

Bowling Reflects Your Personality

I think the way you play is an indication of your personality and your God given skill.

Some people drearily draw all day.

Others seek the thrill of the skill.

Whichever way, we must never forget the fundamentals. Champions do fundamentals exceedingly well, with excellence.

A fundamental part of the game of bowls is a game plan as a focus of our tactical approach to the event in question and to best use the resources and skills of the players.

I watched a national level pairs game in 2017 and decided to focus on one of the teams as I was aware of whom the two players in one team were from previous contact.

I tried collecting data about the pairs game from my spectator position and came up with the following:

They won 6/15 ends.

The lead bowled at 40/104 which is 38% (as did the opposition).

Both skips bowled at 29/104 or 28%

Final score was 8-15.

What I observed, which would be interesting to chat to the pairs team I knew was:

Last bowl never added shot when the opportunity came in some ends;
Driving at shadows - when in end 12 the opposition skip drove unsuccessfully allowing my pair an easy add shot, the add on shot didn't occur;

When holding (shots) it is vital to protect that score and play the opposition hand, not to add to the score with them to follow with last delivery;

In this case my pair held 3 shots on end 13 playing FH and skip did it again to add to a 4 score which meant the BH was still open to play;
Opposition final delivery was successful, trailed the jack for a 3, game over;

Scoreboard went from 8-11 to 8-14 with an end to play;

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Had my pair played a BH to deprive opposition of ease of access my pair may have scored a 3 had the scoreboard go to 11-11 with the final end and a momentum as it was the fourth consecutive end they would have won.

I have seen this decision to not block opponent's entry happen in the finals of Asia-Pacific championships, Australian Open, Bowls Victoria finals and Division 1 pennant finals, all serious levels of our sport, all poor examples of deficient tactical planning and skill execution.

What hope have lower grades got when our superior (technicians) have little grasp of an historically superior tactical approach.

Lachlan Tighe, 2018