

SLBC NEWS



19 June 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

AUSTRALIAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

SLBC were represented in the Australian Open being held at the Gold Coast by Pam Salway, Nikki Geran, Peter Longland and Dicky Ng. What a great experience to play at a national level!

In the Women's Singles First Round pool play, Pam won all three matches against players from Victoria, WA and New Zealand, playing on very quick grass greens at Musgrave Hill. The next round was at Paradise Point on carpet. Pam never seems to get a kind draw in these events and her next match was against a well-known international player, Jamie-Lee Worsnop, who has played for Australia 43 times (according to Google). Pam played very well and midway through the match, there were only two points separating them. Unfortunately, her opponent played even better to win but only by 10 points. It was a good game to watch.

Pam and Nikki Geran played in the Women's Pairs last Monday but didn't make it through the section.

In the Men's Division, Peter Longland and Dicky Ng played in the Fours with two players from West Toowong. They progressed through the round robin section of the AO Fours competition but were narrowly defeated in their second knockout game.

- Tim Salway, Observer

MEN'S SECTION

Men's A Singles Championship

One remaining Round 1 game and four Round 2 games were played last week. On Wednesday morning, Peter Fairchild and Peter Longland played their delayed first round game. Peter Fairchild led from start to finish to win 26-19 over 25 ends. Having started at 9am, it was interesting to see how the green played slightly differently as the day progressed.

The second match played on Wednesday was between Peter Fairchild and Fulvio Toniotti. Peter began strongly and was ahead 11-4 by the eighth end but Fulvio began to close the gap to draw level at 19-all after the 24th end. The finish line of 25 shots was in sight for both men but it was a tight battle. Fulvio pulled ahead by one shot on the 28th end then Peter regained the lead 24-22 after the 30th end but Fulvio won the next end by one shot. Score was then 24-23 to Peter.

The tension mounted during the 32nd end with many observers noting that Fulvio had two bowls close to the jack for the win but Peter had his final bowl to play. It was a brilliant bowl which threaded its way through the head to nudge Fulvio's closest bowl out while stopping next to the jack for the match winning shot. Applause rang out as the spectators knew they had seen something very special from both players.

Bowlers on neighbouring rinks greatly enjoyed watching the game, not just for the skill but for the spirit in which it was played. The Games Manager would particularly like to thank both players for their flexibility in playing on the Wednesday, particularly Peter Fairchild who played two games and the marker for her herculean effort in marking such a long afternoon game.

Peter had previously won both the B and C Singles and now has moved into the semifinal of the A Singles. He demonstrated a calm demeanour and has the ability to adjust his delivery with each turn on the mat, winning ends with his last bowl on several occasions. These two bowlers can look forward to being part of winning teams in the future at SLBC.

Four Round 2 games were played on Saturday. As anticipated, the clash between Craig Francis and Mark Benson was a close affair. The game was decided in Mark's favour 25-22 on the 27th end. Craig had been holding a match winning three shots before Mark's last bowl. Mark managed to score one shot to clinch the game. The score at the 18th end was 21-10 in Craig's favour but Mark scored all but one of the points over the remaining ends.

Doug Buchbach had a convincing win over Bruce Holwell 26-6 after 16 ends. Doug obviously settled into his groove early and could do little wrong on the day while Bruce had one of those difficult days which we all have from time to time. Doug's win sets up a semifinal against Peter Fairchild.

The final Round 2 game was a tough day at the office for Dicky Ng. Fresh from a successful outing at the Australian Open, Dicky had to fight hard to beat a determined Antony Flint 25-19 over 27 ends. On the 18th end, Antony led 18-12 having strung together five consecutive ends and 7 unanswered points. However, as with Craig and Mark's game, things shifted dramatically from that point with Dicky scoring all but one of the remaining points and going on to win. Dicky will play Mark Benson in the second semifinal.

Patron's Mixed Triples

The call is now open for all Club members who wish to compete in the Patron's Mixed Triples which is played on Wednesdays. This is a Club-selected event which means that the Club Selectors will be making up the teams from people who nominate. To enter, please put your name on the nomination sheet on the noticeboard or let me know at games@stluciabowls.org. All members are invited to compete in what is always a good competition. Nominations close on Wednesday 26 June with games commencing on Wednesday 10 July.

- Graham Legg, Games Manager

TWILIGHT BOWLS

Club members who play in the Twilight Bowls are also eligible to play in the Patron's Mixed Triples as advised above. It is a great way to meet other members and enjoy a game of bowls. The competition will commence on Wednesday 10 July. Check the website for your team after Wednesday 26 June and register online before 10am on the Wednesday or phone in between 10:30 and 11:15am to confirm you will be playing at 12:30pm.

- Greg Bahlmann

WOMEN'S SECTION

Consistency Competition

Nominations are rolling in for the Ladies Consistency Competition which closes on Tuesday 25 June.

Tuesday's play was mainly pairs concentrating on exercises to help preparation and focus in advance of the upcoming pennants seasons.

The midweek pennants schedule was announced. Pennant teams will be selected on Thursday 20 June.

- Linda Bird, Games Manager

Deciding the Shots

Only two people decide the shots at the finish of each end. They are the leads in pairs, seconds in triples or the thirds in a game of fours. The number of shots won is not a decision for the whole team to debate. The procedure for determining the result of an end is laid out in the Law Book on pages 34-35, Law 23. Deciding the number of shots is not done by the whole team.

The two people in charge of the head when the final bowl has come to rest should count the number of shot bowls quickly. If a winning bowl is not immediately apparent, then one of the decision makers should use their measuring tape without hesitation to ascertain the length from the jack to the bowls in question accurately for the final count. A long discussion only slows the game down.

If the decision is between two bowls, it is easy as both are measured. If there are more than two bowls to be considered, measure the "odd man out" (the single bowl) first. That saves having to remeasure all the bowls in question.

Having agreed, they should both then clearly signal the result of the end to their skips at the mat. Once this has been done, **the decision is final**. There can be no additional measuring carried out "just in case".

Update on BCC Construction around SLBC

The area in front of the clubhouse has been returfed and temporary steps to the Club have been installed. Next jobs are the steps from the lower carpark and the ramp will be replaced. All is proceeding well.

