

SLBC NEWS



18 March 2026

This weekly update is sent to members of the St Lucia Bowling Club. To contribute Club news or general bowls items of interest to Club members, please email them to the Editor, Pamela Miller – pamela.miller1@bigpond.com

MERLO COFFEE CUP

Division 1

Done and dusted is all I can say. A disappointing finish for the Division 1 SLBC team who fought hard to stay off the bottom of the ladder but, unfortunately, the Saints will end up with the wooden spoon in Division 1 Merlo Coffee Cup for 2026.

The Red Hill track was a little hard to handle with the swirling wind over the green but that's no excuse. The teams were just outplayed on all rinks with both triples teams going down 12-23, 14-16 and the pairs team 10-27. We have agreed that we shall never speak of this season again!

- Pam Salway, Team Manager

Division 3

We had another convincing win against Everton Park on Saturday morning which sees us equal top of the ladder on game points and second to Samford on goal difference.

Warren Garnham and Mark Benson (S) had a very convincing 31-9 win in the pairs. Ken Harvey, Robin Town and Tony Burton (S) followed suit with a similarly impressive 37-5 victory.

Despite the two easy wins on the other rinks, somehow Graham Legg, Terry Martin and Lois Bradley (S) didn't get the team memo and had a hard fought 22-16 victory in their triples game. Although not playing their best bowls and up against a skip who overturned numerous ends, they still managed to grind out a tough win.

Well done to all players! Now we take on Hamilton at home on Saturday in the first semi-final.

- Graham Legg, Team Manager

CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES



It was a close match between two in-form players, Craig Francis (defending the title) and Ken Harvey. Ken raced out of the starting blocks reaching 5-0 by the fourth end before Craig found his rhythm.

“Finding rhythm” seemed to be the catchphrase because both players played and preferred different lengths of ends. Ken was deadly on long ends and Craig was equally deadly on minimum length ends. It was a case of who could defend the best on each other's preferred length. Looking at the scorecard, each player had a run of successful ends, indicating they kept the mat and played to their strength.

It was Ken who was in control of the last three ends, playing longer lengths and scoring seven points to take the match 25-24. Congratulations to both players on an exciting final!

BEGINNERS CUP (OPEN NOVICE)

The semifinals were played last Thursday evening. The first finalist is Bev King who won convincingly against Greg Ferraro 25-8. The second finalist is Patrick Bailey who had a tough battle with the up-and-coming Bev Walker. It was neck and neck with Patrick just edging out Bev 25-24.

The final will take place on Thursday 19 March at 3:30 pm between Patrick Bailey and Bev King with Pam Salway to mark. Good luck to both players.

WINTER OPEN PENNANT

The Pennant season will start in late June / early July but, before play begins, the club needs to nominate sides. To gauge player interest in the Pennant, please register your interest. This can be done by going to the SLBC website, "Register for Bowls" page and scroll down to the bottom where you will find a button to click to enter your name. Please do this as soon as possible as nominations close early April.

DISTRICT FOURS WOMEN

Entries for the BDBA Women's District Fours event are being taken via BowlsLink. This will be hosted by Ferny Grove Bowls Club and played over the weekend of 2-3 May 2026. This competition is open for any Full Bowlers and players can be from different clubs. If you are interested, a notice with more information is located on the board at the club.

DRAWS FOR CHAMPION OF CLUB

In case you were wondering, here's why the draws for the various Champion of Club competitions are conducted as they are. Since the winners will/may represent our club at District and State events, we must comply with both District and State Conditions of Play. Therefore, SLBC's own Conditions of Play (clause 15) is in accordance with both the Brisbane District Bowls Association (clause 10.4) and the Bowls Queensland Conditions of Play for Championship events (clause 4 (f)). These documents state the draw must be Open (i.e. not seeded). Bowls Queensland state the competitions must be conducted through BowlsLink, being visible to the BowlsLink community. If you need more information on conditions of play, please refer to the SLBC, BDBA or the BQ websites.

Captain's Corner

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Coming up during the next month or two:

- **18 March - Champion of Club Pairs** events for both men and women commence. The draw has been circulated and is available on both the SLBC website and BowlsLink.
- **18 March - Champion of Club Mixed Pairs** nominations via BowlsLink are now open. Get your team entered now!
- **21 March – Merlo Coffee Cup Semi Final** – St Lucia will host the semifinal game for our Division 3 players as they take on the side from Hamilton. It is a 9 am start so come to the Club and support them. Go Team!

