

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

The theme of this column is.....

Missing Opportunities

You miss 100% of the (shot) opportunities you don't take.

A bit like life, actually.

A politician cited the 'opportunity' comment often attributed to Wayne Gretzky, the legendary ice hockey player, when she reflected on her own career, her stellar achievements, her few lost opportunities.

In my bowls lifetime, I look and observe too frequently the flawed tactical approaches of skippers or singles players.

Why oh why do they avoid taking the opportunity in a game when it is presented, be it to attack or be it to play the opponent's (obvious) delivery to deprive them of shot?

That decision, not to make that decision to grasp the opportunity, could be due to their confidence level.

Or it could be due to their tactical skill level where they do not recognize the opportunity.

Tactical or mental skill deficiency?

Whichever case it is, I reckon, no I know, there is scope to train the player in both the tactical skill and the mental skill to ensure when they skip a team or themselves as a singles player, they have the tools to give utmost thought as to why NOT to take the opportunity.

In bowls we are a long way off seeing the tactical and mental skill training balanced equally with the technical delivery skill training load.

Does that imply either players have no coaches, or, the coaches lack the competence to conduct such skill training.

Our sport has an obligation to provide that training for the players. Our sport has an obligation to service the coaches to assure them they have the competency to conduct the training.

Certainly, here in Victoria we are ...taking the opportunity... and are starting that process and programs, and, therein meeting the obligation to the sport.

Note: My bowls book 'Winning becomes you' is now available from Henselite and other bowls shops. If interested in purchase, contact me direct on email l.a.tighe@bigpond.com or check the Henselite website for details of availability. Or my own website www.lachlantighebowls.com.

Lachlan Tighe
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