



TO THE POINT

Issue 30

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FROM THE VERY FIRST EDITION

This appeared in the very first edition of To The Point way back in January 2001, and is worthy of being reprinted:

**The aim of the Laws,
and the
interpretation thereof,
shall always
be to ensure fair play.**

CIRCULATION

It just so happened that this writer while watching the last 16 of the Spar Ladies' Classic was busy writing a few thoughts for **To The Point** when he was asked by a bowler-spectator what it was that was holding his attention. It transpired that this bowler had never heard of **To The Point**. Now, doesn't that say something? So often **To The Point** gets tucked away on the notice board and is not always seen, or if it is there is no time to read it. Also, as one wit once remarked - if you want to keep a secret, put it on the notice board!

So here's a suggestion for, nay an earnest request to, every club secretary - please use the facilities of the e-mail and send a copy of **To The Point** to every member. It is, after all, a form of communicating important information.

Maybe in this way lapses of etiquette on the green would be less frequent.

Also, what a wonderful way to ensure that every Technical Official and all the former Umpires are given the chance to keep in touch, and who knows maybe, just maybe, the old Umpires will upgrade their qualification.

KLEIN JAKKALSIES

Die oumense het altyd gesê dit is die klein jakkalsies wat die wingerd opvreet. Netso met rolbal skeidsregters. As ons nie altyd bedag is daarop om altyd die regte ding te doen nie dan verloor ons baie gou ons geloofwaardigheid.

By die onlangs afgelope Spar Classic Toernooi vir die dames is daar telkemale opgelet dat 'n skeidsregter geroep word om ewe kalm haar toumaat uit te haal en daarmee te meet. Dit is natuurlik nadat die derdes reeds met 'n toumaat gemeet het.

Onthou asseblief skeidsregters dat julle met 'n ander en beter instrument moet meet-- dit stel ook die spelers gerus dat u weet wat u doen.

SHOW-CASING OUR NEW TECHNICAL OFFICIALS – W.P.

A calculated plunge has been taken in the WP where we have resorted to making use of the services of our newer Markers and Umpires. We boast some very good ones indeed. We are providing them with the opportunity to do duty with us in the semi and Finals of our District competitions under the watchful eyes of our Standing Committee members. All functions have been delegated to them, from Tournament Official to dressing Flip-boards, placing Stickers on the player's bowls, and carrying water-bottles. A tremendous amount of enthusiasm and interest is coming from them and our next phase is to have of them as members on our Standing Committee.

This season has been a fruitful one for us in terms of numbers of Candidates applying to do the Markers and Umpires Level 1 as well as up-grades to Level 2. The end of the season will see us having qualified 50 Markers and 25 Umpires, and 8 Up-grades, all with good blood lines. We attribute this to the on going sales pitch that we plugged the District with.

ARE YOU GUILTY?

In a 4's game one bowler was in the habit of walking up to the Head as soon as the last bowl of the second was delivered, much to the annoyance of that player. What is your advice as an umpire?

This surely has as much to do with the etiquette of bowls as Law 35, the only Law that covers a situation such as outlined above.

Surely each bowler is entitled to the courtesy of being allowed to watch his bowl from the moment of delivery till it stops (or nearly stops) without being disturbed by the other 1 or 2 or 3 front-rankers setting off to the Head? Everyone else has had the opportunity by virtue of having played their bowls before the last bowl of the second. Best is to draw the offender's attention (and that of his skip) to his irritating habit and mention in passing Law 35, Possession of the Head.

Law 35 is quite clear:

- Possession of the rink will belong to the player or team whose bowl is being played
- As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink will transfer to the opposing player or team

In Bullet 1 the words "is being played" do not mean "has finished being played"!

In Bullet 2 the key words are: "comes to rest", and so Law 36.1.1 comes into effect:

- Players at the mat-end of the rink who are not delivering a bowl **should** stand at least 1 metre behind the mat.
- Note in the Crystal Mark Edition, "should" means that the action is compulsory.

Moral of the story:

Be considerate of the other player; rushing up the rink is not going to save much, if any, time, so why do it?

Advice:

Set off up the rink to the head only when the player in possession does.

