



THE TRIAL ENDS

Obviously it is the start of the game; but the main reason for me to mention this is that I believe it is an important part of the game and I do not believe a lot of our bowlers use the trial ends/roll-ups to their advantage.

What is the good of having a trial end/roll-up if you are not going to try and learn something from it?

In fact, each week I get more and more frustrated as a skip, when during the roll-up I see bowlers turning their back on the bowl, and I have noticed some people are already stepping onto the bank before their bowl has come to rest.

When we teach new bowlers to bowl, we always tell them to watch the bowl until it comes to rest. This is so that you can try to make the necessary adjustments – be it line or length.

During the roll-up the most important thing to concentrate on is the amount of grass required for the draw shot. You must watch where your bowl finishes so that you know how much adjustment is required. With only 2 bowls in pennant games this is even more critical. The director at the head should be indicating how far through or short your bowl is so that you can also register that information for subsequent ends.

In the June 2004 edition of BOWLS NSW under the heading 'Coaching'; the article on the subject 'Basic Tactics' by Ken Field made particular reference to trial ends. He said, and I quote 'Full length ends are better to assess the conditions on the day and the draw grass required.'

The emphasis here being the 'DRAW GRASS REQUIRED'.

The increasing habit of "one end roll-up" is not helping in training us to make the most of the trial end/roll-up. If we are going to get serious about trying to do well in our games, we should also train to make good use of this part of the game.

I make reference to the term roll-up only because it is what we hear on the greens. I think we should stop thinking of it as just a roll-up and think TRIAL ENDS and use them to our advantage.