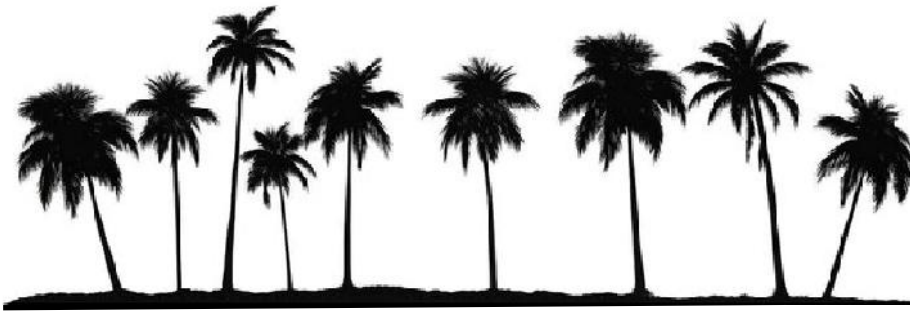


Palm Reader



Maureen Tomlinson

Thank you for electing me to be this year's President.

Firstly – a huge thank you to Adie, last years President. Adie is a really hard act to follow – his enthusiasm for the Club is infectious and his dedication to raising money for his charity has been outstanding. I'm sure there are not many of us who have escaped his fines! Also a thank you to Phil, Vice President, for his help and support to Adie over the past year – I look forward to the ongoing support I know he will give to me – along with our new Ladies Vice President, Mandy Laurence.



My charity for the year is Abby's Heroes. Abby's Heroes supports children, teenagers, young adults and their families, including bereaved families, who come under the care of the Piam Brown Ward and the Teenagers and Young Adults (TYA) wards at Southampton General Hospital.

Taking care of families from across the South Coast of England, they offer Welfare Packs, Care and Comfort bags, Financial Grants, operate a family room with emergency provisions, Counselling sessions and Play Therapy for the patient and their family. They have an active days out programme for the whole family and special days for the Grandparents and siblings.

On the 19th September Mandy Lawrence, Phil Hawkes and I will be ab-seiling down the Spinnaker Tower in order to raise funds for Abby's Heroes. I hope that members will dig deep in their pockets to support us.

We will be holding a Bumper Christmas Raffle in December – I already have some donations but the more the merrier.

I look forward to continued support for the Sunday Friendlies which gives bowlers an opportunity to play against different clubs, enjoying friendly banter, good food and of course the inevitable raffles!



The aim of our charity is to help and support children and their families, including bereaved families, who come under the care of the Piam Brown and the Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) wards at Southampton General Hospital.

We offer financial and practical help as well as the opportunity to make lasting memories for the children and their families.

There is a collecting box by the office window, or you can donate online

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/palmerston-ibc-3>

Theft!

Our charity sweet box is running short again this month – we're currently £13.60 down. Each packet costs £1.20, and the system relies on everyone paying honestly.

If you take sweets, please make sure you put the correct amount in the box. It's for a good cause, and your cooperation really makes a difference.

Not paying for sweets is the same as stealing from a charity box!

2026 Palmerston IBC Annual General Meeting

The meeting began with Cyril Friend making his first Chairman's address since the resignation of long-standing Financial Director and Chairman, Bill Jackson. In his address Cyril thanked Debbie Monney, and the coaches, for the efforts they have put into forming and training junior members of the club. He also thanked Keith Gerard and Kevin Good for their long-term volunteering for cleaning the carpets, although they have now both decided it was time to step down. Thanks were also given to Rosemary Jasper and Brian Knight for organising and running the club competitions. Special thanks were given to Brian for scheduling all the club finals' matches. Cyril also thanked those people involved in making the Open Singles' Circuit (OSC) weekend a great success, mentioning Tony Jennings, Adie Booth and all the volunteers. Once again Palmerston had very positive feedback from many of the players who participated in the OSC of how welcoming and supportive our members are to all of them.

