



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

**Thursday, October 2nd 2025
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, by ZOOM**

Attendance 75%

Present :

Sally Mills: President
Mary Silverstein: Treasurer
Ilona Vrba: Secretary, Director of Hospitality
John Garton: Director of Membership
Laurie Holder: Director of Tournaments
Jeri Spann: Director of Education

Absent :

Hans Peterson: Vice President
Jim Sparrow: Director of Greens

1. CALL to ORDER: 3:00 pm, and **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion to approve the minutes of the BOD meeting on 9/02/2025 was made by Sally Mills, seconded by Laurie Holder and approved by all board members.

2. Treasurer's Report: Mary Silverstein

- Cash balances are down \$2,600. to \$17,806.
- Income was as expected, but expenses were high.
- Year end balance is estimated to be \$17,000.
- Higher expenses are due to individual items billed by Tom. It is not clear what should be included in his monthly billing of \$2,000. The initial terms of reference are incomplete or misleading. It needs to be clarified. It is an unprofessional situation.
- It was mentioned we consider a search for an alternative to Tom's services.
- A replacement pod was delivered, the cost is \$15 less per month.
- The credit card app SQUARE is up and running.
- Irrigation will be a separate line in the financial statements since it is a sizable portion of our budget.
- The by-laws state there should be 3 signatures on the bank accounts. Previously Mary Silverstein and Ilona Vrba have been assigned. Sally Mills (President) volunteered, and the BOD agreed that she should be the third signer.
- We need to identify a member(s) to focus on fundraising efforts.
- It was suggested that we should start to create a buzz and fundraising efforts for SLBC's 100th Anniversary soon.
 - It was suggested to start a plan (like Clearwater) of 100 donors donating \$100 each.(target \$10,000)

3. Giving Challenge: Ilona Vrba

- Ilona will continue doing communications and maintain the GC site.
- She requested we identify someone to provide marketing support. The purpose being to increase visibility and raise more funds.

4. Membership – John Garton

- There are now 73 paid members, 5 are paid to 10/31/2026.
- The website will be updated for membership renewals soon.
- John is assembling a spreadsheet of passwords for shared club business . (examples: website, email, facebook, etc)
- Ilona Vrba proposed lifetime Honorary Membership for James McRanor and Donald Hester. A motion to approve this proposal by was made by Laurie Holder, seconded John Garton and approved by all board members. John will draft a letter to the honorees.

5. Green update

- Consider asking Wesco and Toro to be sponsors of SLBC.
- Sally will contact Ian Murphy (Bobby Jones Golf Course) to ask if he has suggestions on how to improve the green.
- Tom's subcontractor Luis has begun to dig the hole for the filter on the reclaimed water that supplies the irrigation system. This project is anticipated to improve efficiency of the system.

- We need to change to a wired system. Tom's subcontractor Luis is suggesting 1 Hunter controller and 4 Hunter irrigation decoders. We are concerned and need confirmation that Hunter parts are compatible with the Toro infrastructure already in place.
- In theory, the board agrees that the above expenditures which are estimated to be \$4,000 are necessary. However they will not be approved until a detailed invoice is provided.
- The sod patches are growing in well, however they are surrounded by algae. There is a lot of slippery wet algae across the green.
- Additional expenditures have been approved for the green: \$100 for fungicide and \$100 for a 3rd round of sod plugs.
- In the past, Sean used an oscillating sprinkler to water the center of the green. This option should be suggested to Tom if the problem continues. (SLBC should consider purchasing the sprinkler for use on OUR property.)
- SLBC equipment is to remain on-site and not loaned out. Keep in mind, borrowing equipment has its risks also.
 - The board needs to further clarify and approve types of equipment that can or cannot be lent, including members use of club bowls at away tournaments.
- SLBC needs to create and maintain updates to a greenskeeping/landscaping plan. The plan should include anticipated dates and action dates for: irrigation (also time of day), mowing green, rolling green, applying all chemicals, aeration and tining.
 - This plan is necessary to monitor the state of the green and to provide the information necessary to adjust and make improvements.
 - The exact chemicals should be noted. And there should be some method for knowing that chemicals billed and paid for are truly received, stored and applied on SLBC property.

