

Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club

## *Clippings from the Green*

April 27, 2025



### Note from the President:

Like myself, many of our snowbirds are flying north this month. I miss the club already, and want to thank all who are in Sarasota and are managing the club over the summer.

Thanks to the coordination by Ted Beilman, the broken stadium light fixture has now been repaired. We now have all lights working for evening games. The cost of the repair was generously covered by the City's Parks & Recreation Department.

Thank you to John Garton who prepared the end-of-season survey, and to all those who provided feedback. We will be looking closely at the results when determining our programs for next season.

The club continues to be improved, thanks to all the volunteer work done by our members. We have made amazing progress this season!

*Sally*

### Learn to Lawn Bowl:

Please extend a warm welcome to the most recent graduates from our Learn to Lawn Bowl programs! We hope that you all become full members of our club.

Members, in your efforts to be welcoming, friendly and helpful, please do not overwhelm new bowlers with advice.

SLBC is offering another important Learn to Lawn Bowl class through ACE. It will be from 6-8pm on Tues 5/13, Thurs 5/15, Tues 5/20, Thurs 5/22, with around 12 participants. Thank you to Ilona for organizing, and to all the assistant coaches.

### The Green:

We have hired a new greenskeeper: Tom Hilferty. Tom lives right in the neighborhood, and has extensive experience as an agronomist and golf course superintendent. He will have a soil sample analysis done on the green to accurately determine what is needed. Top dressing will be done by Tom and club volunteers over the summer. We are looking forward to being able to play on an entire green that is healthy, fast, and smooth!

If you see Tom, please welcome him, and encourage him to join us for lawn bowling and/or croquet. If you have any issues or questions about the green, please contact Hans Peterson, our Vice President at [hanspeterson9000@gmail.com](mailto:hanspeterson9000@gmail.com), 978-929-9000.



Thank you to Jim Sparrow and Don Hester for installing the new handrail and step on to green in the NE corner.

It will be used and appreciated by many of our members.

The backboards (and wooden picnic tables) have been stained, thanks to great work by Brad McCourtney, Carol Barnard, Ilona Vrba, John Garton, and Graydon Bell. The stain will help preserve the wood, and make it easier to see the rink markers at night. Brad also donated towards the cost of this project. This was a big job; thank you all!





### Summer Schedule:

Organized jitneys for lawn bowling over the summer will continue to be at 10am on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Evening bowling will start at 7pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

Starting in May, croquet games will only be Thursday morning at 9am.

Please consider volunteering to be available and take responsibility to unlock/lock the facility. The summer schedule for lawn bowling and croquet organized games (jitneys) may be reduced if members are not responsible help maintain the security of the site. Note that if you know the combination, the facility is open to members at any time.

Please check the online calendar for the most up-to-date schedule:

<https://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com/calendar/>

### Activities/Events:

A fun "Bunny Bowl" event was held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Big thank you to Laurie Holder for organizing the games and donating the prizes. Congratulations to winners Lisa Pignataro who won for the best Easter Bonnet, and Bob Ferraro for the Bunny Roll! Honorable mention to John Garton for his innovative bunny ears!



Ilona Vrba organized another enjoyable dinner on April 9 at Brick's Smoked Meats ..... for 26 members!



Please mark your calendar for the next dinner, which will be on **Wednesday May 14**. An email will be sent about a week before the dinner to confirm the restaurant.

### **Membership Update:**

Our total number of members is now 68 ! Please welcome our newest members:

***Lisa Cuthbertson, Steve Cuthbertson, Tara Lamb,  
Sharon Murphy, Bev Peterson, Tom Stevens***

Note that our summer membership is just \$70/month for May 1 to Oct. 31.

### **Surrounds Maintenance:**

Thank you to all the hard-working members who have assisted Jim Sparrow with the maintenance on our site this past year. Unfortunately, we have had several people unable to work due to injury or surgery, and recently a couple have left for the summer. A big thank you to the 5 people who have recently volunteered to assist with maintenance on the surrounds; this is a huge help for the club! John Garton is kindly assisting with re-organizing the maintenance schedule.

Additionally, Hans Peterson has arranged for some free labor around our club from individuals who need some community service hours. Thank you to Hans and Jim for coordinating "Hans' Helpers".

Our new greenskeeper, Tom Hilferty generously repaired the irrigation system for the gardens. And thank you to Carol, Lisa and Ilona for all their work on the gardens.

### **Facility Updates:**

We are still working with the City of Sarasota for better solutions for restrooms, sidewalks, and a larger shed/clubhouse. Fingers crossed that we see some results for next season. Work is ongoing regarding exploring options for funding.

### **Croquet:**

Our summer croquet schedule will be every **Thursday 9-11am**, convened by Hans Peterson. If someone would like to play an addition day/time AND is willing to be the convener, please advise Sally or Hans. Convener duties include unlocking/locking shed & croquet equipment box, setting/breaking down court equipment, forming teams.



***Thank you to Hans !  
He has also offered to donate  
croquet equipment to the club!***

### Publicity:

We had a great TV interview on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with ABC7 as Lizzie learned how to play croquet. Even the camera man got involved!

<https://www.mysuncoast.com/video/2025/04/03/sarasota-lawn-bowling-club-suncoast-view-april-3rd-2025/>



### Coaching Corner:

Bowls USA has hinted at the possibility of free club coach courses next season; we will keep you posted. They also have provided a link to an excellent Resource Book for anything to do with lawn bowling: <https://www.bowlsusa.us/resource-ebook.html>

### Reminders:

- Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to game time to help set up the equipment, and give the convener time to make up the teams.
- Kindly be respectful when communicating with other bowlers. Our constitution states: "Members shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to be a credit to the Club and the game as a whole" .
- When locking the Pod and equipment shed, please push the metal bar across, & spin the dials!



### **Event Coordinator needed:**

We are looking for a coordinator (or two) for an SLBC program to offer lawn bowling events for community and corporate groups starting in the fall.

Details of the events may include (also listed on our website):

~\$25 per person for 2 hours, which includes all equipment, instruction, coaching during the game. Maximum number of participants: 32, minimum 10.

Coordinator would help schedule and oversee the events, and organize volunteers.

Please contact Sally Mills at [sgbell44@hotmail.com](mailto:sgbell44@hotmail.com) if you can assist.

### **Purchasing Equipment, Supplies, Clothing:**

Visit our website to order club clothing:

<https://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com/pro-shop/>

Club bowls are available for new members and guests.

Most members prefer to use the same bowls each time, and soon purchase their own set(s) of bowls. For advice on size and type of bowls, contact our club coach Rusty Hein. New bowls can be purchased on-line from:

<https://henseliteusa.com/home-usa>

<https://www.usataylorbowls.com>

<https://aerobowls-usa.com>

<https://www.drakesprideusa.com>

### **Accessories:**

Some lawn bowling supplies can be purchased from John Garton: [jgarton@acm.org](mailto:jgarton@acm.org), or bring your money to the green and the jitney leader will accept it.

- Taylor 11' Measures, blue \$32
- Grippio \$16
- Spray Chalk \$16

You can order a replacement Name Tag for \$7;

please contact Rusty Hein at [rustyhein@yahoo.com](mailto:rustyhein@yahoo.com).

*written by Sally Mills, edited by Ilona Vrba.*