READING THE GREEN

We have talked about a fast green and a slow green and one would assume we mean that a bowl will travel faster on a fast green and slow on a slow green. Both of these assumptions would be wrong. On a fast green the bowl will take longer to reach the jack than on a slow green.

One needs to give consideration to the way the bowl with its in-built bias will perform on the different surfaces. A fast green is where the grass is very closely cut and the ground is firm and dry, much the same as an indoor surface. On this type of surface the bowl meets little resistance and travels freely. Your bowl will travel in a wide arc if you want to finish near the jack on the central line. The wider the arc the longer it takes to reach the jack.

A slow, heavy or holding green is usually soft and wet. The grass is often not so closely cut. The bowl will therefore tend to slow up much more quickly. You need to take a narrower line if you wish to finish on the central line thus travelling a shorter distance.

It is important to keep an eye on the changing playing conditions. At this stage I don’t want to confuse you other than to say a sudden shower, a lengthening shadow, sunshine following a shower, the wind and if the green has been watered recently all influence the amount of green you need to take and the amount of force needed to deliver the bowl.