

Lewis Carroll and Lawn Bowling

There was a Mad Hatter who loved to chatter
About his bowling game.
Onto the green he would patter to play in the ladder,
But the result was always the same.

He would deliver a back bowl but it would continue to roll
And into the ditch it would fall.
He would try once again but it was always the same,
And it was never a close call.

He aimed at the jack but he didn't have the knack
To lie close to the kitty.
He continued to try and he didn't know why
His bowls would end up in Kansas City.

Now, Alice in Wonderland could easily understand
Why the Hatter had such difficulty.
But why would she help him for free,
When the game had such simplicity.

Lawn bowlers in Duncan had no compunction
About defeating the Mad Hatter.
But when he was angry the Hatter became cranky,
And the spectators would soon scatter.

Would Lewis Carroll ever wear the apparel
Of an expert lawn bowler?
Could he deliver a bowl with adequate control
To become a high roller?

Could a mathematician in a bowling competition
Ever win a game?
If he were inclined to use tangents and cosines
Perhaps it would improve his aim.

(While he is known today primarily as an author, Lewis Carroll, or rather Charles Dodgson, was also a brilliant scholar. He taught mathematics and logic to undergraduates at Christ Church, Oxford for many years and, at the same time, he created fanciful stories to entertain children.)