



**Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club
Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, May 29th 2025
3:00 pm , by Zoom**

Attendance 75%

Present :

Sally Mills: President
Hans Peterson: Vice President
Mary Silverstein: Treasurer
Jeri Spann: Director of Education
Jim Sparrow: Director of Greens
Laurie Holder: Director of Tournaments

Regrets :

Ilona Vrba: Secretary, Director of Hospitality
John Garton: Director of Membership

Comments forwarded by Ilona.

Comments from Don from phone call with Sally morning of May 29th.

1. Intro – Sally

Welcome, and thank you to Ted B for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Our sympathies to Mary, and get well wishes for Jim.

Please maintain a respectful tone in emails and in person; we should be setting the example!

2. Approval of Minutes, BOD meeting dated April 11, 2025.

Motion to approve by Hans, seconded by Mary, approved by all.

3. Treasurer's Report – Mary

- Cash balances at the end of May were \$36,124.
- Action: Mary will order bowls with BUSA grant of \$770; agreed on size 0 and 000. If the \$770 will not cover the full cost of the bowls, Mary will look for a used set, although small used bowls are hard to come by.
- Action: Mary will check with Ted B re procedure, and send thank you letters for donations with income tax receipt. Agreed that President will also send a personal thank-you note.
- Action: Sally to thank Linda Loonam.
- Action: Mary will purchase physical locking mail box, mounting bracket, post and numbers, ~\$180. Jim will go with her to Lowe's to obtain a discount. Mary will change club mailing address to our physical address.

- Action: (forgot to mention this during the meeting) Mary to investigate the pros & cons of SLBC accepting credit card payments.

4. Membership

- Report is attached.
- Recent Learn to Bowl survey is attached.
- Recommend that we continue with similar program, and offer follow-up clinics.

5. Surrounds maintenance – Jim

- Thank you to Jim for obtaining Lowes donation of A/C unit & lights for shed. Jim says the electric connection is done, and Don will install the lights, and may be able to also install the A/C, which needs exhaust through the floor.
- Ilona reported new volunteers for June top dressing: Steve C., Steve F, Henriette
- Jim said Don has taken on all the maintenance, and is doing all the mowing: 3x/week, each time 2+ hours to finish mowing the property. Concern expressed that it is too much for him. Don says he is reluctant to train anyone else to use the big mower that is a "beast".
- Action: Hans suggested hiring someone for mowing the surrounds, and will ask Tom Hilferty for an estimate.
- "Hans' Helpers" have only come once.
- Gardens - from Ilona - beds are doing well. Minimal upkeep.

6. Green update – Hans/Sally

- See Tom's report to Sally.
- Action: Don will post Tom's contact information in Pod & Shed for emergencies.
- Action: Hans will ask Tom about controlling weeds around the green via spray or granules.
- Action: Hans to clarify the removal of the plugs from aerification process.
- Action: Hans to coordinate volunteers needed for June 22 top dressing; including start time and how long.
- The old roller will be returned to us as soon as the BJGC mechanic finishes some minor repairs. Apparently he is doing this on his own time.
- Tom asked if we would sell the 2001 walk-behind greens mower to the National Cemetery for \$1500, since they lend Tom equipment to maintain our green at no cost to us.
- Action: Hans to discuss with Tom *donating* the old mower to the National Cemetery in appreciation of the use of their equipment.
- Jim agreed that the new roller could go to storage at BJGC, but Sally had concerns, since we paid \$12,000+ a year ago for the roller.
- Action: Sally to contact Dave Wilson at Sun City Center LBC to see if their club is interested in buying it.

7. Facilities – Sally

- Discussion re keeping porta-potty during the summer. Ilona said keep for June, and re-evaluate monthly. John said to keep, can't reduce maintenance; already have minimum for summer (when flies are a problem). Agreed to keep for now.

