

Welcome to the May 2014 (monthly) edition of the coaching column titled '...On Line Delivery' on Henselite's website.

The theme of this column is.....

... we don't need coaches

REGRETS

Everyone, or nearly everyone, in bowls reacts that way. Why waste time going to some old geezer for coaching.

The very best players in our sport worldwide got to their elevated position without anyone else's help. But, I bet they were all driven to practice by themselves to be their best. And even if they had considered seeking help, the people 'labelled' coaches most probably were not up to that skill level needed to be of support, guidance and drive for these ambitious bowlers. So no one knows any difference in the value of coaches as our best go to the pinnacle (probably) without use of a coach.

Times are a-changing, people. Except in bowls, of course. All other sports in any part of the world you are reading this value the skill and role of the coach to improve the performance of the athlete/ bowler. Heaven forbid if in bowls a player sought to seek a coach to improve their performance.

Guess what, bowlers? It has happened.

Robbie Dobbins was our breakthrough coach in the 90s when he set the place alight taking the Malaysians in a modern direction of specified training and game preparation. And Rob has been instrumental in a similar vein with the current BA Australian squad. It simply has not filtered down far enough within Australia, as yet. And the BA model has not been copied or translated enough in other national teams.

Bowls is not a sport. It is a pastime. Not my words, those of a Club President I met recently. Boy, I can agree to an extent. And I agree in that in fair dinkum sport the coach is a vital cog in the wheel of performance. And I don't lay all blame with the players. Our formal associations led by old school people have no inkling, or willingness, to grasp modern sport approaches to improving performance.

And we who also operate at club level, the notion of coaching is foreign yet many clubs choose to seek a coach.

Wonder why? If you read about the views of Darren Lehmann, Australian cricket coach, or, Paul Roos, AFL Melbourne football coach you glean these coaches are skilled operators who challenge and improve the players skills and attitudes to be their best.

& SOLUTIONS

Our sport, our Association officers need to be the catalysts for change. These officers in any bowls country can rally to provide support to coaches, establish positions and vocation pathways for coaches, demonstrate to players the merit of modern coaching. I keep hearing how Scotland has gone this way. And I know HK has too as I was privy to their plans and programs.

In Victoria over June 5 & 6, 2014, a state committee is inviting our nominated best coaches in Victoria and Australia to present at a workshop in Melbourne, a masterclass session, for those attending to see what the best coaches in our sport do, and what we can do, or need to do, to be in their league.

Attendee invitations to the master class workshop are limited and if wanting to be considered for invitation feel free to contact me during May to express that interest.

This past season 2013/14, as a club and a regional coach, enabled me to have first hand exposure to the sport and thus experience all of the above comments.

Note: My bowls book 'Winning becomes you' is now available from Henselite and other bowls shops.

Note: I have a website, www.lachlantighebowl.com for various matters on improving our bowls

Lachlan Tighe
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