



# TO THE POINT

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. (Unknown)

### Improving of standards of Umpiring and Marking

If you want a person to perform a specific task, you must ensure he/she is **Competent** (Bevoegd). If that person has not performed the task previously, the person is **Incapable** (Onbekwaam) to perform that task.

The first step is to ensure that the person acquires the necessary **Knowledge and Skills** (Kennis en Vaardighede). Once the person obtained the knowledge and skills he/she is **Capable** (Bekwaam) to perform the task, but capability does not guarantee quality and the required standards, which are expected.

The person must become **Competent** (Bevoegd). The only way to become competent is to regularly applying the knowledge and skills in order to gain **Exposure and Experience** (Blootstelling en Ondervinding)

Once a person has the required knowledge, skills and experience he/she is **COMPETENT**, but if there are changes in the knowledge and skills required and the person is not re-trained or updated on the changes he become incapable again.

### **How does this apply to Bowls?**

1. Ensure that all the persons that are required to do duty as an Umpire or Marker have attended the required courses. They are now capable (bekwaam)
2. Ensure they get enough exposure and opportunities (blootstelling en geleentede) to gain the necessary experience to become competent (bevoegd). Once the person has completed

the course create opportunities for him/her to use the knowledge and skills.

- Appoint Umpires and Markers even in social bowls.
  - Do not use the same persons over and over.
  - Encourage qualified markers and umpires to volunteer for club, district and National competitions and tournaments.
3. Ensure that all Markers and Umpires are informed of any changes in the laws or the use of measuring instruments.
  4. Encourage them to attend refresher courses.
  5. Evaluate them on a regular basis to ensure they have the required skills and knowledge.

### **Remember:**

If a person does not keep track of changes in laws and techniques or he/she does not apply it regularly he/she becomes incapable and the quality and required standards cannot be guaranteed.

### **TEASER No 2**

The third of Team 'A' propelled the jack into the ditch, with the correctly marked toucher lying fairly close to it. Neither the position of the jack nor the toucher in the ditch was, however, noted. As skip 'B' was about to play his last bowl a spectator on the bank, anxious to see what was the position was, approached the edge of the bank, causing a bowl on the bank to fall into the ditch, moving the jack away from the shot bowl.

Well what would be your decision as: -

- a) the umpire?
- b) the skip.

### **Problems**

A recent incident, which was noted at the nationals, the umpire insisted that the skip must come to the head to replace a bowl that had been disturbed by an opponent. This is of

course, not necessary.

*If a Law provides a skip with the option of resetting the head or replacing the jack or bowl, and the skip is not in charge at the head, then the skip must decide which option to exercise, but the player in charge must do the resetting or replacing! The skip may however; delegate the power to decide on which option to employ to his player in charge provided he notifies the opposing skip.*

During the same nationals, inclement weather forced the players to be called off the green by the Controlling Body.

At the restart some 35 minutes later, the umpire was coerced by the players to allow an unfinished end to be completed.

I am not suggesting that this is a teaser as it is obvious that this should not have been allowed to happen.

*Law 50.2 directs that the end shall be resumed with the scores, as they were when the game was stopped.*

*An end commenced, but not completed shall be declared dead.*

At some time or another we are all guilty of following a bowl after delivery and possibly delaying the next player on the mat. Some players even move into the next rink, if it is vacant, (and sometimes when it is not), and watch from halfway down the rink as the opponent delivers.

*Law 35.2 states as soon as each bowl shall have come to rest, possession of the rink shall be transferred to the other team; time being allowed for marking a toucher. The player in possession of the rink for the time being, shall not be interfered with, annoyed or have their attention distracted in any way by their opponent.*

*Law 36.1 also states that the players of each team not in the act of playing or controlling play shall stand behind the jack and away from the head or 1m behind the mat.*

## THE TREATMENT OF A TECHNICAL OFFICIAL

It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit Technical Officials. It is equally as difficult to try and convince existing Technical

Officials to do duty. The question is “why”. One of the answers to this question is without a doubt found in the manner in which Technical Officials are treated when they do duty.

Umpires are not paid for their time. These people volunteer their services and often have to travel quite a distance to the venue where they are to officiate. The least they would expect would be a little courtesy from the Club where they are to do duty.

Unfortunately this is not the case. Very often the Umpire is left outside in the scalding sun, pouring rain or freezing wind, without a chair or table, and are forgotten when tea time comes along, specially, during singles competitions when there are numerous rounds to play. Then lunchtime comes along and when the poor Umpire who is by this time dying of heat (or cold) whichever the case may be, arrives in the hall only to be told that “unfortunately” the kitchen had “run out of lunch” or are often charged for their food. They then rush back outside after gobbling down whatever they had managed to find to fill the empty space in their stomachs, and are once again left outside with not so much as a cup of tea. The worst is still to come!! By the end of the day, the poor Umpire is frozen to the bone or burnt to a cinder and would sell his soul for something to drink. Everyone is offering everyone else a drink but who thinks of the Umpire? When the Controlling Body or Tournament Officials make their speeches at the end of the Tournament, everyone gets thanked. The green keeper, the Tournament Committee, the Bar man, the sponsors and the car guard, for doing such a sterling job but hardly ever is a word of thanks directed to the Technical Official. At a very recent Bowls South Africa tournament they were also left out of the list of people who were thanked and then as an after thought they said that there were many other people to thank “**EVEN THE TECHNICAL OFFICIALS**”. **Why bother???**

I wonder when it will become apparent to Administrators of the game, be they Club Presidents, Club Captains, Tournament Officials, or the Executive of Bowls South

Africa, that this game that we all love so much ***cannot be played without Technical Officials!!!*** So why treat them as second-rate citizens?

Why can these people who give to tirelessly of their time not be treated with some respect?

All we ask is for an Umpire to be received at a Club where he is doing duty and be introduced to the players is given a cup of tea and a sandwich for morning tea. Lunch, if he is on duty all day, a cup of tea and a biscuit for afternoon tea, and a word of thanks for his time at the end of the Tournament.

Maybe, once it is perceived that Umpiring can actually lead to a very pleasant day at your own, or another club, it will become easier to recruit new umpires and existing Umpires will once again agree to do duty.

#### **Answer to Teaser No 2**

*Law 28.4 decrees that a head disturbed by a dead bowl returned by and agency from the bank to the rink shall be reset as it was, but if the skips do not agree as to the resetting, the end shall be declared dead.*

*If the position of the jack in the ditch had been noted, as it should have been, the problem would not have occurred. As this was not been done the position of the jack in the ditch could not be accurately determined and the skips unable to reach agreement as to the position from where the jack or bowl was moved, correctly decided to restart the end.*

**"Geen groot prestasie is ooit sonder entoesiasme behaal nie".**

Any comment preferably positive, or if negative, with the solution, may be E-mailed to me

Trevor [tpdavis@mweb.co.za](mailto:tpdavis@mweb.co.za)

Any bowler who would like to get a copy of this news letter sent directly to them just let us have your e-mail address Club and Bowls S.A. Membership Number

**"The greater the challenge, the greater the reward"**