- No reply from Jerry Fogle for update request on trailer restrooms, sidewalk, clubhouse for SLBC.
- Trash schedule – feedback from Don H: Mondays & Thursdays are pickup days, but (Brad who is Wednesday convener) puts bin out on Wednesdays. No need for Monday pick up now. Don keeps an eye on the bin, and puts it away after.
- Don H suggested putting mulch/wood chips along the fence by the big tree, as there is too much soft sand. He got the big mower stuck there a few days ago, and had to call Tom who pulled him out. Says Tom does not have source for free mulch, but Don will keep an eye out for a source.

8. Education & Player Development – Jeri

- Ilona's May Learn to Bowl class went well.
- Scheduled November 10, 12, 17, 19, 1-3pm by Jan/Nick, and 6-8pm by Sally/Graydon thru ACE.
- (Note unfortunate conflict with SLBC monthly dinner Nov. 12, but Ilona kindly said she will reschedule to Nov. 5.).
- Ilona suggested adding extra lesson for just croquet (5 in total). Sally says this works well at her Ontario club, where students have option to attend croquet lesson, or not. Hans offered to help with croquet lesson.
- Action: Jeri & Sally to discuss croquet dates, and Jeri to discuss with ACE.
- Action: Sally & Jeri to work on Standardized Learn to Bowl program; Ilona offered to edit.
- Action: Sally to ask Cindy Higgins at Sun City Center LBC if she would be able to do an (outdoor) clinic at our club.
- Action: Sally & Hans will arrange bowling and croquet clinics in the fall.

9. Special/Community Events –

- Received requests to host one-time bowling events for community/organizations (Ted/Cornell, Laurie's golf group, new golf group, the Meadows). Need to finalize details; see attached sample flyer from Ontario club.
- Action: Jeri will approach Chandler's Ford in the Meadows for either one-time event, or for a special 4-lesson Learn to Bowl program just for the Meadows.
- Action: Sally to contact Ted W re approaching Glen Oaks.

10. Tournaments & Competitions – Laurie/John

- Confirmed:
 - Jan 10 - Open Pairs –
 - name suggestions from Ilona: "Return of the SLBC", SLBC Rolls Again". Agreed that it must be an "above-average" tournament.
 - Jan 31 - Australian Pairs – name suggested by Ilona "Down Under Pairs"
 - March 21 - Gerry Smith Triples
- Action: Laurie to determine entry fee & COP for John to create online registration.
- Action: Sally to send Laurie historic dates for club championships.
- Action: Laurie to discuss Tournament Director position with Ted B. and Rick Holder
- Action: Sally to explore securing tournament sponsors.

- Action: Laurie to consider offering (basic/fun) in-house tournament for the fall (for new members).
- Action: Laurie to consider evening pairs league (for Jan-Feb?). Graydon can assist with design.

11. Croquet – Hans

- Action: Hans to arrange training clinics in fall/winter.
- Will consider in-house 'derby'.
- Will reset wickets regularly, and will fill holes. Tees have been removed. Note that the recent extra large holes were from Tom's soil samples!
- Missing set of secondary-colored balls; probably in Sally's FL garage.

12. Hospitality – Ilona

Bunny Bowl was successful, no one stayed for lunch.

No other events planned for summer due to low attendance, about 8-10/day.

13. Communications/Newsletter

- Action: Sally to do monthly newsletter, with input from Sue & edits by Ilona.
- Re shared scheduling app, Ilona reported that Roger gave her the name of the app used in NY. It is list without categories. Would prefer app that better organizes responses.
- Action: Sally to investigate shared scheduling app.
- New member **Eric Martin** has offered to do social media postings for us.
- Action: Sally to ask Eric to be part of the social media team, and submit material to her for posting.

14. Fundraising – Sally

- BUSA grant (see Treasurer's report)
- No interest in Silent Auction or Rummage Sale by Board.
- Agreement that offering Community Events (see #8 above) would be less work and more viable.
- See #9, Sally to explore acquiring tournament sponsors.

