

‘Elbows’

Bowls columns

Imagination

How can I foster more creative thinking in my bowls coaching

(Below is paraphrased an article from Thursday 8/8/2013 in the Canadian Globe & Mail titled “How can Canada produce more creative thinkers”. The article cites four Canadian luminaries. What I have done is inserted examples of what we do accordingly in Elbows.)

Imagination & creative thinking

Neil Turok, director, Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics

- Focus on the opportunity, not the problem (always the positive, never the negative);
- Be yourself, play to your strengths (know your body, know your bowl);
- Show students and colleagues how to use those opportunities (us in training);
- Allow aspirants that opportunity and have them forget, or forego, others who though skilled, are not ambitious to aspire (is that a bit of my phrase if you want to soar with the eagles do not mix with turkeys).

Ron Denbo, CEO, Zerofootprint on extreme uncertainty (EU)

- Innovation is all about extreme uncertainty, EU (risk has its own reward);
- Teach the people how to think about EU (mental skill training we do);
- Risk taking - separate out the part of the problem twofold, as known and the unknown;
- Work on real projects, so that means knowing how to think through crazy situations (simulating bowls heads that have the perception of being in pressure situations);
- Without the (simulated) reality it is comparable to being registered as a doctor having done the course exclusively via distance education, yet never seeing a patient.

Bruce Alcock, film maker

- Get people outside their comfort zone (called being an Elbows member);
- Put people to work together who are strangers; separate the friends workmates team mates;
- Push people to consider, to voice an opinion, to act out that opinion (assert yourself);
- Let them know there is no one answer, no right answer, no single method;
- Let them have belief (everyone in Elbows is smart, trust yourself).

Karim Rashid, Alessi designer

- Always, always think...human beings (caring and sharing is our catchcry);
- Separate yourself from others who are not as committed (turkeys & eagles again);
- Find new languages, semantics, aesthetics to distinguish you, yourselves (Elbows, ML motto, our nicknames, caterpillar, team bowl, symphony game plan, at ease, how’s it looking, collect the cheque, bocce, our book, etc etc; all of which we use in Elbows);
- Experiment with new material (Wanderer’s sideway drill with Jacque in Halifax on Wed. 7/8/2013);
- Experiment with new behavior (Jacque and pendulum elevation and warm up routine into ditch four metres away);
- Always remember issues of us all being human in pursuit of goals – allow highs & lows of emotion, humour, positive energy, pride, uncertainty, confidence, humility;
- As a follow on this amounts to creative art (in bowls it might be rhythm, action, outcome).

Lesson – good enough for the best in Canadian creative thinking, good enough for we Elbows.
Lachlan Tighe, 8/8/2013 & 18/11/2014

Lachlan Tighe, email l.a.tighe@bigpond.com mob 0409 532 953

Olympics motto- faster, higher, stronger- not winning; Elbows motto + Attitude