

‘... leadership as a recognizable quality’

A highly regarded leader in sport and former captain of an Australian Rules Football club once said that leadership was about honesty, no matter how much the truth might momentarily hurt others.

All sport teams / clubs, need leadership, however as only a few are, by definition of results, successful within their competitive environment, what these teams / clubs, have is not true leadership when at times the reins of leadership has to be undertaken by people bestowed with the levels of seniority without all the accompanying leadership qualities because of the limitations of the resources available to the club / team.

The absence of true leadership may be seen as a reflection of the prevailing culture in the club / team as it implies ‘...that is the way we do things around here’ reaction. Leadership is most required when the doubt sets in with the ‘...true believers’ when values and standards are under threat.

The culture that best signifies success is one that is inclusive. Though set and lead by the team / club leader(s), the successful culture embraces the club and team people via:

- Selecting, motivating, rewarding, retaining and unifying members of the club / team,
- The marshalling of the resources within and beyond the organization to pursue the vision set by the leadership in the team / club.

People fall into 3 classes:

Those who make things happen,

Those who watch things happen,

Those who have no idea what happened.

And at times I am sure, I like everyone else, has romped around all three categories.

If I was to summarily describe leadership qualities in a person(s) it would include:

- Having a vision of where our team / club / sport is heading,
- Knowing how to chart a course for all,

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column- leadership is a recognizable quality*

- Providing direction for others,
- The capacity of leader(s) to influence others toward set goals,
- Not (simply) management for although leaders manage, management is planning, organizing, etc. as an outcome from the direction provided by the leaders,
- Developing an acceptable proud culture worth fostering as a legacy for successive people in the club / team,
- Top notch communicator especially for listening and caring.

Reasserting or redirecting team and club culture is an interesting function many of us read, see or are even involved in with our sports.

It is a slow, sensitive and gradual process.

However, when a team (be it at local to national level) is grouped together at irregular and occasional notice there is limited time to foster the preferred culture so the answer is for the leadership to spread the responsibility within the teams / club to enable the people and the culture to merge and consolidate well before the competition event.

Involvement from players in teams / clubs is simply attending training sessions and competitions.

Commitment is that extra effort made and noted, those efforts that go the extra 1% at all times that makes and defines a culture as a success. I finished a report to my club once by saying, “..If YOU do what you always did, WE get what you always got”.

Quotes on leadership:

...A man is not as big as his belief in himself. He is as big as the number of persons who believe in him.

...If you don't stand for something, you stand for nothing.

...Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.

One more quote for the road to consider, one we should all be trying at our clubs.

‘TEAM’ i.e. Together Each Achieves More

‘TEAM’ or Trust Enthuse Applaud Mates

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And guess what, still there are no guarantees (of success). That is true believing.

Lachlan Tighe, 2020.