



Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club

Clippings from the Green

November 10, 2025

President's Preamble:

Welcome to all the returning snowbirds to our new season!

Graydon and I are happy to finally be in Sarasota, and back at our wonderful club. Admittedly, the quality of the green is not what we had hoped to see, but it is improving. Thank you to the members who worked hard over the summer to keep the club running and in good shape. *I am now reaching out to request more volunteers to assist with the green and surrounds maintenance – see below.*

I am excited to welcome 24 new bowlers from the Adult Continuing Education program at the Suncoast Technical College during the weeks of November 10 & 17, followed by a Pro-Am fun tournament on November 22 to celebrate their 'graduation'. Thank you to Nick Gurney and Jeri Spann for their leadership, and to all the volunteer coaches who help make these programs successful.

Sally Mills



The Green:

The green is an ongoing challenge. The algae has been treated, watering reduced, and the grass 'plugs' are slowly filling in. The irrigation system was successfully switched to a wired-in system, and a new filter was installed to make it easier to remove the debris that is found in the reclaimed water that we used on the green. Several members have asked why there is a black plastic bag over the new irrigation water filter. Apparently, this is to keep the sun off the filter, as sunlight promotes algae growth in the filter!

Our greenskeeper, Tom Hilferty has advised that he will no longer be working for us as of November 15th.

Jim Sparrow has very generously offered to resume the role of our greenskeeper! He has a contact who will assist with chemical purchases. **Jim will need assistance with mowing (1 or 2x/week), and other maintenance jobs. If you can assist Jim in this crucial role and help nurse our green back to health, either speak to Jim, or email Sally Mills at sgbell44@hotmail.com.**



Surrounds Maintenance:

We were fortunate to have the maintenance of the area outside of the green maintained by an outside company during the hot summer. As of November 15th, our volunteers will take over this job.

If you are available to help maintain the surrounds one or two Tuesday mornings each month starting in November, please contact Sally Mills at sgbell44@hotmail.com, who will put together a schedule. *Training is provided.*

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

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

Online registration for the bowling and pot-luck lunch will be available closer to the event.

Schedule:

10am-12pm	lawn bowling games
12-1pm	pot-luck lunch
1pm	Members’ Information Meeting



In Memorium:

Ted A. Wilson, July 1946 to October 2025. We will miss his friendship and dedication to the club. We look forward to a continuing friendship with his family. Ted Jr will organize a memorial lawn bowling session on Feb. 21, 2026 at SLBC 9-11am.

Membership Renewals:

We are excited that our new 2025-26 lawn bowling season started on November 1st! For your convenience we have added the ability to pay by credit/debit card, and Apple/Google Pay when you renew online. Thank you, John Garton for your work on this and on our website.



New Members:

Please welcome our newest members:

Sue & Ian Gartside



News from City of Sarasota:

We have been told that the City's Parks & Recreation department is getting ready to install sidewalks around the perimeter of the green...soon. This needs to be done before they can deliver the portable restrooms that they have offered to us. This is exciting news, and a huge upgrade for the club. No firm date for when the work will be done, but we will keep you posted.

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.

Reminder: wear club shirts or white polo shirts for the Friday jitney,

Volunteers Urgently Needed for these important roles!

SLBC will 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*

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

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 on Nov. 10, 12, 17, & 19, at 1-3pm and 6-8pm.

Members who joined over the summer, or just want a refresher are also welcome to take the program at no cost; there is room in the 6pm class. Contact Sally Mills at sgbell44@hotmail.com.

The next Learn to Lawn Bowling program will be offered January 5, 8, 12 & 15, 1-3pm through OLLI at Ringling College. <https://olliringlingcollege.org/course-catalog/>



Congratulations to our Learn to Lawn Bowl Graduates!

Sat., Nov. 22, 9am-1pm – this **Pro-Am** fun event will pair new bowlers with experienced bowlers. Lunch will be provided by SLBC. BYOB & salad or dessert to share.

Registration is available on the SLBC website:

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

Facility:

Hans Peterson is generously donating a new gate for the entrance to the driveway. Thank you, Hans!

Thank you to also to members Thomas Stevens, Barrie Pritchard, and Ilona Vrba who have kindly made recent donations to our club.

Did you realize members quietly and generously replace some supplies? Water, insect repellent, suntan lotion, hand sanitizer, paper towels... all are donated by members. Please consider replenishing an item that you use, or leaving a donation for water.

Equipment:

The rakes have new wheels! Thanks to Steve Rezendes, who replaced the wheels on about half the rakes. The remainder to be replaced in the coming months. Please use the rakes with the new smaller wheels. They should be stored with the wheels up to help reduce any impacts of moisture.

Croquet News:

Regularly scheduled croquet games started up again in November, after ad hoc summer game times. One new court was laid out on Nov. 9th. The locations for the flags, wickets and center peg were marked with yellow paint. We need to “tread lightly” on the recovering green, so for now there will be only one court set up. The wickets will be repainted.

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 in December.



Bowls USA News:

At the Bowls USA Town Hall on October 8th, Adam Martin, career coach in Scotland and World Bowls Coaching Advisor provided an hour-long coaching clinic. He shared a style that is player focused, centering on the athlete's needs and preferences, rather than adapting the player to a uniform technique.

On the technical side, he focused on the key principles of alignment, balance and consistency (ABC). Recognizing that practice and refinement can only go so far, Adam noted that in order to secure the best performance, it is key to address the psychological needs of the player.

