The Shots

THE DRAW SHOT

This is the bread and butter shot of bowls. It is the shot we all need to perfect. Unless you are drawing well you cannot expect to play other shots.

Simply, a draw shot can be described as being a bowl, which is delivered up the green in such a way that it comes to rest on or near a particular target. The target in the main will be the jack, but it may be to any particular spot on the green.

The draw shot can be played on either hand, so practice to a preferred length jack, on both hands, in the beginning and then move on to random length jacks to perfect the shot.

Do not hurry your shot, take your time and go through your routine of playing a shot.

Check you have the right bias?
Is your grip correct?
Are you positioned correctly on the mat to the aiming line?
Are you relaxed and concentrating (completely ignore what is going on around you)?
Don't forget the follow through of the arm along the aiming line.

These basics put into a routine procedure from the time you pick up you bowl to play your shot will mean you eliminate bad habits and careless play.

Sometimes you may be asked to draw to a bowl that may not be shot, but needs to be covered in case the jack gets moved and goes to an area that gives your opponents an advantage.

THE REST SHOT

This is purely a Draw Shot playing to Rest on a bowl. It may not be possible to draw to the jack because of a short bowl. You then make the target bowl your jack and draw to it, hoping to rest on it.

BLOCK SHOT

This is another type of Draw Shot, as the name implies it is a shot specifically designed to be played short of the jack to block an opponent's route to the head. The object is to not only protect but also to force opponents to play a different type of shot to the one they intended.

THE WREST SHOT

The object is to play a bowl out of a favourable position and to occupy the place with your own bowl. The principle
Is the same as the Draw Shot except that you are drawing to an imaginary position where your bowl would be expected to finish if it was uninterrupted on its course. It is helpful if a skip instructs "You can rest that bowl out". This is probably one of the hardest shots to play, as the extra weight required to move the bowl out of position and to get the correct aiming line is critical. Too much or too little weight and you will miss the target bowl.

THE TRAIL SHOT

The Trail Shot is a slightly faster version of the Draw Shot with the object of carrying the jack a short distance. It is one of the most valuable shots in the game, and also one of the most difficult to perfect. With all shots that require just a little extra weight you have to take a narrower aiming line.

THE WICK SHOT

Many shots delivered in a game of bowls "Wick" off another bowl or bowls in the head. A shot which does this is called a Wick Shot. In reading the Head, the path direct to the jack is not possible, but by Wicking off a bowl to the side of the jack could obtain Shot Bowl. The player chooses his target bowl to Wick off and concentrates on delivering his bowl so that it makes contact at a predetermined point on the surface of the target. Wick Shots are usually played with an extra yard or two of weight.

THE HEAVY SHOTS

Although the Draw Shot is the most useful shot in the game, when strategy calls for you to attack, the fast shot is the one you will use. There are two types, the Drive Shot and the Firm Shot, both of which are used to break up your opponent's position at the head. It is to move the jack back to their own bowls or to remove opponent's bowls from the head. The success of these Heavier Shots is more luck than judgement. You can play the perfect Heavy Shot but the results will depend on the bowls hitting bowls or jack and sometimes the jack finishing off the green.

FIRING SHOT

This is one which runs up the green almost in a straight line. It is delivered with sufficient force to counter the inbuilt bias of the bowl.

THE FIRM SHOT

This is controlled shot, delivered at varying speeds with just a little allowance for the bias of the bowl to work. The amount of green required will depend on the pace bowl.

A Fire Shot should be identified to those at the Head for safety reasons.