

Palm Reader



Ron Snelling

Coach, Umpire, TikTok Star.

Ron was born in Southsea, a few years ago, and has spent most of his time around the south. He started as an apprentice at Portsmouth dockyard, joined the Merchant Navy, moved into engineering, became a company owner (where he met his wife), and then finished his career teaching at HMS Collingwood and Highbury College



He started bowling at Bridgemary, in 1995, and served as club auditor, competition secretary and then president, before a stint as club secretary. During that time he won the Portsmouth District mixed pairs, represented Hampshire, and was heavily involved in inter-club matches. Now he plays outdoor at Fareham.

Ron started coaching in 1998, progressed to a level 2 coach in 2002, and became a senior coach (level 3) in 2008. That final stage involved following the County Coach around bowls clubs, learning on the job. Now he oversees coaching at Palmerston as well as coaching beginners and other coaches. One of the first tasks he undertook was to reorganize the bowls cupboards and label all the bowls properly, so that new bowlers could find the same bowls, easily, for every session. In 2012, Ron became an umpire, and umpires across Southampton, Fareham and Portsmouth, as well as on a regional level.

As if all of that wasn't enough to keep him busy, Ron is also a TikTok star, posting as Magic Grandpa, with his own online magic act! He is also a keen gardener, a 'fixer upper', if it can be taken apart, he can mend it, and a computer wizz. I am just pleased that he managed to find time to have a chat to me.

(John Bailey)

Two Saints

The President's charity for this year supports homeless people across the region.

Two Saints was originally formed in April 2001 through the merger of the Society of St Dismas (founded in 1962) and St Petroc Housing association (founded in 1972). Their head office is in Fareham although their services are located across the region.

Services include; outreach to people who are sleeping rough, supported accommodation (direct access hostels, move-on accommodation, and resettlement flats), day centres, community support, Housing First, mental health support and landlord support services.



Their website is:

[https://
www.twosaints.org.uk/](https://www.twosaints.org.uk/)

Give directly at:

[https://www.justgiving.com/
page/palmerston-ibc-2](https://www.justgiving.com/page/palmerston-ibc-2)

Or place items in the box.

People Page

Junior Bowls

Debbey Mondey

I have wanted to develop a junior section in the club for some time but felt I needed to qualify as a coach first. Having achieved that, now seemed to be the time to move this forward.

As we were looking at recruiting bowlers under the age of eighteen it was important that the coaching team applied for individual enhanced DBS Checks. We also made contact with Banister bowls club to share best practice as to how to process. The club decided we would open junior training for ten- to seventeen-year-olds to play during the winter season. The club sent out emails to club members to book places for any young people that they knew who might be interested. Debbie Chamberlain very kindly took posters to many local outdoor clubs and we promoted the opportunities to play on Face Book.

We were a bit too late to get much response from schools or scout / guide groups. We plan to return to these areas after the school holidays. Hopefully we can get a second wave of recruits from this source.

In the coaching cupboard we had four sets of "0000" bowls which the youngest children found a good fit, while the older young people were happy with "00" woods. If bowlers have any more of these sized woods tucked away anywhere, the club could make good use of them. Shoes on the green posed more of a challenge. We did not have many shoes in the smaller sizes, so requested the youngest wear flat shoes / trainers with cleaned soles.

Our first taster session went very well with the juniors attending were aged from 10 to 15. The second taster session is planned for 16th August. Following on from this we will be offering the children a four-session training programme throughout September on Saturday at 2pm.

Throughout the winter season the plan is to offer juniors a chance to bowl together on Mondays at 4pm and Saturday at 2pm. After training they will of course be able to book a rink at any time and play with an adult member who will take responsibility for them while they are in the club. Experienced junior bowlers can of course join the club without the need to attend any training sessions. Just in case members do not realise, junior member's annual fee is zero and they only pay half of the adult green fees.



Club Notices



Ladies Competitions 2025/2026

Ladies,

The Competition Forms are now in the Ladies Changing Room on the notice board. The Closing date is October 31st 2025 and the draw will be made beginning of November.

