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SENTINEL

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"The Magistrates' Court reached the incorrect finding"



St Helena Supreme Court reverses sentence of Magistrates Court in Michael Thorpe dog shooting as Peppers family urges action to "make sure those toys stay locked away"



Prince Andrew no longer 'Welcome'

Appropriation Bill 2025 approved with zero amendments



More stories from Formal LegCo inside...

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Luke Bennett, SAMS

Football, a favourite amongst millions around the world, weather you're five or ninety-five, the love of football can last forever. We choose our teams from so many reasons; some are really interesting, some are just because they win trophies, but the bottom line is that once you find your team you develop a connection that can last a lifetime.

But, I think it is very important how we support our teams and how we let it affect us. For example, you can really mess up someone's day if you win a little banter session over their team; it's crazy, but it's true, people breathe football, which is fine, but should it cause you sleepless nights and anger and possibly high blood pressure? I don't think so.

If my team is losing it does affect me, but I'll never let it keep me up at night. I love having a bit of banter, but with the right fans, because some people take it too personally. If you are not playing, it's not in your control; the team that you support are doing everything they possibly can to win for you. That alone should mean something, but unfortunately it doesn't to some. The abuse that these players receive is disgusting from the opposition and their own fans. It is truly heart breaking to see that racism is alive and well in the football world, and again not just from the opposition but from their own fans.

I'm an Arsenal fan, but when it comes to this kind of abuse I think the football community should come together to fight this, not join in. The horrific scenes in Liverpool wasn't enough to bring the football world together, because there were riots before the Conference League Final as well as after the Champions League Final, this one leaving some reported dead.

Are there such sore losers out there that they are willing to take a life? Well, the answer is yes, that's the truth, if we do not promote respect in these competitions then football is going to be a burden to everyone. Football is meant to bring everyone together.

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Please see below my Adjournment Debate from the recent Formal Meeting of Legislative Council.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise in support of the Adjournment Debate

Firstly I'd like to echo Cllr Midwinter's disappointment on the closure of Creative St Helena – I had warned this Government when their budget was cut that this was inevitable and it's a shame this warning was ignored.

I'd like to thank everyone who has supported, sent messages and has been understanding of everything that has been going on both when I was in Johannesburg for my operation and since I have returned. Although I'm not done being put back together yet, with a bit of luck I'll be back to fighting fit very soon.

This has certainly been a great opportunity to see how the money we talk about every year for medical treatment overseas is spent and, while not perfect, from my own experience, so far it's been money well spent. I look forward to being able to share my experience on my return from round two.

Now as I turn to money, and as it's the budget session, I think it's appropriate to do so. I'd like to talk about recent statements made by this Government in regards to our financial position.

As I think everyone is now aware, our finances are not in a good place, but there have been many more contributions to the decline in our financial reserves than those listed in the statement "LEVEL OF GENERAL RESERVE IMPACTED BY BUDGET PRESSURES AND LITIGATION AWARDS," which was released last week.

So today I'd like to give just a few of my favourite examples, some of which we've learned about in the session on Tuesday and others we've known about for some time.

There are the ones that have been ongoing and the Minister listed a few in his budget speech: the shrinking population making efficiency difficult, plugging historic service gaps, inflation and global instability.

Some shocks to our budget have been necessary or at least resulted in something beneficial. For example, the supplementary appropriation that seems to come every year for medical referrals (and I can hardly complain about that now can I). Or the increases in minimum wage which of course comes with increased staffing costs across SHG. Or maybe having to take over and provide a public transport service at short notice. That can't have come cheap, but at least it's meeting a real need.

I'm not saying these things should or shouldn't have been done but they are at least providing something for the community.

However not all of the pressures on the finances have provided benefit for the community and these to me are the most important ones to talk about.

So, for example, on Tuesday we learned about the money spent on a Decentralised Autonomous Organisation project that, as it turns out, UK won't let us do. Now maybe if we spend even more money on doing more work we might someday see a benefit but for now that's money spent with no return.

Or my favourite gripe, the substantial money we spend every year on Mantis to keep a hotel open that competes with locally owned businesses and still isn't operating profitably.

Let's not even go with how much money has been spent on delays to Rupert's and the barging costs incurred every month that project is delayed. Oh and just one for the future, the impending black hole for money that will be its running cost should we ever get it finished.

Another favourite of mine is the fibre to home project which again we have already spent huge amounts on, buying cable etc, but achieved essentially nothing in terms of getting fibre to the home.

And while I'm on the Internet, at PAC it was revealed that the main community benefit of reduced Internet costs (which of course came from the fibre going into Rupert's which is separate from fibre to home) has come at the cost of what can only be described as a subsidy to Sure, where this government has not sought a reduction in its Internet bill despite the huge reduction in the cost of providing it.

I could go on. So I will.

How about the yacht mornings that we allowed to go to waste and now have to replace, the sea rescue boat engines, CASH, a £400,000 overspend on the TC budget, the battery backups for our servers that we couldn't use...

The fact is, this Government leaks money worse than a bucket with no bottom and the money was running out long before litigation,

which is just the latest in a line of political scapegoats, such as Covid and Ukraine, that get the blame for all our woes. Now I'm not saying these costs aren't real, but they are far from the be all and end all of our financial woes.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I find it appalling that this Government is resorting to victim blaming and if the UK Government is leaving us in the lurch, then as our Government, it is your job to fight our case with them, not to sow division amongst the people of this island.

I really hope the rhetoric will change.

Councillor Andrew Turner

Dear Editor,

Please see below my response to the budget during the recent Formal Meeting of Legislative Council.

Madam Deputy Speaker I rise in response to the debate.

It will surprise nobody that I am once again not in support of the budget as many, if not all, the trappings of the previous budgets from this Government remain.

On Tuesday we were presented with a budget speech that was full of self-congratulations, but lacking in accountability. The Minister claims that the Government has set a foundation for prosperity, yet the reality for ordinary St Helenians remains one of increasing hardship.

I won't go into all the issues as I'm not allowed that long of a speech so I will highlight a few.

Madam Deputy Speaker, what we have before us is a budget that continues to depend on UK aid while failing to deliver a credible, long-term economic strategy for sustainability. The Minister speaks of progress, but how do we define progress when our General Reserve has fallen below the minimum benchmark for the second consecutive year? How do we define success when inflation remains high, wages struggle to keep pace with rising costs, and Government expenditure continues to outstrip revenue?

The Minister has suggested that outward migration is slowing. But the stark truth remains: our working-age population is shrinking. Meanwhile, essential services are overstretched, and yes we now have to face the legal consequences of SHG's past failures as costly litigation claims will continue to drain public funds. The Government acknowledges these pressures but offers little in the way of real solutions.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one of the most alarming revelations in the budget speech is the Government's willingness to entertain a long-term extension with the current internet provider—a provider that has repeatedly demonstrated that they prioritise their own best interests over that of the community. St Helena stands on the cusp of a digital transformation, yet rather than seizing this opportunity to introduce genuine competition, improve service quality, and drive down costs, this administration appears content to cement its reliance on a provider whose track record is marred by excessive pricing, inadequate infrastructure investment, and failure to prioritise consumer needs. This decision risks undermining the very progress we seek in connectivity, innovation, and economic development. If we do not demand transparency, accountability, and a real plan to ensure affordable and reliable internet access for all, we will condemn our island to another decade of stagnation and lost potential.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this budget purports to "value and invest in our people." Yet public sector pay increases remain an attempt to mask deeper economic struggles. SHG aims to align salaries with UK benchmarks, but make no mistake—this is not a sign of prosperity; it is an admission that wages here have been far too low for far too long. And while lower-paid employees will see some benefit, the question remains: will these increases be sustainable in the long run? Or will they lead to deeper budget deficits down the line?

We hear about investments in financial services, infrastructure, tourism, and digital transformation, but what has this Government actually delivered in real terms? A banking sector review that remains incomplete. A shipping contract with no clear strategy for reducing freight costs. A telecommunications policy that is still waiting for legislative approval. Promises are made, but implementation lags behind.

Where is the bold action to encourage new businesses? To reduce bureaucracy for entrepreneurs?

On that note Madam Deputy Speaker, it is deeply troubling that this Government continues to funnel public funds into the Mantis Hotel—an establishment that has failed to break even while directly competing with private accommodation providers who operate without such generous subsidies. This misguided policy is not only an unfair distortion of the market, but it actively undermines local businesses that have worked tirelessly to provide high-quality hospitality services without Government handouts.

The Government should be focusing on policies that level the playing field and support the broader tourism sector. The continued subsidisation of Mantis is not just poor economic judgement, it is a slap in the face to hardworking private operators who are forced to compete against a state-backed rival.

Madam Deputy Speaker, let us be honest. This budget speech is filled with grand rhetoric, but it does little to inspire confidence.

I reject the complacency, I reject the illusion of progress when the fundamental problems remain unresolved and, as such, I have to reject this budget.

Councillor Andrew Turner

Sentinel Correction

The Sentinel would like to make a correction to our article published last week titled 'The Fishery is Broken' where we spoke to fishermen, Waylon Thomas and Peter Benjamin. On the third page of the article right at the end of column two, the text "three votes, one vote, two vote, no vote" attributed to Waylon should have read "three boats, one boat, two boats, no boat". We apologise for this mistranscription of the interview, which is available via our SAMS Podcast page, and extend this apology to Waylon and Peter.

"The Magistrates' Court reached the incorrect finding"

St Helena Supreme Court reverses sentence of Magistrates Court in Michael Thorpe dog shooting as Peppers family urges action to "make sure those toys stay locked away"



Liam Yon, SAMS

In another twist in a story that has captured the attention of the community since July 2024, local resident Michael Thorpe has won his appeal to the St Helena Supreme Court, following his conviction before the St Helena Magistrates Court in November relating to the shooting and killing of dog Pepper on 30 June 2024. As such, His Honour Judge Malcolm Simmons has reversed the findings and sentences of the Magistrates Court, ultimately acquitting Mr Thorpe on all the offences to which he was convicted.

During the judgement of appeal in the St Helena Supreme Court on Wednesday, 28 May, it was recalled how the appellant, Michael Thorpe, was convicted before the St Helena Magistrates Court on 11 November 2024 on two counts, namely (1) Criminal damage in destroying a dog without lawful excuse under section 3 of the Criminal Damage Ordinance 1979 and (2) Failing to comply with a condition of a firearm certificate in using a gun for purposes other than sport or vermin control under section 4(2) of the Firearms Ordinance 1997.



The appellant later appealed these convictions with hearings having taken place over 5 and 6 May, with the ruling being given on Wednesday of last week.

During the original trial, the defendant sought to prove that his actions were lawful, according to section 11(2) of the Animal Trespass Ordinance 1982, after he found Pepper in his fish pond allegedly worrying his koi carp. The section in question states that 'the lawful occupier of any land, or any person acting with the occupier's authority, may shoot or otherwise humanely destroy any dog found trespassing on the land and killing, wounding or worrying any domestic animal or poultry, without being responsible to the owner or keeper of the dog, or

liable to an action at law or any other process'.

After much research and review of the interpretation of "domestic animal" in this section, the Magistrates Court ruled that "domestic animal" as referred in section 11(2) of the Animal Trespass Ordinance did not include fish which resulted in the guilty verdict being given at the time.

During the appeal however, after further research and review, HHJ Simmons came to the conclusion that fish, specifically Michael's koi carp, the pond of which Pepper was found in before being shot twice, should be considered as a "domestic animal" as referred in the section of the ordinance in question.

