

BOWLING ON CARPET

By Ken Perks

Just a few things I think where we are going wrong playing on carpet:-

All the P.P.S. Routine, P.S.R. and Delivery is the same (“nothing changes”) and your Routine is the same (“nothing changes”) except where you should be looking before you deliver the bowl. Normally on grass the way that you are delivering your bowl and where you are looking at the moment is seeing you through but on carpet it is where we are coming unstuck.

“CARPET IS NOT GRASS” so it should be treated as such and play to the rules of bowls and adapt.

Now looking at Vol 8 (step four) “keeping your eyes on your aiming line” is paramount in getting consistent bowls around the head on grass. So can I add to (step 4) by saying on carpet you should find your aiming line from the bank on each hand and to keep your eyes on that mark instead of trying to get a line from the green.

This I feel is where most of us are going wrong on carpet so this is the place to where we have to adapt and make this change so we can be accountable on all surfaces that we play on.

For the practicing of this adjustment it can be done on the grass. ie:

It starts with your feet correctly on the mat pointing down the aiming line that you have selected by picking up a spot off the bank (could be) a post holding up the shades, a spot that you can see that the greenkeepers use to change the rinks, boundary pegs and so on, just make sure it can't be moved. Things that can move bowls bags, seats, I think you know what I'm talking about.

On the delivery of the bowl you have to train yourself to keep your eyes on that spot on the bank and I feel it will help many of you overcome some of the problems we are having on carpet.

The so called grass line is the biggest factor on carpet it could be 1mtr. From the centre line or 4mtrs. It depends on the weather conditions ie:-

If it's cold the carpet will be running fast so in the roll up take more grass than you think and watch your bowl to see how far from the centre line you are so that you can make the adjustment's needed.

In hot weather the carpet normally runs at about 14sec. so bring your line in to say bowling at the boundary peg and make the necessary changes you will need to come back to the centre line and with all the other ailments to contend with it's not an easy task at anytime.

The weight control is important to, cold weather you will be just letting the bowl go, to do this it is better if you shorten your step from the mat to help you to not have a big back swing and to keep you in control of your delivery.

If it's hot your delivery step should be around the normal step you have when you deliver your bowl with full freedom with your back swing, balance and control and the same watch your bowl finish so you can make the changes needed.

I hope this will take away some of the mystery of bowling on carpet for it's not the easiest surface to play on.

GOOD BOWLING

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