I have changed the Drawn Pairs to Novice Pairs. This competition is for Ladies who have

bowled for less than five years (indoors or outdoors). For all competitions, please try and play the first rounds as soon as you can. This would be much appreciated.

Thank You

Rosemary

Please Note

RULE 12.2 (12.2.1) "A player must not go into a neighbouring rink where play is in progress."



A Solo exhibition of Watercolour Art



October 10th, 11th and 12th

2025/2026 Fixtures Book

With the new winter season fast approaching I would like to bring to your attention that the new season fixture booklet will be available from Monday September 8th. It is a 16 page booklet this season, increased from 12 pages last season, and includes all fixtures for Palmerston Men's and Ladies, Hants County and Patrons and Palmerston friendlies.

It's not often you get something for nothing these days but from me you do, and the new fixture booklet costs you nothing. I would however like to thank Solent Mobility, DJC Catering, AH Fremantle Funeral Directors, Bowls World and Hampshire Fascia and Cladding for their advertising which has helped me produce the booklet and make it free to members

Can you help with ...

Facebook?

Facebook connects us with everyone on the internet, not just members. Can you help by reporting on matches, finding bowls articles or posting interesting images for the club? The more posts we have, the more people become interested in us, and that might bring us in new members.

Palm Reader?

Palm Reader is our club newsletter, and while it contains a lot of club information, it should also be entertaining. Could you interview people for Palm Reader? Or write a short report on things that you have done? Bowls articles are best, but members have a wide range of interests, and other subjects are welcome. Or perhaps send us a poem, letter, short story, or a memory of a good Christmas or holiday?

Contact John Bailey via media@palmerston-bowls.club or the pigeon holes.

Club Notices



Singles Ladder – A Fresh Opportunity ?

In recent months, there has been a growing enthusiasm for singles play among our members. This isn't surprising, given the example of the Open Singles Circuit at Palmerston and the popularity of the televised World Championships. For many, singles is the purest form of bowls – a real test of skill and strategy. We believe a lot more members could enjoy and benefit from this format.

At present, most singles competitions are knockouts – whether that's club singles, National singles, or the Open Singles Circuit. The problem is obvious: you're out after one loss. Great for the most competitive players, but not so inclusive for the rest of us.

That's where a **Singles Ladder** comes in. It's competitive, fun, and open to everyone – with the bonus that you can play as often as you like without being eliminated.

How It Could Work

We propose dedicating Monday and Tuesday evenings from **6:00pm – 7:00pm** to a short singles format: one set of 8 ends. If tied, we'd finish with a quick tie-break or even a one-bowl shootout if time is tight. The timing and details can be fine-tuned once we've tried it out.

A ladder system is simple:

You may challenge anyone up to three places above you.

If you win, you move up and they move down.

If you lose, you drop a little, but you're never out.

Declining a challenge without good reason counts as a loss.

This way, players quickly settle into playing others of similar ability. As you improve, you can test yourself against stronger opponents.

Why This Benefits the Club

More opportunities to play – for all standards, not just the ambitious few.

Better use of rink time – reviving an hour that has been unused since late leagues became less popular.

Increased club income – while still allowing evening leagues to run, just 45 minutes later than usual (7pm–9pm).

Improved player skills – singles sharpens your game, helps you understand your strengths and weaknesses, and complements coaching.

Inclusivity – everyone can take part, regardless of experience.

Some may worry about the knock-on effect for existing leagues. However, many clubs already start their evening sessions at 7pm, so it's not unusual. The small shift helps us introduce something fresh and enjoyable without sacrificing existing programmes.

Next Steps

This idea is flexible – we'll trial it, adapt the details, and see how it works in practice.

Please send feedback – positive or critical - by email to Russell Gadd—it@palmerston-bowls.club.



What we did in the Summer Holidays

In early August we visited Torquay United Indoor Bowls Club, and spent an hour or so talking to their club secretary Gary Hitching.



