

President's Letter #3

TO OUR WONDERFUL MEMBERS

Are you still practising or are the balls smashing into the furniture? I wonder why? If so, you may have to resort to using ping-pong balls. Mind you don't step on them! ... Seriously, "hang on in there". Revision Time Below.

BACK TO BASICS

"Stalk" or "Walk the Line". If your body is not facing where you want your ball to go, then it won't end up there. Eh!

How do you line up? I despair at the many times I see players walking up (the quickest direction) to play their ball and when they get there, they raise their mallet to line up, take a few paces back, walk forward and (some after swinging back and forth) hit their ball. **Forget it.**

When you are ready to play your ball, **stop** and assess your next shot. Draw a line from your ball to where you wish to place it or hit another ball. **Mark that spot.** Draw a line from that spot through your ball and a couple of metres back on that line. **That is the spot to where you go.** You commence to walk that line with your mallet in front of you on that line (not facing in another direction). When you get there you place your mallet behind your ball and hit it. You can't miss the roquet or the accuracy of placement of your ball. **TRY IT.**

Where do I hit the ball. Imagine the ball you are looking at as a clock face. You must hit the ball through its centre line. **Easy.** You hit from 6 o'clock to 12 o'clock. That is when you get that "sweet" sound - a clean accurate shot.

Why did my ball "jump" - there must be a bump in the Lawn. Don't blame the lawn and you can't blame the carpet on the floor. **The secret is where you place your toes behind the back of your mallet head.** When you swing your mallet on that "semi-circle", depending on how close your toes are to the back of your mallet head, determines (when you swing down) the spot where you hit your ball. Sometimes you are not aware that your toes have crept up on either side of the mallet head. On your downward swing you will hit the ball higher giving the ball top spin and causing it to jump. Good for "jump" shots but **step well back** for Stop Shots (AC) or Stun Shots (GC) to avoid the ball "jumping".

I suggest you get a ball, any ball, try the various positions of your toes vis-à-vis your mallet head, do the same swing and see your various results. **USEFUL.**

**** Miss you All ****

**Mary Gibson
President and Coach**

6 April 2020