



PALM READER

December 2023

Issue: 85

The Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Magazine

**The Board of Directors and the Joint
Management Committee wish you a merry
Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New
Year**



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



Christmas Break - Festive Mixed Drives

The club closes for 2 weeks Monday 18th Dec - Sunday 31st Dec.

Is the Christmas break too long for you? Will you be feeling stuck indoors? The good news is that you can still get your bowls fix on 4 days during this period. Maggie and Pete are holding mixed drives on the following days and times:

Festive Mixed Drives

Before Christmas: Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st

After Christmas: Thursday 28th, Friday 29th

Each day will have two sessions:

9.30am - 11.30am and 11.30am - 1.30pm.

You need to bring your own refreshments - there will be no bar or restaurant. As it's Christmas there will be some music, so come along and enjoy yourself.

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.**
- 5. Find the website now while you have time. Just put "Palmerston bowls" in your search box and click the link to our site.**

Lessons from Open Day

Our first lesson is not to underestimate the numbers. We were overwhelmed by about 160 people attending on Saturday 2nd September. There was queuing at the door - trying to capture email addresses by writing them down creates a bottleneck (bad idea anyway). Also there was a queue of people wanting to get a tryout on the green, but we can't do much about this. We need more helpers to give the coaches a break. Everything else was pretty good – there was a buzz of excitement which was great to experience.

After Open Day we weren't geared up for 80+ people wanting coaching, and only managed it by hastily arranged weekday and extra weekend sessions, not just the usual Saturday/Sunday mornings. Our coaches (some not usually coaching at Palmerston) were great, but maybe we need a few more coaches trained and better planning. Also courses scheduled for immediately after Open Day not weeks afterwards.

Another big problem is the delay between people finishing coaching and getting their membership through. Coaching fires people up and they want to get on the green and play. It's a big turn off when they have to wait weeks to start. Of course there's a fair bit of admin, but we didn't start the process until the course was finished.

Part of this delay was because we have to put names through the committee for approval, a rule in the club constitution. My idea to solve this is a change of rules allowing people to become members immediately for a "probationary" period of 3 months without committee scrutiny. In practice we never turn people down so our committee approval process is a waste of time. Surely it's much better to see how they behave during their 3 months and if they aren't welcome to ask them to leave. Terminating someone would be extremely rare but it would catch anyone who turned out to make trouble.

Finally we need to provide the bowling new members want. Generally this is a chance to practice their bowling and enjoy mixing with new people without the pressure to perform. Many are very unsure of their ability. The best format for this is mixed drives, but our Monday and Friday 11.30am mixed drives are now getting full to overflowing, so we need more. One we have started is a beginners mixed drive on Tuesday evenings.

Saturday afternoons are also an opportunity. After our coaching sessions on Saturday afternoons the new recruits have been coming back to practice at that time each week prior to getting their membership through. Previously we closed at 2pm but hopefully with more members happy to bowl at this time we will get enough support to keep it open. For those who still want help we'll try to get some coaches to assist. More details about Saturday afternoons will be provided soon.

Russell Gadd



HCWIBA PRESIDENTS CUP

This is a triples competition open to any lady bowlers who have not reached a county final in singles, triples or fours or been part of the Atherley team.

Some of our ladies entered the competition and have gotten through to the final, unfortunately they will be playing against each other

The teams are

**Debbie Watts
Lorna Jackson
Debbie Sowrey**

**Gwen Burgoyne
Judith Moss
Pattie Tice**

We wish the ladies well in the finals



Palmerston News Letter Editor

I am looking for someone to take over the role of editor of the newsletter.

You would only need to produce the newsletter 3 times a year

April, September and December

If you feel you would like to give it a try, please see me when I am at the club.

Marie Leonard

International Deaf Bowls Championships Competition in Colinton Bowling Club, Edinburgh, Scotland 1st to 13th September 2023

Players attended from 8 different countries.

- 1.England
- 2.Wales
- 3.N Ireland
- 4.Scotland
- 5.Rep of Ireland
- 6.Australia
- 7.New Zealand
- 8.India

Didn't we all do well! England left with so many medals and for the first time in history the men's triple won silver medals and also the fours won bronze medals. The ladies for the first time ever won triple and fours won bronze medals. England overall did exceptionally well. What two weeks we had at the IDBC; What a victory for us all!