"In conclusion, I find that the Magistrates' Court reached the incorrect finding in its pre-trial ruling on construction when construing section 2 of the 1982 Ordinance," stated Judge Simmons. "Fish, namely koi carp, fall within the section 2 definition of "domestic animal" the result being that Mr Thorpe should have been able to avail himself of the protection afforded by section 11(2) of the 1982 Ordinance."

"Therefore, having found that 'domestic animals' includes fish, and more specifically, koi carp, Mr. Thorpe should not have been convicted on the charge of failing to comply with the conditions of his firearms licence under section 4(2) of the Firearms Ordinance 1997," he continued. "Therefore, I allow ground one of the appeal and reverse the findings and sentences of the Magistrates Court and acquit the Appellant on the offences."

This ruling by the St Helena Supreme Court to acquit Mr Thorpe of his offences relating to the shooting of Pepper has, as could be expected, garnered a negative response from a section of the community on St Helena who were vocal about finding justice for Pepper, described as a friendly family dog.

St Helena's resident 'dogman' and reputable dog trainer, Paul Laban, described the actions taken by Michael Thorpe as "sick" and "atrocious" before urging St Helena Police to do what they can to stop him from "ever owning a gun" again.

"My complaint about the way Pepper was shot is how can anyone see a dog struggling in a pond and not make any attempt to help the animal?" commented Paul to The Sentinel. "Instead he goes inside his house and collects a .22 rifle, loads a few rounds, then goes back outside to the dog and shoots it twice in the head at point blank range. I find anyone who could do such a sick thing extremely hard to fathom, there has to be something wrong somewhere."



Paul then questioned, "Would I trust a person of that frame of mind to be allowed ownership of any firearms in the future?" before answering his own question with assertion, "DEFINITELY NOT."

"I would like to add one extra piece," concluded Paul. "The family of this particular person should not be held responsible for his atrocious behaviour. I hope the police can do something to stop this person from ever owning a gun in the future."

Similarly, Pepper's family, who will be extremely disappointed by the decision of the Supreme Court, are encouraging the community to help and ensure that, despite Michael winning his appeal, he still is not allowed to have his firearms back as they pray that no other pet has to face the same fate as their beloved Pepper.

"Apparently, if enough complaints are logged about Micheal getting his guns back then it could potentially mean he won't get them," they explained to the Sentinel. "All you need to do is email or call the police office and tell them you'd like to make a complaint regarding this and they should log it."

"Therefore, if there are people out there who have personally been involved with Michale regarding incidents relating to shooting, threats to shoot, and even the traps that he had some time ago, this will all add up to clearly portray the mindset Michael has, which will be really helpful for the Chief of Police when he makes his decision whether or not to issue his licence," they added, before concluding with a final call to action, "Let's make sure those toys stay locked away!"

June Sweepstake
1000 numbers -
£20.00 each
All profits to SHMSF
Prizes -
2x£2,000.00
1£1,000.00
20x£500.00

How it works.
The sweepstake will go live on Facebook on Friday 6th June at 7pm on the St Helena Medical Support Sweepstake page.
Request how many numbers you would like, and a number/s will be allocated to you. DO NOT ask for specific numbers.
If you do not have Facebook then ask a friend or family member to request a number for you.
Connie Johnson will be taking calls on 23840 from 7pm on Friday 9th, if you don't have someone else to request a number for you on Facebook.
We politely ask not to call before this time.
All numbers must be paid for at the bank -
BOSH Account - St Helena Medical Support Fund
02146002
Payments to be made by 26th June. Draw will be done on the 27th June
Please include your name and sweepstake number/s in the reference on the transfer slip or in the credit narrative if doing online banking.

"Nothing is happening because there's no funding"

Members question lack of action from SHG in tackling invasive whiteweed as funding again identified as the barrier to progression with this work



Demy Herne, SAMS

The growing spread of invasive Whiteweed (Austroeupatorium inulifolium) across St Helena took centre stage in the recent meeting of Legislative Council as concerns mounted over the lack of a coordinated, well-funded response to the issue. Councilor Karl Thrower opened the debate by asking what measures the Government is taking to contain the plant's rapid spread. "Will the Minister for Environment Natural Resources and Planning outline what St Helena Government is doing to address the spread of invasive whiteweed across the island?"

Responding to the question, Minister Christine Scipio acknowledged the severity of the problem, pointing to limited resources and the absence of a dedicated control strategy. "Managing the spread of whiteweed on St Helena is a significant challenge particularly due to funding constraints and competing priorities for funding. At present there is no overall control plan but, despite its absence, ongoing efforts such as control work within the Forest Estate, the Cloud Forest project, and along the highway are playing a role in limiting its spread."

She highlighted ongoing struggles to secure financial support through both internal and external funding mechanisms. "The repeated attempts to secure dedicated funding whether through the Government's MTEF process or external grants like Darwin Plus, highlights the difficulty of gaining financial backing for sustained invasive plant species management. It is clear that a long-term well-funded plan would be ideal; particularly one that includes on the ground control seed spread mitigation and prevention efforts. While technical tools and expertise have been provided through previous projects the main hurdle remains, funding for large-scale physical control work."

Minister Scipio made it clear that donor funding was not the long-term solution. "Environmental donor funding is not a solution to meet funding requirements for our whiteweed management needs, such as this funding exists to facilitate and improve the strategic and technical management measures to manage invasive plant species rather than a sustained work plan to meet the physical needs of a particular invasive plant."

She expressed frustration over the lack of progress, noting the tireless efforts of individuals working under constrained circumstances. "Year after year, knowing that whiteweed needs to be managed but not having the financial support to make a lasting impact is disheartening. It is clear that the individuals who are working to control its spread through small-scale efforts are doing everything they can and within the limitations they face, shows a commitment to protecting St Helena's unique environment."

Efforts continue under existing funding, with a focus on areas like the cloud forest. "ENRP will continue to manage where possible, whiteweed as part of its invasive plant management for cloud forest endemic habitat restoration through FCDO funding and the limited existing recurrent resources, but a more coordinated effort will certainly yield stronger results. The portfolio will continue to bid for funding through the Governments MTEF process and Darwin Plus for invasive plant control. There is no dedicated team monitoring whiteweed at the moment as there is no funding to be able to do so."

The Minister stressed that stronger policy and enforcement measures were needed. "Strengthening compliance and enforcement measures for Crown Land will be a critical step in controlling the spread of whiteweed. By implementing reforms in agricultural policy particularly regarding licensing and leasing, we will make it possible to introduce stricter management requirements that ensure proactive invasive species control. Work is ongoing with the formation of such

reforms with its implementation anticipated during this financial year."

Councillor Thrower followed up by asking whether farmers who are increasingly affected by the spread of whiteweed from Government-owned land were being consulted. "Would the Minister be able to say whether your Directorate currently consults with the farmers who are more and more finding the Government land as the major source of invasive species getting onto their land, especially whiteweed?"

Minister Scipio responded by acknowledging the limited capacity of the agricultural support team but assured the House that engagement was taking place. "As we know, we have a very small agricultural support team which is only two persons, previously it was a lot. They do engage with farmers and that's why we are trying to, where possible, limit the invasives on our land, because of course it will blow onto other lands. So we do have conversations with the farmers with that because of course we lease and we license our properties to them, so that does happen. But without having enforcement in place then we can't really do a lot about it at this time and that's what we are working towards."

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex then raised another key concern. "Does the Minister recognise that it isn't so much contamination from the ENRP lands but from other aspects of the Crown Estates and indeed other land owned by private landowners that exacerbate the issue of the spread of whiteweed?"

Minister Scipio agreed, calling for an island-wide cooperative effort. "Yes I do recognise that and it's hoped that we all can work together to try to decrease or limit the spread of whiteweed. But to answer your question I do recognise that. We do have a Farmer's Association and I do know the Chamber have come out really well in trying to co-ordinate this but I'll just repeat myself, we just need to work together because it's getting out of control."

"You see it everywhere on the island, but without any funding what is it that Government can do? But of course private landowners can assist us with trying to clean up their land as well."

Councilor Essex then proposed reinstating a successful multi-stakeholder working group that had been dissolved. "A few years ago there was an intervention involving Dr Gillian Key who set up cross-cutting working groups involving representation from major landowners, farmers, private sector, etc. which was working extremely well to co-ordinate efforts on the issue. Those groups were then dissolved; will the Minister consider the reinstatement of such groups to take this matter forward?"

Minister Scipio welcomed the idea, but stressed the importance of commitment from all participants. "I'm certain my friend is talking about 2019 when we received some funding to do some work in this but if we have the funding to reinstate the working groups then this would be welcome, but it would be pointless establishing working groups if the people who we invite to come to the working groups don't come together and have those conversations."

"I probably shouldn't say this my friend because you are the President of the Chamber of Commerce and we are in a formal setting but I hope that you will be able to support ENRP with that in ensuring that the representation from the Chamber of Commerce does be a part of that working group."

Councillor Essex countered that the previous group had strong participation and minimal costs. "On that point of information I was on that working group myself, attendance was very good from the other members as well and it was extremely positive. The solutions were excellent and there was direct discussion between myself and the farmers within the chamber on the issues that were being raised. So certainly in that particular instance there was no problem with non-attendance and members were not paid to attend, so there were no great financial implications either, apart from possibly a cup of tea."

Minister for Health and Social Care, Martin Henry, also weighed in, drawing from his own agricultural experience. "Could I rise in support of answering the question my friend, only because of previous experience in this field as well, and just to shed light on a few bits which I think is important when we have this discussion in depth. The fact remains like my friend had just mentioned is that funding is absolutely key."

Minister Henry emphasised the economic pressures faced by both Government and private farmers. "The reason why I want to raise this is because from previous experience, especially with farming with animals etc., the profit margin etc. within those areas is extremely tight. The cost of cleaning fields is extremely expensive and when balancing the both I can understand why there is a significant issue if this is left to private sector investment, private sector push without the support of funding on both elements on both sides, I think we are pretty much stuck with being able to deal with the necessary things that need to be done."

"The only reason I raise this is because I do find that ping pong between the farmers should clean their land, governments should clean their lands etc and nothing is happening. Nothing is happening because there is no funding and I think that is something we have to be quite upfront and frank about."



"It could extend beyond the five years"

Effect of budget constraints on Education Reform questioned in Formal LegCo



Demy Herne, SAMS

The impact of a less-than-ideal budgetary aid settlement on the future of St Helena's Primary School reforms was one of many interesting topics discussed at the 21st meeting of Legislative Council last week. Concerns were raised about whether vital education initiatives, particularly the rollout of COBIS standards, could be delayed due to the island receiving less financial support than anticipated from the UK Government.

Councillor Robert Midwinter opened the discussion with a direct question to Chief Minister Julie Thomas, asking whether the budget would affect education plans. "Will the Chief Minister tell this council what impact this year's budgetary aid settlement will have on plans to reform the island's primary school provision and if she will make a statement in this respect?"

In response, the Chief Minister acknowledged public concern following the announcement that the St Helena Government had failed to secure its full budget request from the UK. "I'm aware that this very same question has been raised by the public following notification that SHG was unsuccessful in securing the request made to UKG for an increase in our annual budget of £16.3million. Of this amount, an additional £2.85 million was requested by Education Skills and Employment for this financial year, of which we received an additional £309,000."

Despite the shortfall, she assured the Council that the primary school reorganisation would continue, with help from other funding sources. "In a short while, I will give a specific outline of what these additional funds are proposed to be utilised for. However it is important to clarify that the bulk of the costs associated with the primary school reorganisation is being funded by the EDIP and BIOT funds."

