worse shape than me, but I see the great change. They're not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant ..... but like me, their age is beginning to show, and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day and taking a nap is not a treat anymore. It's mandatory because if I don't of my own free will, I fall asleep where I sit.

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life, unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to do things that I wish I had done but never did. But at least I know that, though I'm on the last quarter and I'm not sure how long it will last, that when it's over on this earth, it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done; things I should have done, but truly there are many things I'm happy to have done.

It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the last quarter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you want to accomplish in your life do it quickly.

Don't put things off too long. Life goes by so quickly.

So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the last quarter or not.

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of life. So, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember ~ and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the past years.

'Life' is a Gift to You" Be Happy! Enjoy each moment of each day! Remember, good health is real wealth - NOT an expensive car, a big house, money in the bank, beauty, gold, silver, or even diamonds.

You may think:

Going out is good - but coming home is better!

You forget names - but it's okay because some people forgot they even knew you!

You realize you're never going to be really good at anything like golf - but you enjoy the outdoors!

The things you used to care to do, you aren't as interested in anymore - but you really don't care that you aren't as interested.

You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV on than in bed – you call it 'pre-sleep'!

You remember and miss the days when everything worked with just an 'On' and 'Off' switch!

You tend to use more 4 letter words – 'what?' and 'when?'

You have lots of clothes in your wardrobe, more than half of which you will never wear – but just in case!

Old is good • Old is comfortable • Old is safe • Old songs • Old movies • and best of all, • Friends of Old!

So, stay well, 'Old friend! Have a Fantastic Day!

Have an Awesome Quarter – Whichever one you're in!

Take care.

"It's not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you lived."

ANON

## OSC Weekend 4-5 March 2023



The Open Singles Circuit is a multi-round of club owned and run singles events, throughout the UK each year. All results from the events earn the player ranking points, as to where they finish in each event, which contribute to the OSC ranking list. The winner of each event receives a winner's cheque of £1000 prize money. The top 32 players will then play at Potters in the OSC Grand final in November.

This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> event to be held at Palmerston. It started on Saturday morning with players arriving from as far west as Turo North as Oxford and East as Dover.

This was a great two-day event with almost half the entries from within the top 75 ranked, this was clearly on show as the spectators were watching with interest and intent, with just over 100 spectators family and friends each day.

We had 8 players from Palmerston, some for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, thank you and others that have caught the OSC bug and try to enter as many as they can well done to them.

Sunday saw our own Russell Gadd play his first game of what turned out to be six. He indeed played right through to the final and only lost on the last bowl, which just finished a few inches short from being the match winner. Our champion this year was the number 2 in the ranking Scott Edwards, well done to him.

That's it for another year, if you fancy playing next year you can register via the EIBA website when entries open.

We had some VIP visitors this year, Steve Watson Chairperson of Disability Bowls England who was very impressed with our facilities and our organisation in running a national competition. We also had Mark Courtney from Bowls is Bowls part of the groups trying to improve the sports ability to recruit new members.

So, in closing I would like to on behalf of the OSC committee thank the club members for letting us hold this event, after closing the rink to them for 2 days, so no Sunday Roll up. To the Markers, Umpires, those working in the Bar, Restaurant and manning the door and anyone who helped in whatever way thank you for making the weekend a very successful one for the club.



## WINNER AND RUNNER UP



Looking forward to the next OSC at Palmerston Sat/Sun 2-3 March 2024

**Tony Jennings**

**Tournament Organiser**

**On behalf of the Tournament Committee**





## **OPTIMISTIC SKIP**



**It's hard sometimes to be a skip.**

And you hope to get help from the team.

They are always willing to give you a tip.

On shots that may have been.

**I stand up the end facing my team,**

and hope they will get near the jack,

the first wood that comes is delivered clean,

but weight it seems to lack.

**The bowl pulls up 3 yards short,**

But has taken just the right green.

So, the next bowl I know I'll like a lot,

Being the best shot I've ever seen.

**But no! it fly's straight past this time,**

And ends up in the ditch,

It didn't even have the right line

so went in without a hitch

**Then comes a more encouraging wood**

And stops nearly on the jack

I beam with joy as I should

Giving my player a clap

**The opposition then comes in**

And took my shot clean out

So, I say to my opponent with a grin

"Good Wood" wanting to give her a clout

**But as the game progresses on**

The score is nip and tuck

Though I felt we should have won

It depends on who has the luck

**The game comes to an end**

And whether I win or loose

I seem to have made another friend

So, no need to blow a fuse.

**Coleen Money**

## **BOWLED OVER. By Gerry Gooch**

These days Sheila and I do most things together and this particular day was no different.

There we were, side by side, viewing the large expanse of green surface stretched out in front of us and it was now all down to me to perform.

The others had each taken their turn so all eyes were on me as I surveyed the various obstacles that were in my path towards where I needed to be.

I very carefully made my plan and in my mind chose the route that was required to bring me to a halt precisely alongside my target.

