

READING THE HEAD/SHOT SELECTION

When reading the head and selecting a shot several things should be borne in mind.

What shot is needed/possible - a draw, a running shot, all out firing shot, covering shot, blocker etc.

This depends on whether you are holding shot, whether you are shots down whether a draw is possible, or the head needs opening up.

Many people think of it as a percentage shot. Which shot is most like to get a result.

Consideration should be given to the condition of the green - some hands are virtually unplayable, the wind may be high, the green may be patchy and have fast and slow spots.

Also consider your players limitations - some may be more comfortable with just a draw, some may favour a particular hand etc., although player should be encouraged to try all types of shot.

Drawing to the jack is not always the best option if you are already holding shot/s and therefore consideration should be given to position around the head. Maybe a bowl at the back of the head or a blocker.

The overall score position should also be considered. If a score is very tight overall, protecting the shot maybe preferable.

The functions of the various positions in a team:

The Lead

Positions the mat/jack on the green to the team's strengths i.e. the length of jack that most suits the team. In certain situations the lead should take instruction from the skip. In a game of triples once you are holding a shot or two, consideration should be given to a positional shot for the third bowl.

Number 2

Should always wait to be told by the skip which hand to play and what shot.

Number 3

Support the skip and encourage the team. Should be able to play a variety of shots, i.e. drive, draw, trail the jack etc. Discuss with the skip which shot to play.

Skip

Encourage the team, be positive about shot selection. Be able to perform all the shots.