

Greatness, Effort

Greatness. Sounds a bit American doesn't it?

Let's apply the term to bowls - playing or even coaching.

Who is great?

Well for me, everyone who has won a world bowls singles championship and everyone who has won the Commonwealth Games singles gold medal.

For sure.

Maybe others who could register in the championship definition could be those who were in a team that won the relevant event in the two championships mentioned above.

And I may even add those bowlers who have won a national singles title or perhaps in the team that won the national teams title.

Greatness, how to get there!

Greatness is achievable. Greatness is the accumulation of proficiency of all those skills requisite to bowls. And every step of the way acquiring more skill leads to the sign that says 'this way to greatness'.

We spectators rejoice in the feats of the great ones in bowls. What we don't see is the accumulation of work they put in to get to be great.

All that talent, those achievements come about because of effort. Effort directed toward a singular path, being surrounded by others zealous in their own effort, also desirous of using the tools used by the great player, those other people around reinforcing for yourself to give purpose to the effort.

Regularly people come to me as bowlers wanting advice, coaching and they will talk about 'such and such' a player at their club who they call great, call talented.

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More often than not the named club bowler is someone I have never heard of.

So much for being great.

And what about talent?

Many a bowler has got to the summit of bowls skill performance because of their resilience, of effort, of work ethic to maximize the latent skill and talent they possess.

These bowlers excelled in the fundamentals through sheer hard work then they built the whole of themselves as more complete bowlers. Their vibe was the inner satisfaction of progressing through those steps of achievement that lead ultimately to the peak. That is greatness.

Is that characteristic in you fellow bowler?

Lachlan Tighe, 2019