He joined the club after lockdown in 2022, only to discover that the club was down to 60 members, and was actively considering closing down. He volunteered to take over as Club Secretary, and put his experience from the RAF and running a pub into rebuilding the club. The club has been refurbished, new members gained, and a healthy income, more than sufficient to support the club developed. Membership has increased to 280 and he expects to have 300 members before the end of the year.

As an experienced businessman, he started out to develop new income streams and develop the existing ones. One of his first moves was to introduce a keyless entry system where members can get into the club 24 hours a day, bowl and pay their rink fees via an honesty box. His online management and booking system allows members to book rinks remotely, from a phone or a computer. His approach to new members is interesting, as he offer them a 50% discount for the first year, with renewals coming on the anniversary of membership, rather than each September.

He has concentrated on recruiting younger members, and spent a lot of time talking to young people. The club has had a makeover, with brighter colours, more themed branding and has done away with dress codes completely. This year, he has arranged for some schools to come in and get bowls

coaching as part of their P.E. lessons.

His most effective innovations, though, are a club shop and TV coaching aid. The shop sells bowls, shirts and a number of other similar products out of, what once was, a large cupboard. He buys the shirts in bulk, and sells them at a reasonable mark up, allowing his members to customise their team colours but cheaply and easily.



His next innovation was a CCTV based coaching aid. The club's four rinks now have security cameras at each end, and the picture displayed on a large screen in the social area. Not only is it easier for spectators to follow games, the recordings can be downloaded and used for coaching later. The recordings are posted onto a YouTube channel, and generate extra income for the club though adverts. The equipment and installation cost about £1000.



It was certainly an interesting, and informative way to spend a day of our holidays.

(John & Andrea Bailey)

SOLENT MOBILITY CENTRE

We have a partnership with Solent Mobility Centre. This means that Palmerston will receive 5% back to the club of any purchases made at the Centre.

To participate members must provide the unique code '0022' when making a purchase. This is a win-win for both.

BOWLSWEAR DIRECT

Bring their roadshow to the club on a regular basis. Look out for the notices behind the desk. They can supply bowls, bowls bags, bowls shoes, accessories, clothing and all Bowls related equipment.

BOOK THE RESTAURANT FOR PRIVATE BUFFETS...

01329 232214

Debbie@djc-catering.co.uk



Fall entrepreneur...



"The Birman Hairball"

Where shall we be sick today?

We'll find a place to hide away

On the kitchen floor it will not be,

Far too easy for Mum to see.

Lying on our bed, with Bert,

We'll sick on his coat, it will not hurt.

The moggie of our house is he,

Far less superior than we

We'll lie in the pen outside in the sun,

And sick over the wire, it's so much fun.

We look for any nook or niche,

In fact just anywhere that is hard to reach,

On the bathroom window sill amidst the blind,

Oh what a lovely mess for mum to find.

Mum is not very happy but if we may be bold,

Formula H and a toothbrush is good, we're told.

We can't understand why there is so much fuss,

Mum's place on earth is to look after us!

(Denise Proud.)



What dress code?

Someone told me recently that she was giving up her membership because we allow people to play bowls in casual clothes. "It is wrong and we should all wear greys". Giving up bowling is sad, but we have had casual clothes for the past 3 years. We have to move with the times or risk decline.

However we do still have a dress code and members must be aware that they need to conform if they want to play in leagues, competitions or matches. Consult the rules (on the website and on the notice board opposite the Steward's desk) for the full details, but to simplify things this is basically what you need to know.

In leagues or competitions it is white tops and grey or black bottoms. Tops can have some colour but not too much, unless you have identical team shirts for the whole team. Alternatively you can wear the club shirt. Bear in mind that members wearing casual clothes can't be a substitute if you are short of a league player.

The rules for friendly matches state everything must be white but the committee has decided that all friendlies will be played grey below the waist, so no white trousers needed. A club shirt is preferred but plain white shirt may also be worn. This is to encourage new members who haven't got a club shirt. These matches are for all abilities and great fun. New bowlers are very welcome, so have a go.

