The quotes “Hearing it so, can make it so”, “If you think you can, you can” and “Think it, see it, do it” are particularly relevant to the game of bowls. Skips should always explain what they require of their players. While it may be OK to wave an arm out to the left in some situations, it is not, in a tight situation. Players need to know, “am I trying to turn a bowl in, out, through, if so by how much or is it the jack I’m going for? Is the bowl I’m looking for a bowl in front, a bowl behind or is it Jack high? Is the Jack touching the bowl or in fact 10 inches behind? One can’t picture a shot without having some idea of what’s up front, and where exactly he/she should be focusing their attention.

This however doesn’t mean the skip should go off drawing an entire landscape picture to confuse or delay the player at the other end. A simple “You are looking for an inside edge, a foot over” would do. The player then has a good idea of what is required and has something to visualize before stepping onto the mat. Thus “seeing” and “hearing” it, can

make it so. Magic happens.