ON STRINGS AND THINGS

While playing in a League Match not so long ago and I were surprised to find strings had been used on the green, which reminded me of this poem attributed to Moira Humphrey of Southbroom Bowling Club in KZN:

**We used to have a comfort zone
With strings on either side,
And when the jack or bowls meandered
It was easy to decide
If they were in or if they were out
Without the need for an Umpire to shout.**

**And when the green was fast
We all could easily trace
Just how much to take
Of the next rink's space.
Now we're all totally bereft
As our strings they have not left.**

**Instead some nut just had to devise
An instrument looked upon with fearful
eyes!**

**There was an "Ump" in PMB
Who called upon his fiddlers three,
And in turn they bent to a stance
As in the mirror they did glance -**

**What they did see their wrinkles could be
Or other images there too ghastly.
And they usually got a fright
As their visage came into sight!**

**However, they ruled separately -
Then our thirds got in the act
And even they could not make a pact.
Meanwhile at the far end of the rink
The skips had gone to sleep on the bank!**

**Just imagine what ructions that would
ensue
If in rugby they used a mirror too!**

OVERHEARD AT THE CONCLUSION OF A WEEKEND TOURNAMENT

We shared the luck - we had all their bad luck and they had all our good luck!

BEVOEGDHEID & BEKWAAMHEID

Beteken om jouself te verlustig in die taak wat jy aanpak deur dit af te handel met volle oortuiging en opgewondenheid.

Dit sal vir jou tevredenheid, geloofwaardigheid en aanvaarding verseker.

CAPABILITY & COMPETENCY

“Do what you do, do well boy”

Competence means to do, (put in practice with excellence what you have been trained and taught to do, by doing it with confidence and with enthusiasm.

With this you will earn credibility and acceptance.

YOU ARE ASKED FOR A RULING.

1. Carry a bowl to the head.

The Law specifically states that a bowl if carried to the Head by a player while inspecting the Head (Lorna Trigwell was famous for this) is not a dead bowl. But what happens if that bowl is accidentally dropped and disturbs the Head? Is it a dead bowl? Is it therefore a neutral object?

Answer: The decision means the difference between Law 28.1 (Bowl displacement by another player) or Law 28.3 (Bowl displacement by a neutral object).

Hence the Head has been displaced by the player as the bowl is part of the player, and so the opposing skip should replace any part of the Head thus disturbed (Law 28.1.4) The clumsy skip gets to deliver the bowl he dropped!

Moral of the story. - Don't carry a bowl to the Head!

2. Pick-up irons

Scenario 1

A player at the head leaves his pickup iron unattended on their rink of play, behind where the players are standing. A bowl or jack in play is stopped and or deflected by the iron.

Scenario 2

A player is standing two metres behind the head holding his iron. A bowl or jack in play is stopped and or deflected by the iron.

Scenario 3

A player is standing two metres behind the head with his iron right next to or in front of him but not being held. A bowl or jack in play is stopped and or deflected by the iron, before the player can react.

QUERY Is the iron considered to be a neutral object because it is unattended?

Answer: No, the pick-up iron is not a neutral object. It belongs to a player on the rink in question, and therefore it is treated the same way as if the jack or bowl has come into contact with the owner or the person who is using it.

See Law 28.2 . If the bowl or jack come into contact with the pick-up iron Law 28.1 will apply

The only time the pick-up iron will be considered as a neutral object is if the pick-up iron belongs to or is used by a player of a neighbouring rink.

Even if a player drops his cloth or measure or anything that belongs to him and a bowl or jack is displaced by that object, it is considered to be part of that player and he or his team will be penalised for it.

(Definition of a neutral object point 23 on page 9 of the law book.)

A jack or bowl or other object not belonging to any player on the rink of play.

3. Life bowl recalled

In a singles game, player #1 delivered a bowl and it came to rest past the 14m mark but very short of the head. He then called to the marker and told her to return the bowl as his opponent had "spoken on is back swing" and caused him to lose concentration. The opponent did not object to his call for the return of his bowl and the marker sent it back.

The questions are:

- Should the marker have called for a ruling from the umpire on duty?
- Can a life ball be recalled?
- Did the life bowl become dead when interfered with by a neutral object (the marker)?
- Would consensus, even if possibly reluctant, between the two players in this case have overruled any laws of the game, if such agreement was in the spirit of good sportsmanship?
- What would happen in a game of pairs, trips or fours if a player asked for a bowl to be returned due to having had his/her concentration disturbed by an opposing player?

Answer: There is no law that allows you to recall a bowl played.

If the delivered bowl was short of 14m from the centre of the mat line it could be declared dead by an umpire and been removed from the rink. The marker has no right to make a decision on Law 35

"Possession of the rink" (Read Law 35 point 3)
Only the Umpire can make a decision.

After the short played bowl was picked up by the Marker Law 28.3.4 apply.