If you enter club competitions and get to the club finals in March you will need all white. Most people are very pleased to get to the final and don't mind the extra expense. Club finals evenings are popular for spectators, the bar is open and the quality matches with everyone wearing white are good to watch.

A few don'ts. Don't wear other clubs' club shirts. Shorts must be proper bowls shorts. To protect the carpet, shoes must be proper bowls shoes, not train-

ers, and don't walk across the car park in your bowls shoes.

Overall make sure what you wear is clean, decent and not outlandish and please don't try to stretch the rules as this would annoy people. We all have slightly different viewpoints but we need to get along together to make a happy club.

(Russell Gadd)

Health & Safety Reminders

If you see something unsafe please report it to the Duty Steward

Be familiar with the fire evacuation process – posters are displayed throughout the building

Ensure emergency exits are kept clear at all times

Keep the floor areas clear of unnecessary items that may cause an accident and dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

(Gez Hansford)



AI Bowls Limerick

(co-pilot—the Microsoft AI)

**On greens where the old bowlers stroll,
They aim with precision and soul.
With bias and grace,
They roll into place,
Each bowl creeping close to the goal.**



Quiz Questions

Q1) Four Letter Words

How many four-letter words can you make from the letter line shown below? No names, just four-letter English words. Words from the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary

B A R S T A F F

Q2) Glenn and Jason each have a collection of cricket balls. Glenn said that if Jason would give him 3 of his balls they would have an equal number; but, if Glenn would give Jason 3 of his balls, Jason would have 2 times as many balls as Glenn. How many balls does Jason have?

Q3) Solve this riddle.

I start with the letter E.
I end with the letter E.
I usually contain only one letter
Yet I am not the letter E!
What am I?

Q4) Unscramble these baby things.

CRUSH A HIP
GASP BY PAN
DEFINITE GEM
PINEAPPLES AID SOBS
CRY ACTOR

Q5) What does this represent?

coORDERurt

Q6) Sally lies on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday; but tells the truth on all other days. John lies on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday; but tells the truth on all other days. One day Sally and John had lunch together. One exclaimed 'I lied yesterday'. The other replied 'Me too'.

ON WHICH DAY DID THEY HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER?

Autumn Fires

By Robert Louis Stevenson

In the other gardens
And all up in the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over,
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!



Funny—ish!

Playing bowls is like life—full of curves but always aiming for the centre.

Bowling is the only sport where tickling the kitty is a real purr-fect game.

Q1) abas, afar, arts, baas, baff, barf, bars, bast, bats, bras, brat, fart, fast, fats, frat, raff, raft, rats, stab, star, tabs, tars, tsar : Q2) 21 : Q3) Envelope : Q4) PUSHCHAIR, NAPPY BAGS, FEEDING TIME, DISPOSABLE NAPPIES, CARRYCOT : Q5) Order in court! : Q6) Wednesday

Thought for the day: Often, when I am reading a good book, I stop and thank my teacher. That is, I used to, until she got an unlisted number.

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.

