

Team Skills Excel

Richmond AFL club won the 2017 football premiership.

Alex Rance, the great player in that AFL national football side, talked about the value and necessity to have those players who contributed in ways other than raw football skill, called technical skill in bowls.

I interpret what he said in bowls parlance.

In bowls you make up the 16 who play for the club side in pennant competition or in tournaments you are part of the four. You know you are not the top talent in that pennant side, however, you deserve to be there adjudged as one of the top 16.

You can get noticed by your team and the opposition, because of your voice, your energizing behavior, so you become one of our leaders on the green, encouraging, reinforcing, shepherding (doubt or negativity away) and by doing these things you become better in turn.

Everyone thinks it is all about great draw bowling, magnificent skips, effective measured deliveries, your own performance. All that does is make you a good bowler.

What will make you the great team member, bowler, is that ability, and willingness, to help and encourage and enjoy your teammates (successes).

The lesson to learn in bowls from football and Rance: it is all about team, when you are not delivering the bowl.

I might remind those bowlers who read this within Australia of a column I did in 2017 - Luke Hodge, Hawthorn AFL great said of his teammates...know your role, accept your role, play your role.

Another lesson we bowlers need to learn from our football champions about the meaning of being a TEAM member.

Lachlan Tighe, 2018