



# LLBC Newsletter

February 2026

## President's Message

Even in the heart of winter, I find myself thinking about what makes this club feel like home. It is not only the game, although we all love the game. It is the way lawn bowlers show up for each other. We notice when someone is missing. We make room for the new member who is not quite sure where they fit yet. We share tips, stories, and laughter in ways that quietly lift the whole group.

As we enjoy the social events of the winter, participate in short mat bowling, and look ahead to spring, I want to invite you to hold one simple intention: how might I contribute to building and strengthening our lawn bowling community?

It does not have to be big. It can be as simple as showing up with a smile and a bit of goodwill. It can be introducing yourself to someone you have not met yet, checking in on a member who has been away, or yes, even bringing cookies. We all have something to contribute.

When the season opens, come back ready to enjoy it, not just to play well, but to be present, to reconnect, and to remember why this sport has kept so many of us coming back year after year. Whether you are a competitive bowler, a social bowler, or somewhere in between, you belong here.

Let's make the start of the season a warm one, the kind that reminds people why this club matters. A smile on the bank. A quick introduction. An offer to practice with someone who is rusty. These small moments are how a club becomes a community, and that is what I am most proud of.

Warmly,

Rhys Warren

## Do You Have an Idea for a Social Event?



Winter can feel long, but our club does not have to go quiet. Every time members come out for curling, euchre, or bowling, we keep the community alive, connected, and upbeat until the greens are back in full swing. These nights are not just activities. They are how we stay in touch, welcome newer members, and keep the club feeling like a club all year long.

If you have an idea for a winter get-together you would like to host, let us know. It can be simple. A card night, a casual social, a pub evening, or something entirely new. If you bring the idea, we will help you get it on the calendar.

# Past & Upcoming Social Events

## 6th Annual "Lawn Bowlers Curl" Dream Team Bonspiel

On Saturday January 17th, 24 curlers took part in the 6th Annual Dream Team Bonspiel at Oakwood Curling Club. A fun filled day was had by all who took part in the fierce competition on the ice and the socializing off the ice. At the end of the day, the Dream Team was crowned.

Congratulations to this year's winners, the 2026 Dream Team.

**Skip** June Pick                      **Vice** Gail Pillsworth  
**Second** Betty Ryall                **Lead** Linda Neal

Thank you to Joan Harper, Sandra Scott, Brenda Simmons, and Barb Jenkins, who looked after preparing lunch and snacks throughout the day.

A special thank you to John and Joan Harper for organizing and hosting at the Oakwood Curling Club.



## Euchre Night Results

Thank you to everyone who came out for Euchre night. It was a fun evening and a great example of how these socials keep our club connected through the winter months. And a major thank you to Tracey and Rhys Warren for once again hosting the event.

### Congratulations to our winners:

Wayne Aldred: 1st place and top number of lone hands with 6  
Beverley McMillan: 2nd place  
Sheila Bondi: 3rd place and top number of euchres with 11  
Sandy Mitchell: 4th place and won the lotto "Bingo"  
Shirley Toombs: 5th place



The big winner was The Food Source with \$135 in cash and many, many pounds of food. Thank you for your generosity and for showing up for the club and the community.

## 5-Pin Bowling & Dinner



Our annual bowling afternoon is coming soon. It's always a highlight, and it is a great way to get out, laugh a lot, and connect with fellow members.

**Wednesday, February 18 | 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

Strike Point Bowling Centre, Lindsay

**Cost:** \$21.50 + HST per person

Following bowling, we have a reservation at the Cat & Fiddle for anyone who would like to stay and join fellow bowlers for dinner.

Looking forward to seeing everyone who has signed up for the event.

# Short Mat News & Events



## Winter is Short Mat Bowling Season!

Short Mat Bowling is a great way to stay involved with the club through the colder months while keeping your skills and confidence sharp. It is indoor play, but it still challenges your touch, line, weight control, and strategy, and it keeps you thinking like a bowler all winter long.