Chief Minister Thomas went on to explain that the Education, Skills and Employment recurrent budget would support ongoing work whilst also helping to retain and recruit staff and improve educational outcomes. "The Education Skills and Employment recurrent budget will be utilised to focus on delivering business as usual and developments to secure COBIS standards. The additional funds in the Education Skills and Employment recurrent budget are focused on supporting local school staff pay to support staff retention and recruitment coupled with vital strategies to improve standards and outcomes."

She outlined a series of targeted strategies that will be funded as part of this effort. "This will include a broad range of improvement strategies including appointing a local Education Welfare Officer to support raising school attendance, developing a phonics network with remote support from Hampshire to funding a themed training programme for all staff, focusing on behaviour for learning."

It was said how these initiatives are part of the broader plan to meet COBIS standards, with particular attention given to the most urgent needs. "This will support safeguarding developments and the delivery of work to support COBIS standards," continued the Chief Minister. "This is aligned with the Education, Skills and Employment's decision to focus on Standard 1 and Standard 7 as our key priority areas of the nine standards of COBIS for this financial year which are Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment, Standard 1, and Learning and Teaching, Standard 7. These were chosen as the key standards when taking account of our key areas of critical need."

Councillor Midwinter then asked for assurance that the outcomes related to social inclusion would not be compromised by the reduced funding. "Can the Chief Minister give this house an assurance that the intended outcomes relating to social inclusion will not be watered down as a result of the reduced budget?"

The Chief Minister gave a firm response. "We don't intend to water down any parts of the standards because it's part of compliance and accreditation as we move forward. Obviously I think I've said earlier that if we didn't get the level of funding that we were hoping to achieve it might mean that it is rolled out slower, but it doesn't mean that we're watering down any particular standard at all."

Cllr Midwinter followed up with a question about the timeline of COBIS implementation, asking whether the slower rollout would cause delays. "The Chief Minister made the reference to rolling out slower, is there going to be a direct impact on the timescale for the implementation of COBIS?"

The Chief Minister concluded by reiterating that while the project was always planned as a long-term initiative, its pace depends on available funding. "We've always known that we've got a five year plan to roll this out. So as I said, it depends how much money we get on an annual basis and how quickly we can do it, but it was always expected to be five years. If we don't get the level of funding that is required then it could extend beyond the five years."

While financial limitations may affect the pace of reform, the Government remains committed to raising educational standards and meeting compliance with COBIS across the island's schools.



Prioritise, Protect and Provide

Mental Health care under scrutiny in Formal Meeting of Legislative Council



Demy Herne, SAMS

During the recent sitting of Formal LegCo, questions were raised regarding the sufficiency of mental health support services on St Helena, particularly the provision of secure facilities for individuals requiring care beyond 72 hours.

Councilor Corinda Essex opened the discussion by asking what measures are in place to accommodate people with mental health issues who need secure placement for longer than the currently designated short-term period. "Will the Minister for Health and Social Care tell this House what measures are in place, including provision or suitable accommodation to meet the needs of persons with mental health issues who require placement in a secure facility for longer than 72 hours?"

Minister Henry responded by acknowledging the importance of the question, especially in light of recent changes within the Health sector. "I would like to thank the member for raising an important question at a time when I think it is appropriate to do so, given some of the recent changes we have seen within Health and Social Care. So the Hospital has a dedicated Mental Health Room on the first floor. This room is designed to meet safety standards and provide a space for short term care."

He confirmed that demand for care beyond the 72-hour window has grown. "Over the past year we have seen an increase in the need for inpatient care beyond the initial 72-hour period. Whilst this room serves as a crucial role in providing immediate and short term support beyond 72 hours, we recognise that it may not fully meet the needs of those requiring longer term care. It is important to note that patients needing care for weeks versus those needing care for extended periods will require different approaches."

Originally, he explained, "the room was intended to support temporary admissions less than 72 hours and whilst medical evacuations to South Africa was arranged for longer term patients in some cases. However, due to the changes in Health Care Provision, evacuation for mental health care is no longer feasible for our community in South Africa. We have also explored options to access mental health beds in the UK through Public Health England but challenges such as the length of waiting lists and eligibility criteria have made this path impractical as well."

In response to these challenges, Minister Henry said the Government is working to strengthen local services. "Given these realities, we are taking steps to strengthen our local mental health services. The mental health team is currently reviewing how we use our available resources and will draft an initial report within the next few months. This report will help guide our longer term planning and policy decisions with a focus on trying to create more suitable and sustainable solutions."

He acknowledged that this would be no easy task. "However this is on the backdrop of our island's unique limitations in space, funding and staffing and will not be a straightforward task finding potential solutions. I would also like to highlight two additional avenues of support provided by our Mental Health Ordinance and that is community treatment orders that allows patients to receive care in familiar community settings under specific circumstances, conditions to promote stability and recovery and guardianship provisions offering a framework for ongoing care in approved environments ensuring patients receive the support they need whilst respecting their dignity and rights."

Minster Martin Henry emphasised the Government's ongoing commitment to supporting community reintegration. "Finally, I would like to emphasise our and my unwavering commitment to supporting individuals in reintegration into the community for a number of reasons. However our goal is to prioritise their welfare, protect their rights and provide care and dignity with compassion and respect within our current needs."



Councillor Corinda Essex then pressed further, asking what would happen if a serious case arose before the report is completed. "He indicated that a draft report should be available in the next few months. What would happen if a serious case emerged in the interim period?"

Minister Henry explained that the Mental Health Room could still be used beyond 72 hours, though it remains limited in scope. "As I mentioned in my answer, the room can be used and can be made available for more than 72 hours and can be used for a prolonged period. But there is a limitation to such a period if a person requires a mental health facility with all of the specialist requirements."

He admitted the issue remains complex and under review. "There is something that we would have to face if we come across such a case. There must be a fine line between having all of that resource that you would only use potentially once every few years, which is the case up until now and up until this year. This year has made us look at these elements again."

"But right now under particular circumstances we can hold a patient for beyond that time. But I take on board the Member's emphasis on the very long-term care. This as I have mentioned in my question at the moment is unattainable from both the resources that we used to use. So there is lots of work to be done in this particular area."

Councillor Essex then asked whether the use of the Mental Health Room for longer periods had been declared compliant with human rights standards. "Has the Mental Health room been declared human rights compliant for use for longer than 72 hours?"

Minister Henry responded that while not formally addressed from a human rights perspective, an internal review had confirmed its adequacy. "We have not addressed the human rights as we don't address the human rights in every single thing we do. But according to my CMO and my mental health team it has been reviewed and it does meet the requirements. I would like to add that over the last couple of weeks because the room has been used for a prolonged period of time there was an issue that was highlighted with air conditioning because obviously the windows are guarded simply because it's on the second floor."

Councillor Karl Thrower joined the discussion, first declaring a partial interest due to his involvement in a recent sectioning case, then asking about legislative review. "First of all I'd like raise on a point of information but then I'd like to ask a question. So first of all I have to declare a partial interest because I've been heavily involved in a case of somebody who was sectioned very recently within the last month. But also I would like to ask the Minister, given how complex the legislation is around when you section somebody and then they have to go into that room onto the hospital, do you know when it was last reviewed about the whole process, not just the accommodation but also how sectioning works and the legislation around the rules of when we have to put somebody in there?"

Minister Martin Henry stated that the Mental Health Ordinance was last updated in 2015, and although complex, remains relevant. "The legislation was updated in 2015 if memory is correct, which is relatively quite recent in terms of most of the legislation on St Helena and I can confirm that I have been through that legislation and the legislation, if you read it from end to end, provides itself in three different areas which is it first defines the mental disorder and what is a mental disorder, but crucially the second two chapters it's not broken down like this but I have broken it down like this for easy representation is that it looks at the protection of the person and the powers of the state and how does that work. The other chapter looks at supports and protections for the person that lacks capacity and the final chapter as I've put it, looks at the tribunal, the courts, etc."

He confirmed the legislation was designed to safeguard individuals throughout the process. "It is an extremely complicated piece of legislation but what I can confirm personally is that the legislation is always geared up to protect the person. It is geared up to ensure that checks and balances are done at nearly every step of the way. To be able to section someone under section 7 is an extremely complex thing to do and it requires constant review, sometimes daily."

"So as far as I am aware I do think the current legislation, although it may need some tweaks to meet areas, is current and it does provide significant protection for the person, their capacity and their legal rights."

Councillor Thrower asked one final question regarding whether the new prison would include provision for individuals with mental health needs and whether the Health Directorate had been consulted. "Just one further question, is there going to be provision within the new prison for people with mental health issues and has the Health Director been consulted about the design of the new prison, if that is the intention?"

Minister Henry said he was not aware if consultation had taken place but committed to following up. "Personally I am unaware if my Director has been consulted but these things often happen as an operational proceeding looking at it. There is again in the ordinance and in detail a complex and fine line between what is mental capacity and what is crime and crime under the capacity and it is all about one's capacity and how we approach it."

He stressed the need to balance legal accountability with compassionate care. "So if I can put it in the simplest terms which again I see it, it's that if someone breaks the law, then it's a legal element. So if someone causes you personal grief in an environment and you can report that from a criminal perspective. However from the mental health perspective it is my role and my department's role to protect that individual that may be receiving mental health guidance under our support."

"So it actually creates an environment where both sides are being equally weighed and SHG itself and the government actually sit on both sides to ensure that the outcomes are in the best interest of the person. So going back to your question, no, personally I have not been consulted but it is something that I will definitely ask when we finish this particular meeting."



"Not yet been transferred"

Minister explains delay in transfer of Enterprise St Helena Loan Balances to SHG during Formal LegCo



Demy Herne, SAMS

During the recent Legislative Council meeting, Councillor Elizabeth Knipe raised a question regarding the status of loans previously issued by Enterprise St Helena, now omitted from the loan balance recoverable by the Government as of 31 December 2024.



She asked, "Will the Minister for Treasury and Economic Development tell this Council why the loan balance recoverable by our St Helena Government at 31 December 2024 does not contain loans previously given by our Enterprise St Helena that were handed over to St Helena Government when the organisation closed in March 2021?"

Minister Mark Brooks responded by explaining that the loans had not yet been transferred to the Government, stating, "the reason why Enterprise St Helena loans which existed when the organisation closed on 31 March 2021 are not included in the loan balance is because the loans have not yet been transferred to St Helena Government."

He further elaborated, saying that "arrangements are being made for the loans to be transferred to St Helena Government and some to go to the Bank of St Helena with an administrator tasked with winding up the affairs of the organisation."

Minister Brooks added that the relevant loan recipients would be contacted soon. "So those Enterprise loans or ESH loans who will be transferred to St Helena Government will receive a letter shortly setting out and confirming the arrangements that will apply."

However, he noted and concluded that he could not yet provide details about loans to be transferred to the bank, stating, "at this time, I can't speak for the loan arrangements that will be transferred to the Bank of St Helena."



Approved by most

Appropriation Bill 2025 approved with zero amendments during Formal Meeting of Legislative Council



Liam Yon, SAMS

During the first sitting of Formal Legislative Council last week, Minister for Treasury and Economic Development, Mark Brooks, delivered his budget speech for 2025/26 as the Motion was put forward for the Appropriation Bill, 2025, to be approved in principle and referred to a committee of the whole council.

The details of the Bill were discussed during day two of Formal LegCo on Thursday with many members sharing their views in this regard. In the end, the Bill was approved "with zero amendments" and "recommends to the Governor that it should be enacted" by the majority of Council with only Councillor Turner opposing the decision.

