



Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club

## *Clippings from the Green*

Summer 2025

### President's Preamble:

I am writing this from our lake house in Ontario. I haven't lawn bowled yet this summer (!), but have been playing croquet several times a week - between plenty of family time. There is still lots of lawn bowling at the Sarasota club this summer, and I am very grateful to all those who have been organizing games, and working hard to maintain the grounds and green over the summer. Thank you for sending all the photos!

### The Green:

Thank you to Don Hester, Ted Wilson, and Mark Cruey, who have been rolling the green weekly. The much-preferred refurbished 'old' roller was returned by Bobby Jones Golf Course, and our 'new' wider roller is being stored at the club until we can find a buyer.

Our greenskeeper, Tom Hilferty, has spent a great deal of time working on our green, but it has been a struggle to improve the playing surface. Tom has had an on-going battle with weeds, bugs, fungus, and the irrigation system. Tom has applied herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and fertilizers, and had the irrigation system repaired. He has aerated and top dressed the green, with kind assistance from a few of our members. And finally, the large pile of sand has disappeared from the parking lot! Now, we wait and expect that the green begins to improve soon.....





### **Bowling Green Turf Management Town Hall by Bowls USA, evening of August 6:**

Brad Porter, Managing Director of Teamsters Turf Consulting in Australia, will be visiting the U.S. this August. He is bringing world-class turf expertise with him ! With over 35 years of experience, Brad provides consultancy services nationally and internationally to bowling clubs, local councils and sporting bodies - offering guidance on turf performance, long-term planning, and sustainability.

Brad will join a special Bowls USA online Town Hall on *Wednesday, August 6*, where he'll share insights on top-tier greenkeeping and modern turf management for lawn bowls.

Planning to attend? Email: [secretary@bowlsusa.org](mailto:secretary@bowlsusa.org)

<https://www.bowlsusa.us/>

### **Social Media:**

Thank you to Eric Martin, who has kindly prepared several postings for social media for SLBC. Eric has provided videos on the recent aeration and top-dressing work done on the green. This important work helps to improve the quality, level and speed of the playing surface.

### **Surrounds Maintenance & Gardens:**

Thank you to the excellent work by Don Hester, and Jim Sparrow (prior to his shoulder surgery), and their volunteers for all the many, many hours of mowing and maintaining of the 3 acres that we are responsible for. Recently, Hans Peterson made an arrangement through our greenskeeper Tom to hire a company to maintain the surrounds for us, especially during the brutally hot summer. I can imagine that Don is not missing all that work!



Ilona Vrba is coordinating the maintenance of the gardens.

Carol Barnard and Jim Sparrow donated and spread more mulch to help keep the weeds in check. Thank you!

### Club Equipment:

Please ensure that all club equipment is returned to its proper place when you leave the facility....and that bowls used are returned to the proper bin and shelf. Recently the posts at the end of the driveway and part of the wood rail fence were knocked down. Hans Peterson is arranging the installation of a gate across the driveway; **please ensure that the gate is closed if you are the last to leave.**

### Learn to Lawn Bowl Programs:

Thank you to Ilona Vrba and Rusty Hein for organizing the May program. They had 12 participants, and we hope some will join as new members.

Two more Learn to Bowl programs are being planned for November, and we plan to reach out to local neighborhoods to arrange for them to give it a try.

### Membership:

The club now has 69 full time members! Please welcome our newest members:

Lisa Pignataro  
Eric Martin  
Randi Incardona  
Tony Incardona

### Donations and Facility Improvements:

There have been lots of facility improvements that have quietly been going on at the club, thanks to the initiative and generous donations by, or arranged by, our members:

- Lights and air conditioning for the maintenance shed, donated by Lowe's, arranged by Jim Sparrow.
- Scoreboard for 4-3-2-1 made and donated by Carol Barnard.
- New lockable mailbox on-site arranged and installed by Mary Silverstein, assisted by Lisa Pignataro, paid for by the club.
- Hose storage racks donated by Don Hester
- Financial donations from Linda Loonam and Tom Stevens



- Steve Rezdenes donated an umbrella, and Eric Martin donated a motion sensor light for inside the pod



### Sarasota Parks & Recreation Department:

We are cautiously optimistic that the City may be installing sidewalks around (part of) the green for us later this summer. This has not been confirmed, but we are hopeful. We still do not have confirmation that we will have flush toilets eventually, but it is encouraging that the City is trying to improve our site.

### Equipment:

Thank you to Ted Beilman for the successful grant application from BowlsUSA, and to Mary Silverstein for handling the purchase of two sets of club bowls, size 0 and 000. Unfortunately, we had a large unexpected “import tax” of \$280 on the bowls that were manufactured in the UK....



### Coaching - Etiquette & Rules of Play Reminders:

1. Please turn your cellphones OFF or on VIBRATE when on the green and refrain from texting or calling to prevent disturbing players or slowing pace of play.

2. To begin play at each end, the first player places the mat a minimum of 2 meters (approx. 6') from the rear ditch.
3. Stay at least 6 feet behind the mat while waiting your turn to bowl.
4. Stand still and be quiet while a player is on the mat.
5. Be aware of your shadow. Do not let it fall on the jack or in front of the mat when a player is about to bowl.
6. Remember that as soon as your bowl comes to rest, possession of the mat and rink returns to your opponent. It is recommended that you stay on the mat and watch your bowl until it comes to rest and then leave the mat. Watch your skip for feedback!
7. Shaking hands/fist bumps before and after play is part of the fine tradition of the game.

### Croquet:

Golf croquet will resume in the fall. This game is easy to learn but it is challenging to master the accuracy and strategy of skilled players. The SLBC website has information on golf croquet basics along with some instructional videos. [www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com](http://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com)

### For Sale:

Henselite size #2 bowls with carrier - \$125.  
Call Ted Wilson at 248-342-4838.



### Volunteer Position open for fall 2025:

Events Coordinator – the club would like to offer one-time lawn bowling events for community and corporate groups. This program will generate revenue, and may attract new members. The coordinator will reach out to HOA's and other groups to advertise our program, coordinate dates, volunteer coaches, etc. See *draft* flyer below. Please contact Sally Mills (sgbell44@hotmail.com) if you would be able to help out.

### Meet for dinner – Aug. 13

The monthly club dinners continue on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Please mark your calendars for August 13 @ 6pm. An e-mail will be sent out the week before with details.



**Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club**  
**951 Circus Blvd.**  
Sarasota, FL

## **LOOKING FOR A FUN EVENT?**

- Group event
- Staff party
- Special occasion
- Get-together with Family or Friends

## **GIVE **LAWN BOWLING** A TRY!**

The Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club is a non-profit organization offering an easy-to-learn, low-impact activity suitable for all ages and abilities. Come and socialize in a fun and relaxing atmosphere!

- \$25 per person for 2 hours of bowling fun! (Minimum \$250 total)
- All equipment provided.
- Dress comfortably and wear running shoes.
- Coaches on hand to provide initial instruction and on-going assistance.
- We can accommodate groups up to 36 people.

Contact us:

Phone  
Email  
Address  
website