



BISHOPSWOOD BOWLING CLUB

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Skipping

The poor skip is always to blame.

If the team fails to put a wood in the head leaving bowls short, and the skip fails to fix it, it is his fault. It doesn't matter that the rest of the team failed. The poor skip is always to blame. It is a team game. I have seen and heard this many time over the years.

A skip needs to be able to bowl well on both forehand and backhand. If they cannot, they should not be skipping.

A skip should also be able to play heavy bowls. When I was younger and played for Middlesex, I had the pleasure of playing with an English International skip. He advised me that unless I was prepared to spend hours every day practicing controlling weight or firing, I should concentrate on one only.

I have always preferred full weight but this is something you have to decide for yourself what to do.

A skip should never show his displeasure to any of his team and discourage them. A quiet word of encouragement when crossing gets a far better result.

A skip needs to be able to read a head. This is not common sense, but takes experience. Example: the open hand is not always the correct line. You should consider if you need a back wood, or if you bowl on the open hand and touch the jack what will happen?

Blockers are the hardest shot in bowls. Most times it helps the opposition and gives them a guide. I have never seen a skip try to put in a blocker in an international match! So as a skip if you wish to use blockers you need to spend time practicing them.

When a skip is crossing to bowl, don't suddenly start telling him where to bowl. They have seen the head so by suddenly telling him where to bowl, it is very off putting and puts doubt in their mind. You should remain STUM. If they ask for your opinion, that is different. You should only try and change what they are doing if the head changes.

If a skip requests you to do something that you don't agree with, remember they can see the head and you must listen to them, and not do what you think. I have seen many a head lost because the bowler disagrees with skip and bowls where they think they should be bowling.

I can remember in a vet match when I asked the no. 2 to bowl on his forehand. He disagreed, bowled on his backhand, touched the jack and we went 4 down. I was not a happy bunny.



If you are a newish bowler, don't skip. Learn to draw on both hands. When you can do this well, you can then try skipping.

If you have any questions please let me know and I will reply as soon as possible.

If any of the coaches has something to add or disagree with me, please email me. I am always open to learn.

Best wishes, keep well.

George Taylor (Head Coach)

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Note: This note together with all previous ones can be found on the club website in the [Coaches Tips & Bits](#) section under [About Bowls](#).