As detailed last week, allocations for recurrent expenditure within the now approved Appropriation Bill 2025 includes £10.8 million for Central Support, £9.7 million for Health and Social Care, £8.9 million for Treasury, £5.9 million for Economic Development, £3.9 million for Education, Skills and Employment, £3 million for Safety, Security and Home Affairs, £1.7 million for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning, £900,000 for Police Operations, £100,000 for AG's Chambers, and £100,000 for Judicial Services.

"Discussions in Progress"

Executive Council and NGCPH continue to discuss Bunkers Hill CDA Development as question is raised in LegCo



Liam Yon, SAMS

During the twentieth sitting of Formal Legislative Council, mention was made of the Bunkers Hill CDA Development project, with Councillor Ronald Coleman questioning, in his words, "will we get a result on Bunkers Hill before leaving office." Council is set to be dissolved at the end of the month on 30 June.

In response, the Chief Minister indicated that Executive Council is "dealing with this issue" and have been "monitoring it closely" adding that it was the hope of ExCo to provide an update on the project soon.

Following further enquiries by The Sentinel, the Chief Minister informed that "Executive Council have attempted to engage with the developer to make progress with this matter and await the developer's response before taking any further action."

The Sentinel also made contact with the Bunkers Hill developer, Nigel George of NGCPH, who updated that "there are commercially-in-confidence discussions in progress" regarding the development.

"Another example of poor workmanship"

Viewing deck reopens at St Helena Airport following essential maintenance



Donna Crowie, SAMS

An issue, attributed to "poor workmanship" during the building of St Helena Airport in relation to the viewing deck's drainage system, has now been resolved by St Helena Airport Ltd, allowing for the reopening of the popular viewing deck.

It was recently reported that the viewing deck at St Helena Airport would be closed to allow essential maintenance works to take place. These works, as confirmed by CEO and Accountable Manager, Gwyneth Howell, related to the "drainage System of the viewing deck."

"Over time, the tiles began lifting, causing water to leak into the arrivals and departure halls as well as the business lounge," she explained. "Upon removing the tiles, we discovered a rusted metal plate, which was the root cause of the leakage." This was described by SHAL's CEO as "yet another example of poor workmanship and shortcuts."

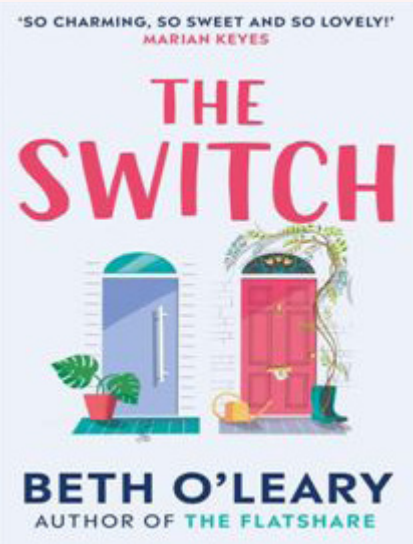
Thankfully however, the issue has now been resolved. "To resolve the issue, we have replaced the metal plate with a cement board and sealed the entire drainage system," detailed Gwyneth. "The final step will be applying the finishing coat."

Following the two week closure, on Saturday, 31 May, visitors to the Airport could once again view the flights arrival and departure from the viewing deck, as has become a popular tradition since the opening of St Helena Airport.



Book of the Week

Public Library Service



The Switch by Beth O'Leary

After blowing a big presentation at work, Leena takes a two-month sabbatical and escapes to her grandmother Eileen's house for some overdue rest. Eileen is newly single and about to turn eighty. She'd like a second chance at love, but her tiny Yorkshire village doesn't offer many eligible gentlemen. A life swap seems the perfect solution.

But with a rabble of unruly OAPs to contend with, as well as the distractingly handsome local schoolteacher, Leena learns that switching lives isn't straightforward. In London, Eileen is a huge hit with her new neighbours, and with the online dating scene. But is her perfect match nearer to home than she first thought?

Please reserve by contacting the following:-
Telephone Number: 22580
Email: publiclibrary@helanta.co.sh

SAMS RADIO 1 SCHEDULE

SAMS Radio 1

102.7 (Jamestown) • 90.5 (High Knoll) • 105.1 (Sunberry) • 105.3 (Blue Hill)
Streaming live via www.sams.sh/radio.html

FRI. June 06
- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 11am: American Connections (Repeat)
- 2pm: Our Show (Repeat)
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. June 07
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show with Demy Herne
- 1pm: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie (Repeat)
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN.June 08
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Demy Herne
- 1pm : Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm: In Scope
- 7pm: Seventh Day Adventist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations

MON. June 09
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 11am: Love Show with Donna
- 3pm: RnB with Liam Yon
- 5:30pm: Country Classics
- 7:30pm: Sound of the 80's with John Turner

TUE. June 10
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 9am-11am: Mid mornign Show with Demy
- 2pm: In Scope
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK chart Show with Demy Herne
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations

WED. June 11
- 7am-8:30am : Sunrise with Deon
- 8:30am-10:30am: Our Show
- 11am-1pm: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm: Vibes

THU. June 12
- 7am - 9:30am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 9:30am: PAC (Live Broadcast)
- 4pm: Sounds of the 80's
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 7:30pm: In Scope

Reach us on ***22727*** or at ***news@sams.sh***

sure
Bringing you the
BBC World Service
100.7 (Briars)
88.1 (High Knoll)
102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week





Join Demy this Sunday, 8 June, from 7am-12noon where he will be keeping you entertained with a great selection of mix music and artists. During the show, dedications and requests can also be made so don't forget to tune in to SAMS Radio 1 this Sunday!

Local news and notices:
7am, 10am, noon, 5pm, 7pm, 10pm

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Sentinel Sudoku Session

This week's difficulty is 'Expert'

						1	7	4
	2					8		
9	8					5		
	6	3	9					
			5				4	
					8			3
1				4				5
7								
		8		1	7			

Throwback Thursday



5th June 1989:
St Helena Secondary School (formerly Prince Andrew School) is officially opened by visiting MP Mark Taylor.

Today is known as Gingerbread Day, and to help us celebrate the day, Jane Patisserie has got us covered, with a twist to the normal Gingerbread.

Gingerbread NYC Cookies



Deliciously thick and chunky gingerbread flavoured cookies with white chocolate chips!

Ingredients

- 125g unsalted butter
- 175g dark brown soft sugar (or light brown)
- 1 medium egg
- 1 tsp vanilla (optional!)
- 280g plain flo ur
- 1 ½ tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- ½ tsp sea salt
- 300g white chocolate chips

Method

1. Add your unsalted butter and dark brown soft sugar to a bowl and beat together until creamy.
2. Add in your egg, and beat again. If using vanilla, add it in now.
3. Add in the plain flour, ground ginger, ground cinnamon, ground nutmeg, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, and salt and beat until a cookie dough is formed.
4. Add in the chocolate chips and beat again until they're distributed well.
5. Weigh your cookies out into eight cookie dough balls - they're about 120g each.
6. Once they're rolled into balls, put your cookie dough in the freezer for at least 30minutes, or in the fridge for an hour or so.
7. Whilst the cookie dough is chilling, preheat your oven to 180C Fan, or 200C regular. If your oven runs hot, go for 160-170C.
8. Take your cookies out of the freezer/ fridge and put onto a lined baking tray. I put four cookies per tray.
9. Bake the cookies in the oven for 12-14 minutes.
10. Once baked, leave them to cool on the tray for at least 30minutes, as they will continue to bake whilst cooling.
11. ENJOY!

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

In a different take on the In Scope program this week, Chief Minister Julie Thomas gave the listeners background on what could be expected for the In Scope programs during their final month before the Council is dissolved on 30 June in preparation for the General Election due to take place on 3 September this year. Each week during June the team will feature two portfolios per week, focussing on the budgets allocated for the coming financial year while they will also compare this to the previous year's budget. The other area that will be discussed is the BIOT funding and other additional project funding. During the final week, the entire Ministerial Team will discuss the Ministerial Vision, what they've achieved during their term, as well as what is still in progress.

For the first discussion, Julie was joined in the studio by Gillian Francis (Deputy Chief Secretary and Accounting Officer for CSS) to focus on Central Support Services and Christine Scipio (Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio).

In CSS there are seven main sections - Central Admin Services, Statistics Office, Communications Hub, Human Resources and Organisational Development, Geographical Information Services, Transport Services and IT Services.

The approved budget for 2024-25 was just over £10.4 million. During year two, supplementary appropriations were approved for £19,000 to accommodate the increase in salaries, and £314,000 to increase the TC programme. This came to a total of £10.8 million. During the modified zero-based budget proposal, the CSS section requested a total additional amount of £2.35 million to address some essential needs that had been identified. The total budget approved by the UKG included a 5% increase from the financial aid package of 2024-25, which amounts to about £1.7 million.

Although there was an increase of £377,000 in the 2025-26 budget allocation for CSS, if the supplementary appropriations approved during the year are included, CSS will look at small decrease in their budget of £16,000. This does have a negative impact on services provided going forward. In addition, SHG's general reserves are under a lot of pressure making it impossible to draw from this source if funds are needed to cover emergency costs. There has also been an increase in utility costs and inflation will play a role in increasing expenses for the year to come as well. The £377k increase in the budget allocation for 2025-26 will go towards funding the increase in the TC programme for the coming financial year. The constant increase in the pressure on the TC funds is due to the decreasing and ageing population on St Helena that in turn leads to difficulties in recruiting for posts locally. Areas that are ever more reliant on international recruiting include health, education and the police force.

The agreement recently reached between UKG and SHG regarding potential immigrants from the Chagos Islands resulted in the government securing additional funds under this BIOT agreement to the amount of £6.65 million. These funds will go towards addressing essential needs in education, IT and health and social care. The IT section is in the process of upgrading the IT infrastructure hardware and software and the BIOT funds of £1.5 million will go towards employing a digital transformation consultancy that can assist SHG in formulating a digital ICT strategy and implementation plan. It is hoped that the remainder of the fund can make a start of implementing this strategy. It is critical to strengthen the currently fragile IT network to enable them to support the entire Public Service and lead the island into the new digital era more efficiently and safely.

Christine spoke about the very broad ten services that make up the ENRP Portfolio; Natural Resources and Bio-security, Marine and Fisheries Conservation, Terrestrial Conservation, Marine Enforcement, Land and Building Planning, Environmental Protection, Risk Management, Energy and Water Strategy and Administrative Support to assist all of these sections.

For the 2024-25 financial year, the ENRP portfolio had a budget allocation of £1.699 million and this has increased slightly by £24,000 this financial year to £1.723 million. Administration costs comprises 54% of the total budget to support the operations of all the different business units across the portfolio as well as the various services provided by this section, for example forestry and waste collection. Although this sounds like a lot of money, the section provides a large number of diverse services.

Fortunately, a lot of the sections within the portfolio have been able to tap into other additional funding streams referred to as donor funding. Although the sections within the portfolio have been very successful in tapping into these funding streams, the application and bidding processes require a lot of work and time. In the previous financial year, funding from these streams came to an amount of around £700k in addition to the recurrent budget. Without these funding streams a lot of the projects (like the Cloud Forest Project) would not have been possible. Another big project where external funding is being utilised is the drive to move St Helena to be less reliant on unsustainable energy usage to 80% use of green and renewable energy usage by 2027-28. The challenge with project funding arises when the funding period runs out to continue with the work that is being done. With the recurrent budget

being very limited and restricted, this will not allow for projects driven by donor funding to continue within the recurrent budget.