15. Publicity – Sally

- Mike Modrick segment on "Discovering the Suncoast" aired April 30th

16. Other business -

- Sally's related her phone call from Daniel Jittu, April 30/25. Amongst other things, he said that we are welcome to use the old Bayfront greens if needed for a tournament. We have no current need, but Hans may need them for his croquet club.
- Ilona says supplies for sale are in file cabinet, as is blue locked box. Mary will make sure the blue box is kept locked.

17. Next meeting: Monday, July 7, 3pm via Zoom

SLBC BOD Agenda

Thursday, May 29, 3pm via Zoom

1. Intro - Sally

2. Approval of Minutes

3. Treasurer's Report – Mary

- generous donation from Linda Loonan
- ordering bowls & BUSA grant report
- club mailing address

4. Membership – John

- survey summary & recommendations

5. Surrounds maintenance – Jim

- Lowes donation of A/C unit & lights for shed (value, installation, thank you letter)
- summer schedule & volunteers update
- "Hans' Helpers" feedback
- old roller delivery from BJGC?
- Gardens (via Ilona)

6. Green update – Hans (& Don?)

- condition improved?
- feedback on Tom Hilferty's work
- top dressing & aeration schedule
- results of soil testing

7. Facilities – Sally

- keep porta-potty this summer?
- shade umbrellas, hand-washing station - Ilona
- update from Jerry Fogle re trailer restrooms, sidewalk, clubhouse

8. Education – Jeri

- report on May Learn to Bowl class - Ilona
- other summer programs?
- scheduling November 10, 12, 17, 19, 1-3pm by Jan/Nick, and 6-8pm by Sally/Graydon thru ACE, will include short croquet lesson. (Note unfortunate conflict with SLBC monthly dinner Nov. 12)
- proposal for standardized Learn to Bowl program - Sally

9. Special Events –

- offer to host bowling events for community/organizations
- need coordinator
- need to finalize details
- see email from Ted B below, and sample flyer

10. Tournaments – Laurie/John

Confirm:

Jan 10 - Open Pairs - name? "Re-opening of SLBC?"

Jan 31 - Australian Pairs - name?

March 21 - Gerry Smith Triples

-entry fee & COP?

-Tournament Director?

-tournament sponsors? Lowes? Ask if member wishes to sponsor/name the tournament?

-in-house tournaments for the fall

-evening pairs league – summer/fall/winter?

11. Croquet – Hans

-National Croquet Day, Sat. June 7 event?

- training clinics in fall/winter
- fall evening league?
- in-house 'derby'?
- invitation to SCCC members for fun event?

12. Hospitality – Ilona

13. Communications/Newsletter –
- shared scheduling app - Ilona/John?
 - social media & Eric Martin - Ilona?

14. Fundraising – Sally

- BUSA grant - Mary
- Silent Auction for Jan 2026?
- sponsors for tournaments/events/leagues?

15. Publicity – Sally

- Mike Modrick segment on “Discovering the Suncoast” aired April 30th
- local HOA's - Ted W & Jeri

16. Other business -

- Sally's conversation with Daniel Jittu

17. Next meeting: Mary suggested early in the month, although the beginning of July is not good for me. Possibly June 27th?

From Ted B, April 18/25:

I'd like to confirm details for two Intro to Lawn Bowling outings that Judy and I are pitching. These clubs need general info from us at this point as to available dates, times, outing duration and cost. I know we have our jitneys, a growing calendar of croquet events and other club events that Sally is fostering. **Can I use the details below as a starting point with these clubs?** The club organizers will be voting on events that make the cut within the next few weeks I need to respond pretty quickly. Let me know.


