

The Best Captain (Skip)

Dene Milner sent me a quote from a former Australian cricket captain, Michael Clarke.

The quote:

“In sport in Australia, we have a sense of the best player needs to be the captain;

I don't agree with that;

I think the best captain needs to be the captain.”

Early 2018 a panel of bowlers, including Milner, discussed this very topic on skips (refer the YouTube on my website).

We all wholeheartedly agree with Clarke, but the difficulty, the barrier, is at selection table.

At club level it sometimes is selfish self interest of a selector(s) who want to preside over a rink (they call that skipping), without the least bit of relevant skill to skip and certainly not seen as the best skip.

One selection chairman I chatted with this season was of the firm (obstinate) opinion he was a shoe in as a skip in the team. No desire at all to listen, to consider another view.

Guess what they lose a final due to decisions primarily related to choice of skips.

As we go higher in bowls to representative teams, selectors are mesmerized by the ball skill of talented bowlers and overlook or don't even know how to look, the team / tactical / mental skills requisite for a Best Skip (Clarke) to steer these other talented players who form representative sides.

Nothing will change until the approach to selection and the choice of selectors is dramatically altered.

Lachlan Tighe, 2020