

Skip Anecdotes, 2021

Story below conveyed to me by a player here in Victoria.

.....On Saturday we played pennant at a rival country club on the grass. The green could not be faulted and this was the last game of the home and away, 1st v 2nd.

The motivation was there but my game was appalling.

I struggled all day with both line and weight and I could tell my skipper was losing confidence in me.

He was making calls that I was not so comfortable with (he was getting frustrated) and the result showed with my many poor bowls.

I could feel my confidence drop and it was a real battle to lift. He did comment that I was getting up too early and I tried hard to rectify this.

In the end I scored myself only 31.1% and our rink went down 16-19.

As a team we need to work on our communication, and in a one on one debrief (we don't have many if any debriefs at our club) this skip told me about 10 things I was doing wrong!

This was his way of unloading, but his one piece of advice that I did listen to was to go back to how I was playing previously and keep it simple.

Also two of my team had a word to me about walking up to the head after my third bowl.

Some umpires had asked them to tell me quietly that I can't walk up behind my opponent's bowl as it is still their mat, and that I must follow my own bowl and get to the head in time.

As we have discussed before this is something I struggle with if I am focusing on staying down and delivering my bowl, rather than get up quickly and move after the bowl. I had to make sure that this would not be an issue.

Another head coach reading the above anecdote had this reaction.

.....Interesting to read your skip only found 10 things you did wrong. Did he manage to provide you with supportive feedback during the game to help you back on track?

The best leaders are able to bring the best out of their team when things are not going according to plan.

Great leaders are not just good practical bowlers with all the shots, more importantly they have the traits that lift the team.

Skip Anecdotes #1

I hope you were able to provide some feedback to your skip about his performance, how he gave encouragement, support, helpful advice when things were tough?

Confidence, feeling good about your contribution is a fickle thing. We all know when we are not performing up to scratch.

I think that one of the most important roles and responsibilities in appointing someone to act as team “skip” is their ability to get the best out of the team. That in my view is their job. They have 25% of the bowls contribution each end. The other three have 75%.

Sitting around the selection table, the input, particularly from the top team skips, about team performance is invariably about how they were let down by the front end. My experience over excess of 30 years is that skips don't get the chop, rather the front end players, leads and seconds and occasionally thirds, get that ‘privilege’.

Dear readers, wonder what your reaction to the anecdote might be?

Lachlan Tighe, 2021