6. Surrounds maintenance

- The plan is for SLBC member volunteers to resume maintenance on the surrounds about November 15th. A request for volunteers will be included in the newsletter.
 - By November 1st we will inform Tom that this item should not be included on his 11/15 invoice.
- Ilona will continue to maintain the ditches, and hopes underlying conditions improve. (Reduce algae and keep mowing debris out of ditches.)

7. Facilities:

- The BOD approved \$100 to repair the fence. Lisa Pignataro has volunteered to do the repair.
- Hans Petersen has donated a gate for the driveway. He will arrange for its installation in October.
- One stadium light needs repair. The company that the city contracted to do the previous repair estimates that the cost is about \$250 and maybe another fee for the lift. We need to determine if SLBC or the City will cover the cost.
- The Pod replacement & new shelving project started on Monday. In total 14 members have committed time to supporting this project. The first pod was emptied on Monday. On Wednesday the replacement pod was delivered, assembly of the shelves began, and also refilling the pod, cleaning the bowls and other items, and tossing damaged items. The project is 80% complete and is expected to finish next week.
- It was suggested SLBC should try to get the City to provide a road sign for the club similar to the one for BJGC and nature trail. Ilona will contact Jerry Fogel's assistant to see if this is a possibility.

8. Education: Jeri Spann

- There are 3 Learn to Lawn Bowl classes confirmed for this season.
 - Registration is open for 2 ACE classes on November 10, 12, 17, 19, 1-3pm (led by Jan/Nick) & 6-8pm (led by Sally/Graydon).
 - Ringling College of Art and Design's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) one class: Jan. 5, 8, 12, and 15 from 1-3pm. This is the first sports course being held at OLLI, and a new relationship for SLBC.
 - The class fees for the 2 programs are split as follows: OLLI 50%/50% vs ACE 65% SLBC/35% ACE.
 - Sally is revising her Learn to Bowl course notes to help ensure uniformity across classes and instructors.
- Saturday drop in sessions will continue.
 - Twice a month, 1st & 3rd Saturday at 10am.
 - Increase advertising and exposure.
 - Get a banner that is always visible.
 - First session is free, additional sessions are \$15 per person. (Similar to jitneys.)
- The lawn bowling clinic ("So you want to be a vice or skip...") that will be presented by Cindy Higgins can possibly be held at the Fruitville Library or Sun City Center. Sally to followup.
- Determine if there is interest to provide Learn to Lawn Bowl courses for nearby condo associations.
- Determine if there is interest in a free Bowls USA course for being a coach.

9. Community & Corporate Events: Sally/Ilona

- There is an event scheduled for the Cornell Club on Wednesday Nov. 5, 1-3pm. As Ted Beilman is a member of this group, he is coordinating the event. The coaches will be Sally, Graydon and others that may be contacted by Ted. Ilona is responsible for hospitality that includes set up on that day. (Ted will provide refreshments. The Cornell Club, in addition to paying a per person fee is anticipated to also make a donation to SLBC.
- A coordinator is needed for community events. The responsibilities are to find new organizations for events, as well as be the club contact for those that contact the club directly. And coordinate with education and hospitality for support. Some members were contacted directly to be coordinators, but no response yet. Include a request for volunteers in the next newsletter.
- The availability of SLBC for Community & Corporate Events should be advertised on the website, Facebook, Instagram, newsletter, ...
- John will post the ad on the Website and include a link so that the waiver can be completed online.

