



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

**Tuesday, August 5th 2025
3:00 pm , by Zoom**

Attendance 75%

Present :

Sally Mills: President

Hans Peterson: Vice President (Joined in progress)

Mary Silverstein: Treasurer

John Garton: Director of Membership

Jeri Spann: Director of Education

Laurie Holder: Director of Tournaments

Regrets :

Jim Sparrow: Director of Greens

Ilona Vrba: Secretary, Director of Hospitality

1. Intro – Sally

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

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

2. Approval of Minutes, BOD meeting dated July 7th, 2025.

Motion to approve by John, seconded by Laurie, approved by all.

3. Treasurer's Report – Mary

- Cash balances - July cash balance decreased \$7,450 from \$34,907 to \$27,457. There was very little bowling and many of bills to pay, some were timing for catch up. Tom Hilferty wanted to be paid in 15 vs 30 days so the club had to pay 2 months' worth to catch up. Income this month was from two new members joining. Mary donated \$63 toward the mailbox decal and solar lights. Full report attached. Mary will provide Aug – Dec projections next meeting.
- Insurance – Through Mary's efforts, 2025 Insurance premiums will be \$343 lower this year. Based on the City's current requirements, we were able to drop non non-owned and hired auto, since we don't own or lease vehicles, and board members are not covered driving personal cars. We had to keep fire/property at \$500k, and add a waiver of subrogation in addition to listing the City as additional insured.
- **Credit Card Processing** – John researched many of the major Payment Service Providers, including Square, Stripe, and Halcim.
 - John recommends Square as the best fit for the club.
 - There is no monthly cost.
 - Square handles all PCI requirements, and our site has an SSL certificate. We will not store any card information on our site.
 - Cost for on-line membership fee transactions will be 3.3% + \$0.30 per transaction. So asking for a \$10 convenience fee from members for card payment will be a break-even.
 - Square has a free POS Android and iPhone/iPad app that will allow us to accept Tap payments for things like tournament fees, etc. That cost is 2.6% + \$0.15 per transaction. We will likely not pass along the fees for these charges.

- One note of caution, Square has the right to freeze the account if their algorithms detect anything they feel is fraudulent activity. We do take in almost all our money in one month. Hopefully this will not be an issue.
- **Credit Card Processing Vote:** John proposed a resolution – The board directs Mary and John to engage with Square and connect it to our website and bank account so we can begin to collect membership fees, class fees, donations, etc. by card. This was seconded by Sally. Passed unanimously (Hans had not yet joined the meeting).

4. Fundraising – Sally

- The Giving Challenge – Starts next year. Ilona has handled this in past years. We should make sure she has help. This needs a named coordinator who will organize the social media program, & attend training sessions, probably Ilona.
- Tournaments/League sponsorships – A draft request for businesses was circulated to the board by Sally. We need suggestions for what businesses to approach. Sally will send out the letters.
- Community Events. - **We need a coordinator.** There are volunteer names for this committee on the Members Only section of the website who would be willing to help with these. A draft events flier was circulated to the board by Sally.

5. Membership – John

We have 69 Full Year Members.

Two new members are Randi and Tony Incardona.

We have one pending application.

Next meeting a simplified fee structure will be presented to the board for the 2026 season. It will have 3 fee levels, full price \$295 from November through March, a reduced fee from April through June, and for July through the end of the season we can use Hans' idea of a summer fee that is applicable to next fall's yearly membership. Learn to Lawn Bowl class alumni would be entitled to \$15 reduction from these fees.

Website - John is working on adding some more photos and some movement to the website, and will be adding a button to pay by credit card via Square. We can accept any number of fixed fees. When this is working successfully, we can add a button to take donations of any amount.

6. Green update – Hans

Hans is meeting with Tom Hilferty weekly. The green continues to improve. Tom is confident the green will be in good shape the coming season. Plugs will be taken from the edges of the green and placed into the areas that need repair. This will be done as soon as the equipment arrives, perhaps by this weekend. The weeds are now under control.

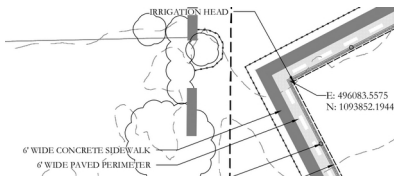
One sprinkler head may need to be replaced, estimated cost \$500. Hans will inquire about any warranty that may exist on them.

7. Surrounds maintenance – Hans

Free mulch has been delivered and will be spread during the season. Once the weeds are down the mulch should keep the weeds manageable with minimal spraying.

