

SLBC NEWSLETTER
Clippings from the Green
April 2024



Happy spring everyone! There has been a lot happening with the Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club, and we would like to bring everyone up to date.

Club President:

Many thanks to Michael Toll, who stepped up and led the club through some turbulent times. Michael and Gill will not be returning to Sarasota. We thank them for all their work for our club, and wish them well.

At our AGM on March 23, **Ilona Vrba, Laurie Holder and Sally Mills agreed to share the role of President.** Below is a short introduction, for those who have not met them.

Ilona Vrba is also filling the role of club Secretary. She has taken on the responsibility for member communications, group dinners, club liaison with the City for the construction, coordinator for the Giving Challenge, and countless other important roles. Ilona is a club coach, and lives in Florida full time.

SLBC1927@gmail.com

Laurie Holder has assisted with the club newsletter, graphics, and club clothing in the past. She is an accomplished and enthusiastic bowler, and has extensive experience operating a large athletics club in New Hampshire. Laurie lives in Venice for about 7 months of the year.

hillslr@aol.com

Sally Mills has been Director of Membership, and was on the board in the past. Sally started a new lawn bowling (& croquet) club in Ontario, Canada, and served as president for 10 years. She created a Learn to Bowl program that is used in various clubs in Ontario. Sally is a Canadian certified bowling club coach and umpire, and a USA croquet referee. She spends almost 6 months of the year in Sarasota.

Sgbell44@hotmail.com

Board Members:

Thank you so much to those who have worked to keep the club together over these past few precarious years, and especially to those who have served on our Board of Directors. Here is a link to the Club Officials for 2024-2025:

<https://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com/club-officials/>

Green Construction – where we are today:

We are so excited that construction has finally started! Construction on the site beside the Bobby Jones Golf Course is well underway, with plans to open this fall.

At a recent meeting with Richard Mandell, who is the architect, project manager, and our liaison with the City, Richard confirmed the earlier predictions that the funding SLBC

received from the City (via a donation from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation) will not be enough to complete the project. Richard estimated that we will only have enough to build a green, and little else. **We will need at least an additional \$250,000 for a garage with covered patio, sidewalks, fencing, paved parking, washrooms, landscaping, and shade structures.**

Construction costs have increased enormously since Mr. Mandell's original plan and estimate was presented to SLBC. The City has been very slow at approving our permits, which continually delayed the start of construction. Michael Toll has recently sent a letter requesting \$250,000 additional funding from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation so that we can complete the project that was agreed to, but of course we have no idea how successful we will be.

Board members are now considering other options, such as changing the scope of the project, and pursuing other sources of funds. Applying for grants is a huge, time-consuming process, with no guarantees of success, or when funds will be granted. Sally has experience successfully applying for Canadian government grants, but no experience in the USA. She welcomes suggestions and advice.

Giving Challenge April 9-10, 2024:

If you've read the above, you will realize how important this campaign is to our club.

Every two years the Community Foundation of Sarasota organizes a 24-hour fundraising event called The Giving Challenge. Every dollar donated to registered charities and non-profits between \$25 and \$100 will be matched by the Patterson Foundation. The campaign runs from noon April 9th to noon April 10th.

Please consider donating to SLBC during this campaign. When applying for funding from other foundations, these foundations will be checking to see how well our membership supported this year's Giving Challenge.

You will be receiving reminders from Ilona for this crucial fundraiser. Thank you in advance for helping to complete our new facility!



<https://www.givingchallenge.org/organizations/sarasota-lawn-bowling-club-857b2e04-0181-4d96-a60e-bf837d6283cb>

Meet for Dinner on April 10th:

Thank you, Ilona, for organizing another group dinner on **Wednesday, April 10th, 6pm at PF Chang**, 766 S. Osprey Avenue, Sarasota. Please RSVP to Ilona at SLBC1927@gmail.com. Your three new Co-Presidents look forward to seeing you then!

Editors: Sally Mills & Ilona Vrba
<https://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SarasotaLawnBowling>



\$24,968.78 1,200 SQ. FT.



Storage Building - 30' x 40' x 11'
 Overhang (970 SQ. FT.)

\$5,740.00 288 SQ. FT.



La Cresta Shade Structure

10' Concrete Sidewalk

18 Parking Spaces

Ditch

4' Chain Link Fence



Bathroom- Tioga Special 11'-11" x 14'-4"



CIRCUS BOULEVARD



SARASOTA LAWN BOWLING
 February 3, 2023

M RICHARD
 MANDELL
 GOLF ARCHITECTURE





