

SLBC NEWS



21 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

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PLANNING FOR 2026

MINI MINUTES – JANUARY

- We will celebrate our 80th anniversary this year on 31 October. Looking to make this a focus Open Day event. May include Come and Try Day or similar as part of the 80-year Club Celebrations – Open to families with activities for youngsters.
- Plan on getting a Buddy System in place that works to encourage new members to keep playing and move across all days of play, not just Thursdays.
- We need a designated person to run the BCC Come and Try Program. This has been our most successful means of attracting new players.
- The Executive has agreed to proceed with the purchase of two sets of size O bowls from Henselite for \$1048. There is a need for smaller training sets for smaller hands.
- Two new male players have signed up since December.
- We need to focus on making a profit in 2026 to keep our Club viable.
- No one at present to replace our Treasurer when she takes a holiday break.
- DJ role appears to be working well with finances.
- Training bar staff to better manage the voucher system. May change the Wednesday \$10 prize to “two free drinks” which is easier to consolidate on the register.
- Bar staff need to be better trained in consolidating the print-off at the end of functions.
- How can we attract the working folk in the area? Do we require lights to achieve this? Mixed feeling whether this is possible.
- Explore ways to have UQ Students join as Student members – Inter-College competitions?
- Develop and implement a marketing plan to help lift the Club’s digital presence - social media, PR, events with greater focus on attracting / appealing to the younger generation.
- 2024/25 external functions brought substantial revenue to the club through 34 functions. This financial year we are on track to exceed this. Our Director Anne Kuhnemann, our member hosts and bowls volunteers can take the credit for success in keeping the club well afloat.
- Anne completed a survey of other clubs which offer bowls in their functions and concluded that the success of our model was that we offer a more personalised service.
- Bowls volunteers for functions should be given written instructions on their role and how to ensure the greens are not damaged. For example: Flat soled shoes only when barefoot is not an option. Sitting on the edge of the bank is not allowed. Signs to be organised which reflect these dot points to be displayed near the greens.

- Facebook and Instagram: We can 'ramp this up' e.g. Ask hosts to take 'Instagram worthy' photos with permission and provide these to Pam Salway with captions to promote functions more actively. Ideally these elements should be part of a marketing and communications strategy.
- Grey Pearl Bug on the Blue Green is an ongoing problem with nothing currently available that will eradicate it. Suggestion made that we approach UQ to research the solution.
- Member-introduced sponsorships can be an effective and sustainable way to grow and retain sponsors. A modest incentive will encourage greater member involvement and strengthen sponsor relationships with the Club.
- Birdie Triples will need to be fine-tuned in the future to take into consideration working days and weekends. Sets of two x nine ends with a tiebreaker is an option.
- Patrons' and President's Days went well as a social event in 2025.
- Can we tweak coaching sessions to get more out of our up-and-coming players?
Targeted coaching sessions and inviting players to join a training session perhaps before Saturdays, Wednesdays or slots on a Tuesday. Suggest that we encourage players to watch TV games and Championship events to educate the 'reading of the head' in your own game. Coaches to watch and give feedback to players during trial games.
- Planning has begun for Duchesne Day on 1 March. Keep this day free in your calendar as we will need your help.
- Are you interested in taking on more of an active role in our club? Please see Max Grey or Robin Town who will guide your enthusiasm in the right direction.

- Rob Hoskin, Honorary Secretary

MERLO COFFEE CUP

As the Merlo Coffee Cup begins play on 31 January, the selectors are looking at team compositions for the first few games.

Trial games will again be played on Saturday 24 January. If you have your name down as being interested in being selected in this year's Merlo Coffee Cup, please make sure you wear your competitive socks this Saturday.

Please also ensure the absentee list on the noticeboard is up to date so selectors know when you are, or are not, available.