"If a bowl at rest is displaced by a neutral person or neutral object and it has not disturbed the head after it is displaced, the skips or opponents in Singles should agree on the position of the bowl. If they cannot agree, they should declare the end dead."

On the last question, the player has no right to make a decision on Law 35 "Possession of the rink" Only the umpire can make that decision.

That is why Law 35 is there. To protect the players against other players who do not adhere to the etiquette of bowls.

4. Picking up a life bowl.

Player A had a toucher in the ditch and was standing behind the head and close to the ditch. Player B delivered his bowl with quite a bit of force and there was danger that his bowl would hit the toucher in the ditch.

Player A then picked up his bowl from the ditch and allowed player B's bowl free passage into the ditch. Player A then picked up the dead bowl of Player B and put it on the bank and then placed his own toucher bowl back into the ditch.

Player B objected and said the A had no right to pick up his bowl and he had no right to put it back into the ditch again.

The umpire did not know what the decision should be and upon phoning headquarters the decision was given to replay the end.

Answer:

Player A had no right to pick up the toucher, so Law 28.1.4 – "Displacement of a bowl at rest" comes into play.

"If a bowl at rest or a toucher in the ditch is displaced by a player and it has not disturbed the head after it is displaced, the opposing skip should put the bowl back to its former position."

Lesson to be learned out of this: If the depth of the ditch was the correct depth as per the laws, most probably it would have not been necessary for the player to pick up the toucher. So, controlling body makes sure the greens and ditches comply with the prescriptions of the laws.

5. Marker breaks up the head

A has a score of 20 to B's 15 shots.

The end is completed. A is at the head and B is still at the mat end picking up the mat. A removes all the bowls out of the head except the two bowls that needed to be measured. He then asks the marker to measure. The marker measures and gives the shot to A. The marker then removed the bowl that he had decided on as shot, out of the head. By the time that B arrived at the head the head had been broken up.

B was very upset and said quite rightly that he had not seen the head or the measurement that took place. The marker then suggested that the end be replayed. A was quite happy to replay the end. B turned round and said that if A wanted the game so badly he could have the game, packed up his bowls and left.

Answer: Law 39.2 No bowl should be moved until the opponents have agreed whether it is a shot or not.

This incident again illustrates how important it is for a marker never to remove a bowl out of the head.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE.

What front rankers talk about

Two front rankers were discussing their skip's faults over drinks.

Said the one: "We've been playing together for four seasons, and every time the skip complains about the result!"

"How terrible! Doesn't it worry you?"

"Why should it worry me? I can't help it if he can't stand his own bowling!"

Mixed bowls

A lady bowler was telling her neighbour, also a bowler, about a competition in which she had played against her own husband. "According to my husband I did everything wrong. I talked too much; I made too much noise; I took the wrong grass; I walked off the mat. Trouble is, I was on the winning side!"

How's this for a neutral object!

What must rank as the best ever neutral object occurred many years ago at the Humewood Bowling Club in Port Elizabeth. Now, PE is famous for its South-Easterns, and the Humewood Club was sited in a valley that is the natural funnel for wind. Players watched in astonishment as an extra strong gust picked up one of the old metal upright scoreboards and tumbled it across the green before allowing it to collapse almost in the middle of the green!

Contact Persons

If you need any information regarding Technical Official courses or any other bowls related queries please contact your District Technical Official Standing Committee.

If they cannot assist you or you do not know who they are or you do not have their contact numbers, you are welcome to contact your district representative on the National Standing Committee for Technical Officials who will assist you.

National Technical Official Standing Committee for 2010.



Fred Kruis (Convener)

Represents the following districts:
Northern Cape
Northern Free State
North West
Sables



Renee Venter (Secretary)

Represents the following districts:
Limpopo
Eastern Gauteng
Bowls Gauteng North



Bob Radcliffe

Represents the following Districts:
Natal Inlands
Port Natal
Kingfisher
KZN Country



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Represents the following districts:
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Eastern Province
Southern Cape



Neville Savage

Represents the following districts:
CGBA
Mpumalanga
Southern Free State
Sedibeng



Doreen de Power

Represents the following districts:
Boland
Western Province

The Technical Official Representative on the Bowls South Africa Executive for the next term is Isabel Smith.

Any comment preferably positive, or if negative, with the solution, may be E-mailed to any of the Committee Members.

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Any bowler who would like to get a copy of this newsletter will find it on the Bowls SA web and District Secretaries will receive a copy from October 2009