

## Being Elite Is Being Exceptional

I read this recently. If you are going to have the courage to create something and put yourself out there, be conscious there are people also out there who want to have a crack at you.

I say have a look at those having a crack at you. Bet they have never stood on the podium as a victor at elite level. Don't give them any oxygen.

Overheard two old bowlers, who in the past were quite good bowlers, raving about how good they were compared to the two young guns out there competing in the final of the regional singles. Both of the old guys were very good singles players. Both grumpy bums then and still now. Both these guys were dreadful when it came to other skills such as team, communication and mental areas. And in the years I have encountered them they never knew to explore them for the benefit of a team and never had the capacity to develop the skills either.

Yet they can criticize fellow members of their teams, harshly.

Fair enough, but I liked what I saw of the two young guys contesting the singles final; calm, composed, respectful, tactically alert, technically very competent.

In watching, it reminded me of a passage I read late 2019:

It is not the critic who counts;

Not the man who points how the strong man stumbles;

The credit belongs to the man (player) who is actually in the arena,  
who strives valiantly, who goes on even when coming short again and  
again because there is no effort without error and shortcomings;

But continues to continue to strive to do the deeds, who knows great  
enthusiasm as well as great devotion (in the effort);

Who spends himself (diligently training) in a worthy cause;

Who knows that at best it ends in triumph and high achievement and  
at the worst should he fail (I prefer to say falter) at least the failing  
(this time) was done while daring to succeed;

This (player, even coach) will never be in a place with those cold and  
timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Those two old bowlers should be doing something to assist the  
younger generation of bowlers to take their game, and our sport, further in  
the development of the wider sport skills applicable to elite level bowls.

**Website column**  
**Being elite is being exceptional**

Doubt if these two oldies would take up the challenge.  
Someone has to.

Why don't you join me in entering the arena (in your area) and in our own small way help develop bowlers (of the future) to be exceptional, to be elite.

I have a phrase I write in each new diary (just done it with my new 2020 diary)

'..one crowded hour of glorious life is worth more than a life without meaning'.

Sums up this article I reckon.

**Lachlan Tighe, 2020**