Some donor funding has been secured for the 2025-26 financial year, specifically £300k for the Cloud Forest Project, but the portfolio is still awaiting confirmation from the Blue Belt Programme regarding the amount of funding that will be available for various ongoing marine projects. The fact that funding is only allocated on an annual basis does cause a lot of uncertainty and instability and can also be stressful for staff involved in these projects. The slight increase in the recurrent budget will be utilised to enable the portfolio to continue a post previously funded under the Blue Belt Programme.

St Helena and other financially dependent OTs have repeatedly requested a longer period for a financial aid settlement (like a three year settlement) to increase stability and future planning options. This process also places a lot of strain on the staff involved in the budgeting process as they are constantly working on proposals for the coming year whilst also working on allocating current settlements and budget monitoring. Another aspect that hinders progress when funds are allocated is the procurement process that takes a lot of time due to the island's isolation and shipping constraints as well as the tender processes.

For the ENRP portfolio, the budget allocation will mean the continuation of current work-streams under the recurrent budget. A lot of work is being done in the agriculture sector where the portfolio is working in collaboration with key stakeholders to develop options to increase agriculture outputs on the island. This initiative supports the sustainable development plan that aims to reduce the amount of imports to St Helena. The portfolio is working on an options paper to develop a policy that will encourage efficient use of arable and pasture land to increase production through proper monitoring while also improving the management of invasive species in these areas. Another key area to encourage development is the review of the land development control plan. Moving the island towards utilising renewable energy sources is another area that will be an important focal point for the portfolio during this financial year. This priority will enhance stability in utility prices on the island while it is also hoped that it will assist in lowering the cost of living on the island.

A lot of the initiatives driven forward by the current government was taken from the previous government and it is hoped that a lot of the work that is currently being done will be progressed when the new government is elected later this year so as not to undo a lot of the good work that have already been done to move St Helena towards a more sustainable and self-sufficient future.



VACANCY

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ a Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the leadership and management of the operations of the Company and as an Executive Director will contribute to setting its overall vision. The role involves a high level of responsibility, with pivotal decision making affecting the future of the Company and its employees.

Within this role, the CEO will be expected to oversee the delivery of utilities services in St Helena ensuring that these are delivered in a cost effective and customer focused way.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- 3 years experience of working at Board or Committee level and contributing to Board discussions
- 3 years proven experience at senior management level with the ability to understand and interpret management accounts, financial statements and other relevant financial information
- 3 years experience Project planning and management
- Good command of English Language both written and verbal

QUALIFICATIONS

- Qualification in business administration, geography, law, engineering or a related field at degree level or above

BENEFITS

- A competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.
- 15% pension contributions of the base salary and 30 days annual leave.

For further information and a copy of the Job Description please contact Annalisa Young on +290 22255 or email Annalisa.Young@connect.co.sh. Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Annalisa.Young@connect.co.sh by **9:00am on Monday, 7 July 2025.** To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.

www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html | connectsainthelenaltd | https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/

"Thank you very much"

Over £3500 raised for St Helena Football Association on St Helena's Day



Liam Yon, SAMS

As the dust settles on another celebration of our Island's national day on Wednesday, 21 May, the St Helena Football Association have now revealed that over £3,500 was raised on the day to go into the association to develop football on the Island, as informed by SHFA member, Keith Yon, on SAMS Radio 1.

"On the day we can proudly announce that the St Helena Football Association has banked in excess of three and a half thousand pounds," he said. "Thank you to every soul; the entire community and all the sponsors. Thank you very much."

During the discussion, both Keith and one of the organisers, Leigh Richards, expressed gratitude to everyone who came together to make the day a success, from the small hardworking team to all of the donors, those who helped on the day, those who had stalls setup, the groups that provided the brilliant floats, the musicians, the police service and also to the community who turned out on the day.

Winners were also revealed for the events held on the day which included India Ellick as the Little Miss St Helena and the Longwood Ladies who took home first place in the novelty sports mini car event. Prizes totalling £500 were also awarded to the floats, sponsored by the Bank of St Helena.

With a good amount of money raised, the SHFA will now utilise the funds to develop the popular sport on St Helena. Keith also sought to remind the community about the upcoming SHFA AGM, where he encouraged as many as possible to attend.

A big well done to the St Helena Football Association and helpers for hosting another successful St Helena's Day.

No Longer in the Dark

Wind conditions cause Island-wide power outages last Sunday



Donna Crowie, SAMS

During last Sunday afternoon and evening, St Helena experienced a number of Island-wide power outages. While the majority of residents reported just short intermittent cuts, there were others - particularly some residents in Levelwood - that experienced a much longer outage and who were still without power by Monday morning.

To find out more behind these unplanned outages, The Sentinel contacted Connect St Helena for an update on current power situation, to which they replied on Monday that "over the weekend, the island was affected by high wind conditions, which contributed to a network fault in the Levelwood area. This disruption resulted in island-wide power outages."

Connect went on to explain how, thanks to the efforts of their teams, "power was restored to the majority of affected areas" by Sunday evening.

They went on to add that "restoration efforts resumed" on Monday morning, as the teams worked to "isolate and repair the affected section of the overhead electrical network and fully restore electricity for the remaining few residents."

Connect went on to apologise for the inconvenience these power cuts had caused.

Prince Andrew no longer 'Welcome'

Controversial greeting for Duke removed from Shy Road wall



Liam Yon, SAMS

The controversial 'We Welcome You Prince Andrew' greeting that was painted on a section of wall at Shy Road in Jamestown, ahead of Prince Andrew's visit to the Island in 1984, has recently been removed by members of SHG's Roads Section – though SHG's Communications Hub was not aware of these works.

Following the decision to change the name of Prince Andrew School – now St Helena Secondary School – to "remove controversial ties", the question was asked whether the paint at Shy Road would also be removed. In response, SHG indicated that as "this was done anonymously by members of the local community and not by SHG," they did not "have a view on this matter."

Now however, it has been brought to the attention of The Sentinel that the renowned painted greeting has been removed after over four decades and, according to information received, this work was done by the Roads Section of SHG.

When questioned on how and when these works took place and why The Sentinel – who made the initial enquiries about the potential removal of the painted text – was not informed that this work was going to be or had been done, SHG's Communications Hub simply indicated that they did not know anything about it.

"The Comms hub had only learnt that this action had occurred from your e-mail so regrettably we were not in any position to provide you with any advanced information on this occasion nor any of the details you required on the matter," they said.



NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

Credit Control Officer

Commencing at £11,748 per annum

Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking to recruit a suitable person to fill the new and exciting position of Credit Control Officer.

The Credit Control Officer will report to the Lending Services Manager and will be responsible for the debt recovery for Bank of St Helena by monitoring loan repayments and unauthorised overdrafts. They will also be responsible for educating and supporting clients to manage their payment options, finding appropriate resolutions to their payment queries or issues and negotiate payments and payment plans with clients.

The position will require the successful candidate to have the ability to identify potential debt risks, be able to work with the Bank's Legal Representative to initiate legal proceedings on non-performing loans via the St Helena Court system, be highly motivated, have a high level of accuracy, and good organisational and time management skills.

In addition, the successful candidate must be flexible to work demands, have experience of working in a customer service environment and ideally have a qualification in Banking and/or Finance, or be willing to work towards one.

Candidates should also possess:

- GCSE's in Mathematics and English at Grade C or above;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Experience working in Accounts Receivable, Credit Control or similar;
- Ideally having some understanding of legal matters.

Interested persons can contact the Lending Services Manager on (+290) 22390 or email lendingmanager@sainthelenabank.com for more information.

An Application form and job profile is available upon request from the Bank and can be viewed on our official website. Completed application forms should be addressed to the Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 20 June 2025.

Choose a career with Bank of St Helena and enjoy competitive benefits.

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004

info@sainthelenabank.com
www.sainthelenabank.com
@sainthelenabank
+290 22390
Market Street, Jamestown
Bank of St Helena Ltd

VACANCY

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Lending Services Officer (Commercial)

Commencing at £12,984 per annum

Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking to recruit a suitable person to fill the vacant position of Lending Services Officer (Commercial).

Responsible to the Assistant Lending Services Manager, the successful candidate must be flexible to work demands, have excellent customer service skills and be self-motivated. Candidates should have a keen eye for detail, exhibit high accuracy levels and have ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, whilst working well with others as part of the wider Bank team.

The main duties of the post include:

- To ensure all loan applications received are accurately completed, all supporting documentation is included and that loans are processed in line with the Bank's policies and procedures;
- To ensure key principles of professional credit management are maintained and the lending service is administered in an efficient, objective and timely manner;
- Liaising with clients throughout the loan approval process, providing a high standard of customer service;
- Analysing loan applications in line with Bank's policies and procedures to ensure they meet the Lending criteria;
- Liaising with clients to ensure they are compliant with the terms and conditions of their Facility Agreements.

Interested persons can contact the Assistant Lending Services Manager on (+290) 22390 or email asst.lendingmanager@sainthelenabank.com for more information.

An Application form and job profile is available upon request from the Bank and can be viewed on our official website. Completed application forms should be addressed to the Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 20 June 2025.

Choose a career with Bank of St Helena and enjoy competitive benefits.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004

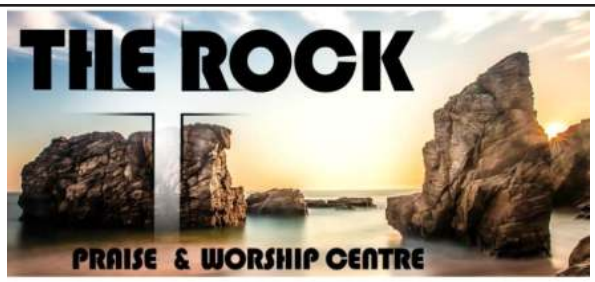
info@sainthelenabank.com
www.sainthelenabank.com
@sainthelenabank
+290 22390
Market Street, Jamestown
Bank of St Helena Ltd

NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 8th June 2025– Pentecost		
9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
11.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 8th June 2025 – Pentecost		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St John
	Thursday 12th June	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 8th June 2025 – Pentecost		
11.15 a.m.	Family Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 10th June	
7.00 p.m.	70x7 Forgiveness	St Mark



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Prayer Meeting

Saturday 7th June 2025 at 8:30am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

~

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 08th June 2025 at 11:00am
Kidzone (Sunday School) at 11.00am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

~

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 10th June 2025
Jamestown at 7:00 pm (Contact: Catherine on 64352 for details)
Tuesday 10th June 2025
Cape Villa at 5.00pm (Contact: Priscilla 51919 for details)
Wednesday 11th June 2025
The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 7.00pm
(Contact: Priscilla 51919 for details)

~

Christian Gift/bookshop & DVD rental

The Christian gift/bookshop & DVD rental
(as well as second-hand goods shop) is available.
For further information contact Priscilla: 51919.

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

TIP OF THE WEEK

Switch off outside lights when you go to bed. These lights do not need to be on all night.

You might like to invest in a sensor activated light which would only come on if someone approaches your house.

St Helena Government

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

ROAD CLOSURE - NAPOLEON STREET

The Highways Authority has granted approval for the closure of Napoleon Street from the Brow to Nosegay Lane from 09:00 to 15:00 on the following days:

- Wednesday, 4 June2025
- Wednesday, 11 June 2025
- Wednesday 18 June 2025

This closure is essential to facilitate slurry works, which will improve the surface quality of the road.

Pedestrian access will be maintained throughout the duration of the closure. Roadside pavements will remain accessible, and on-site personnel will be readily available to guide pedestrians safely through the work area.

Side Path Road will remain open for vehicular traffic, specifically cars. Vehicles will be diverted near the Guide Hall at the brow, adhering to the 2-ton weight restriction in place. Trucks and buses will be required to divert at Constitution Road to access Jamestown. We encourage drivers of larger vehicles to plan their routes accordingly to minimise disruption.

