

Why practice?

I actually am posing the question to you the reader.

Probably I should restate the question as “Why you should practice.”

Let me provide an answer in a different way by citing an elite state player from interstate who came to Melbourne for a weekend of coaching with me ,and our **Elbows** squad.

Here is his reaction to that weekend of training:

‘...Yesterday blew me away! I have not enjoyed practice, or training as you keep telling us Lach.

And that skill enhancement stuff we did. Maybe in my early days of bowls when this new sport thrilled me have I enjoyed myself so much.

My head hurts from the intensity of the weekend. And that is due to the great atmosphere that each **Elbows** member contributes.

And that caterpillar routine, wow!

I have never felt more at home, even among my state team, with a bowls squad of dedicated players as I experienced over the weekend.

And your input and energy Lach, as coach, was vibrant and being on the receiving end was fabulous.

But your willingness to have each squad member add to or contribute or maintain standards made it exceptional.

The positive energy just threw me. Where oh where are my state coaches compared to this experience. Some states do not even have coaches.

The way you steered us; the purpose in each and every hour of the weekend; the excitement of the squad to have me and another state level newcomer join in, just made me drool and be disappointed the weekend was over.

When you told us how chuffed you were way back in 1996 that Geoff Maskell, a name well known in Australian bowls, approached you to be his personal coach I can see what he saw. As you said personal career circumstances prevented you from taking up his offer.

Well I reckon, all these years on I might quote the late Robin Williams in the film Dead Poets Society - captain my captain - as your coaching with emphasis on skill and purpose and fun makes us all want to be in your team. Thank you for having me...’

Lachlan Tighe, 2019