

SLBC NEWS



25 June 2025

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

CLUB COMPETITIONS UPDATE

Men's Triples Final



Patrick Bailey, Paul Kenny, Dicky Ng (S)

The final of this competition was played last Wednesday and produced a worthy game. Both teams played quality bowls in a match that went down to the wire with Patrick Bailey, Paul Kenny and Dicky Ng (S) narrowly defeating Vaughan Thomas, Ken Harvey and Bruce Holwell (S) 23-20. Dicky's team got off to an absolute flyer being 7-0 up after two ends and 10-3 ahead after four ends. Bruce's team decided to get serious on the fifth end, stringing together four winning ends to be 14-10 ahead after eight ends. From that point, all ends were decided by ones and twos which reflected the closeness of the game. The game was drawn 20-20 on the 19th end with Dicky's team managing to score two shots then another single to take the game in a thrilling finish.

A great final to complete what was a fine competition! Three of the matches, including the final and a semi-final, were locked at 20-20 within the last three ends. This is another reminder of the importance of staying positive as a team and playing focussed bowls to the very last delivery.

Well done to all competitors and special congratulations to Patrick, Paul and Dicky.

- Graham Legg, Games Manager

MEN'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPION FOURS

St Lucia's team of Darcy Barry, Warren Garnham, Tony Burton and Craig Francis ventured into the cold on Monday night to play the first knockout round of the CoC Fours at Enoggera under lights. While our boys tried hard, they were outclassed by a formidable Windsor outfit consisting of Division 1 Pennant players, including a Kiwi representative who played some of the best lead bowls I have ever seen.

Well done to our team and to their "never give up" spirit!

- Craig Francis (S)

PENNANT SEASON IS NEARLY HERE

The Selectors would like to thank all players who have turned up for Pennant trial games over the last two weeks. The response has been terrific.

This coming Saturday will be our last trial before Pennants starts on Tuesday 1 July 2025 (Winter Eights) and Saturday 5 July 2025 (Open).

Please, let's have one more big turnout this Saturday and remember to register your name to play in the usual way (online or by phone).

- The Selectors

Roles of Players in a Fours Game

These role descriptions below could be helpful for those playing in fours pennant games. They are also useful for newer bowlers who may need guidance on what is required to be a third and a skip. The general considerations for a team should make for thoughtful reading.

Third

1. Possesses a versatile readiness to perform all shots in a skillful way.
2. They read the head accurately and thoughtfully so that they are ready with a response for the skip if requested. As the skip has just left the head, they may discuss the shot the skip is intending to play as they cross but they don't interfere with the skip's call.
3. They must have complete communication skills whether they are verbal, body and/or hand signals.
4. They must help the first two players to remain a happy, close-knit unit.
5. A third makes a positive contribution to team morale.
6. As they are responsible for calling the shots at the finish of the end, they must be ready and able to make accurate measurements of bowls before agreeing on the score with their opposition third, jointly communicating the result to their skips.

Skip

1. This player is a charismatic, unflappable and inspiring leader.
2. They must be competent actors. Whatever the situation, they should present a positive, appropriate front.
3. They have a complete range of all shots.
4. A skip must be mentally tough and astute tactically.
5. Pressure shots don't worry them. They use pressure as a trigger to play big shots.
6. A skip has a routine plan for communicating with their players on the mat –
 - i) Indicate the score of the head.
 - ii) Clearly and promptly indicate what shot they want – the hand, weight, bowl's finishing position, what bowl (or the jack) is to be removed, etc.
7. If their voice is not audible to players at the other end, they must have a set of clear hand signals known to their players.
8. The use of judicious praise is a valuable tool. No blame for anyone.
9. Involvement of their third in tactics is as the skip sees fit.
10. Quick assessments of the head and prompt, precise instructions from the skip are probably what most players are looking to receive.

