

*Bowls directory : Web column  
'the view from the mat', January.2017*

## **Measuring Is A Team Thing**

**Question:**

Good morning Lachlan:

About three seasons ago we introduced the "Mat Length" measurement into our pennant teams. Apart from the obvious vagaries with skip interpretations it appears to have worked well.

However, I would like to get your thoughts on matters that have crept into the "system."

Two division one skips recently recruited, refuse to use the system and just give an opinion on how each player performed. This would appear to fly in the face of all the other pennant skips (and the other 2 Div.1 skips) who carry out the selectors wishes. It appears the selectors do not want to upset the new recruited skips. In my eyes they compromise the whole system.

One other issue is one particular skip in the No.2 side has the idea that in order for a third and skip to obtain a "tick" they have to alter the head by either adding or obtaining the shot. One wonders how they would rate a bowl placed for position. Apparently forget finishing within a mat length of the kitty with this idea.

As the former chairman of selectors and a club coach and having possession of your book "Winning Becomes You" (a great asset to me) I seek your opinion.

**Response:**

Hello Richard:

Ah ha! The vagaries of those who play for 'us' as team members.

A few things:

A club here in Melbourne started recording two seasons back and all three side players are involved and they now know their necessary level of player performance at ML to enable them to succeed as they had two sides promoted and one retained their division.

Very, very few bowlers and less number of clubs worldwide record performance, so your two skips are in the vast majority. However, Schuback and Bryant, as two of the MOST successful players ever, both knew their performance level because they recorded it.

Now the hairy one. Culture and selectors: If the club agreed on a system then bugger me have the new skip recruits comply or at least not be chosen as

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skips as they do not reflect the leadership. Bit like Tony Abbott as our prime minister since deposed with his liberal party. Sounds as if selectors have weak knees, not unusual.

And you are correct about the number 2 skip / third- agreed there is a degree of subjectivity in declaring a delivery is effective if and when it requires weight and a near miss can be an effective bowl (without result), however all draw deliveries are measured within ML of wherever it is these two players are asked / choose to draw to.

Ultimately my ML concept is a tool to keep our mind on the game and to aspire to a best standard knowing what is our best over the season.

In an hour I am off to my club to coach two premier league bowlers who sought me out as their personal coach and one of the two made the approach only this Tuesday. He has shared his goals with me, done a self appraisal, shared his game plan and given me debriefs of three major events he played in during 2015.

And, he has kept his ML performances at premier league for this season so far, all done without my being his coach.

I asked him about this and he said he has followed my approach for two years but was uneasy about approaching me to be even better.

My comment to him...be selfish in your pursuit to be as good as you can be.

Finally, two clubs have asked me to come and conduct a session over February as their top sides loom toward finals. My theme in all cases will be about team first second and last.

Hope that is of some benefit.

**Lachlan Tighe, 2017**