



PALM READER

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The Palmerston Indoor Bowls Club Magazine

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL

10AM

People sometimes assume that an AGM is a dry formal meeting where the committee just get re-elected, and a few speeches are made. There is a lot more to it than that and for a club of our size a lot of important decisions are made, based on the votes of those who attend. We are run by member volunteers for the benefit of members. The AGM is your chance to find out what has happened and what is planned, and to make your voice heard and your vote count.

For the benefit of new members and maybe old members (not age!) perhaps we should explain how things are organised and what happens at the AGM.

Because we are a registered Limited Company we have a Board of Directors, all of whom will be identified at the AGM. The Board has a fundamental duty to ensure that the Club can meet its financial commitments at all times. The Finance Director presents his report and makes recommendations of what fees members will be asked to pay. But it is the members at the meeting who decide to accept or not.

Other areas of Board responsibility include the maintenance of the building fabric, provision of catering and bar facilities, computer systems, legal compliance including Health and Safety, Hygiene and Cleaning.

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At the AGM you will hear of any significant new initiatives or changes, and any major planned projects. This is how the members are informed and therefore are able to determine the development of our club by their votes.

The other major area is club management of day-to-day activity. This is under the control of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) headed by the Club President, assisted by two Vice Presidents.

The President remains in office for one year. Then at the AGM the Presidency is automatically passed to the ladies or men's vice president in rotation, because we are a mixed club run equally for men and ladies. This leaves a vacancy for vice-president who will be elected at the AGM.

The rest of the committee are also re-elected each year. Their duties include Leagues, Competitions, Mixed Drives and Matches as well as tasks such as Treasury, Membership, Stewarding, Rink Maintenance.

You will see the board in the foyer with the names of candidates for election. Usually, the existing officer will put their name forward if they wish to continue but any member can stand for any post. This is a chance for newer volunteers to offer their time next year. If more than one candidate is seeking election for the same position, then a ballot will be held. It is clearly important for the smooth running of the Club that you as a member attend the AGM to vote for who you think will be best suited for the post.

Another reason to attend the AGM is that this is the forum for you to air your views and opinions on the past year's performance and vote on any changes put forward by members. Some of these proposals can be controversial and it is vital that all opinions are heard so that the members can determine the best outcome for everyone.

Should any member wish to propose a change to the club rules then this must be done in writing to the Club Secretary BY FRIDAY 23RD MARCH (signed by proposer and seconder). You can ask for assistance in finding which rules are relevant to your proposals. These proposals will be posted on the board in the foyer for all members to see. Make sure you read them so you have time to think about what is being put forward.

It should be clear that Palmerston IBC belongs to **you**, and it is up to you to elect officers to the committees who you feel will best serve your needs as members. Or even better volunteer to join one of the committees. Remember that this is the only time you can influence how our club develops in future.



Hospital Catering

I was visiting a fellow bowler in a brand-new hospital and asked about the place and things in general.

"The nurses are very good and so is the treatment" came the reply, "But the food gets a bit boring."

"What do you mean boring", I asked ?

"Well we get "Haggis" for breakfast, "Haggis" for our lunch and then "Haggis "again for supper".

"Well what do you expect", I said !

"THIS IS THE BURNS UNIT!"

DID YOU KNOW

That most of the assignments that are undertaken at Palmerston are done on a completely voluntary basis. Every Saturday morning, two of our members arrive at the centre at approx. 7.15 a.m. and vacuum the carpet and clean the ditches.

The stewards you see on the desk are volunteers who undertake a three-hour duty, collecting rink fees, answering the telephone, dealing with queries, loaning equipment, selling badges and stickers amongst numerous other things. For this service the steward is given two rink fee vouchers. It would be nice if we had a few more volunteers to help the service along - what about you giving up a little time, just talk to Marie Leonard, the Chief Steward. After you have finished your game, are you one of the players who picks up the bowls and goes, leaving glasses, cups and scraps of paper on the tables for someone else to pick up. We do have paid cleaning contractors, but not for that sort of service. And please remember the time and trouble that volunteer stewards spend on your behalf before voicing your complaint.