- Pam Salway, Bowls Captain

Captain's Corner

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Coming up during the next month or two:

- **25 January 2026 – The 2026 Ambassador Cruise Line World Indoor Bowls Championships** – Play has started and events will run until 25 January 2026. This event features the world's best bowlers competing indoors in many disciplines. Games are available to watch on The World Bowls Tour YouTube and Facebook channels.
- **28 January 2026** – Nominations are now open for the **Champion of Club Singles** events for both men and women. Closing date for nominations is 28 January 2026. Games will be played February. Entries must be placed via BowlsLink. If you have trouble entering, simply speak with Pam Salway for assistance.
- **31 January 2026 – Merlo Coffee Cup commences.** You can still register your interest in selection to play in this competition which runs until 28 March 2026, place your interest via SLBC's website "Register for Bowls".
- **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 three years or less to enter. It is an open event. This competition will run during February/March. Please list your entry via the SLBC's website. 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 is hoping to go one better than in 2025 by winning the Pennant. If you are available to play and have not yet let us know, please do so by registering your interest on the St Lucia Bowls Club website at the bottom of the "Register for Bowls" page.
- Coming up in April will be the **BDBA Men's Senior Pennant** competition. Watch this space for more information.

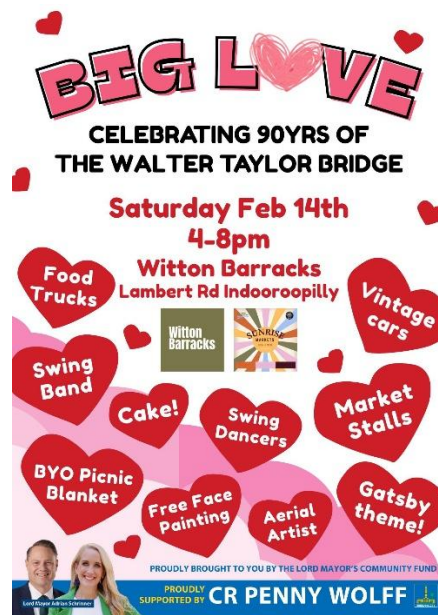
- Pam Salway, Bowls Captain

FREE CLOTHING

As a result of my (thankfully) losing weight recently, I am sorting out my wardrobe and have several near new, good quality shirts size XL (T-shirts, golf shirts and dress shirts) and golf shorts sized 38" which I could donate to charity.

I would prefer to give them to Club members if anyone is interested. Please call me on 0402 154 346.

- Craig Francis (slightly slimmer version)



BIG LOVE – 90 YEARS OF THE WALTER TAYLOR BRIDGE

Love is in the air at Indooroopilly! Join us for a heart-warming community celebration marking Valentine's Day and the 90th birthday of the iconic Walter Taylor Bridge.

Bring your friends, family or special someone to enjoy a festive afternoon and evening celebrating the bridge's rich history and its special place in our community.

✨ What's on:

- 🍷 Market Stalls and Gourmet Food Trucks
- 🎵 Live music by Swingalicious Big Band thanks to Brisbane City Council's Bands in Parks program
- 🎪 Aerial circus performance by Sparkle Society Arts (6:45pm – 7:25pm)
- 🧺 Fizz the Fairy bubbleologist
- 💃 Swing Patrol Brisbane dancing the night away with old school favourites from 20s - 50s
- 🎨 Free face painting and kids' activities
- 📖 UQ Book fair popup
- 🧑‍🌾 Guided Tours of Witton Barracks with the Brisbane Greeters
- 🏹 Lawn games
- ❤️ Love heart arch for the perfect photo
- 🦋 Butterfly release
- 🍰 Free cake to help celebrate 90 years and other surprises!

Friday 14 February – 4pm-8pm
Witton Barracks Park, Lambert Road, Indooroopilly

Pack a picnic rug, soak up the atmosphere and share the **BIG LOVE** as we celebrate history, community and a bridge that's connected us for 90 amazing years.

This is a free, family-friendly event. Everyone's welcome including dogs!

- Cr Penny Wolff