

Bowls Website menu- Q&A
My bowls, your view

How do you think I bowled?

Question:

Hello Lachie:

From your comfy chair watching our pennant game, I was just wondering if you had any feedback on my game last Saturday and our rink in particular?

Was going to have a chat to the Selectors tonight so anything that you suggest, could be kept in confidence if you wish?

Answer:

Hi fellow club member:

This will be a frank response as once anyone asks me my opinion, as apart from my advice, they get it straight from the shoulder;

As you asked, quite honestly, I think you can be the variable to alter the improvement.

Too often you display anxiety, disagreement with the decision or choice of the skip especially when he asks you to deliver a certain bowl.

Selectors choose we players in positions and all we do is perform the role.

Your skip chosen by selectors has to feel he has full commitment and trust in how he chooses to steer the rink.

At times I thought your advice to him was flawed, more importantly, your request to know where the jack is shows a tendency to be preoccupied with you holding shot rather than fulfill the request of the skip. Many a player reckons knowing where the jack is gives them perspective, whereas I am of the view you train yourself to judge exact distances from the mat so in a game you know reasonably well jack to bowl perspective.

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You need to understand how your behavior saps the energy out of him. As a team, I thought the front end, or the lead specifically, lost the standard toward the end of the game, so requiring you to play well as third, which you did, well done.

If you could refrain from being preoccupied about your game performance, accept what the skip requests, as vice captain seek to push and foster the front end to keep achieving, that gives the skip comfort to trust his team mates. He should not have to concede to your pushiness to 'keep the peace'.

I felt you struggled with the skip, as his form is not as good as can be and I wonder if he blames others in that mood. We all go through phases of bad form and it is how you address it. I think he would benefit from a bit of direction toward confidence building. He, in fact, walked over to me frustrated by your presence. What I told him I tell you - selectors chose him, so take that responsibility.

Finally take credit as a rink for securing the win for the side.

This past year I have been sought by clubs and group sides and individuals to provide training and in every case I said I would focus on 'back end team skill training' - tactics and people management and the communications apparent in that.

You and the club or clubs could go down that learning track; again well done as a rink, you played ok, the side won, all that counts really.

For the future games my suggestion is be yourself, enjoy, accept mistakes will occur, gee up the other rink members, don't advise future skips unless he asks as he is an assured player (as we all should be) who knows what he is going to do with the next delivery. Be really encouraging to the skip. Oh and trust your good technique, it works well, invest in it.

Thanks for asking my input and I hope I am not too blunt, though upfront.

Lachlan Tighe, 2017