



Clippings from the Green

Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club

Thanksgiving Issue, 2025

News from the President:

I want to share some great news that I just received today. The City of Sarasota's Parks and Recreation Department will be starting construction of sidewalks around the green on Monday, December 1! I have been informed that the contractor will **complete the east and west sides by December 11th and the north and south sides on the 23rd**. After the sidewalks are completed, we expect that the City will be permanently "lending" us portable, flushable restrooms early in 2026. Apparently, a contractor showed up recently and told us that he has been requested to run an electrical cable from our main panel to where the restrooms will go (at the S-W corner of the green), so fingers crossed that it will happen soon.

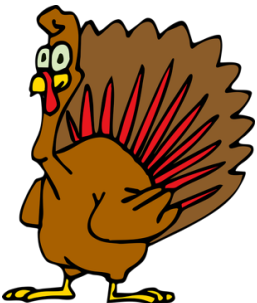
It is expected that there will be minimal disruption to lawn bowling or croquet. When the east and west sidewalks are being constructed, we can bowl north-south, and vice versa when the N-S sidewalks are being built. Please be considerate of the workers, and contact Jim Sparrow (443-956-3665) or Sally Mills (705-646-0086) if there are any issues. Remember that we can also park on the opposite side of Circus Blvd if necessary.

See below regarding an offer by Bowls USA for a **FREE Club Coach certification course on January 13** in Sarasota. We hope that our generous volunteers who are currently coaching will take advantage of this great offer to become certified.

Thank you to Jim Sparrow, who has taken over the role of greenskeeper, as well as working on the surrounds! This is a huge amount of work. *Please step forward and let us know how you can assist – even once or twice a month is a big help. Training is provided.*

Want to give croquet a try, or improve your game? Clinics will start on Thursday, Dec. 4, 9:30-10am.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



Learn to Lawn Bowl Program:

We have recently wrapped up our fall Learn to Lawn Bowl program. We were delighted to have 19 participants, most of whom attended Jan & Nick Gurney's afternoon classes. The program went very smoothly, and we trust that the participants enjoyed it as much as the coaches and organizers did. We expect that these new bowlers will join our tag draws throughout December before they decide to join the club as full members.

I would like to request that our members do your best to make these new bowlers feel welcome. Provide gentle guidance, be patient and supportive, and please ask before offering coaching advice. Treat them as you would like to be treated when joining a new club!

A great deal of work goes into the Learn to Bowl program - much of it behind the scenes. Thank you to Jeri Spann for arranging to advertise the course through Adult Continuing Education at the Suncoast Technical College. Jeri assisted me with updating the Learn to Lawn Bowl materials. John Garton provided student name tags, waivers, and evaluation survey. Thank you especially to class leaders Jan & Nick, and to all the coaches who enthusiastically assisted with the afternoon and evening classes: Barrie Pritchard, Deb Walker, Rusty Hein, Jeri Spann, Graydon Bell, and Jim Sparrow. We couldn't have done it without you.

Every year we lose members, for various reasons. The Board works hard on retaining members, but we still need more members for the club to be self-sustaining. It takes a lot of effort to recruit and retain new club members, and we ask everyone to help in this endeavor.

The next Learn to Lawn Bowling program will be offered January 5, 8, 12 & 15, 1-3pm through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College. Tell your friends and neighbors!
<https://olliringlingcollege.org/course-catalog/>

Welcome to our Newest Members:

Please help extend a warm welcome to Sue and Ian Gartside, and Anita and Rob Scott.

FREE Certification for Club Coaches – Tuesday, January 13, 9am-5pm in SARASOTA

Mark your calendar! Thanks to Bowls USA, we have arranged for a free 1-day course for interested members to become certified Club Coaches. The course will be taught by Rick Fitzpatrick, of Mount Dora Lawn Bowling Club, and President of the South-East Division of Bowls USA. All course materials will be provided, and room rental paid for by Bowls USA. The morning session will be conveniently held in the meeting room beside the Hot Sands Oasis at Sahib Shriners, at the corner of Beneva & Circus Blvd., and the afternoon session will be at the Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club. This program will be open to other clubs. An online registration will be provided soon, in the meantime, you can notify me of your interest at sgbell44@hotmail.com.

HOLIDAY BOWL & MEMBERS' FALL MEETING – Saturday, December 6, 2025

We are planning a fun "Holiday Bowl" event, a pot-luck lunch, followed by a Members' Meeting to discuss the future of the club, and answer any questions you may have. Wear red or green, and/or your favorite holiday outfit!

Thank you John Garton for the online registration for the bowling and potluck lunch:

<https://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com/open-tournaments/>

Schedule for Dec. 6:

10am-12pm lawn bowling games

12-1pm ***pot-luck lunch*** at the club

1pm Members' Informational Meeting

Friday Tag Draw:

We will be resuming the 50-50 Raffle at the Friday morning tag draws. Tickets are \$5 each, and winning ticket(s) will be drawn after the games. Half of the proceeds goes to the member(s), the rest goes to the club. *Please remember to wear your club shirt, or whites, on Fridays.*

Volunteers Urgently Needed for these important roles!

SLBC is now be totally run by volunteers. All members are expected to assist with the smooth operation of our club. Please contact Sally Mills (sgbell44@hotmail.com) or John Garton (johnwgarton@icloud.com) if you can help in the following roles:

Green maintenance – duties include mowing, rolling, edging, etc.

Surrounds Maintenance – duties include mowing, edging, weeding, etc. on the area surrounding the green on *Tuesday mornings*

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

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

Croquet News:

We need to “tread lightly” on the recovering green, so for now, have only set up one court. The schedule will be the same as last season: Sundays at 1pm and Thursdays at 10am. **We will also be offering short weekly clinics on Thursdays at 9:30am starting December 4. All levels are welcome.**

Let's meet for dinner!

Mark your calendar for WEDNESDAY, December 10th, 6pm. Details to follow.