

Another little puzzler, what happens if a delivered bowl, without touching another bowl in the ditch or the fender, travels into the ditch and topples so that it rests on jack 3?

Is the bowl dead and should it be removed?

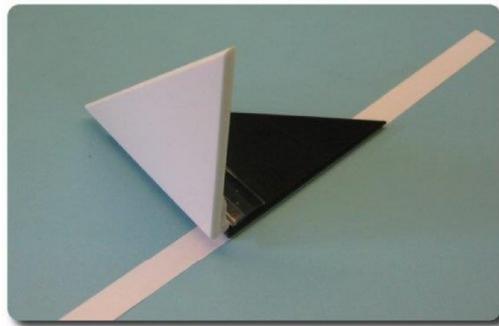
Actually no, the bowl becomes a toucher. It matters where the bowl finishes and not necessarily its route. So, be careful when lifting a bowl out when it has crossed the ditch line and still moving! The important part is that it must not touch another bowl or the fender before contacting the jack.

## Jack 4 – Dead or live?

Remember the definition of the live area and the words that are in bold text, the inside line of the live area delineates the area, so in this case, the whole of jack 4 has crossed the line and is dead and should be treated the same as jack 2.

So, how do umpires when called to make a line decision on a jack's position decide on the outcome?

You may have seen things like sheets of paper, credit cards, set squares and other objects used at some of the venues, but I think that the easiest method is to use something called a Rooney Measure. No, it's not named after the footballer, but a player called Len Rooney who played in the Merseyside bowls leagues.



Basically, it is made up of two triangles hinged together, one triangle edge is placed on the line adjacent to the jack to be measured and the other triangle is lifted up, if it contacts or misses the jack the correct decision can be made.

So, you will notice that one triangle is white and the other black, why is this? The measure can be used for line decisions on both bowls and jacks.

To measure a jack the white triangle will be used on the inside line of the live area and eased towards the line until no more green is visible, the black triangle will then be lifted.

To measure a bowl, the black section will be placed on the ditch side of the line and moved forward until no more white is visible, the white triangle will then be lifted to see if it contacts the bowl.

I hope that explains it, the following diagram might make it clearer.