Throughout the rest of the meeting, we were updated with the following:

- Palmerston IBC now has 657 full members, which includes 10 juniors
- Membership fees are to remain at £95 for full membership and £30 for social membership
- Rink fees remain the same at £2.50 for a single, 2-hour session and £4.00 for a double, 4-hour session
- Locker fees are increasing from £3.50 per year to £5.00 (due to the increased cost of getting keys cut)
- Bar profit margin has stayed approximately the same as the previous year (@ 52.6%), although sales are down by approximately £3,000 for the year
- The £1.00 "guest fee" for friends and family who join you to eat in the restaurant has now been withdrawn.

There were six (6) proposed resolutions, all of which were carried:

- Retain the current accountants of Azets Accountants of Fareham
- Annual membership and rink fees to remain the same
- The Board has been asked to investigate online booking systems, and report back to the membership with options / suggestions
- £5.00 fee paid by players who participate in Palmerston Team games to be done away with
- The rules regarding the dress code for Friendly matches to be amended to reflect the actual practice of wearing grey (or black) trousers / shorts, rather than white
- The rules regarding the dress code for club competition finals to be amended to the wearing of black or grey trousers/shorts and either a white top, club top or another design top as long as all players on a team are in the same colours/tops

The election of all the proposed Board members was approved unanimously, as were the proposed Club Officers.

Outgoing president, Adie Booth, made his final speech. He was happy to report that, as a club, we fulfilled all our friendly matches. He went on to thank both of his vice-presidents for their support, especially Maureen and her husband for their help with the Race Nights, and also thanks went as well to Jo in the restaurant for the two (2) quiz nights she organised. In total, during his tenure as president, the club raised over £2,900 for his charity, Two Saints.

Incoming president, Maureen Tomlinson, thanked Adie for his hard work over the previous year. She introduced us to her chosen charity, Abby's Heroes who are based at Southampton General Hospital and whose "aim is to help and support children and their families who come under the care of the Piam Brown and the Teenage and Young Adult wards at Southampton General Hospital". They not only help support the children, but the entire family, including siblings, parents and grandparents.

As a final note, there are no major expenditures planned for the next year; however, there were two expenditures already made, namely the new front door and two (2) microwaves were replaced in the kitchen.

Recent Events at Palmerston

Over the last year, we have held a number of special events. The social side of the club has been growing, alongside the bowling and community aspects.

Debbie Monney held another very successful Junior Day during the school half-term week. Something like thirty young people, some as young as eight, took part in a two hour session, supported by several coaches and senior members of the club. Everyone I spoke to, said they had a good time and many, including one or two parents, said they were considering joining up as club members and bowling regularly.

Adie, last year's president, hosted a Spring Ball, Horse Racing Nights, a number of friendly matches, and an Internal 'International' match. Supported by the restaurant, they raised something in the order of £2500 for his charity, Two Saints. He has also arranged a bowling and trips to Potter's Resorts, home of the World Bowls Championship, and a bowls centre in Dorset.. On the most recent trip, a team of Bill, Tony, Bruce and Martin reached the final. Well done, fellas.

Jo, from the restaurant, has been organising Saturday evening quizzes, again with a buffet meal for participants, and they are becoming, a well attended, regular event.

We hosted a round of the OSC, The Open Singles Circuit, in March. Some of the country's best bowlers, including people who competed in The Indoor World Championship, competed with Palmerston members, and other top bowlers from around the region.

Club finals week saw Tracy Farrington and Dave Hill become the 2026 Singles Champions. Tracy is also the Hampshire County Singles Champion, and Dave (along with Marco) just missed out on the Hampshire Doubles Title - on the last bowl of the last end!



Summer 2026

Summer Schedule Changes

The summer opening hours have been changing slowly over the last few years, to make it easier for members who still work full time to bowl. Additionally, we have been developing a Junior Section, and some of these changes make it easier for our junior bowlers to get time on the green.

Last year, we trialled a Monday evening mixed drive session, and that will continue this summer. However, the club will now be open on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning, giving us even more opportunity to bowl.

The league structure stays the same as it has been for the last few years, but our Mixed Drives are changing. Most will be normal Triples Drives, although Tuesday and Thursday mornings will see new format Pairs Drives.

