

HARROGATE BOWLING CLUB



Improvers Coaching

Week 11: Team Play

Positional Play

Lead	Second	Skip
Stick to leading, practice drawing, Gordons' Challenge.	Don't be short! "You must be up if you're down"	Tactical Control. Direct your players, where do you want the bowl to finish.
Jack & Mat, jack length and mat position. Practice delivering the Jack to a target length.	Build the head. Be versatile; Attack the holding shot, Draw to the head, Positional play (block, a back wood.)	Be Alert; know when to build a head, to protect it & when to attack. Respond to vulnerable situations such as no back bowls.
Select best hand for the rink. Some lines are difficult. Find the best hand and own it!	Awareness and reading of the head. Be aware of dangers building up.	Assess the Green, direct onto good hands and easier lengths.
Try not to bowl short . . . Aim to finish a yard behind the Jack	Look for tactical opportunities. Let the skip know when a trail can turn one down to three up!	Leadership, motivate teams mates, be positive & helpful.
Stay involved, encourage & support. Discuss tactics with the second. Matchplay against your opposing lead.	Support the Skip. Motivate & encourage, clear communication, involve the lead.	Confident, positive & upbeat. Withstand Pressure. Good communicator. Utilise the percentage shot.

Team Tactics in Lawn Bowls - The Lead!

“How to win in Pairs and Triples”

- ▶ Practice delivering the jack to the required length, it can win and lose matches.
- ▶ Do not bowl around the clock! i.e. always bowling forehand or backhand.
- ▶ **Do not bowl short! Aim to be a yard beyond the Jack.**
- ▶ If your first two woods are on the Jack, you don't need to make the target any bigger! Bowl a wood around the back.
- ▶ If you are losing, when you get the chance, move the mat.
- ▶ Watch where your opponent is getting their line from, if its on the bank - move the mat up!

Team Tactics in Lawn Bowls - The Skip!

“How to win in Pairs and Triples”

- ▶ If you are holding - bowl wide. Do not go into the head or cross the centre line.
- ▶ If you are down - don't bowl wide. Play into the head, make something happen!
- ▶ Do not play a running shot if you only have one wood in the head, you might knock it out!
- ▶ Running shots should only be played if the back woods are in your favour.

Team Tactics in Lawn Bowls - The Skip!

“How to win in Pairs and Triples”

- ▶ Look for the “Percentage shot”. This is the shot that offers more than one opportunity of getting a good result.
- ▶ If you cannot win an end then the main aim is to lose it by the least number of shots.
- ▶ If you are holding don't be greedy. Look for dangerous positions that need covering.

Team Tactics in Lawn Bowls - The Second!

“How to win in Triples”

- ▶ Be up to the head! You are trying to improve the head, by consolidating a favourable head or retrieving a poor head. Short bowls will leave your team vulnerable, at the head or the back of the rink.
- ▶ Build the head. Try to ensure your team has bowls in and around the head.
- ▶ Be open minded. You may be called upon to play any number of shots. Practice both drawing and weighted shots.
- ▶ Be versatile. You may be asked to seal up a head by blocking, or attack a head to open it up to create opportunities for the skip.
- ▶ Clear communication. Respect the skip, motivate both the lead and the skip, provide the link.

Activity 11: The Perfect Head

- ▶ This is good practice for team work. All 3 players in a triples team decide where each wood should land if they were all perfect bowls, by placing disks down. (The discussion will be invaluable in helping the team to understand each others' thinking)
- ▶ Then the first disk is replaced with an opponents bowl and the lead bowls to beat it or as directed by the skip. Similarly with the second disk and the leads second bowl. (It is recommended that the second and skip have a discussion before the skip directs the lead)
- ▶ The second continues in this fashion, replacing the next disk with an opposing bowl and then bowling as directed by the skip, after a short discussion with the lead.
- ▶ The skip then delivers his/her bowls as directed by the second, after a discussion with the lead.
- ▶ If a win cannot be gained then it is important that the team only lose by 1 shot.
- ▶ The exercise is easily adapted for Rinks or Pairs teams.