

The day after losing that major event, If only I had...

It is the day after the completion of the world championships / Commonwealth Games / club championship / pennant competition wherein you / we have not won anything. What do you wish you had done (better, differently) to enable you to have medal / championship success as a bowler, as a coach, as a selector, as the president of the bowls club / association?

Why I pose this question is based on my experiences as coach finding bowlers all justifying why they did not greet the winning post.

Most of the time their expectations exceeded their skill or talent level. Much of the time their understanding of what winners do to commit to success is never explored or even met with due training commitment.

To an extent there is a degree of self satisfaction as the bowler in this case is comparing themselves to other bowlers around them; poor comparison as these other bowlers are not in that high bracket. An occasional factor is the unwillingness of the bowler to be seen to be different to the bowlers they regularly hang around with, meaning the regular club bowler, often their club teammates.

What I am expecting as a response is an appraisal of their preparation, their skills set as it compares to the winners of the event, so that it includes an appraisal of these seven skills: Communication / fitness / mental / sensory / tactical / team / technical.

And I know that is never done because even our best bowlers do not have a personal coach to do such an appraisal. And I can use my own coaching experience as I coach over 20 players who are regarded as elite and I would suggest only a handful of them want to review their performance effort.

Reviews of event performance are so foreign to bowls, with regret.

It would be beyond all belief to have any bowler come and say they are expecting a review that includes an appraisal of the 3 Ps: Planning, preparation, performance.

When it comes to teams and formal selection reviews I would be expecting a response from bowlers and selectors that includes an appraisal based on the BUS concept, which amounts to checking if we had the right professional personnel in all positions be it playing, coaching or selecting.

The day after
Website menu: coaches corner

In 2002, I learned a lesson, which I hold true to today and it came from the head of the Malaysian sports commission. Shapawi asked of me as coach, the players, and all the sports federations managements, thus bowls, could we rightly answer:

Do we have the right people?
Do you take the role seriously?
Do you accept the challenge?

In 2018, I believe few in bowls worldwide can say yes to all three of his questions.

When you / me / we can answer yes to all three questions then, and only then, will we be on track to have that success we crave at elite level bowls.

Lachlan Tighe, 2018