10. Tournaments & Leagues: Laurie/John

- President's Draw will reconvene in November. Members are requested to wear white or club shirts. The format will revert to 50% pot to SLBC, 50% to be divided among winning teams.
- The conditions of play for tournaments will be posted on the website. It will include the maximum # of teams (which is dependent on the condition of the green.)
- In-House tournaments:
 - Nov. 8, 10am-noon - Welcome back tournament, potluck lunch
 - Nov. 22, 10am-noon – ProAm tournament
 - Club orders sandwiches, volunteers bring salad/dessert, bring own beverage.
- SED tournaments: Jan 10 - Open Pairs, Jan 31 - Australian Pairs, March 21 - Gerry Smith Triples
- League Bowling: Identify a coordinator. Determine interest in League. AND date/time, format (pairs/triples) & team selection. Possibly for the period January 15 to March 5.

11. Croquet: Hans/Sally

- Fall schedule tentatively starts November 10th on Sundays 1-3pm and Thursdays 10am-Noon.
- Weekly mini-clinics start Thursday, December 4th, 9:30-10am (grip, stance, stop shots, take-outs, strategy, jumps...), and will continue through January (or later).

12. Hospitality: Ilona

- A email will be sent to all members soon. It will include a detailed list of the committee's responsibilities, and a request for volunteers.

13. Communications

- Instagram – need to give Eric Martin access to provide DRAFT postings.
- A media release soon will generate free publicity for SLBC. Gather ideas for content.
- A newsletter will be issued soon.

14. Other business:

- The City of Sarasota:
 - On the SLBC website include reference to Sarasota Parks Dept.
 - Installation of a sidewalk around the green (cement & pavers) is approved on the city's agenda.
 - The project will advance at the city's pace through their implementation process and requirements.
 - It was suggested by the City earlier this year that a restroom trailer may be provided to SLBC on long-term loan.
 - Approval depends on completion of the sidewalk for ADA compliancy.
 - If/when formally approved, implementation would be at the City's pace as per above.

Next meeting IN PERSON: Friday, Nov. 7, 12:30pm at SLBC.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

SLBC BOD Agenda

Thursday, October 2, 3pm

1. Approval of Minutes – Ilona

2. Treasurer's Report – Mary

-Tom's invoicing

-need to focus on fundraising?

3. Giving Challenge - Ilona

4. Membership – John

-payment via credit card

-website updates

5. Green update – Jim

-irrigation system repairs & filter

-growing in of bare patches/plugs

6. Surrounds maintenance – Jim

7. Facilities:

- fence repair - John

- driveway posts repair/new gate – Hans

- lights repair - Ilona

- Pod replacement & new shelving project - Ilona

8. Education – Jeri

-registration for ACE classes November 10, 12, 17, 19, 1-3pm & 6-8pm

-Ringling College of Art and Design's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) course: Jan. 5, 8, 12, and 15 from 1-3pm

-Sally's Learn to Bowl program notes revisions

-Fruitville Library as possible venue for lawn bowling clinic presented by Cindy Higgins - Sally

-provide Learn to Bowl programs for nearby condo associations?

9. Community & Corporate Events – Sally/Ilona

- Ted B's Cornell Club, Nov. 5, 1-3pm (coaches: Sally, Graydon.....)

- **need coordinator**; included in Sept. newsletter

- advertise Community & Corporate Events availability on website, FB, Instagram, newsletter

10. Tournaments & League – Laurie/John

11. Croquet – Hans/Sally

- tentative fall schedule starts Nov. 10(?) as follows:

Sundays 1-3pm, Thursdays 10-12


Weekly mini-clinics start Thursday, Dec. 4, 9:30-10am (grip, stance, stop shots, take-outs, strategy, jumps...), and through January at least

12. Hospitality – Ilona

13. Communications –

-Instagram – need to give Eric Martin access to provide DRAFT postings

-ideas for media release this fall?

