

## A PLAYERS POINT OF VIEW

### Life as a team member - or a guide for skips

The most important person in the team is the lead, time after time you see that if the lead does not send up two good woods then the rest of the team won't either, so treat your lead with respect. When we are on the mat and ready to bowl do not shout down the rink – *just get it somewhere near the jack* – (as if we have not worked that out for ourselves!), this is guaranteed to break any concentration and the skip gets the sort of bowl he deserves (usually wrapped round the fender). Do not sigh when our woods end up in the wrong place, we do not have the benefit of other woods on the mat to make our wayward shots look good! We know leads are expected to put up and shut up, but we are able to read the head and can have ideas, so please include us in the discussions occasionally.

If you want to have a really happy team **DO NOT SAY**, once again as we settle to bowl, *don't touch that wood*, because this guarantees we will, as *that wood* is the last thing drilled into our minds.

It would be nice if sometimes you looked at the head from our view, so instead of saying you could drive a bus through there, you will realise that from our end all we can see is an opposition wood or several, which you would probably prefer not to be moved.

Speak to us (but not too much), an arm waved across the head (of bowls), with maybe a pointed finger at some of the bowls indicates nothing, so that is what you will get. Tell us what you want, draw, or a bit of weight to move woods. And speak up, lip reading is difficult at 45 feet, but watch us, if we step backwards and put our fingers in our ears, you are too loud.

Don't tell us to measure, we know we must! But sometimes a little dance around the woods sets up the right vibes for us to get the shot, so button it. If the two's and leads want to join in too, that's OK, it's just a bit of fun.

If it all goes pear shaped, as it can do, it was not done deliberately, we do not like upsetting our team.

p.s. Please don't put the bowls on the foot mat, they sit just as well on the floor, and we (the team) don't have to move them to start the next end!