The Road Section extends its sincere thanks to all residents and road users for their continued support and cooperation during these necessary works.

SHG, 28 May 2025

NOTICE BOARD

The St Helena Diabetes Association

will be hosting a

Tea Party and AGM

On Saturday 21st June 2025 @ 2.30pm

At the Jamestown Community Centre

Transport will be provided

If you are attending and also require a seat

Please contact:
Ronald Coleman tel. 24250
Phyllis Coleman tel. 24656,
Cheryl Anthony tel. 23971
Gillian Brooks tel. 23505,
Maureen Thompson tel. 22088
Dorita Fuller tel. 22953

By Saturday 14th June 2025.



JUNE OPENING HOURS

Main Branch*

Monday - Friday	08:45 - 15:00
Saturday	09:00 - 12:00

Airport Kiosk

Flight days only	10:30 - 14:30

Remote Banking

HTH Supermarket	Tuesday, 24 June	09:30 – 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Thursday, 26 June	09:30 – 14:00

**The Business Banking Station is open Monday to Friday, 09:30- 13:30.*

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

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www.sainthelenabank.com Market Street, Jamestown
@sainthelenabank Bank of St Helena Ltd

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BRANCH CLOSURE

WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2025

The Main Branch will be closed on Wednesday, 11 June to facilitate staff training and development. Normal opening hours will resume on Thursday, 12 June. This closure will not affect St Helena Pay or Online Banking Services.

Bank of St Helena would like to apologise for any inconvenience this closure may cause, and thank customers for their support and cooperation.

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ARE YOU SCAM-SAVVY?

THINK TWICE. PROTECT YOUR MONEY.

Bank of St Helena would like to remind all customers that the Bank will only contact you using the information provided by you on your account. Our staff will not contact you via any social media app for official Banking business at any time.

Remember, always verify directly with the Bank.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

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NOTICE BOARD



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, 12JUNE 2025

A formal session of the St Helena Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will take place in the Council Chamber at 9.30am on Thursday, 12 June 2025.

The main programme of business will focus on the Performance Audit Report, relating to the Fishing Operations Agreement, March 2025.

Members of the public and interested persons are invited to attend.

The meeting will be broadcasted and streamed live via SAMS Radio 1.

ST HELENA PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
4 June 2025

Winners of St. Paul's Primary School's Easter Raffle

On behalf of the PTA at St Paul's Primary School, we'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who took part in our school raffle. We are truly grateful for your contributions. Whether you bought tickets or donated prizes, your involvement helped make the event a great success! We raised £1,196. Thank you once again for your incredible support!

Prize No	Prize	Winner
1	George Foreman Grill	Rebecca Owen
2	Waffle Maker	Luke Bennett
3	Creative Captures Voucher	Herman Williams
4	Bliss Style Voucher	Vanessa Henry
5	Mini Manicure Voucher	Belinda Henry
6	Mini Pedicure Voucher	Ted Henry
7	Eyebrow Treatment Voucher	Barry Stroud
8	Protea Wine & Chocolate	Lisa Williams
9	Horrid Henry Book Set	Caleb Francis
10	Mini Plant Hamper	Timm Family
11	Hot Cross Buns	Jamie Joshua
12	Chamdor & Chocolate	Sharnell Benjamin
13	Chamdor & Chocolate	Cassidy Beard
14	Easter Hamper	Henley Constantine
15	Easter Egg	Dylan Bowers
16	Photo Cube	Alexa O'Connor
17	Story Cubes	Zianna Henry
18	Book	Tomis Stroud
19	Soft Toys	David John
20	PEAKS Eyebrow Threading Voucher	Kirsty Edwards
21	PEAKS Voucher	Lauren Jonas
22	PEAKS Voucher	Colin Crowie
23	PEAKS Voucher	Thwaites Family

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services
8th June
Sandy Bay Chapel 08.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel 6.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday 10th June
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 12th June
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Outreach Service
Sunday 15th June
Kingshurst Community Centre 3.00 pm

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday 18th June
Baptist School Hall/J Town 10.30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Electrician

Salary for the post will commence at £11,856 per annum (£988 per month), depending on qualifications and experience

Since 1790

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Electrical Works Department for an Electrician.

As the Electrician you will carry out all of the Company's electrical maintenance and repairs, ensuring that all work is completed by the specified deadlines and to the required standards.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess Grade C in GCSE Maths or English, or equivalent
- Have at least 3 years proven experience in Electrical Engineering
- Be in possession of a current Wiremen's license
- Possess Level 2 City & Guilds Diploma in Electrical Installations Course, or equivalent
- Desirably possess knowledge of, and experience undertaking Air Conditioning and Refrigeration maintenance & repair and/or be willing to develop in this field
- Be flexible to work out of normal working hours and be available to work as part of an on-call rota as and when required
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent customer service skills
- Have a valid drivers' licence in classes A & C
- Be aware of Health & Safety practises as well as be able to perform manual handling duties
- Be able to work as part of a team as well as independently
- Be willing to undertake any further training

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Mr Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties) via 22380 gm-services.properties @solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **12 June 2025.**

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

Vacancy

Labourer/Driver

Salary for the post will commence at £9872 per annum (£190 per week)

Since 1790

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within Warrens Wholesale for a Labourer/Driver.

As the Labourer/Driver you will provide an efficient service preparing and distributing goods to customers and company outlets.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have basic skills in English & Maths
- Be customer focused and committed to providing excellent customer service
- Be highly motivated with a can-do attitude
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment with the ability to use own initiative
- Be knowledgeable of, and able to carry out manual handling duties as well as undertake physically demanding tasks
- Be able to perform maintenance and minor repair works
- Ideally have cash handling experience
- Have a valid drivers' license, including Class D and ideally Class H3 (Forklift)

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Jeremy Thomas, Senior Supervisor, via 22422 jeremy.thomas@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 12 June 2025.**

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Operational Supervisor - The Star

Since 1790

Salary for the post will commence at £876.00 per month (£10,512 per annum)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within The Star for an Operational Supervisor.

As the Operational Supervisor you will assist the Senior Supervisor and the Grocery Manager with the day-to-day running of the Outlet as a sustainable business unit, and take responsibility for the BOU when the Manager and Senior Supervisor are off site.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess 2 years proven experience in a supervisory role with the ability to organise and lead a team
- Possess grade C or above in GCSE Maths & English
- Be computer literate namely in the use of Microsoft applications and able to perform administrative duties
- Possess RSPH Level 2 Food Safety or equivalent
- Be knowledgeable of Health & Safety and Manual Handling practices
- Be able to coach and develop team members
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent frontline customer service skills
- Possess knowledge and experience in Stock Management / Control
- Have experience in Cash Handling
- Ideally have experience working in a retail environment
- Have excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Have the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment.
- Be able to work on weekends

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Charlotte Williams (Grocery Manager (The star & Butchery) via 22683 charlotte.williams@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Tuesday, 10 June 2025.**

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

What's On

Mantis St Helena

Father's Day Lunch

at Mantis St Helena

Celebrate the dads in your life with a delicious 3-course menu. Guests may choose one starter, one main, and one dessert.

Starters

Tuna & Avocado Tartare served with Tortilla Crisps
or
Pulled Pork Open Sliders served with Apple Coleslaw and Toasted Cashew Nuts.

Mains

Herb-Crusted Lamb Chops on a bed of Warm Mint and Garlic Risotto
or
Chicken Cordon Bleu on a bed of Mushroom Risotto with Cheese Sauce
or
Baked Yellowtail with Teriyaki and Coconut Creamy Rice.

Desserts

Amarula Coffee Crème Brûlée
or
Three Scoop Ice Cream with Sauce Drizzle.

Available as dine-in only. For all enquiries and bookings, please call 25505.

All alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are charged separately.
Kindly inform our service team of any dietary requirements or allergies.

Sunday, 15 June. £25 per person from 12:00 onwards.

NOTICE BOARD



Governor's Office
St Helena, Ascension and
Tristan da Cunha

Commonwealth Start Up Fellowships

The Commonwealth Startup Fellowship Scheme is seeking applications from startup/new businesses.

The Commonwealth Startup Fellowship (CSF) is a six-month programme designed to ignite and elevate high potential startups from low and middle income Commonwealth countries. The programme is made up of a combination of in-person and online learning, to provide participants with essential skills, tailored support, and an access to a global network that they can tap into to help their business scale up and overcome barriers.

The programme will begin in November 2025 with a fully funded two-week intensive training bootcamp in Accra, Ghana. Following this, learning will continue remotely for the next five months with personalised mentoring.

At the end of the programme, participants will have the opportunity to travel to London to take part in an international investor event and other networking opportunities.

To be eligible, applicants must:

Have an undergraduate degree (degree equivalents will be considered for St Helena); Be a citizen of and be permanently resident in a low/middle income Commonwealth country; Be fluent in written and spoken English; Not have taken a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship within the last five years; Be available to undertake their fellowship from the prescribed date.

In addition to the training and mentorship, participants can apply for financial support from the Fellows Fund, a pot of £35,000 in equity free grants. This funding is available to cover business related costs to help you develop and grow your startup.

For more information including how to apply, a timeline of the programme and FAQs, visit: https://www.imperialenterpriselab.com/programmes/commonwealth-startup-fellowship/ Queries on the programme should be submitted to CSF@Imperial.ac.uk Applications will close on **30th June 2025.**

Governor's Office, St Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha, 3rd June 2025

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

The Programme Management Office (PMO) will be holding public information meetings in June 2025 to provide an update on the Wastewater Management Project. This project focuses on improving the sewage in, Half Tree Hollow and Jamestown and is being delivered under the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP).These sessions will be held as a joint engagement with the PMO, Connect St Helena, and Environmental Health.

These meetings are intended to share the latest developments on the project and to gather feedback from the community. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and engage directly with the team responsible for delivering this important infrastructure work.

All meetings will commence at 19:00 and will take place as follows:

Date	Venue
Tuesday, 17 June	Community Centre, Half Tree Hollow
Thursday, 19 June	Museum, Jamestown

Tea, coffee, and cake will be provided.

Public participation and input are welcomed, as community views will help shape the future of this essential service.

SHG, 5 June 2025 www.sainthelena.gov.sh

St Helena Legislative Council

FINAL ROUND OF CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS FOR JUNE 2025

Fourconstituency meetingshave been organised to take place during the month of June 2025.These meetings will constitute the final round of constituency meetings before the dissolution of Council on 30 June 2025. It is unfortunate that meetings cannot be arranged for every district, due to time limitations and other competing priorities. It is hoped however, that constituents from all districts will make every effort to attend, at a meeting venue convenient to you.

It is hoped, that where possible, all Elected Members will be in attendance at these meetings, however all meetings will be chaired by the Ministerial Team and will specifically focus on the following four key topics:

- The approved Budget for 2025/26 and its allocation to portfolios & service areas
- The recently approved £13.5M for Capital Funding and it intended utilisation
- The utilisation of the £6.65M BIOT Funding in key strategic areas
- Achievements in respect of the Ministers' Vision for St Helena (2022 – 2025) - what has been achieved, what is being worked upon and what remains outstanding

Due to the imminent dissolution of Council, these round of constituency meetings will not provide the opportunity to raise any issues that fall outside of the topics listed, nor will Minsters discuss matters pertaining to SHG's plans for the future. This is to preventthe likelihood of being in breach of the Elections Ordinance and Regulations.

All meetings will start at 7:30pm and will be held on the following dates at the locationslisted.