Did you know that we have over 600 playing members, and yet often we cannot honour some friendly fixtures because there are not enough players. We also very often have to telephone members to remind them that they are due to play in a game, but they have not bothered to tick their names on the board.

When you have been a captain of a side it is essential that you know that the players are going to turn up and play. Nothing is more embarrassing than having to apologize for a missing player. Would you be willing to be called at short notice if there was a shortfall in players? If so please give us your phone number. Please, please check the fixtures board if you have put your name down for selection. Hopefully it is not you who, when the Captain/ President of the day is trying to sort teams, and deal with special meals, glibly says "What rink am I playing on? I thought you would have sorted that by now."

Did you know that the captains spend hours selecting the sides, writing them out and publishing them ! This also applies to the competition secretary with the draws and playing dates. It is not too much to ask you to tick names, or to play games by the specified dates.

Did you know that your leagues run so smoothly because the league secretary spends time during the summer months producing schedules, and stewards sheets, and compiling the Handbook. That is after getting everyone to register their team and chasing the laggards.

We all enjoy the bar. Your Bar Manager sees that it is stocked and staffed and is there to receive the deliveries and ensure that you receive a good service from the bar staff.

The Joint Management Committee meets every month, and minutes from their meeting is posted on the notice board for members to see.

The Board of Directors keeps us on the straight and narrow financially. They make sure we are safe and not running health risks. They negotiate contracts and make sure the companies give proper service. They make sure you have a good bar and food service. They look after (and fix) the building and make sure it is clean and hygienic. They run (and fix) the computers that work out your league and competition results.

Did you know that up to Christmas is a busy time of the year for all sorts of competitions, and rinks need to be booked so that they can be played off by the required date.

Casual bowlers why not join in with the drive sessions on a Monday and a Friday morning, they are great fun, and you do meet and talk with other members, instead of your own little circle of friends.

The barrier across the road is a pain. It is there however to try and keep out the "Travelers" who would come in and desecrate the area. Please spare a thought for the steward, who from time to time has to open and close it for vans and coaches. Even more so for the steward who has to close it late at night, in the dark, in the pouring rain with a padlock and key that is a fiddle to operate.

When you think about having a moan about your own little problem, just stand back and have a look at the overall picture of what has to be done so that you can enjoy your game of bowls. I hear the statement - I've paid my membership fee and I am entitled to this and that. The members who do all the work have also paid their membership fees, and are entitled to a little courtesy, thought and consideration. Constructive criticism is very welcome, but why not base it on Palmerston us instead of little selfish me!

Did you know that the members who set up the Club are getting older and are gradually taking a back seat. This is the danger time when the standards of the Club begin to slide. It is up to the membership to make sure that this does not happen. Just a few thoughts. Look around you. Do you see anything that would benefit the Club and could you do it. General maintenance, filling vacant posts such as stewarding, carpet cleaning. Are you a keen, helpful, working club member, or just a bowler.



ONE OF OUR YOUNG PLAYERS

Josh Thompson

Josh has reached the final of the County U25 singles championship which will be played at Chawton Park on Saturday March 23rd. Given that Josh isn't 17 until March 20th

It is a great achievement on his part at such a young age.

A budding talent for Palmerston to
be very proud of and he is a very important part of the Men's team at Palmerston.

HOW MANY MEMBERS?

As most people know we had a very successful open day with 160 people attending and 80 wishing to take it further. Most but not all of them finally became members. We also had some new members who didn't come to the open day. However, there were quite a number of cancellations in September, and of course sadly some deceased. Overall, we have 658 full members now (end February) compared to 625 a year ago.

Last year at the AGM we said we wanted to get membership back to our 800 target. More members spreads the costs per member further, and helps to reduce the increase in subscriptions necessary because of inflation, especially the cost of electricity which has doubled.

However recently there have been problems of people having difficulty finding spare rinks to book. This has prompted a rethink regarding our capacity. The number 800 was set many years ago when we played an extra session in the evening - 8.15 to 10.15. This season we only stayed to 10.15 on Thursdays and only 3 rinks. Next season it's likely even late Thursdays will be abandoned. Also, in the early years we played leagues at the weekends, which we don't do now. So, fitting the needs of 800 into fewer time slots is actually quite impractical. Based on the reduced time slots and the evidence of recent rink booking difficulties, we now think a membership around 650 is as much as we can take.

