



Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club

Clippings from the Green

September-October 2025



President's Preamble:

Thank you to all the work that has been going on at the club over the summer by hard-working volunteers. Graydon and I are looking forward to returning to Sarasota in early November. See you then!

Sally Mills

The Green:

Work continues on our green. Greenskeeper Tom Hilferty is still struggling with issues with our temperamental irrigation system. Failing batteries in the head controllers and debris in the reclaimed water that constantly clog the sprinkler heads are ongoing challenges. One of the heads blew recently, causing damage to the green. Thank you to Jim Sparrow and Tom for repairing the damage. Work has begun on a new underground filter to remove debris from the reclaimed water. Updates to the irrigation system will be performed after that project is complete.

Tom has moved healthy plugs of sod to the bare areas, and is waiting for them to spread and fill in. Verticutting and new grass plugs have resulted in some signs of improvement on the green.

Fungicide is currently being applied to combat the algae on the green.

REMINDER: ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER BOWLING!
Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers are regularly applied to our green.

Thank you to **Ted Wilson & Mark Cruey** for routine rolling of the green.



In Memorium:

Ellen McRanor, April 1940 to September 2025. We will all miss this kind, gentle lady. Warm hugs to husband Jim, and to their family.

New Members:

Please welcome our newest members:

Tad Morris
April Dalton-Noblitt
Steven Rezendes
John Scalzitti



Membership Renewals:

We are excited that November 1st will begin our new 2025-26 lawn bowling season! About two weeks from now we will send out reminders to all members that your membership renewal is due by November 1. Membership dues will continue to be \$295. For your convenience we have added the ability to pay by credit/debit card, and Apple/Google Pay when you renew online.

Etiquette Reminder:

Lawn bowling has many rules, as well as lots of etiquette tips that help the game run smoothly. Kindly take a moment to review the following:

<https://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SLBC-ETIQUETTE-FOR-LAWN-BOWLERS.pdf>



Learn to Lawn Bowl Program:

Thank you to Jeri Spann for organizing two Learn to Lawn Bowl programs through the Adult & Community Enrichment (ACE) at the Suncoast Technical College:

November 10, 12, 17, 19 at either 1-3pm or 6-8pm.

New this season – we will include a brief introduction to golf croquet at no extra cost!

Non-members registration link:

<https://www.campusce.net/acesarasota/course/course.aspx?catId=172>

Members who joined over the summer, or just want a refresher are also welcome to take the program at no cost; contact Sally Mills at sgbell44@hotmail.com and indicate which time you would prefer to attend.

Volunteer coaches will be needed for both programs.

If you can assist, please contact Jeri Spann at jeri.spann@gmail.com

Club Happenings:

- **Saturday Nov. 8, 10am-noon.** Welcome back fun tournament, and potluck lunch.
- **Saturday Nov. 22, 9am-1pm.** Congratulations to our Learn to Lawn Bowl Graduates! This Pro-Am fun event will pair new bowlers with experienced bowlers. Lunch will be provided by SLBC.
- Registration for tournaments will be available on our website closer to the events.
<https://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com/open-tournaments/>
- Save the date: November dinner will exceptionally be the 1st Wednesday of the month. Wednesday November 5th.

Club Calendar:

Our webmaster, John Garton, does an excellent job at keeping our club calendar up to date. Check this link for dates/times, especially when the new season takes off in November. We will also be producing a handy weekly schedule that will be attached to the next "Clippings from the Green".

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

Surrounds Maintenance:

Jim Sparrow is back on the job after being side-lined by surgery for many months. He will also be overseeing the distribution of the free mulch under the trees. The greenskeeper, Tom Hilferty, arranged with local arborists for wood chips to be delivered to our site.

Facility:

We have a new/replacement "pod" arranged by Mary Silverstein. New shelving for the pod is donated by Ilona Vrba. Big thank you to Ilona, Mary, and all 15 volunteers who helped to empty the old pod, set up the shelves, clean and move everything back in.

The process: Before, during and after...





Please ensure the pod, shed, storage and clean can are properly locked if you are the last to leave the facility. After closing, the numbers on the lock must be spun.

Croquet News:

After a summer hiatus, regular croquet games will start up again in November. Tentatively, the schedule will be the same as last season:

Sundays at 1pm and Thursdays at 10am.

Starting in December, short weekly clinics will be offered on Thursdays at 9:30am.

Community & Corporate Events:

At the Bay SLBC hosted various groups interested in a one-time lawn bowling event for team building, Home Owner's Associations, social clubs, celebrating an event, special birthday, etc. Now at our new green the plan is to schedule more of these events. They are an asset to the club for awareness and income producing. If you know of a group who may be interested, please ask them to contact Sally Mills at sgbell44@hotmail.com. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Volunteers Urgently Needed!

Please contact Sally Mills or John Garton if you can help....

Community Events Coordinator – duties include reaching out to local groups to introduce our Community Events program and invite them book an event, scheduling events, organizing enough coaches, equipment, waivers, instruction, etc.

Newsletter Editor – duties include assembling material and photos, writing articles for "Clippings from the Green" on a regular basis

Giving Challenge Team Member – duties include working with Ilona Vrba to prepare an effective campaign for this important fundraiser in April 2026.

Affiliations:

Bowls USA (BUSA) governs the sport of bowls nationally. BUSA is a Member National Authority of [World Bowls](https://www.bowlsusa.us/our-story.html), the international organizing body. World Bowls establishes the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and policies to standardize bowls play throughout the world. <https://www.bowlsusa.us/our-story.html> The informative monthly "Bowls Bulletins" can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eee4V-N8d-5cufAQwekA4Tovz9QUxIR8>

In the USA, bowls clubs are organized geographically into [seven divisions](#). When you become a member of a club, you also become a member of a division.

SLBC belongs to the South-East Division (SED), which has 14 clubs throughout Florida to North Carolina. The SED lists 'open' tournaments (open to members outside their own club), and organizes various inter-club leagues and championships. SED Board members meet in December and March. SED representatives from SLBC currently are Roger Blanken, Ilona Vrba, and Rusty Hein.

<https://sedlawnbowls.org/>

The SED Board is seeking volunteers to fill the positions of President, Treasurer and two Females-at-large. The term is two years, and the President can only run for one term. Contact Rick Fitzgerald, SED President, at rfitz1953@hotmail.com for more information.

Message from Rick Fitzgerald

Without the listed positions below filled, the Southeast Division will have a difficult time going forward. The November 14th deadline approaches and we have no one to volunteer for Treasurer or Secretary. I won't bother you with more correspondence on the matter.

Please contact Jo Ellen Braun (joellenbraun@outlook.com) , Gary Houdek (glhoudek@gmail.com) or me, Rick Fitzgerald (rfitz1953@hotmail.com).

Open position are;

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

2 Female At Large Board Members

1 Male At Large Board Member

Rick Fitzgerald

President

Upcoming SED Tournaments

Sun City Center LBC "Jack Phillips" Mixed Pairs, Saturday, November 8, 2025, [more information](#)

Sun City Center LBC "Joe Mignogna" Men's Pairs / Women's Pairs, Saturday, November 15, 2025, [more information](#)

Mount Dora LBC "Mount Dora Holiday Bowl" Mixed Triples, Friday – Sunday, December 5 - 7, 2025, [more information](#)

NOTE: Schedule of Lawn Bowling Jitneys
Morning : Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday at 10am.
Evening : Tuesday & Thursday at 7 pm.



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.

For more information & to register:

sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com