8. Facilities – Hans/John/Sally

Sally said the sidewalk is still out for bids by the city. They can't afford to do the pavers too. They were talking about artificial turf as a substitute. The original plan approved by the City calls for pavers next to the green, and the sidewalk outside that. Each 6' wide.



Drawing from page 5, the Site Plan, approved by the City. Paved sidewalk refers to pavers.

Sally will ask if we can have the sidewalk placed against the green, and the artificial turf or perhaps mulch placed outside that.

Recently the chain fence was hit, damaging the entry posts. Hans has a new Gate and hardware to replace the chain. He will determine if the existing posts are ok to reuse, or if we need new ones. He will try to get a worker to help install the gate, perhaps as early as this weekend or next week.

In a separate incident, about 5 sections of our fence were heavily damaged. Thanks to Lisa for doing some good cleanup and partial repair with the salvageable parts. John will send an email to the individual who emailed the club that week and inquired “who the owner of the fence was”, and ask for a “donation” of \$250 the pay for new material to complete the repair.

9. Education – Jeri

Confirmed **ACE classes November 10, 12, 17, 19, 1-3pm & 6-8pm**. Jerry Fogle placed this in the current Parks & Rec Newsletter and will place it in the Fall one too.

Saturday “Give Lawn Bowling a Try” drop-in sessions for the general public will begin again in the fall, likely starting at 10:00 am (rather than at 9:00 am as before).

Though no ACE Learn to Lawn Bowl courses are being scheduled after the two in November, there is interest in perhaps offering an additional Learn to Lawn Bowl course in early 2026 for nearby residents of condo associations like Glen Oaks and Chandlers Forde

Jeri asked that we have a written summary of the curriculum.

10. Tournaments & League – Laurie/John

We plan a **Welcome Back Tournament. November 8th**. Feature will be a pot luck lunch. Bowl first in morning 10am-12pm followed by lunch.

We plan a **Pro/Am Tournament November 22nd**. Class members from the two November classes would be encouraged to play as the amateurs, paired with an experienced club member. Bowling 10am-12noon. We could order sandwiches paid for by the club for lunch after, and a few volunteer members provide desert, everyone brings their own drinks.

We confirmed **SED Tournaments:**

- Jan 10 - Open Pairs
- Jan 31 - Australian Pairs
- March 21 - Gerry Smith Triples

We discussed an **Evening Pairs League**, 7pm Jan 15th – March 5th

11. Croquet – Hans/Sally

Hans would like a public event for Croquet, to introduce the game to potential members. TBD on the day. He may be able to get some coaches from Venice for the event.

12. Hospitality – No Report

13. Communications – Sally

We agreed give Eric Martin access to our Instagram account, to create draft copy to be published on approval.

14. Other Business - None

Next meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 3pm via Zoom

15. The meeting was adjourned at 4:24pm.

Submitted by John Garton in Ilona Vrba's absence.

Attachment:

SLBC BOD Agenda

Tuesday, August 5, 3pm

1. Approval of Minutes

2. Treasurer's Report – Mary

- credit card payments
- insurance update

3. Fundraising – Sally/Ilona

a) Giving Challenge – April 2026

- need coordinator who will organize the social media program, & attend training sessions; Ilona? With Eric's help?

b) Tournament/league sponsorship opportunity, see draft covering letter. Can be included in newsletter.

c) Community events - host bowling events for community/organizations as way to raise funds, NOT to attract new members. **Need coordinator**, finalize details, add to website, and publicize on social media & newsletter. *See attached draft flyer.*

4. Membership – John

- summer attendance?
- website update?
- recommended fees for 2025/26

5. Green update – Hans

6. Surrounds maintenance – Jim/Hans

- new mulch?
- gardens - Ilona

7. Facilities – Hans/John/Sally

- fence repair
- driveway posts repair
- trailer restrooms; no updates
- sidewalks - from Jerry Fogle, July 29. (Note sidewalks are to be 6' wide, PLUS 6' of pavers/artificial turf.)

- “The lowest quote for the sidewalks was \$35,000+
- The team is soliciting quotes for **artificial turf** between the concrete and lawn bowling green. Pavers is not an option due to cost.

I will let you know if we will be able to move forward with the concrete sidewalks around the lawn bowling green, along with the artificial turf between the lawn bowling green and concrete sidewalks. We may also need to go through permitting.”

