

# SLBC NEWS



9 October 2024

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](mailto:pamela.miller1@bigpond.com)

## CLUB BOWLING NEWS

### Men's Triples Competition



The Final of the Men's Triples between the highly fancied team of Tony Burton, Craig Francis (S), Peter Fairchild and the surprise semi-final winners John Stack, Ian Thomas and Rob Hoskin (S) was played on a sunny afternoon. The green was fast and, to prove their previous victory was no fluke, Rob Hoskin's team put up a spirited challenge to go down 24-15 but not before giving their opponents a scare halfway through the game.

Craig's team started strongly as expected to be ahead 12-2 after seven ends. Rob's team then won six of the following seven ends to be 15-13 down after 14 ends but drew level at 15-all after 15 ends. Craig's team regrouped to win the remaining ends and take the match. Congratulations to all players for a very competitive game on what was a challenging green.

### President's Club Selected Mixed Fours

The draw has been done and will be on the noticeboard and website this week. Competition starts on Saturday 19 October so please check which team you are in. Good luck to all teams.

I'd like to thank John Stack for 'volunteering' to take on the Games Manager duties in my absence.

- Graham Legg, Games Manager

## BCC ACCESSIBILITY WORKS

Council advises that their Construction Team will return to site next Monday to complete remaining works.

## SLBC 2024 FASHION PARADE



Last Friday the club was a lively scene as 75 women enjoyed champagne, lunch and a Portofino Fashion Parade. Numbers were well up on last year with several women coming from outside the Club, including a merry band from West Toowong Bowls Club. While the event brought in significant funds to the club, it was an opportunity for the women to simply have fun and enjoy each other's company.

As always, making an event like this happen was a team effort involving 25 members, led by Robyn Pang. A big thankyou to Robyn and to all the members who played a role. This community spirit is what makes us a wonderful Club - being able to work together to achieve a great outcome.

- Anne Kuhnemann, Functions Director

## VOLUNTEERS

At a recent Meeting of the Management Committee, the matter of the involvement of our Volunteers was raised where it was noted that some of the Team Captains of the Volunteer Groups are finding it difficult to get enough Team Members to support our efforts when assisting with the bowling requirements of our Functions.

For those newer members who have been allocated to a team, your support is critical to the ongoing financial success of our Club through those Functions that require support for our bowling guests. The income generated through the Functions Director is the financial lifeblood of our Club and, over past years, has allowed us to be financially solid, keeping out-of-pocket expenses of our members low.

Volunteering at these events is not an onerous task as those you are assisting have virtually no knowledge of bowling and only need to be shown the basics of the game to ensure that they have an enjoyable visit to our Club. The feedback that we get shows that this is very important and well received by the guests. This is one of the great reasons why the Club is so successful for these events. You will also find that your involvement is a pleasant one as well.

The next few months is the busiest time of the year for Functions and therefore the support of the Volunteer Teams is essential to us maximising the efforts of the Functions Director in this important period, Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

- Max Grey, Vice President

## ST LUCIA BOWLS CLUB – GREENS

### AN UPDATE FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

As members of our great bowls club for many years, we have always taken great pride in our bowling greens. Over time, the quality of our greens changes – sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse. This is a hot topic that can create animated discussion and opinion. Many people are vocal participants at times. After all, the “quality of our greens” is a critical ingredient to making each game of bowls we play enjoyable.

However, we all need to take a step back with our passionate views on the greens and recognise we have very good greens in a magic location. The club strives to provide the best possible greens it can.

It is worth sharing a few facts that not everyone will know or have understood about our greens and a little more detail on the current focus.

- The St Lucia Bowling Club greens are “mature”. They have been in place for a long time. For this fact alone, maintaining them becomes harder. It is more difficult to get the hard surface required for faster greens. As many people will know, there has been an increase in the hours we are paying our green keeper to maintain our greens and a big part of this is to increase the time invested in rolling the greens which will help to increase their speed.
- There is a constant focus on ensuring the greens are as level as possible to minimize tracking. This can involve top-dressing low areas, coring and heavy rolling high areas and levelling through the annual refurbishments.
- The new lawnmower is now in action which will allow the green keeper to mow more effectively as the mower has an inbuilt light scarifier and roller.
- Managing the algae we have in the red green is one of the many unplanned curve balls that need to be controlled carefully. The plan with this currently is to continue spraying it and treat it through the refurbishment. An incursion of couch mites around the borders of the blue green has resulted in patches where the grass has died. Spraying has controlled the mites but repair and regrowth will only occur through the refurbishment.
- There is a plan we work to with the greenkeeper which includes: Longer hours on more days to allow more mowing and rolling; more regular mapping of greens levels to guide levelling activities; better monitoring of watering especially in rainy weather and more regular communication regarding greenkeeping activities.
- The aim is to present greens which regularly run about 14 to 16 seconds in green speed. This clearly is dependent on many factors including: relatively poor drainage due to the age and structure of the greens; weather conditions (rain, seasons); fungal and insect attack and treatment; amount of preparation (often weather dependent) and health of the grass.

Green keeping is an art that is influenced by many factors such as frequency of use and the weather to name a couple. Our goal with this update is to share with you more information about our greens and how we work alongside our greenkeeper to provide the best possible greens we can. Constructive feedback is helpful and support for the Greenkeeper and Greens Director is appreciated.

- SLBC Management Committee