

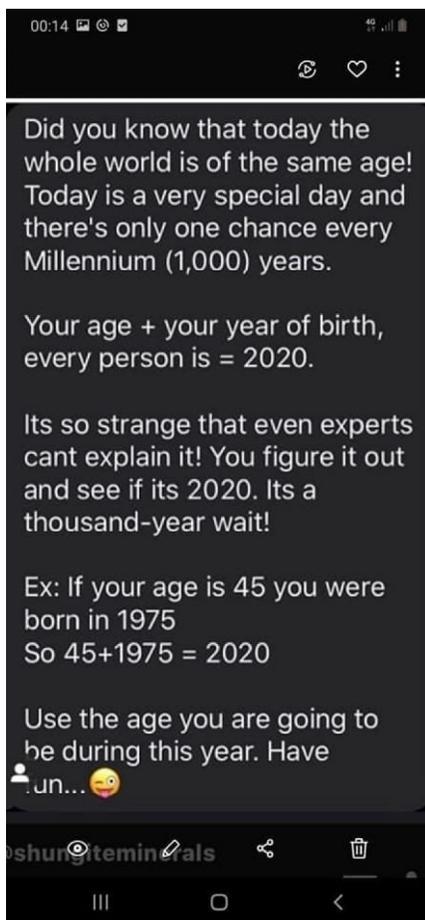
Your bowl will almost certainly have finished in the same line as the bowl you hit so now it poses a similar problem for your opponent. And if you have pushed them in for shot you can always blame your skip for not letting you change your hand.

One last thing to consider when playing your opening bowls. As stated earlier, a forehand weighted shot is easier to play than one on the backhand. As a result, the jack is more likely to be moved into the area of the mat where a tight forehand draw shot would finish. If you think you may be tight because of the swing on the mat, play the hand where your bowl will finish in this area. Your skip will thank you for it later in the end. If you do the opposite and finish tight and short, you will finish in the line for the weighted shot.

Remember, as a lead, your job is not to get the shot with every bowl you play. It is to set the pattern for the rest of the end and to make your partners' jobs easier.

NOTES FROM THE AUTHOR The thoughts contained in this series of articles are merely those of someone who has bowled for a long time. They are not supported by any official coaching scheme. If you spot an error, please let me know. If you disagree with any of my ideas, share your thoughts with the rest of us. After 45 years I am still learning. Just this last season I changed 2 things in my game; one technical and one tactical. The first came about from coaching basic skills at my club. The second was a revelatory moment during the away match against Bucks. Huge thanks go to Alan S for convincing me of the value of blocking bowls and the best way to play them.

NEXT TIME IN THINK ABOUT IT – PART 4 In the next article we will start to look at the risk of playing some shots and the potential rewards. **BM**



Jeff in his homemade mask