On top of that, the Single Ladder, that was introduced during the last winter season, will continue into the summer on Wednesday afternoons.

You will find a copy of the Summer Season schedule on the back page of this Palm Reader.

Extra Sessions

The club will now be open on Wednesdays from 9:00am all the way through until 8:15pm, with league, rollup, ladder and a Mixed drive session.

On Saturdays, the club will open from 9:00am for roll ups, and remain open until the mixed drive finishes at 4:00pm.

Mixed Drives

Mixed drives are an important part of our social calendar and are open to everyone, from the most experienced bowlers, to the newest member, who has never bowled before. You arrive fifteen minutes before the start time to register, then teams and positions are drawn randomly, although you might be able to arrange 'swaps' when you get down onto the green. They are a good way to meet the other

members of the club, and everyone is supportive, they are social games, with everyone bowling to the best of their ability.

Mixed Drives Schedule

Week Days

Triples Drives (three players per team) will be held on Monday and Friday at 11:30 am, starting on 24th March.

Pairs Drives (two players per team) will be held on Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30, starting from Tuesday, March 31st.

Saturday

A Triples Drive will be held on Saturdays, at 2pm., as in previous years.

Evenings

Triple drives will be held Monday and Wednesday evenings, starting at 6:30 pm. Wednesday evening start on 1st April, while Mondays are a week later on 6th April. The club will open from 6:00pm, to give you time to get ready for your game.

The Single Ladder

Played on Wednesday afternoons, the format is simple: win and you can climb up the ladder, lose and you drop a little. Movement keeps things fresh, and every game counts. It's only 1 hour for £1.25 and you will get at least 40 bowls. There will also be an opportunity to play two separate games, one after the other, if numbers are bit low for the session. It's a great way to test yourself, improve, and enjoy non-serious competitive bowls in a friendly environment.

The Ladder is designed for everyone, no matter what your standard, from the newest members to county players and, as the ladder grows, it will develop evenly matched games, close scores, and plenty of excitement.

Junior Sessions

Our popular Junior Sessions will run on Saturday afternoon, alongside the Mixed Drive. While the Juniors do not normally bowl against adult members, some of them are very, very good—and it is worth keeping an eye on their matches.

The People Page

Scot and Mel

Scot and Mel both joined Palmerston in October 2023 as new bowlers and, since then, have gone on to play for our representative teams, while Scot plays in the OSC on a regular basis.

Both work full time, managing the commercial cleaning company, which has the contract of PIBC, among others. Scot is a dedicated bowler, bowling very regularly, while Mel has a passion for painting, and you may have seen her work exhibited in both the lounge and board room.

They were both brought up in Southampton, and still live there. Mel spent thirty years working in Special Educational Needs, before she joined Scot's commercial cleaning company, while Scot spent sixteen years in Devon, working at a stable and racing as a jump jockey. When Scot realised he wasn't going to progress from provisional jockey to professional jockey by a certain age he decided to leave racing and started his company. However, he credits his time racing for honing the competitive instinct, and will to succeed, which has helped his bowls develop so quickly.

Scot told me that he is very self-critical, and always wants every shot to be perfect, but he is learning that getting frustrated with himself, when something goes wrong, doesn't improve his bowls. Scot bowls three to seven days a week, and thinks of bowls as an addiction. Mel snorted, and clarified that as *'he eats, drinks and sleeps bowls'* – Scot didn't respond to that, and didn't look at all embarrassed. He has already played in the third round of the OSC, and his current goal is to go further.

While Mel plays regularly, and represents the club as part of our Ladies' Team, her real passion is painting. She specialises in animal watercolours, has held two exhibitions at the club, had her work exhibited at Buckler's Hard and won a national award for her paintings. You can see some of her work, or commission a portrait of your pet, at ...

<https://www.melanieburdenwatercolours.com/>

There is an exclusive code 'bowl15' that members can enter at checkout. This gives 15% off all products. Effective for the month of April.



Smile.....

