

SLBC NEWS



28 January 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

NEW APPOINTMENT – GAMES MANAGER

Welcome Darcy Barry, who has taken on the position of Games Manager (GM). We thank outgoing GM, Graham Legg, for his very competent work in this role. Darcy has been a member of SLBC for many years so is familiar with the various competitions. I'm sure he'll do an awesome job and I look forward to working with him.

NEW APPOINTMENT – PROVIDORE

Wendy and Rob Hoskin have taken the reins of Providore at the Club. We thank Laurie Annan for his work in this position, stepping aside due to family commitments. Wendy and Rob have been in this role previously so I'm sure they will get up to speed very quickly.

MERLO COFFEE CUP

Selectors have been busy working out teams for the competition commencing Saturday 31 January. Games will be played starting at 9 am and the format is one team of 3-bowl pairs and two teams of 2-bowl triples.

Thanks to a significant amount of interest from members making themselves available for selection (for which we thank you), the selectors have a hard job putting together combinations of players each week for each of the divisions entered. St Lucia Bowling Club has entered Division 1 and 3. Teams will be published on the website in the members portal each week with details of the venue.

BOWLS QUEENSLAND ANNOUNCE NEW CEO

Fletcher Dyson, or Fletch as he prefers to be called, has been appointed to the position of CEO of Bowls Queensland following the departure of Brett Wilkie. Bowls Queensland advise that, most recently, Fletch served as CEO and Director of Medi Solutions Australia, a Brisbane-based orthopaedic distribution business he founded and grew to achieve multimillion-dollar annual turnover.

His background in sport administration is equally significant. He has held senior commercial and sales leadership roles with both Queensland Rugby Union and Victorian Rugby Union. Earlier in his career, he was a professional rugby player, representing the Australian Wallabies, Queensland Reds and NSW Waratahs, experience which continues to shape his leadership style and understanding of high-performance environments.

- Pam Salway, Bowls Captain

SLBC'S ADVICE DURING HEATWAVE CONDITIONS

As we are in the peak of our summer, this is a gentle reminder to stay safe in the hot conditions and avoid problems with heat stress and dehydration, particularly for mature age players.

Our Club and Bowls Qld have guidelines for extreme weather conditions which limit playing in high temperatures. We have a thermometer on the left post at the top of the main stairs.

Remember the SunSmart summer guidelines: Slip on clothing, slop on sunscreen, slap on a hat and seek shade.

A first aid manual advises keeping up the fluids to avoid dehydration and particularly keeping your head cool. Include some electrolyte sports drink if cramping. Keep cool using a wet towel or scarf on your head and neck.



ST LUCIA BOWLING CLUB INC EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

General

The umpire/controlling body should suspend play/competition for up to 2 hours if the adverse weather conditions may improve. Where conditions have not improved in that time, the umpire/controlling body should cancel the play/competition for that day and reschedule.

The umpire/controlling body may approve rescheduling play/competition to another day or weekend if the umpire/controlling body determines that conditions are unsafe for players, officials or spectators. Typical reasons for this include consistent heavy rain, slippery conditions, extreme heat or cold, bad light and lightning.

Extreme Temperature

All competitors and spectators are encouraged to wear head and sun protection, and to hydrate regularly. If a player has underlying health issues that are impacted by extreme heat, they should not take part in play.

The Controlling Body has the discretion to suspend or discontinue play at any time.

When the temperature reaches 35°C in the shade, players must be notified of the reading and the club's recommendation to suspend play. The decision to do so, however, is up to individual players and skips. Should a member of a team wish to withdraw from the game, they shall be free to do so without penalty.

In Club competition, all play is to be suspended at this temperature.

Heat Stress/Heat Exhaustion

In the event of a player being overcome by heat stress or exhaustion, there should be no delay in seeking emergency assistance and dialling 000.

An oxygen bottle with face mask is available in the cupboard inside the double doors of the club house together with a manual pump for CPR purposes.

Lightning

Play must cease immediately it is apparent that lightning is threatening.

Wet/Cold Weather

When severe weather is forecast, the umpire/Controlling Body should initiate procedures and monitor weather reports. They may contact local for input on weather and road conditions. They should review such things as the present weather conditions and the traffic conditions within the immediate area as well as outlying roads upon which players and officials are arriving. Based on this information, the umpire/Controlling Body will decide whether to cancel play/competition.

Where available, shelter should be offered for players and officials not involved in current play.

If the ground is slippery from rain or mud, it is at the discretion of the umpire/Controlling Body whether to discontinue play. In making the decision, account should be taken of all relevant factors including the age and health of players and officials, the weather conditions, the wind-chill factor, the evacuation and emergency plans for the club and the amount of shelter available at the club.

If it is raining heavily, play/competition should be discontinued for a period of 2 hours. If it continues to rain heavily during that time, it is recommended that play/competition be discontinued. The time may vary depending upon the playing surface, the shelter available etc. It is at the discretion of the umpire/Controlling Body to determine whether to discontinue play.

The umpire/Controlling Body must consider all facts as set out above upon a request from a player or players about the weather conditions being experienced at that time.

