

# THINK ABOUT IT – PART 7

## FAILURE /S AN OPTION

When standing over the head trying to decide on the best shot to play, it is very easy to only see the perfect shot and that is often a dead draw to the jack. Some bowlers seem to have a fixation with that little yellow object.

If you can drag your focus away from the jack, take a look at what might happen if you are slightly tight, slightly wide or slightly heavy, i.e. if you are less than perfect. Often you will see that there is a “best way to fail”.

In the example head shown here, your team are playing with the blue bowls and the opposition have the pink (coral!!) bowls. This is a 2-wood triples game and you are 1 shot behind playing the penultimate end. You currently lie 2 down and your opponent has one bowl left to play.

The left-hand draw to the jack (backhand for a right hander) and trail of the jack is blocked by the short bowl. You might just be able to draw inside the short bowl but anything wide will not alter the position and an overtight bowl will go across the head. You have more options playing the other hand.

You might consider a weighted shot, possibly driving the jack through. However, if your bowl doesn't follow the jack to the back of the mat or into the ditch, it is likely that you will still be 2 down. Better, but not ideal. If you miss with the weighted shot entirely you will probably be playing your final bowl lying 4 down.

So, at this stage of the end and game, the “perfect” bowl is probably the draw to the jack down the right-hand side of the mat.

### “PERFECT SHOT”: DRAW TO THE JACK

Obviously, the draw shot needs to be played with the right line and weight. But let's look at what happens if you are less than perfect.

#### FAILURE 1: TOO WIDE

A draw shot that is slightly wide will probably contact the second bowl which is locked in place and unlikely to move. Your third bowl is likely to move and you would be 3 down.

#### FAILURE 2: TOO HEAVY

A bowl on the draw line which is too heavy will run wide of your objective, either hitting the second bowl or missing the head completely.