From: marysilverstein@comcast.net 
Subject: September 2025 Financials
Date: October 2, 2025 at 12:57 PM
To: Sally Mills and G Mills sgbell44@hotmail.com, Hans Peterson hanspeterson9000@gmail.com, Jim Sparrow jimsparrow1954@gmail.com, Jeri Spann jeri.spann@gmail.com, John Garton johnwgarton@icloud.com, Laurie Holder hillslr@aol.com, Vrba Ilona ilona16v@gmail.com



September cash balance decreased \$2,637 from \$20,444 to \$17,806.
The first tab in the attached workbook shows the monthly one page summary.

Income received in September was \$3,051 primarily due to:
\$1,450 of annual membership fees (3 new members and 2 renewal member fees)
\$860 donation from Ilona for the 4 new sets of shelves for the new POD
\$612 received from ACE for May classes

We had expenses of \$5,688 driven by the following:
\$3,385 to Tom Hilferty for monthly greens maintenance \$2,000, monthly surround maintenance \$300, Sod patch \$450, mechanical repairs of \$450?, irrigation parts for repairs of \$185
\$858 for the Webstaurant shelves Ilona reimbursed
\$455 additional SED dues for 13 members joining after 2/28 @ \$35 each
Recurring monthly expenses for Clean Cans \$500 (July catch up and Sep), PODS \$189.10 (future rate \$174)

I added a few new accounts for more clarity:
Maintenance - irrigation is now broken out from Maintenance green. Year to date irrigation expense is \$3,277 (detail sent 9/29).
Merchant Service Income and Expense accounts are added to track Square credit card transaction costs and money received.

ANNUAL FORECAST:

The 2nd tab in the workbook shows the 2025 forecast and has been updated through September. The summary information to view is ready to print if you like.

The end of year cash balance is now forecast to be \$16,632 vs. the original budget of \$30,756. I have now included \$4,100 for irrigation repairs and \$400 for the new gate. This also assumes 48 (70% of 69 members) renew and pay by end of year.

Annual Income is very close to the budget of \$32k (excluding the GCCF grant that was not in the budget).

Annual Expenses are estimated to be \$65k (excluding pre-open/electrical expense that was not in the budget) vs the budget of \$44k. The majority of this increase is due to irrigation repairs of \$7k and additional greens maintenance of \$11k.

Any questions, please let me know.

Mary

winmail.dat



14. Other business:

Next meeting IN PERSON: Friday, Nov. 7, 12:30pm at SLBC ??

From: John Gartton johnwgartton@icloud.com
Subject: SLBC - Membership Report 10/2/25
Date: October 1, 2025 at 10:29 AM
To: Mills Sally sgbell44@hotmail.com, Peterson Hans hanspeterson9000@gmail.com, Vrba Ilona ilona16v@gmail.com, Silverstein Mary marysilverstein@comcast.net, Spann Jeri jeri.spann@gmail.com, Holder Laurie hillslr@aol.com, Sparrow Jim Jimmsparrow1954@gmail.com



Hi all:

Membership:

We have 71 Full Year Members. A complete look at membership at this time of year has to take into account members who will not renew next year. I am hopeful we will have at least 50 renewing members by December 1.

New members are April Dalton-Noblitt, referred by Deb Walker;
Tad Morris, referred by Steven Rezendez;
John Scalzitti referred by Audrie Scalzitti

Timothy Stuart and Barde Scott are still possible members. I'll contact them both again.

Members who have paid for the coming 2025-26 season:

Ilona Vrba
April Dalton-Noblitt
John Scalzitti
Steven Rezendez
Tad Morris

Website:

The new home page is live. If anyone has suggestions for the verbiage I'm happy to improve it. I plan to ask Brad McCourtney to take a nice action shot on the new green, like the old page.

Sometime next week we will be ready to have members renew for the 2025-26 season. I'll send out an email to all members.

Storage of passwords used for club business and accounts: I created a document on Google Docs:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xosUNsU0qr80G1i5XfsBf82Sifw5GSetlPaZfiGYpik/edit?usp=sharing>
It is a work in progress.

Thanks,
-John