I would like to say a big heartfelt thank you to all the sponsors who made this possible. We couldn't have attended without you.

Now we have 4 years to practice, practice, practice to increase the medals won and even aim for the glory of Gold!

Best wishes

Ian Stafford
Deaf Bowls England Manager



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 onto the carpet.

Score Cards, please ensure that when you fill in your card that you have the player's full name on the card, please also ensure that you put the scores on the sheet that is up on the wall next to the bar.

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

WINTERS HERE

As I look out of my window,
The moon a distant glow,
The pavements all covered,
In a crisp and crunchy snow.

All is quiet not a sound,
Snowflakes drifting to the ground,
Walking must be rather slow,
Best be careful how you go.

Frosty winds caress and blow,
Trees all dressed in coats of white,
Shining in the frosty night.

Winding roads now packed with snow,
Where will all the traffic go,
Home now seems so far away,
As now we slip and slide and sway.

Windows filled with coloured lights,
Shining in the pale moon light,
Stars are twinkling in the sky,
Santa's reindeer passing by.

Children now all tucked in bed,
Did they do what mother said,
Leave for Santa a nice surprise
Sausage rolls and hot mince pies.

Carol singers at the door,
Raising money for the poor,
Singing there with all their might,
The Christmas Carol Silent Night.

Author: Bruce Kirkham

Member numbers

Members have been asking did our Open Day succeed in increasing members. This table compares our database now (10th December) with those from June:

	June	December	Increase
FULL	625	663	38
LIFE	9	9	0
JUNIOR	3	5	2
SOCIAL	202	196	-6
FULL ON HOLD	9	13	4
SOCIAL ON HOLD	2	1	-1
Total members	850	887	37

December Full members allows for about 35 still waiting for membership to be finalised.

After Open Day, out of 160 who attended we had 99 who wanted coaching (including a few who came to us later). 33 later decided for various reasons not to come to or complete coaching. The rest (66) have all completed their courses. We also had some new members who didn't need coaching.

So why is the increase in bowling members only 40? We had 54 bowlers cancelling and 5 sadly deceased. Also 14 converted to Social membership and 7 went "On-Hold".

Of those that cancelled 16 had joined last season, so how do we find out if there is anything we could have done to keep them here? I am currently pursuing getting a Facebook page, because if we had a social media presence it would give a forum for members to air their views. This will also help with future open day publicity.

On a bright note, from feedback of members who have played competitions at other clubs, most are in decline, so Palmerston is doing very well in comparison.

The final takeaway is that a very successful Open Day led to a net increase of 40 Full members and we need to keep having more open days for several years if we are to get our Full members back up near 800.

Positive thoughts are that we are now lowering the age profile of the club so that perhaps the cancellations of people becoming less able to bowl will reduce. And if we modernise our processes to get enthusiastic people in quicker perhaps our conversion rate of open day numbers to actual members will be better. Most important is that we keep listening to members to give you what you want. Don't hesitate to let us know.

Russell Gadd

CHRISTMAS JOKES

1. Where does Father Christmas go to recover after Christmas?

An elf farm.

2. What did Cinderella say when her photos didn't arrive on time?

One day my prints will come.

3. What do you call two happy mushrooms?

Fun guys.

4. What happened to the man who stole an advent calendar?

He got 25 days.

5. What does Father Christmas do when his elves misbehave?

He gives them the sack.

6. What do you give a dog for Christmas?

A mobile bone.

7. What's brown and creeps around the house?

Mince spies.

8. What do witches use to wrap their presents?

Spello-tape.

9. What do you call a train loaded with toffee?

A chew chew train.

10. Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party?

He had no body to go with.



Volunteers Needed

Your club needs your help

We have jobs that we need support with like Stewarding and Carpet cleaning, when doing these jobs, you receive 2 vouchers which allows you to play 2 games of bowls.

Please contact me if you are able to spare a couple of hours a week. Marie Leonard