My line was of course straight at first, but then I started to curve to the right heading between the obstacles towards my target. By this time I had quite a few spectators who were tracking my progress with eager anticipation. I am pleased to report that I did manage to avoid each of the obstacles that were in my way and that I rolled up directly alongside my target.

OK, there was no applause but I thought that it warranted it and I could feel Sheila glowing with pride at my efforts.

I switched off the ignition and flicked out the side stand as Sheila swung her leg over the panniers to alight onto the green deck of Pont Avon the Brittany Ferries ship to Santander.

A crew member stepped forward, clicking a strap onto my target, the deck fixing point that I had been aiming for, throwing the other end over the dual seat of my gleaming Yamaha FJR1300 to affix it to another point on the other side of the bike and then ratched it down a few clicks to hold the bike in place to withstand the worst that the Bay of Biscay might throw at us during our overnight crossing to Spain.

What a lovely ship she was, almost 5 star comforts I would say and even the shower/toilet was quite spacious, unlike some ships that we have travelled on.

We sailed out of Portsmouth Harbour whilst sipping our coffee and admiring the coastline from a rather different direction than we normally do. We had booked dinner in the restaurant at 18.30 so we washed and brushed up and enjoyed a most excellent evening meal in the elegant surroundings.

We both slept like logs to the gentle motion of the ship crossing the Bay of Biscay, so by breakfast time we were ready to sample the restaurant from the self service café.

Our arrival in Santander at 17.15 was wonderful with bright sunshine greeting us as we rode our bike off the Ferry. We had booked a 5 star Hotel in Santander for one night before our longer ride to Broto in the Spanish Pyrenees. I had joked with Sheila that the large building on the hill top that we had seen on the approach to the harbour was our hotel, so you can imagine my surprise when our hotel was in fact that magnificent building!

My sat nav had taken us around the back streets of Santander, gradually rising higher and higher. The voice in my headset said "Turn right" so I did, through large stone pillars and up a sloping drive through trees and very pretty gardens to be confronted with this huge glorious building with white marble steps up to the entrance.

I parked the bike at the bottom of the marble steps, removed the tank bag holding our passports and hotel reservation and the two of us climbed the steps feeling like Lord and Lady Muck to make our way through the large revolving doors to the reception desk where Sheila steered us towards a rather handsome young Spanish desk clerk.

I handed over our passports and left Sheila to continue with the formalities whilst I retraced my steps to collect the three inner bags from our panniers and top box.

Sheila was standing by the reception desk, waiting for me with a smile on her face and I thought, well he was quite handsome wasn't he. But that was not the reason, as Sheila quite calmly said, "We have been given an upgrade"!

The room was on the 5 th floor and we walked into a lounge with double windows, a huge TV, a dinning table and 4 chairs. A vase of flowers stood on the table beside a most inviting sofa.

But where was the bed, I thought! Then I noticed the double opening doors leading to a bedroom with four-poster bed and about 60 cushions and pillows spread over it. Another door revealed a dressing room leading through to yet another door to a twin basined bathroom, with a final door leading to a large jacuzzi that I quickly noticed was large enough for two!!!

Our ride the following day took us to Pamplona for the night and I was somewhat relieved that the bulls were not running the streets on this occasion. The following day we made our way to Broto, our final destination, nestling high in the Pyrenees. Here we were to meet the remainder of our 35 strong group from the CSMA motorcycle group. Broto is a very beautiful village with several restaurants, scenic walks and spectacular views into the surrounding mountains.

We spent four most enjoyable days in Broto before moving on to Sos del Ray, where the group had booked into a Parador. Sheila had got the flavour of these hotel upgrades by this time so when asked she eagerly took it even though this time we had to pay for it.

The Parador So del Ray was beautiful and we so much enjoyed strolling around the hill top village. Getting the homeward mood meant shopping for our two Fareham based grandchildren, so a trip of some 45 miles to the nearest large town proved an excellent choice as we came across two leather jackets of just the correct size.

Fitting them into our very limited space was achieved by packing the two pannier inner bags and then standing on the contents until there was space for each leather jacket.

The 190 mile ride back to Santander to catch the overnight ferry back to Portsmouth was done with no problems and we kept passing or being passed by other members of our group that we had by this time become quite friendly with.

The crossing was not the smoothest but a couple of Travel Quells seem to help sort out our funny tummies, so by the time that we arrived in Portsmouth at 16.15 we were ready for the 9 mile ride home. But there was a sting in the tail to our trip and that was the new Customs checks being made for illegal imigrants!

There must have been about 100 motorcyclists on the ferry and we all had to get into the same line, remove our helmets whilst the immigration officers held up our passports, opened on the photo page to confirm that we were who we said we were.

But other than that is was a wonderful trip and I can truthfully say that Sheila and I were truly `Bowled Over`.

Gerry Gooch

## **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU**

Can you spare a few hours a week to Steward at the club

The Stewarding hours are

9 till 12, 12 till 3pm, 3pm till 6pm and 6pm till 9pm

You will be given vouchers for doing this which means that you can use these for a game of bowls

Without Stewards the club cannot run, and leagues would have to be cancelled

Please think about helping your club out.

Please contact Marie Leonard 07824315936