1. Cornell Club of Sarasota and Manatee County

- Capacity: minimum of 12, maximum of 20 players
- Duration: 2 hr session with SLBC coaches
- Fee: SLBC to charge \$25 per head and agrees to provide chilled bottle water and some kind of energy bar, trail mix or other energy snack
- Cornell Club to choose a date in November, December, Jan, Feb or March. With start time of 10 am if Tuesday or Thursday and 7 pm if Monday or Wednesday
- FYI the Cornell club generally cuts a check for \$200 (over and above the per head charge) to organizer i.e., SLB

2. Sequel (Sarasota County Social Club members that completed there 5 year term in New Sarasotans and have now graduated to Sequel). E.g., Valerie Wilson and Judy Beilman are both members of Sequel

- Capacity: minimum of 12, maximum of 20 players
- Duration: 2 hr session with SLBC coaches
- Fee: SLBC to charge \$25 per head and agrees to provide chilled bottle water and some kind of energy bar or trail mix available
- Sequel to choose a date in November, December, Jan, Feb or March. With start time of 10 am if Tuesday or Thursday and 7 pm if Monday or Wednesday

Let me know. Thanks Ted B

From: Sally Mills sgbell44@hotmail.com 
Subject: conversation with SLBC greenskeeper Tom Hilferty
Date: May 27, 2025 at 9:51 PM
To: Hans Peterson hanspeterson9000@gmail.com, ilona16v@gmail.com, Mary Silverstein marysilverstein@comcast.net,
John Garton johngarton@icloud.com, Jim Sparrow jimsparrow1954@gmail.com, Jeri Spann jeri.spann@gmail.com,
Laurie & Rick Holder hillslr@aol.com
Cc: Don Hester dthjth@hotmail.com

SM

Tom called me today (May 27) to give me an update on our green. Below is his report, in my words. **Note that the green will be closed June 21 & 22.**
We can discuss at our meeting on Thursday.
Thanks,
Sally

Overall condition of the green:
-3/4 of the green is good
-the center is bad, with bare patches
-said aerating will help

Soil Testing:
-was done today
-will get results in about 10 days

Irrigation system:
-discovered that each head needs fully charged 9v battery to operate properly. All have been replaced with better quality batteries.
-one head is incorrectly turning on at 10:30am, even though it is programmed differently. Tom will ask Ian Murphy at BJGC for advice on fixing it.

Fertilizing:
-3 (free) applications already, which need to be well watered in
-one application done early on May 26, but someone turned off the irrigation system (see above), so there may be some damage to the green.
-Tom must be told if the irrigation is turned off, and/or if there are any other issues with the green
Tom Hilferty
941-232-1642

Other Chemicals:
-doesn't think pesticides are required at the moment, and he will control weeds with herbicide
(I forgot to ask him about controlling the weeds on the surrounds)

Aerification:
-scheduled for Sat., June 21
-Tom will arrange for his own helper(s), and borrowed equipment
-he will use our metal mat attachment to run over the plugs to release the sand (therefore needing less topdressing), and blow the rest of the plugs off the green



LOOKING FOR A FUN EVENT

- Staff party?
- Friendly get together?
- Special event?
- No particular reason?

GIVE *LAWN BOWLING* A TRY

Muskoka Lawn Bowling Club is a not-for-profit organization offering a gentle, outdoor exercise for all ages and an opportunity to socialize in a fun and relaxing atmosphere.

- \$20 per person for 2 hours of bowling fun! (Minimum \$200 total)
- All equipment provided. Simply dress comfortably and wear running shoes.
- Coaches on hand to provide initial instruction and on-going assistance.
- We can accommodate groups up to 48 people
- Open – May to October
- c/o Muskoka Highlands Golf Course, 1036 South Monck Drive, Bracebridge

CONTACT US:

705-706-1885

marasmelterswier@gmail.com

visit www.muskokabowls.ca



John Garton

SLBC - Membership Report - 5/29/25

To: Sally Mills and G Mills, Peterson Hans, ILONA VRBA, Silverstein Mary, Jeri Spann, Jim Sparrow, Laurie Holder

Inbox - Gmail.1 May 27, 2025 at 2:35 PM

Hi All:

Membership Report:

66 Full Year Members, and 1 more (Eric Martin) awaiting final payment.

2 active Summer Monthly Members

Tournaments:

I will be able to create and monitor the web tournament sign-in pages for our three tournaments next season.