Date	Venue
Wednesday, 11 June 2025	Kingshurst Community Centre
Thursday, 12 June 2025	Harford Community Centre
Thursday 19 June 2025	Half Tree Hollow Community Centre
Tuesday, 24 June 2025	Jamestown Community Centre

We are looking forward to engaging with you.

Legislative Council, 04th June 2025

Celebrating Pride Month: Another Step Forward for Inclusion on St Helena

Pride Month is a time to celebrate love, equality, and the resilience of the LGBTQIA+ community world-wide. This June, the message is all about visibility, resistance, and embracing diverse identities. It honours the history of Pride, particularly the Stonewall Uprising of 1969, which sparked a global movement for LGBTQIA+ rights.

This Pride Month, the Equality & Human Rights Commission is advocating for a future built on inclusion and respect for all. While our community of just over 4,000 people has historically been slow to accept LGBT+ individuals, positive change is underway.

The Human Rights team is championing this transformation, promoting the equal treatment of all individuals—regardless of their sexuality. We commend the brave individuals who have stood up, spoken out, and remained true to themselves despite adversity. Their resilience has sparked dialogue, challenged outdated perspectives, and paved the way for a more accepting community.

“Change doesn’t happen overnight, but every conversation, every act of kindness, and every step forward counts,” says EHRC, CEO Catherine Turner. “We are committed to fostering a society where everyone feels accepted and valued.”

This Pride Month, we encourage every member of our island to reflect on the importance of activism and social change. A more accepting St Helena means a stronger, more united community—one where everyone, regardless of who they love, can thrive.
Through advocacy, education, and open dialogue, St Helena is stepping into a future where love and respect go hand in hand.

Show your support by sharing powerful quotes with us on social media to inspire and uplift, like Ralph Waldo Emerson’s words: *“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”* as a reminder that everyone deserves to live authentically and without fear.

Let’s celebrate Pride Month together by turning social media into a rainbow, recognizing the progress we've made and the journey still ahead. We can’t wait to read and share your quotes.

Find us on Facebook

Human Rights St Helena

Free to be Me

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

YOUR DIABETES CHECK-UPS MATTER



Get your diabetes risk score checked, blood pressure and talk to professionals about diabetes and much more. You can also speak to the Better Health and Smokefree team about making lifestyle changes.

Date: 12 June 2025
Time: 10:00 -14:00
Place: The Market, Jamestown

Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Healthcare Assistant
(£7,960 per annum)

The Health and Social Care Portfolio is looking to recruit a highly motivated individual with a caring and empathetic nature to support our Nursing team in providing direct patient care in a highly pressured working environment. The role involves assisting nursing staff with primary patient care, able to work shifts, be flexible when needed to cover shifts, assisting nurses in any ward emergencies, carry out patient care duties, help with patients meals. Good verbal and written communication skills with a keen eye for detail and accuracy is essential for this role. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: **Erika Bowers on Tel No. 22500 or Email erika.bowers@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing Date: **11 June 2025**
Shortlisting Date: **16 June 2025**
Interview Date: **23 June 2025**

Cover Supervisor (St Helena Secondary School)
(£10,361 per annum)

Within the role of Cover Supervisor you will be required to provide effective and efficient support to the school in organising and undertaking cover for absent colleagues. In addition where applicable, be also involved in planning, teaching and assessing students in designated subject areas. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Isabel Andrews on Tel No. 24290 or Email isabel.andrews@sainthelena.edu.sh**
Closing date: **12 June 2025**
Shortlisting date: **16 June 2025**
Interview date: **25 June 2025**

School Secretary (Permanent)
(£7,960 per annum)

Do you have a passion for Education? The Education, Skills and Employment portfolio are looking to recruit a School Secretary in SPPS. The individual will play a key role in managing all administrative tasks related to the school, its staff, and pupils, ensuring that everything runs efficiently and effectively. In addition to administrative responsibilities. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Patricia Williams on Tel No. 24737 or Email patricia.williams@sainthelena.edu.sh**
Closing date: **20 June 2025**
Shortlisting date: **25 June 2025**
Interview date: **04 July 2025**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director/Line Manager (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

School Secretary (Pilling Primary)
(£7,960 per annum)
(Fixed –Term until August 2026)

Do you have a passion for Education? We are looking to recruit a School Secretary to provide a first point of contact by receiving and addressing visitor enquires by telephone or in person, redirecting enquires as considered appropriate. You will have to undertake administrative duties which include collating and distributing information and correspondence to parents and staff.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: **Elaine Benjamin on Tel No. 22640 or Email elaine.benjamin@sainthelena.edu.sh**
Closing date: **13 June 2025**
Shortlisting date: **18 June 2025**
Interview date: **27 June 2025**

Fuel Infrastructure Project (FIP) Maintenance Worker
(£8,878 per annum)
(Fixed Term Contract until October 2026)

The Fuel Infrastructure Project within the Programme Management Office is seeking a Maintenance Worker. In this role, the Maintenance Worker will be required to work to the FIP's fuel facilities preservation and maintenance programme and keep accurate records of all preservation maintenance work. You will also be required to take responsibility for site maintenance, particularly relating to the SHAP fuel systems in Rupert's and at the Airport. From time to time this may involve work in other parts of the Airport Development Area.

If you are interested, please contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Darrell Clingham on Tel No. 22289 or Email darrellclingham.fip@helanta.co.sh**
Closing date: **13 June 2025**
Shortlisting date: **18 June 2025**
Interview date: **26 June 2025**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

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To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

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Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Receptionist/Hospital Support Officer
(£7,280 per annum)

Based at the Jamestown General Hospital, the Receptionist will work on a shift basis and be the first point of contact for all visitors providing receptionist duties ensuring a positive and professional environment for the reception point. In addition to answering the telephone, directing and screening calls as necessary, you will be required to welcome visitors, direct them to their correct destination, maintain an awareness of staff movements in and out of the site, monitor visitor access and maintain security awareness.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Helen Lawrence on Tel No 22500 or Email Helen.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **18 June 2025**
Shortlisting date: **23 June 2025**
Interview date: **30 June 2025**

English Teacher (Permanent)
(£13,344 - £19,788 per annum)

Are you interested in working with young people and want to be a part of shaping their future? Then join the team and become an English teacher in SHSS. You will be responsible for planning, preparing and effectively delivering programmes of study in the specific subject(s) to a designated class (es) to cater for all abilities of students. You must have the required qualifications, be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, have good communication skills and be able to interact with students, parents and colleagues.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Isabel Andrews on Tel No. 24290 or Email isabel.andrews@sainthelena.edu.sh**
Closing date: **18 June 2025**
Shortlisting date: **23 June 2025**
Interview date: **10 July 2025**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director/Line Manager (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTION 2025

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

As advised in an SHG Press Release issued on 10 February 2025, it is the intention for Legislative Council to be dissolved on Monday, 30 June 2025, with a General Election taking place on Wednesday, 3 September 2025.

Following the dissolution of Council on 30 June, all seats on Council will become vacant until after the General Election has taken place. In the event that only 12 valid nominations are received on Nomination Day, which will be Wednesday, 20 August, then a Poll will not be necessary on 3 September.

During the period between the dissolution of Council on 30 June up until a new Council is in place, the work of the Legislative Council will be on hold, with no meetings taking place during this period. However, the St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009, as amended in 2021, allows, in section 77 for the Governor, in the event of an emergency arising, to recall the Legislative Council if the Governor considers it necessary to do so, in consultation with the Chief Minister.

The Executive Council may also be convened if it is necessary to do so after the dissolution of Council; however, no new policy decisions nor legislation nor any significant spending commitments will be made by Executive Council after the Legislative Council is dissolved.

Members of the public who are considering standing for election to the Legislative Council should note the following guidance. This guidance does not replace the provisions of the Elections Ordinance and Regulations, so if you are considering standing as a candidate in the 2025 General Election, you should familiarise yourself with the Elections legislation to understand your rights and your responsibilities.

When can you start campaigning?

You can start campaigning at any time. You do not have to wait until you are validly nominated to declare that you will run for election, ask people to support you or publish campaign material. However, it is important to note that there are certain actions such as bribery, treating and undue influence that amount to corrupt practice/ criminal offences, for which there are penalties.

Criminal Offences Contrary to Part V of the Elections Ordinance

Part V of the Elections Ordinance sets out a number of criminal offences connected with elections, for example

1. Breaching the secrecy of voting by revealing who an elector has voted for;
2. Inducing an elector to display the ballot paper after it is marked;
3. Applying for a ballot paper in the name of someone else (whether dead, alive or fictitious)[1];
4. Applying for a ballot paper when the candidate has already voted;
5. Giving (or promising to give) an elector food, drink or entertainment to influence the elector to vote for a candidate(s) or not vote at all;
6. Threatening to use force, violence or restraint against an elector to make the elector vote for a particular candidate(s) or not vote at all;
7. Lending, giving or promising to obtain goods, money, services, etc for an elector if the elector votes for him or her or not vote at all.

Case studies:

1. Candidate X invites Mr B to the pub for a beer if Mr B votes for X.

   Is this wrong?
   Yes, this amounts to treating.

2. Candidate X tells Mr B that if X is elected, one of the top policies that he will pursue will be employment for all.

   Is this wrong?
   No, this is a policy – it is perfectly acceptable for candidates to state what their policy intentions are.

3. Candidate X says to Mr B "if you vote for me, I will give your son a job."

   Is this wrong?
   Yes, this is a bribe.

4. Candidate X tells Mr B "If you don't vote for me, I will beat your brother up."

   Is this wrong?
   Yes, this amounts to undue influence.

[1] Except if that is permitted by the provisions for proxy voting

5. Candidate X tells Mr B "If you vote for me, I will make sure that you win the government tender (for goods / services) and/or get you a good job in the Public Service."

   Is this wrong?
   Yes, X is bribing Mr B.

6. Candidate X tells Mr B, who is a resident in Cape Villa "If you vote for me, I will drive you to town."

   Is this wrong?
   Yes, X is treating Mr B.

7. Candidate X's son tells Mr B "If your vote for my dad, he will have your road done."

   Is this wrong?
   Yes, X's son is bribing Mr B to obtain a vote for X. This is wrong even if he is not a candidate

When does a person officially become a candidate?

The earliest that a person can *officially* become a candidate is on the day after the Legislative Council is dissolved. It is intended that the Legislative Council will be dissolved on 30 June 2025.

You *will* officially become a candidate on being so nominated in accordance with section 5 of the Elections Ordinance, 2009. Nominations will have to be delivered to the Returning Officer not later than noon on the last day appointed for the nomination of candidates, the date of which will be specified in the Writ of election.

It is intended that the Writ of Election will be issued by the Governor on Tuesday, 1 July 2025, so nomination forms can be delivered any time after that date.

During the campaign you should:

- Be aware of the deadlines for submitting nomination forms
- Be aware of the deadlines for notifying the Returning Officer of the number and names of your Polling Agents
- Be aware of the deadlines for notifying the Returning Officer about the names of your Counting Agents

During the campaign you may:

1. Assist voters with information about proxy voting. The deadline for the Returning Officer to receive Proxy Applications will be 48 hours before the time of the opening of the Poll.

Serving Members of the Legislative Council

Any Elected Members who wish to stand for re-election to the Legislative Council may commence campaigning at any time; they do not have to wait until they are validly nominated before letting people know they intend to run for election. However, as with any other members of the public, they will not officially become a candidate for election until the date after the Legislative Council is dissolved

Individuals serving as Members of the Legislative Council immediately before its dissolution on 30 June 2025 will have been provided with facilities at public expense to enable them to carry out their duties. These facilities should not be used for political activities nor the dissemination of material that is political in nature.