Book recommendation from Adam: The Chimp Paradox, Prof Steve Peters

To learn more, watch the Town Hall video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1StZtobGEonzTXQeCvSooB86maxPToYNZ/view>

Fast forward to 1:40 for U.S. National Coach, Scott Roberts update

Fast forward to 4:52 where Adam Martin begins his presentation

Fast forward to 36:40 for the Q&A

October Bowls Bulletin from Bowls USA:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eee4V-N8d-5cufAQwekA4Tovz9QUxIR8>

Community & Corporate Events:

Thank you to Ted Beilman for organizing our first event of the season, and to coaches Jim Sparrow and Sally Mills. On Nov. 5th, SLBC hosted a fun group from Ted's Cornell Club. Besides the usual fee, the Cornellians also donated \$200 to SLBC!

If you know of a group who may be interested in holding an event at SLBC later in the season, please ask them to contact Sally Mills at sgbell44@hotmail.com.

For details, see: <https://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com/event/>



Bowls for Sale:

Member Iorrie Pickford is selling a "virtually new set of Taylor size 2 bowls + a new Taylor carrying bag". Please contact Iorrie at: ipickf@yahoo.com

“Super Shot” Club:

Did you know that Bowls USA has a Super Shot Club that is open to teams that score a perfect or near perfect end in a Pairs, Triples or Fours game played under Bowls USA or its affiliated organizational rules? Celebrate your great bowling by joining the Super Shots Club and be recognized with a Super Shots pin and certificate. Just submit a claim form, the score card (or photo of the scoreboard), and \$5 per person to receive your pin(s). Teams that get the *Perfect 8* in a Pairs or Fours game, or an *8 or 9* in a Triples game can email a Team Selfie to appear on their Super Shot certificates.

<https://www.bowlsusa.us/super-shots-club.html>

Let's meet for dinner!

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



Thank you, Ilona Vrba
for organizing a wonderful dinner
at “Cuba 1958” on November 5th.

Club Calendar & Weekly Schedule:

Our webmaster, John Garton, excels at keeping our club calendar up to date. Check this link for dates/times, especially when the new season takes off in November:

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

SLBC Weekly Schedule 2025-26							
HOURS OF OPERATION:							
Full Members: Unlimited access				Dress Code: Flat-soled shoes, i.e. Runners			
Weekly Games: Monday to Sunday - varying times							
Learn To Lawn Bowl - Four Lessons: Nov. 10-20				Arrive: 15 min. early for team organization			
REGULAR SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES							
Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
9:30-10am				***9:30 Clinic			
10am-12pm	Tag Draw		Tag Draw	**Croquet Sally	Tag Draw * Raffle \$5 Nick, Barrie	Drop-in	
12:30					bring your own picnic lunch		
1-3pm							**Croquet
7:00-9:00 PM		Tag Draw		Tag Draw			
Lawn Bowling Tag Draws = Jitneys start promptly at 10am. Arrive at least 15 minutes early to submit your name tag to the convener. The convener will then form teams so that the games can start on time.							
* \$5 entry fee. Raffle to share 50% of pot. Wear whites, or club shirt							
Evening conveners encouraged to try different bowls game formats (e.g. Aussie Pairs, Jack Attack, fewer bowls/player; etc)							
** Croquet Games start: Thursday, November 6.							

Etiquette Reminder:

What will your team mates say about you after your game? Lawn bowling is a gentleperson's game. Always remember to treat each other with respect. We are here to have fun, enjoy others' company, and with luck, play to the best of our ability!

ETIQUETTE FOR LAWN BOWLERS

1. Dress correctly for all games.
2. Greet your opponents and your own team members before the game and congratulate or compliment them at the end of play. Shaking hands before and after a match is part of the fine tradition of the game. However if you are ill or don't feel well, please refrain from hand shaking and offer apologies.
3. Before play begins, know the marking of your team's bowls.
4. Compliment your opponent on a good shot.
5. Admit a fluke shot with grace.
6. Stand still and be quiet when a player is on the mat.
7. Remain at least 6 feet behind the mat while waiting your turn to bowl. Remember that as soon as your bowl has come to rest, possession of the mat and rink passes to your opponents.
8. Stay in your own rink. Do not wander and distract other bowlers. Walk down the center of your rink when changing ends.
9. Be aware of your shadow. Do not let it cover the jack or permit it to fall in front of the mat when a player is about to bowl.
10. Allow the player on the mat to have full view of the centerline and boundary markers.
11. Never criticize your opponent, your own team members or the green.
12. Pay attention to the game. Save socializing for after the game.
13. Even on an off day, try to appear to be enjoying the game.
14. For safety purposes any player about to deliver a firing shot should warn the players at the head who should stand well back and warn adjacent rinks..
15. Learn and abide by the Rules of the Game. Everyone should read their rules book.
16. Be a gracious winner and a good loser.
17. Do not move or remove any bowl until the score has been agreed upon by the vices.
18. The losing Vice or Skip should mark the scoreboard.
19. The team not in possession of the mat should rake the bowls but all front end players should help 'kick" them into the center line. The bowls should be placed at least one yard behind and to the right of the mat when facing the jack. This will help to avoid tripping over the bowls when leaving the mat.
20. Always leave the mat to your left.
21. Do not drop your bowls or the jack onto the green.
22. Wear proper shoes at all times. ie no visible heel - running shoes are okay.
23. ABOVE ALL ELSE HAVE FUN!!!!

*Submitted by
Sally Mills*