- **24/25 March – SLBC Men’s and Women’s Champion of Club Fours nominations close.** This competition will commence around 11 April. While entries must be via BowlsLink [a sheet has been placed on the noticeboard](#) for those who would like to play. Place your name on the sheet and you will be put into a team. This appears to be a stopgap to enable players to play as they are getting familiar with BowlsLink.
- **10 April – BDBA Men’s Senior Pennant** first game. St Lucia is in Division 3 and will host a round of this competition on Friday 1 May. Selectors are working on putting the squad together but, if you need to know anything, Vaughan Thomas is the contact point for this one.
- **11 April (approx.) – CoC Fours commence.**
- **25 April - Champion of Club Mixed Pairs nominations close 5 pm.**
- **25 April – Anzac Day** – A short ceremony to commemorate Anzac Day will be held at the club prior to social bowls on Saturday 25 April. More information coming soon but it is planned to start at 11.45 am.
- **2 May – Champion of Club Mixed Pairs** competition commences. Please note that more time will be allowed between scheduled matches for this competition due to May’s calendar being crammed with District and State events to which some members may be committed.
- **2/3 May – BDBA Women’s District Fours** competition being held at Ferny Grove. Nominations are being taken by BowlsLink.
- **6-10 May – State District Sides** – A competition between all the regions of Queensland hosted by the Gold Coast. The women’s Brisbane team will be playing at Mermaid Beach and the men’s Brisbane team will be playing at Helensvale. Go along, support our region and watch some games of a high standard. It’s free to watch.
- **11-24 May – Queensland State Championships** - All disciplines (fours, pairs, mixed, singles) being played on the Gold Coast. More information in BowlsLink.

- Pam Salway, Bowls Captain

[MERLO CUP SEMIFINAL – SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2026](#)

Division 3 – Home to Hamilton at 9.00am

Pairs

Warren Garnham
Mark Benson (Skip)

Triples

Ken Harvey
Robin Town
Anthony Burton (Skip)

Triples

Graham Legg
Terry Martin
Lois Bradley (Skip)

Manager: Graham Legg (0419 771 954)

Umpire: Ian Nave

Notes:

1. Please contact your Skip ASAP if you are unavailable to play.
2. All players are to pay their green fees in cash to their Skip prior to the start of the game.

MINI MINUTES - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
March 2026

- Kellie Broderick was welcomed to the position of Membership Director.
- Vaughan Thomas has been successful in signing the Club up for a continuance of the BCC ‘Active and Healthy Living’ Program.
- Grassroots Grant application has been submitted for new lighting of green.
- Stronger bowler turnout figures with approximately 450 in each of the last two months.
- Two sets of smaller sized bowls for beginners have been purchased.
- Pam Salway will add more sheets to the noticeboard for players to sign up to competitions. There has been difficulty lately in attracting players.
- Ros Mortensen is overseeing the organisation of the St Lucia Fours Financial event to be held on Monday 25 May 2026.
- Sponsorship will allow a new event to be hosted by SLBC. It is tentatively planned that this be held on Monday 26 October in the afternoon. The idea could be to make it a “Pairs & Partners” event. Ian Thomas will finetune the details with sponsors.
- The greens are looking quite healthy for this time of year. While the ground pearl on the Blue Green seems to have subsided for now, we are continuing treatments.
- Additionally, the greens have undergone a light scarifying to remove unwanted thatch and organic matter from the plant crowns. This process encourages healthier growth and results in a faster, firmer surface. We plan to continue this grooming every few weeks. (Full report on Greens is below.)
- Rink 8 on the Blue Green is out of action temporarily due to subsidence.
- Difficulty getting DJ and Lockup helpers after mail-out request. Two members have offered to help. Thanks go to Paul Kenny and Anne Kuhnemann.
- A suggestion was made that we have a small service to celebrate Anzac Day. Ian Thomas has offered to source a speaker for the day.
- The Club’s position is financially sound with the success of Duchesne Day. Three more functions will round out March. One of these is a wedding. The bride is delighted with the beautifully presented gardens which Ken Harvey has been preparing.

- Rob Hoskin, Secretary



REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF SLBC GREENS

The greens are looking quite healthy for this time of year. While the ground pearl on the blue green seems to have subsided for now, we are continuing treatments.

There was a disease flare-up of both white and black helmin on each green though it is more prevalent on the Blue green. These diseases are common during wet humid conditions. (See explanation on the noticeboard.) The Red green is less affected as it remains well-fertilised and experiences less foot traffic than the Blue. We have completed the first round of treatment using two different fungicides.

Additionally, the greens have undergone a light scarifying to remove unwanted thatch and organic matter from the plant crowns. This process encourages healthier growth and results in a faster, firmer surface. We plan to continue this grooming every few weeks, coupled with our sprays to encourage plant protein and carbohydrate storage before winter comes and daylight hours reduce.

Treatment is most important to the shaded areas on the northern sides of greens before the weather cools down. We will also perform a solid tine aeration on the greens.

Finally, subsidence is occurring in the Blue green in the southeast corner. This will affect the playing condition of Rink 8 in a north-south direction so play will not be scheduled on that rink when possible. This is not a new problem and we are seeking a report on how to fix it permanently.

- Ian Thomas, Greens Director