Most importantly, it is fun. Short Mat nights are relaxed, welcoming, and full of good conversation, laughs, and friendly competition. It is a chance to get out of the house, stay active, and stay connected with fellow members when it is easy to drift into winter hibernation.

Whether you have played before or you are curious and want to try it for the first time, we would love to see you. Come out for a game or two, meet up with friends, and enjoy an evening of bowls in a warm, social setting. Bring your enthusiasm, and we will help with the rest.

## Mind Garden Wellness ShortMatLawnBowlingTournament

The Mind Garden Wellness Short Mat Tournament on **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**, at the Lindsay Exhibition (LEX) is shaping up to be a fantastic event!

This Mixed Triples/Women's Triples tournament brings together local and visiting teams for some great competition.

If you'd like to play or volunteer, please let us know. **Contact us for more information at [lindsaylawnbowls@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaylawnbowls@gmail.com).**

## Lindsay Ear Clinic Chili Bowl ShortMat Tournament

Mark your calendar for the Chili Bowl on Saturday, April 25th at the Lindsay Curling Club. It is always a favourite event and a great way to gather as a club before the season fully ramps up.

We will be looking for kitchen help (snacks and coffee) and we will also be accepting donations of chili. If you can bring a pot, help serve, or support the kitchen in any way, please sign up when the Sign-up Genius goes out. 🌶️

If you'd like to play or volunteer, please let us know. **Contact us for more information at [lindsaylawnbowls@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaylawnbowls@gmail.com).**

# Recognizing Member Achievements



Short mat bowling has a quiet brilliance to it. On the surface, it looks simple: line up, deliver well, read the mat, repeat. But anyone who plays knows there are levels. Not just in skill, but in steadiness, strategy, and the ability to keep your nerve when the head is tight and one bowl can change everything.

That is why rewards matter.

In short mat, progress is not always loud. It shows up in small, meaningful shifts: fewer wasted bowls, better weight control, smarter shot selection, and the calm that comes from knowing you can recover after a mistake. Recognition helps make those gains visible. It gives players something to aim for beyond winning a single game. It builds pride, motivation, and momentum.

## One of the best examples is the “Big Shot” pin for a perfect end.

A perfect end is not luck. It is precision. It is teamwork. It is reading the head, delivering under pressure, and staying disciplined right through the last bowl. When a club recognizes an achievement like that, it reinforces what short mat is really about: consistent improvement, shared standards, and the satisfaction of executing something difficult. Delivering when it counts, staying composed, and executing the “must-have” bowl. A perfect end sits at the top of that ladder. It is a marker that says: you brought it all together.

So, a big congratulations to Sheila Bondi and Kitty Stone on earning your Big Shot pins for a perfect end in a short mat game in November. What a terrific achievement, and a great moment for the club to celebrate. Here is to more milestones, more moments of brilliance, and more ways to recognize the steady growth that makes short mat bowling such a rewarding game.

## Short Mat Bowling Attendance

A reminder to please continue using Sign-up Genius to indicate your attendance at Short Mat Bowling. SignUpGenius is an online sign-up tool that lets a group organize attendance for an event. For Short Mat Bowling, it is the link you use to indicate whether you are coming (or not coming) on a given night.

When you update your response, it helps the organizers:

- Plan numbers so we know how many players to expect
- Organize teams and arrange matchups fairly
- Set up properly with the right number of mats, equipment, and chairs
- Avoid last-minute scrambling if plans change

In short: it is a simple way to RSVP so the evening runs smoothly for everyone.

## Good Luck at Worlds Short Mat Championships (Skien, Norway, March)

Wishing the very best of luck to our very own **Rhys Warren, Tracey Warren, and Alan Hunter** as they compete at the **World Short Mat Championships** in Skien, Norway, in March.

We will be cheering you on from home and following along with pride.

