PLACING THE MAT

At the beginning of the first end, the player to play first shall place mat, with the centre line of the mat lengthwise on the centre line of the rink.
The best way of doing this is to face the ditch, opposite to the number marker, with your back to the rink and grasping the front-edge of the mat, you will lay it along the centre-line of the rink. The front edge of the mat is to be not less than 2metres from the rear ditch and not less than 25metres from the front ditch. In other-words the mat may be brought up as far as the 25metre mark.
If the mat has been brought up the rink, ask the marker or skip if it is centred. Outdoors we do have a 2 metre stick at each end and indoors there is usually either a stick or a small white T mark on the green. However it is not necessary to use this unless it is questionable as to whether the mat is at less than 2 metres from the rear ditch.

When we have had quite a lot of rain and the ground is slippery we use ground sheets *(on the instructions of the Greenkeeper)*. These are placed at both ends of the rinks. The mat is placed with the front edge of the mat level with the back edge of the groundsheet.
We will show you before the end of the course how ground sheets are used.
Should you come down to the club and there is a notice up that ground sheets are to be used, then you must ensure they are put down before you start bowling.

Once the mat has been placed it shall not be moved from its original place except in the following circumstances:-

1) If the mat is displaced during the progress of an end it shall be replaced as near as practicable in the same position, an example of why this should happen is when someone trips, catches their foot under the mat and moves it.
2) If the mat is out of alignment with the centre line, then it may be straightened. This you find frequently happens.

After each end is finished, the mat shall be lifted and placed wholly beyond the face of the rear bank, which means placing it along the top of the bank with no part of the mat hanging down over the rear bank.
Should the mat be picked up before the end is completed, the opposing player shall have the right of replacing the mat in its original position.
No one shall be permitted to challenge the legality of the original position of the mat after the first bowl to be played has been delivered.
Moving the mat during a game is part of the tactics used. Placing the mat up the green means that players not only have to adjust the weight but also adjust the aiming line slightly.