

Decision Making Knowledge

Knowledge in bowls decision-making is acquired through structured training.

Practice as we typically experience it in bowls clubs is a lot of us arriving at our venue, certainly without structure to our training.

Practice, as a valuable experience at our bowls clubs, would provide us exposure to a situation (head) we more than likely experience in competition.

Good decision making is done by simulating a head for competition and doing repeated attempts at a select number of options to gain the knowledge of what works, what delivery choice, what hand choice and what weight choice.

The knowledge, the decision-making skill, then emerges for the competition through rigorous specific training.

I digress. A national player recently told me about a phrase “on and beyond” when he led in elite fours teams. It came about because his various (elite) skippers were all firmly of the view he was not to be short (ideally we all would agree there), because that deprived them of playing their preferred deliveries to complete the end successfully for the team. Two things: am I hearing the game is all about the skip being the hero and why not train the back end players to contend with the short stuff by having a head set up with short bowls so as to work out the various decisions on offer to know the preferred one to take in competition.

Now where was I. What also comes from sustained practice on decision-making is the knowledge or instinct to react.

My understanding is the training enables you to realize all the options, on both hands, but the training also enables you to see and choose one option instinctively and more often than not it is the best possible decision.

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All because we train to discover choice options attempted in simulating head situations and afterward we felt we knew what was the preferred possible decision.

At every club you can see the best bowlers at practice doing what they do well.

But to do structured purposeful practice is all about challenge, improvement, how much further you want to take your bowls skills, and my coaching skills. For the bowler this training transforms itself easily into your competitions.

Lachlan Tighe, 2019