

MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN

Maybe things haven't gone so well and you find yourself trailing badly and the ends are running out. You could just keep playing as you have and hope that the opposition has a bad end but how has that gone for you so far? Drawing to the jack is probably not going to get you the result you need. The most likely way you will make a significant score is if the jack gets moved to a cluster of your bowls. So why not try to place your bowls together through the head so that you have a chance to trail the jack. Your opponents may not see the danger building immediately and may not cover it. You can even disguise your tactic by shouting something like "You are 2 feet heavy" even if the bowl has finished exactly where you wanted. Discuss it with your team before you start the end so they understand what you are up to.

TEAM MATCHES

In team matches, e.g. inter county championship games, familiarise yourself with the scoring system. If there are bonus points for the aggregate score, take this into account when you are plotting your way through the game. Even if you can't win, you might be able to secure the bonus points by keeping the margin small. And if you are winning comfortably, please don't start to play recklessly as this may result in the bonus points going to the opposition.

THE USUAL DISCLAIMER

There is no right or wrong way to play short mat bowls. The best way is the way that works for you. If I have done nothing else other than make you think differently about the game, even if you choose not to do any of the things I have suggested, then that is a good result.

Happy bowling and stay safe.

BM



Hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter. Come back for some more in issue 4. Margaret xx