Official social media accounts must not be used for political purposes.

Candidates and the media during the elections campaign

A media service may not allow any person who has declared themselves as a candidate to act as a journalist or presenter during an election. (The Media Standards Code of Practice effective from 1 October 2023, Code 8 "Guidance – Elections and Referendums" refers).[2] Candidates may be interviewed by the media and it is the media's responsibility to offer the same opportunity to all candidates. It is for the individual candidate to decide whether or not he/she wishes to be interviewed by the media.

Candidates may use their personal social media accounts to promote their candidature but as with all campaigning activities, should do so in an appropriate manner that does not contravene the law.

Campaign posters should be removed within 14 days after the poll. Posters should **not** be displayed within the Polling Station or Polling Station limits on the day of the poll.

Any individuals with concerns about criminal offences being committed in respect of the election should contact the Returning Officer or the Royal St Helena Police Service.

#StHelena #GeneralElections #LegislativeCouncil

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/ www.x.com/StHelenaGovt

SHG, 02 June 2025

[2] Code 8 of The St Helena Media Code of Practice effective from 1 October 2023 refers

SPORTS ARENA

Spike-tacular Round 1

WSA, Contributed



Our ladies volleyball league concluded its first round of exhilarating matches last Sunday, 1 June, delivering a series of competitive encounters.

The day's action began with a highly anticipated clash between Ace Angels and Volley Vixens. The match lived up to expectations, with a tight first set that saw both teams exchanging points fiercely. Ultimately, Ace Angels managed to creep ahead by three points to claim the set. They then widened the score gap in the second set, securing a definitive two-set victory. Volley Vixens' Nicole Richards was recognised for her commendable performance throughout the game.

Next on court were Net Ninjas and Dig That, a match that highlighted the significant improvements both teams are making with each game. The Net Ninjas demonstrated strong play, clinching the first set with an impressive eight-point lead. Their momentum continued into the second set, where they extended their lead to a commanding twelve points, ultimately winning the match. Tara Thomas from Net Ninjas was deservedly awarded Lady of the Match for her contributions to her team's win.

The afternoon continued with Volley Vixens making their second appearance of the day, facing off against No Dig'gity. This proved to be another thoroughly entertaining contest that pushed to a decisive three sets. Early errors from No Dig'gity in the first set allowed Volley Vixens to gain an initial advantage, leading them to victory in the opener. However, No Dig'gity rallied strongly in the second set, finding their rhythm and turning the tables to level the match. The atmosphere intensified in the third set as both teams battled, determined to maintain high spirits. No Dig'gity ultimately controlled this final set, ending the game in a commanding fashion. Merle Peters, a consistently reliable player for Volley Vixens, was named Lady of the Match.

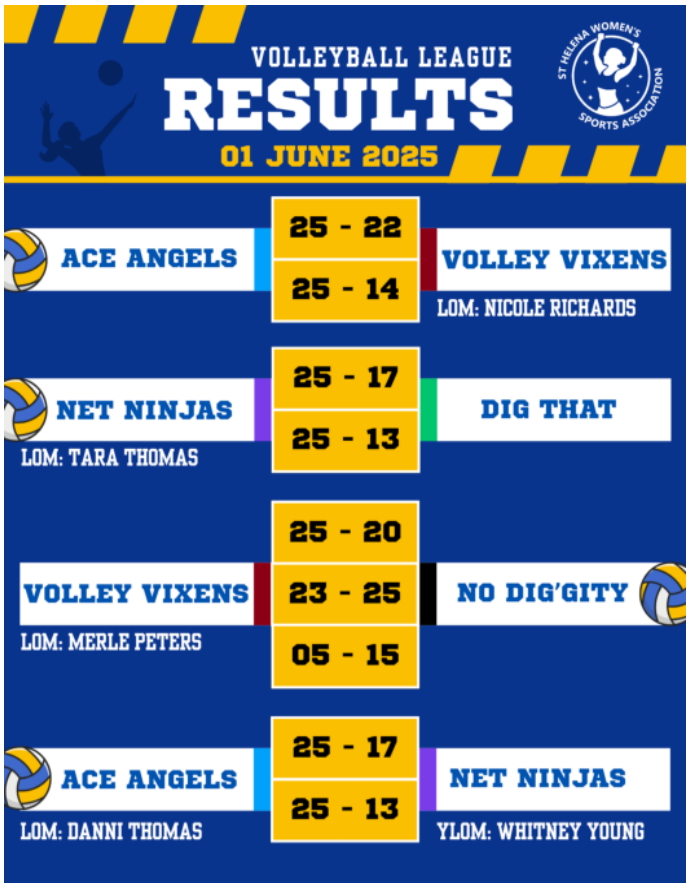
Finally, Ace Angels returned to the court to face the Net Ninjas. Despite some early shortfalls from the Ace Angels, the game featured many impressive rallies and commendable displays of sportsmanship. In the second set, Ace Angels solidified their dominance, increasing their lead over Net Ninjas and securing the game in two sets. Danni Thomas of Ace Angels earned the Lady of the Match title for her consistent play, while the Net Ninjas' Whitney Young was recognised as Young Lady of the Match for her great efforts.

As round one wraps up, the Ace Angels are flying at the top of the table, holding an undefeated record. However, with an entire second round still to play, the league is far from decided, and anything can happen!

We're taking a break between rounds so volleyball will resume Sunday, 15 June. Spectators are warmly welcome to join the excitement at the St Helena Secondary School Hall to cheer on the teams. Stay tuned for updates as the league progresses into round two!



POSITION	TEAM	GP	W	L	F	POINTS
1	ACE ANGELS	4	4	0	0	12
2	NO DIG'GITY	4	3	1	0	10
3	NET NINJAS	4	2	2	0	8
4	VOLLEY VIXENS	4	1	3	0	6
5	DIG THAT	4	0	4	0	4



Golf Report: Furrows Competition



SHGC, Contributed

The Furrows Golf Competition took place on Sunday, 1 June 2025, with 17 players participating in this stroke-play event. The competition, generously sponsored by Fox Motors (Helena & Jeff Stevens), proved to be an exceptional success, marked by impressive performances and a spirit of camaraderie.

Martin Buckley emerged victorious with a stellar net score of 68, securing the top spot.

A three-way tie at net 70 brought suspense for the second place spot, but on countback, Neil Joshua claimed the runner-up position, followed by Gerald George in third place.

The competition also featured additional prizes:

• Longest Drive: Laura Buckley took home the Ladies' Longest Drive prize, while Larry Legg won the Men's Longest Drive.

• Nearest the Pin: Laura Buckley shined again, securing the Ladies' Nearest the Pin award. Patrick Henry claimed the Men's Nearest the Pin prize.

• Two Ball Pool: Gerald George scored the only "2" of the day, winning all the balls in the two-ball pool.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to Fox Motors (Helena & Jeff Stevens) for their sponsorship of this tournament. Their contributions and magnificent prizes greatly elevated the experience for all participants.

Congratulations to all the winners and participants for making the Furrows Competition a remarkable event. Special recognition goes to Martin Buckley for his outstanding performance and to Laura Buckley for her double prize achievement. Here's to more successful tournaments in the future!

Upcoming Events, June 2025

8 June: 3 Team Texas Scramble (1 NonMember)

15 June: 18 Hole Stroke Play (No Handicap)

21/22 June: St Helena Open Championship

28/29 June: St Helena Open Championship

Happy Swinging !



Greetings from the Jamestown Rifle Club

Pat Henry, Contributed

This week we have been very busy at the club, all rifles were given an overhaul maintenance cleaning, making sure they are all in perfect working order for shooters knowing they are safe to enjoy their lively performance, aiming on target with precise alignment hitting good scores. An early session welcomed thirteen members of the Jamestown Scouts Group to conduct an exercise on the sport of rifle target shooting. Working with young children over many years it's vitally important to transmit safety controls, demonstrating the technical mechanical knowledge to engage in our firearms and ammunition. It's also important to understand how much our modern lifestyle has changed in growth with modern technology how it destroys our active mobility in sports especially on our tiny island hidden away in the middle of the South Atlantic. Despite a number of them who haven't shot before, they all were given two shots each to have a go to understand the importance and nature behind this induction. At the end of our display, I was well pleased with the group; although their shots were not precisely grouped, they found the target.

The late evening event showcased an exciting group who really shot their hearts and minds out, trying to deliver an epic performance. Even our new beginners loving and finding how much shooting can boost one's energy. Cherilee shot 84, youth member Tunika 90.1, Daniel shot 91.5, newcomer George shot 73.1, 80, & 78.2, Adam 91.2,& 98.6, Ryan 86 & 92.3, our new entry Lulu 86.1 & 94.3 good entry for this lady. It's lovely to have Maddie back with us again she shot 95.2, Kyle 93.3 & 97.5, two shining stars battling it out, Helena Rose 99.4 & 97.4, Elli 98.8 & 99.6. We invite our shooters to come and practice next week for the competition the week after. So until then, you all stay safe and lovely as you are. Have a blessed weekend.



SPORTS ARENA

Defenders versus Destroyers

Holders, Pirates, to face undefeated Challengers once again in SHCA Knockout Final

Luke Bennett, SAMS

After a long and exciting SHCA cricket season it has now come down to Challengers and Pirates who will play on the final day of the season for the Knockout title 2025, following two semi-final matches on Sunday.

In the first semi-final, Challengers faced up against Levelwood Allstars, with the latter looking to right the wrongs in their previous meetings, while the former aimed to continue on their destructive path to all three titles this season.

Challengers batted first but got of to a somewhat shaky start when Captain Cliff Richards was dismissed for a duck. However the form of batsman Andrew Yon proved too much when he posted yet another century, accompanied by Player of the Match, Jordi Henry, with 75, helping their team to a massive total of 236 runs.

A tall task for Allstars already, and the day only worsened when their top three batsmen were all dismissed for ducks. A late stand from Clayton Leo would see him post the highest score for Allstars with 36. A bowling masterclass from Challengers, thanks to the efforts of Joey Thomas who walked away with a five- wicket haul for 11 runs after 3.2 overs, would restrict Allstars to 57 all out and march Challengers into the final.

In the second semi-final, Levelwood Rebels took on last year's winners Sandy Bay Pirates. With Pirates looking to regain their title, they would first have to pass an inform Delroy Leo and the Rebels.

The side from Levelwood batted first and got off to an outstanding start with Weston Clingham's 71 and Delroy Leo's 67 producing a 140 run partnership to help push Rebels to a competitive score. However, after this partnership was broken, the batting collapsed with Pirates finding a foothold in the game and restricting Rebels to 175, still a decent total. Rebels took to the field and got off to a promising start taking two wickets in the first five overs. Although wickets fell, Pirates still managed to rise to the occasion with Brooklyn Fowler producing a half century, taking the game to the wire and reaching the total in the final over, once again naming Sandy Pirates as SHCA Knockout finalists.

In the final day of the season, Mustangs will face off against Jamestown Heat in the Plate and Spoon Final before the main event when we see last year's finalists Pirates and Challengers once again face off to see who will be crowned Knockout Champs for 2025.





Presentation Day 2025, 7 June

09:00 Wooden Spoon Final (15 overs)
Jamestown Heat v Western A Mustangs
(Umpires: Dane Leo and TBC)

11:00 Junior Exhibition Match (10 overs)
Umpires: New Horizons

12:30 Knockout Final -
Sandy Bay Pirates v Challengers
(Umpires: David
Price and Damian Burns)

16:30 Presentation of awards

Get Carters pizzas will be available

Fireworks at 7pm