Suggested dates are:

Jan 10, 2026 - Open Pairs

Jan 31 - Australian Pairs

March 21 - Gerry Smith Triples

All are on Saturdays.

Thanks,

-John

SLBC Revenue and Expenses April 2025 - Cash Basis		
Category	4/1/2025-4/30/2025	Notes
INCOME		
Annual membership fees	\$990.00	Carol Barnard, Tom Stevens, Stephen and Lisa Cuthbertson, Sharon Murphy, Bev Peterson
Bank interest	\$60.49	Earning 2.2%
Club Events	\$120.00	Easter Bunny
Daily playing fees	\$230.00	
Donation	\$610.00	Tom Stevens \$500
Fifty - fifty draw	\$55.00	
President's draw	\$70.00	
Shirts sales	\$15.00	
Summer Membership	\$220.00	Tara Lamb, Eric Martin (partial)
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,370.49	
EXPENSES		
Business fees & licenses	\$58.05	Go Daddy (Website backup and .com Renewal)
Maintenance - greens	\$1,790.50	Includes Sean for March and bedknife/reel sharpening
Maintenance - greens equipment	\$29.91	Gas
Maintenance supplies	\$104.50	Corona Lopper, Galv Pipe, Cap & Flange
Rental Expenses	\$439.10	PODS \$189.10, Clean Cans \$250
Utilities	\$62.16	FPL
Waste	\$42.86	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,527.08	
OVERALL NET TOTAL	(\$156.59)	

SLBC Statement of Funds as of 4.30.25		
Account	4/30/2025 Balance	Notes if applicable
Bank Accounts		
BayFirst Checking Account	\$3,887.49	
BayFirst Money Market Account	<u>\$33,180.89</u>	
TOTAL Bank Accounts	<u>\$37,068.38</u>	
Liability Accounts		
TOTAL Liability Accounts	<u>\$0.00</u>	
OVERALL TOTAL	<u>\$37,068.38</u>	
Income Pending	\$1,428.00	ACE 2/24-3/6 \$867, ACE 3/24-4/2 \$561
Outstanding Checks	\$0.00	
Future Checks (EPM/Sean)	\$2,656.90	April Maint + Inventory Early Termination

From: John Garton johnwgarton@icloud.com
Subject: SLBC - Member Survey Results - April 2025
Date: April 29, 2025 at 2:27 PM
To: Mills Sally sgbel44@hotmail.com, Peterson Hans hanspeterson9000@gmail.com, Vrba Ilona ilona16v@gmail.com, Silverstein Mary marysilverstein@comcast.net, Spann Jeri jeri.spann@gmail.com, Sparrow Jim Jimsparrow1954@gmail.com, Holder Laurie hillslr@aol.com



Hi All:

In general very high marks from the membership. 36 responses of about 60 members queried, so a little over 50% response rate. That is good. Note that some questions were skipped so not all totals add up to 36.

Thanks,
-John

1. Is this your first year as a member of the club?

Yes 13

No 21

2. What best describes how you participate in the club?

Only lawn bowling 23

Lawn bowling and occasional croquet 6

About equal lawn bowling and croquet 5

Croquet and occasional lawn bowling 0

Croquet only 0

3. Will you participate in the club over the summer?

Yes 18

No 17

4. If YES, please indicate which sport(s) you will participate in over the summer:

Lawn Bowling 12

Croquet 0

Both 5

5. If YES, and are willing to assist with occasional maintenance at the facility over the summer, please fill in your name:

Jim Sparrow

Ted Wilson

Ted Beilman

Sue Lindstrom

Don Hester

Rusty Hein

Audrey Scalzitti