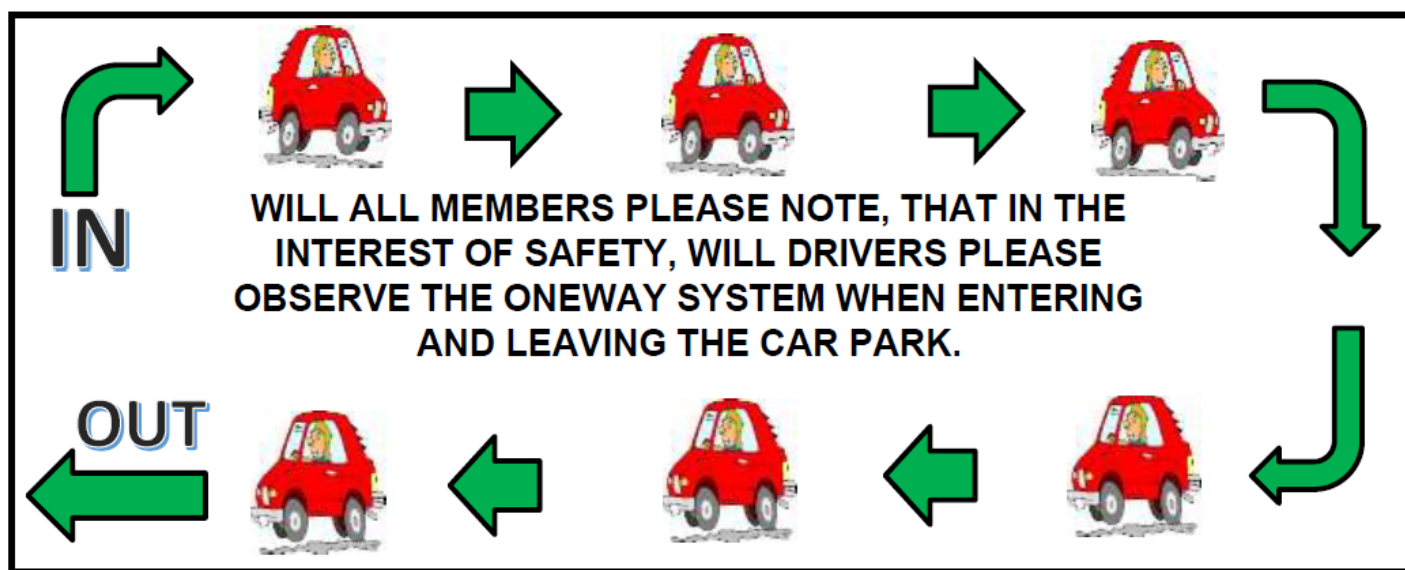
Chewing Gum, please refrain from chewing gum whilst bowling as gum has been found on the green and is difficult to remove and it damages the carpet.

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 or initial and surname 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.

Please ensure that you use the One-Way system in the carpark. You must drive around the carpark in the right direction, even if you want to park immediately in front of the building.



Let us know what you think of Palm Reader? Can it be improved?
media@palmerston-bowls.club

THE WINTER BOWLING PROGRAMME

Weekly Bowling Programme - Winter Season 2025-26

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:30 am - 11:30 am Mens Triples League	Mens Triples League	Mens Triples League	Mixed Triples League	Mens Triples League	Matches / Competitions / Roll-ups / Tuition	Matches / Competitions / Roll-ups / Tuition
11:30 pm - 1:30 pm Drive	Mixed Triples League	Ladies Triples League	Mixed Triples League	Drive	Matches / Competitions / Roll-ups / Tuition	Matches / Competitions / Roll-ups / Tuition
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Individual Practice	Individual Practice	Individual Practice	Individual Practice	Individual Practice	Individual Practice	Individual Practice
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Ladies Triples League	Ladies Triples League	Roll-ups	Ladies Triples League	Open Australian Pairs League	Drive	Club Friendlies / Matches
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Roll-ups	Mens Triples League	Drive / Roll-ups	Mens Triples League	Open Australian Pairs League	Closed	
6:15 pm - 8:15 pm Open Triples Intermediate League	Open Fours League	Open Triples League 18 Ends	Open Triples League	Open Pairs League 18 Ends	Closed	Palmerston Cup
8:15 pm - 10:15 pm Closed	Closed		Closed	↓ ↓ ↓	Closed	

Any spare rinks may be booked for competitions or roll-ups
Roll-ups can be booked up to 7 days in advance.



CRIBBAGE



CRIB DATES 2025/6 **WEDNESDAYS 2pm**

Wednesday 10th September

Wednesday 24th September

Wednesday 8th October

Wednesday 22nd October

Wednesday 5th November

Wednesday 19th November

Wednesday 3rd December

Wednesday 7th January

Wednesday 21st January

Wednesday 4th February

Wednesday 18th February

Wednesday 4th March

Wednesday 18th March