So, we have a choice to make. Push membership higher and have unhappy members who can't find rinks to play on, or charge the subs necessary to keep everyone happy. I think the conclusion is obvious. Our prices will still be the cheapest in the area so there is really no need to worry about the necessary increase.

However, this leaves us with a question. Should we have an open day this summer? From the above it seems the answer is no. But we must be mindful that our recent annual cancelled (and deceased) rates are around 90 so we still need 90 new members if this rate of dropout continues. A decision has not yet been made. Please attend the upcoming AGM and let us have your opinions.

Russell Gadd

BOOKING RINKS

There have been some problems recently regarding booking rinks.

One problem is lack of information. Quite often some rinks have had entries just containing for example "Stuart and Jo". Another example is "J Smith - comp". Please include full names (including opponent). Also, which competition with the proper title e.g. Club Mixed Pairs, National Triples. We might need to contact you.

Sometimes people make provisional bookings and forget to erase them when they are not needed. This wastes valuable rink space that others could have used. Do it as soon as you know - you can phone the steward to ask them to do it for you. Erasing it the day before is no good.

A bigger problem arises when competitors take over a rink previously booked for a rollup. If you must take over a rollup rink the people concerned must be contacted. Don't leave it to the steward, it's not their job. Also book your games in plenty of time. If you book more than 7 days ahead there won't be any rollup bookings in the sheet.

Recently there have been some unhappy members who arrived for a mixed drive only to find insufficient space because some competitions had taken over some rinks. You can understand when they feel they are being treated as second class citizens. Everyone's bowling is important to them, and we need to be fair to all different types of members. Many mixed drive bowlers only play mixed drives. Competition bowlers generally play a lot more including leagues. Is it right that they take over mixed drive rinks as well as have guaranteed availability for leagues and competitions?

Surely, we can organise things to avoid these problems if we are sensible. Competitors can book more than 7 days ahead and should have enough dates and times to choose from. Some people leave it late - saying "Oh we have a couple of weeks to arrange this game". Do it as soon as you know what game you need to arrange.

At the upcoming AGM I am proposing a rule change so that competitors do not book mixed drive rinks. If you enter multiple leagues and competitions, please bear in mind that there will be times when rinks are limited, and you shouldn't expect to have ultimate priority at all times. Let's use common sense and respect for others.

Russell Gadd

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. It 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.

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



Commandments For Seniors

1. Talk to yourself. There are times when you need expert advice.
2. Your people skills are fine. Its your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
3. Even duct tape can't fix stupid. But it sure does muffle the sound.
4. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
5. Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
6. On time is when you get there.
7. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, I don't need to write it down I'll remember

Nuggets

Did you Know?

that you can recycle empty pill trays/ containers in aid of Marie Curie Cancer charity? Take them to Superdrug in Fareham Shopping Centre and dump them in the large bin by the Prescription counter. Please put them in loose, not bagged.

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that you might be eligible for extra cash despite having savings? Have a look at www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator, it might be worthwhile!

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That you might be due compensation if you had a car finance/hire purchase deal before January 2021? Check out www.moneysavingexpert.com/reclaim/reclaim-car-finance. This is a Martin Lewis website.

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And finally,

Falls being a major health hazard for us all, it is important to maintain our core muscle strength.

One simple exercise...stand on one leg when you clean your teeth!

Be happy!

A Nonny Mouse

NO, I CANT DO SNAPCHAT, TICKTOCK OR TWERK.

BUT I CAN READ AND WRITE IN CURSIVE, DO MATHS WITHOUT A CALCULATOR,
DRIVE A STICK AND TELL TIME ON A CLOCK WITH HANDS.

WHEN A WOMAN SAYS, "FIRST OF ALL" IN AN ARGUMENT
RUN AWAY! SHE HAS PREPARED RESEARCH DATE, CHARTS AND GRAPHS,
TO DESTROY YOU

I LOST A GOOD FRIEND AND DRINKING PARTNER LAST WEEK
IN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT
HE GOT HIS FINGER CAUGHT IN A WEDDING RING