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu. When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too. I walked around the corner and someone saw my grin. When he smiled, I realised, I'd passed it on to him. I thought about that smile, then I realised its worth. A single smile, just like mine, could travel around the earth. So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected. Let's start an epidemic and get the world infected.
(Credit.. Spike Milligan) provided by John Mackie

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



Contribute to Palm Reader?

Palm Reader is our club newsletter, and while it contains a lot of club information, it should also be entertaining. Can you help?

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.

Spring Jokes—to groan at!

1. What do sheep do on a sunny spring day? Have a Baa-baa cue.
2. What animal runs the fastest during spring storms? Cheetahs, because they move at lightning speeds.
3. Why did the Easter egg hide? It was a little chicken.
4. What do you call a grizzly bear caught in the rain? A drizzly bear.
5. What did the tree say during springtime? "Well, this is a re-leaf!"
6. Which superhero likes spring the best? Robin.
7. Why are flowers so friendly? They always have new buds.
8. What's the best flower for a boy to give on Mother's Day? A son-flower.
9. What is spring's superpower? Flower power.
10. What do you call a rabbit with fleas? Bugs Bunny.
11. How does a bee brush its hair? With a honeycomb.

BOWLS.....

A game of skill, a peaceful art.
Where strategy plays a vital part.
The bowls collide, a gentle sound,
As victory's sweet reward is found.

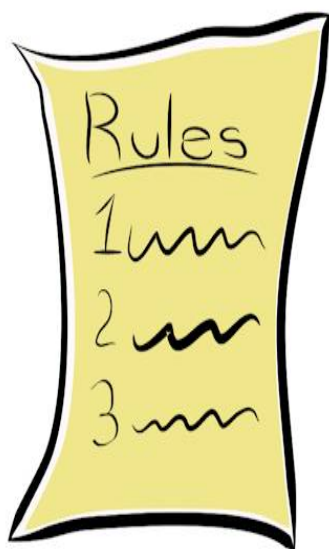
John Mackie



Our Regular Reminders

On how to behave like a considerate adult!

- Just a quick reminder that when the bar and restaurant are open, we kindly ask that no outside food or drinks be brought into the club. The restaurant works hard to provide a full selection of food and beverages for members and guests to enjoy while it is open, and the bar sells snacks and drinks, both soft and alcoholic, while it is open.
- Hi everyone. Just a friendly reminder to please pop any rubbish in the bins provided and return any glasses to the bar once you've finished with them. It really helps keep the club tidy and makes things easier for the volunteers and staff who help run the bar.
- 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. You must drive around the carpark in the right direction, even if you want to park immediately in front of the building.
- 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.
- Please switch off your phone when you come into the club or at least put it on to silent mode.



Rink Etiquette

When you are behind the mat, please ensure you stand at least one metre behind and out of the eye line of the bowler on the mat.

When you are behind the head, stand at least one metre behind the jack and stand still while a bowler is on the mat.

Always stay within your rink space and when moving from one end to the other keep to the centre of your rink.

It is permitted to leave a lifter on the green behind the mat area but not behind the head.

When moving to and from the rink area be mindful of crossing the end of a rink where a match might still being played.

Stop and wait, if there is a player on the mat about to deliver their bowl.

Weekly Bowling Programme - Summer Season 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:30 am - 11:30 am	Mixed Triples League	Mixed Triples League	Mixed Triples League	Mixed Triples League	Mixed Triples League	Roll-ups	Roll-ups
11:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Mixed Drive	Pairs Drive/ Roll-ups	Roll-ups	Pairs Drive/ Roll-ups	Mixed Drive	Roll-ups	Roll-ups
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	(Closed)	(Closed)	Individual Practice	(Closed)	(Closed)	Individual Practice	(Closed)
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	(Closed)	(Closed)	Singles Ladder / Roll-ups	(Closed)	(Closed)	Mixed Drive / Juniors	(Closed)
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	(Closed)	(Closed)	Roll-ups	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Summer Mixed Drive	(Closed)	Summer Mixed Drive	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)

Roll-ups can be booked up to 7 days in advance.
For Mixed Drives arrive at least 15 minutes beforehand