Other Considerations for the Team

1. Is due importance placed on the following words in a fours game? Patience, positiveness, self-control, toleration, commitment and discipline.
2. Do you always exercise the utmost confidence in each other?
3. Mutual support is the key to having a cohesive, successful team.
4. When the skip is about to bowl, what effect do late, uninvited suggestions have on their performance?
5. Can skips delay too much with pondering and indecision? Is a flowing game likely to be more successful than a stop-start affair?
6. Is there one right shot for a particular head?
7. How much do skips have to tell you? Any more than hand and weight? Some players do like to know the distance their last bowl was in relation to the jack.
8. Can skips clutter their players' minds with too much information?
9. Are a player's personality needs secondary to team goals?
10. Before the game, should all team members take part in the compilation and adoption of "the game plan"?
11. What part do lengthy stoppages (skip and third going to the head for ponderings) play in bowler performances?
12. Relaxed minds in happy harmony produce good bowls.

RANDOM WEDNESDAYS

You may have noticed that, over the last few weeks, we have been having Random Wednesdays on our Wednesday social bowls afternoons. Random Wednesday is a method of selecting teams where, apart from the nomination of skips, teams are compiled randomly by following the order in which people have enrolled online. Once the teams have been determined, skips can decide the playing order.

Selectors may also decide to play slightly different formats of games (e.g. 2-bowl triples, 2-4-2 pairs) to promote flexibility and develop new skills.

On Random Wednesdays, you have the opportunity to play with any member in the club, regardless of ability or experience. You can be drawn to play with or against the newer or more experienced bowlers. If you're a newer bowler, you can learn from bowling with more experienced bowlers. If you're a more experienced bowler, you get to bowl with the newer bowlers and see the new talent available in the club.

Playing with different people in different positions and different formats encourages us to be flexible and further develop our bowling skills. It also helps to build a strong and supportive team spirit within the club. This has to be better for everyone's game.

Saturday bowls selections will remain unchanged as it is important that players also have a regular opportunity to bowl against players of a similar standard.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding Random Wednesdays, please come and see me or Pam Salway, Bowls Captain.

- Graham Legg, Games Manager

2025 PATRON'S MIXED TRIPLES

The Patron's Mixed Triples competition is held annually to honor the Patrons of the Club, Russ Davidson and Elsie Speight, who will be invited to attend on the day of the competition. This year, we are trialling the event to be completed on the same day, Wednesday 30 July, in a different format.

The call for this competition will open on Wednesday 25 June and will close at 4 pm on Wednesday 9 July. Please register online using the same process as we use for social bowls.

The competition between club-selected teams will take place on Wednesday 30 July commencing at 12:30 pm. The format will be 2-bowl triples, comprised of two games of 14 ends each or the bell, whichever comes first. The winner will be decided on number of wins and then margins over two games.

Good luck to all teams in what should be a great afternoon of bowls.

- Graham Legg, Games Manager

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINI MINUTES 18 JUNE 2025

- New grant lodged by Ian Thomas for a Green's Roller for \$10 000. Decided that we absolutely need a new roller and, if unsuccessful, then the club will purchase one out of current funds.
- The Management Committee applauded both Craig Francis and Pam Salway for their re-accreditation as coaches.
- BowlsLink up and running with Vaughan Thomas, Peter Fairchild and Graham Legg as our club's administrators. This enables representative players to log into BDBA competitions with ease.
- Conditions of Play revised in a meeting with Pam Salway and Games Managers. Soon to be uploaded to the Website.
- Duties of Bowls Committee Office Bearers also to be uploaded.
- Reinforcement of the social bowls selection process. Wednesday will be a random selection and Saturday will be a competitive selection.
- Pennant Competitions:
 1. Ladies Division 1 Saturday morning.
 2. Divisions 3, 5 and 6 Mixed Saturday.
 3. Divisions 1 and 3 Mixed Mid-Week
- Total club Membership 217 with six new members joining in June. Five came from the BCC Active and Healthy Living Program. Special thanks to Robin Town, Craig Francis, Bruce Holwell and Max Grey for giving their time to coach.
- The club hosted five functions in April and May with almost 400 guests enjoying our facilities. Thank you to the hosts and volunteer bowls coaches.
- Our new Greens Director, Ian Thomas, and the Management Committee discussed his responsibilities and how to incorporate a mechanism to allow members feedback.
- The Management Committee acknowledged that the club was in great condition. Bruce Holwell reported that there was nothing major of concern. Two items to be attended to were new security sensors to be installed in the bar area and repainting the deck and veranda.
- Max Grey, as our new President, led a review of the club's structure focussing on the current lines of communication.

- Rob Hoskin, Secretary