



NOT ALL "BAD" BOWLS ARE BAD

I know it doesn't happen very often but we all occasionally throw a bowl that doesn't go where we want it to. There are two main reasons why this happens;

1. **Poor execution.** This is truly a bad bowl. You either played your bowl on the wrong line or with the wrong weight. Recognise what you did and correct it next time.
2. **Misjudged line.** When you stood on the mat and visualised the shot to play, you "saw" the line incorrectly. You didn't actually play a "bad" shot. You played the shot on the line you intended. You just played a "good" shot on the wrong line. Store this in your memory bank and "see" the shot differently if you have to play it again.

DON'T FALL INTO THE MAT TRAP

Some mats can be quite devious. They tempt you into playing a shot that can't be done and then chuckle when you miss.

If you play a shot and it goes very close but just misses, your natural reaction is to play the shot again with a minor adjustment. But sometimes your bowl misses by the exact same amount. If this happens, it could be a characteristic of the mat. No matter how often you try, the mat just won't let you do it. Observe all bowls played to see how they act on the mat and you may be able to spot those little runs on the mat which could catch you out later in the game. If you are playing away from home against a team that are used to playing on their mats, watch which shots they favour and, in particular, the shots they avoid.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!!

This is the last of the Think About It articles. Hopefully, they have stimulated your imagination during our enforced layoff. With luck, we may be playing again soon if we can find a safe way to do