Enjoy every moment of the experience, bowl with confidence, and know the whole club is behind you.

We cannot wait to hear how it goes.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Lindsay Lawn Bowling Club is a volunteer-run organization, and your help is what keeps everything running smoothly. We are currently looking for members to step into manager and committee roles to support our events, activities, and day-to-day operations.

Volunteering is one of the best ways to feel connected to the club. You get to meet more members, build lasting friendships, and play a direct role in creating the kind of welcoming, well-run community we all enjoy.

Whether you have experience with organizing, planning, maintenance, or simply a willingness to pitch in, there is a role that fits. If you are interested, please reach out. We would love to have you on the team.

## Spring Is Coming: How You Can Help Your Club!

Spring will be here before we know it, and we are already thinking ahead to what the club needs to run well. We are looking for members who can step into manager roles for Grounds, Maintenance, and Kitchen.

If you have been waiting for a clear way to contribute, this is it. These roles make an immediate impact, and you will not be doing it alone.

Please reach out to the executive if you are interested or want to learn what is involved.

## Executive Positions 2026/27

Many executive positions will be coming up for election in October, and we encourage members to start thinking now about getting involved. Strong clubs do not “just happen.” They are built by members who are willing to step forward and help guide the season.

If you are curious about a role, ask questions early. There is time to learn, shadow someone, and understand what is involved before nominations open.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the executive team for 2026-27, reach out and let us know.

## Volunteer Spotlight on Brenda Simmons



This month, we want to recognize Brenda Simmons as Volunteer of the Month. Brenda has been dedicated to keeping our carpets clean, and it makes a real difference in how our space looks, feels, and functions, especially during the winter months when we are tracking in snow, salt, and slush.

It is the kind of role that is easy to overlook because it happens quietly. There is no spotlight, no announcement, and usually no one sees the work in the moment. We only notice the result: clean mats we all appreciate.

Brenda, thank you for your consistency, your pride in the details, and the steady way you contribute. Your efforts are a big part of how we are taking care of/must take care of these valuable assets of the club.

These are the types of behind-the-scenes efforts that keep a club running well, and they matter more than most people realize.

If you have questions or are interested in current positions, contact us at [LindsayLawnBowls@gmail.com](mailto:LindsayLawnBowls@gmail.com) for more information.

**CONTACT US** 



If lawn bowling had a “just show up and have fun” button, it would be the jitney. A jitney is the sport’s social mixer—a cheerful, come-as-you-are game where nobody knows who their teammates will be until the draw box has spoken.

### How This Magical Mix-Up Works

A jitney starts with bowlers wandering in, coffee in hand, pretending they’re not competitive at all. Everyone tosses their name into the draw. Then presto! Random teams appear, often pairing a seasoned bowler with someone who still thinks a “perfect line” is something you draw with a ruler.

The result? Delightfully unpredictable teams playing pairs, triples, or fours, depending on who showed up and whether bowling was more enticing that day than other options!

### Why Bowlers Love a Good Jitney

#### 1. It’s a Social Spark Plug

A jitney is where friendships happen—between ends, over laughter, and during the occasional good-natured debate about whose bowl is actually closer. New bowlers get welcomed in; seasoned bowlers get to show off without being too obvious about it.

#### 2. You Learn Without Realizing It

With teams changing every time, you get exposed to different strategies and styles. One week you might play with a master tactician; the next you might play with someone who’s just delighted their bowl stayed in the rink. Either way, you grow.

#### 3. It’s Pure, Uncomplicated Fun

No long-term commitments. No pressure. Just sunshine (hopefully), good company, and a bit of friendly competition with plenty of room for banter.

### A Tradition That Keeps Clubs Vibrant

Clubs run jitneys because they make the sport feel alive—part game, part gathering. They bring people together in a way that strict competition never can.

In short: a jitney is lawn bowling’s way of saying, “Relax. Enjoy yourself. And maybe roll a beauty while you’re at it.”