Approved by the Management Committee, 7 August 2024

Captain's Corner

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Coming up during the next month or two:

- ***** NOMINATIONS CLOSE *** - 28 January 2026** –for the **Champion of Club Singles** events for both men and women. Entries must be placed via BowlsLink. If you have trouble entering, simply speak with Pam Salway for assistance.
- **14 February 2026** – Nominations are open for the “**Beginners Cup**” novice event. Nominations close on 14 February 2026. You need to have been playing for 3 years or less to enter. It is an open event. This competition will run during February/March. Place your entries via the SLBC’s website where a button is on the “Register for Bowls” page.
- **16-20 February 2026 – Bowls Premier League 23** will be played at Moama Bowling Club. The BPL is the sport’s made-for-television showpiece event. Watch on Bowls Australia’s YouTube channel or Fox Sports / Kayo.
- **20 February to end March 2026 – Ladies/Women’s Autumn Pennant.** SLBC has entered a side and selectors will be busy working out the three teams of triples needed for this competition.
- **24 February** – Nominations will open for the **Champion of Club Pairs** events for both men and women. Entries must be placed via BowlsLink. Games will commence 17/18 March. Teams will be two men or two women and the competition is open to Competition Bowlers (full members) with SLBC as their Primary Club.

- Pam Salway, Bowls Captain

REFLECTIONS ON THE SKIP'S ROLE IN SOCIAL BOWLS

Social bowls is one of the great strengths of our Club. It brings together players of different abilities, encourages participation and helps build friendships across all levels of the game.

With that in mind, it's worth reflecting on how roles are allocated during social competitions. This is especially relevant for our random Wednesday team selections.

Some players take on the skip's role simply to help make the teams work. This is often done in the spirit of keeping the day running smoothly.

However, not every player is naturally suited to skipping and some may feel more comfortable and effective playing lead or second in a higher-ranked team.

Social bowls present a valuable opportunity for higher-ranked and more experienced players to support the wider membership. This is something that those players in higher divisions need to reflect on and perhaps consider what they can contribute to this area.

By occasionally stepping into a lead role in a lower-ranked team, experienced players can provide guidance, encouragement and example, helping others learn and enjoy the game more fully.

Yes, you might be in a losing team, feeling that frustration and playing in the position of skip which is not your normal playing position. This is just what others not in the established hierarchy are facing.

This approach can also open opportunities for those on the next level to play alongside stronger players, build confidence and develop their skills.

Rather than always gravitating toward familiar combinations or the strongest teams, a little flexibility can make social bowls more inclusive and rewarding for everyone.

Some bowlers playing in social teams also need to recognise that their skip has been allocated that position to fulfil the playing group and should not have their expectations so high they feel the skip can produce a magic result which they have seen from higher-ranked players.

Ultimately, social bowls is not about results or hierarchy but about enjoyment, learning and Club spirit.

When players are willing to share their experience and occasionally step outside their usual roles, it strengthens the Club as a whole and ensures that everyone feels welcome and valued on the green.

This is what our Wednesday bowls competition should reflect as a strength of our Club.

The Selector on the day should not have to apologise for the team selections but rather be praised because they have done the job asked of them.

-A (formerly) Reluctant Skip

GREEN CONDITIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The Red green should be ready for play by the end of the month. Although there is some mite activity near the edges, these areas have been treated.

Both greens are currently being sprayed for algae and to improve soil drainage. Both greens are being regularly rolled, cut and brushed with a view to tailoring such activities to current and future weather conditions.

The last thing we want to do is overstress the grass when facing hot and humid conditions through over-rolling or heavy rolling and cutting the grass too short. If we lose condition, it will be harder to maintain for the busy months ahead. These treatments will also assist in managing the Ground Pearl on the Blue green. Despite multiple treatments with various products, this issue persists.

The groundskeeper recently scarified the Blue green, removing three wheelbarrow loads of thatch. He plans to continue light scarification over the coming months to prevent further buildup. I have indicated that we are comfortable with this approach provided it does not interfere with scheduled game days play in any significant way. A build-up of thatch at this time of year again stresses the grass. Scarifying and brushing greatly reduces stress.

Performance and Competition

We are hesitant to increase green speeds at this time as the required maintenance would further stress the grass as I have explained above. However, we have agreed to increase rolling to achieve a slight improvement in speed.

I need to express to members that speed won't, at this time of year, get much above 14 as producing a faster green will create problems that would have unexpected consequences, i.e. pitting, etc.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding Greens Management.

- Ian Thomas, Greens Director

SUMMER WORK AROUND THE GREENS

The shade sail on the northern end of the Blue Green has been replaced and new stainless steel guide wires have also been renewed.

Guide wires on the southern end of the Blue Green have also been replaced and the shade sail has been retensioned.

The Red Green east-west shade sails and guide wires have also been retensioned. All work has been completed thanks to the Monday Morning Crew.

- Bruce Holwell, Facilities Director

MERLO COFFEE CUP ROUND 1 – Saturday 31 January 2026

Div 1 – Away at Everton Park at 9.00am

Pairs

Pamela Salway
Nikki Geran (Skip)

Triples

Sau Yin (Rachel) Chiang
Antony Flint
Doug Buchbach (Skip)

Triples

Vaughan Thomas
Pamela Richardson
Siu Hong (Dicky) Ng (Skip)

Manager: Pam Salway (0414 381 427)

Div 3 – Home to Hamilton at 9.00am

Pairs

Darcy Barry
Mark Benson (Skip)

Triples

Ken Harvey
Robin Town
Bruce Holwell (Skip)

Triples

Graham Legg
Terry Martin
Lois Bradley (Skip)

Manager: Graham Legg (0419 771 954)

Umpire for Div 3: Graham Legg

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.