8. Education – Jeri

- confirmed ACE classes November 10, 12, 17, 19, 1-3pm & 6-8pm, will include extra croquet lesson. Jerry Fogle agreed to include notice of these classes in the Parks & Rec fall newsletter, info has been sent to him, and he already had it published in the summer newsletter!
- FYI, the Sarasota CROQUET Club has also started offering croquet lessons through ACE
- Sally to update Learn to Bowl online program
- Sally to confirm with Cindy Higgins re lawn bowling clinic for SLBC

9. Tournaments & League – Laurie/John

Confirm and provide details for website:

- November - Welcome back fun tournament?
- Jan 10 - Open Pairs Jan 31 - Australian Pairs
- March 21 - Gerry Smith Triples
- need Tournament Director?
- fun/in-house tournament(s) for the fall (pair new member with experienced member)?
- evening pairs league – summer/fall/winter? Need coordinator

10. Croquet – Hans/Sally

11. Hospitality – Ilona

- November welcome back fun event?

12. Communications –

- social media & **Eric Martin**/Instagram
- need Newsletter editor**
- Parks & Rec newsletter

13. Other business -

Next meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 3pm via Zoom

Financial Report:

July cash balance decreased \$7,450 from \$34,907 to \$27,457. There was very little bowling and a lot of bills to pay, some were timing for catch up. Tom wanted to be paid in 15 vs 30 days so I had to pay 2 months' worth to catch up.

Attached is a one page summary for both the income statement and balance sheet.

We had income of \$386, mostly driven by Randy & Tony Incardona's pro-rated membership payment.

We had expenses of \$7,836 driven by the following:

\$5,300 to Suncoast Spray Solutions/Tom Hilferty for 2 months of greens maintenance for catch up, 1 month of surround, spraying for nematodes & fire ants, and 4 mechanic labor hours

\$1,311 for total cost of 2 sets of new bowls (\$279 was surprise customs fee); this is offset with \$770 grant money we received in May (next year club should apply for maximum \$1,000)

Recurring monthly expenses for PODS (2 months @ \$189 for catch up), Clean Cans \$250, Waste \$43, FPL \$35

New mailbox net cost \$210 - total was \$274 but I donated \$63 for custom decal and solar lights to keep cost near \$200 estimated

Outstanding Items:

\$612 income from ACE - I invoiced ACE 7/2 for May classes, and emailed a reminder 8/4

Insurance payments of \$3,144 are due in August (GL \$1,831, D&O \$1,313)

If anyone is interested, I added a 2nd tab in the attached Excel workbook for a year to date summary by month, and compared this to the annual budget Ted presented. Year to date cash has decreased \$14,786 vs. Ted's budget estimate to decrease \$11,488 for the whole year. By the next meeting I am going to try to forecast Aug-Dec by month and update the annual estimate for 2025. I know 2026 is the Giving Challenge (\$20,000 estimated) so 2025 is expected to be negative but 2026 will be positive. His analysis estimated the cash balance to be \$29,012 at the end of 2025 and that we need 80-85 members to breakeven.

SLBC Income Statement July 2025 (Cash Basis)

7/1/2025-
7/31/2025

Notes

INCOME:

Annual membership fees	\$270.00	Randy & Tony Incardona pro-rated
Bank interest	\$52.74	
Donations	\$63.30	Mary donated/paid for mailbox decal, solar lights
TOTAL INCOME	\$386.04	

EXPENSES:

Bowls Purchase	\$1,311.30	2 sets new bowls \$1021.73, PayPal \$10.22, UPS import fees \$279.35 (Grant money applied/received \$770)
Maintenance - greens	\$5,300.00	Jun/Jul @ \$2000 each, \$200 4 mechanic hours, \$600 nematodes, \$200 fireants, \$300 monthly surround
Maintenance - greens equipment	\$244.00	Wesco Turf irrigation svc call \$119, sprinkler heads not working, replaced battery in Tempest controller \$125
Office Supplies	\$274.55	\$210.15 net cost, \$63.30 Mary donated/paid for mailbox decal, solar lights; \$1.10 address change USPS
Rental Expenses	\$628.20	Clean Cans \$250, PODS \$189.10 * 2 months for catch up
Utilities	\$35.37	
Waste	\$42.86	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,836.28	
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$7,450.24)	

SLBC Balance Sheet as of 7.31.25

	7/31/2025 Balance	Notes
Bank Accounts		
BayFirst Checking Account	\$2,105.82	
BayFirst Money Market Account	\$25,351.27	
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$27,457.09	
Liability Accounts	\$0.00	
TOTAL Liability Accounts	<u>\$0.00</u>	
OVERALL TOTAL	\$27,457.09	

<i>Income Pending ACE for May classes</i>	\$612.00	<i>Invoiced ACE 7/2</i>
<i>August GL and D&O insurance due</i>	<i>(\$3,144.00)</i>	<i>GL \$1831, D&O \$1313</i>