



# BISHOPSWOOD BOWLING CLUB

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## Skipping #2

Regarding the tips for skips – it's all good advice. I'd like to expand on the ideas a bit more.

### Duties:

The Skip should keep the score on the score card and should sign both score sheets at end of match and act as scorer in a pairs match. N.B. The skip can delegate this duty to other members of the team provided the opposing Skip is informed.

### A good Skip:

1. Needs to be able to quickly evaluate weaknesses and strengths of opponents eg do they favour short or long jack, weakness on backhand or forehand etc?
2. Should know how to change the shape of a game by moving the mat and maybe forcing the opponent to play their weak side. Moving the mat is often done when your side has lost a number of ends and the opposition perhaps looks too happy with the traditional mat position 2 meters from the ditch. By moving the mat right up it often leaves them struggling to find the correct line or length. Of course it could also confuse your own team so I'd suggest that when you practice, you change mat positions so that you get used to this strategy.
3. Should know how to communicate clearly with confidence and assurance; good clear hand and verbal signals.

### Tips for Skips:

- Allow Leads to draw twice before bowling for position, and Leads should not be asked to drive unless playing in a pairs game.
- Skips should decide which hand plays best for each of his or her players and stick with it if possible.
- Build each head safely. If a loss is inevitable, it should be by a low score. (If you can't be first shot, then aim to be second!)
- When holding the shot, bowl for position. When down a shot, draw.
- Do not call for position bowls that will give the opponents a chance to wick off or rest on.
- Try to cover all positions that the jack may land if it were sprung.
- Know when there are possible shots to make a big score, e.g. by springing the jack.
- The drive is both an offensive and defensive weapon. Use it to burn an end, move the jack, or push a bowl up.

Best regards,

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