

Pre-Game Roll Up

QUESTION:

Hi Lachie;

I attended the bowls' coaching workshop at Mount Martha where you did a presentation to coaches in early September.

My question to you concerns roll ups before pennant, or any event for that matter.

Would this suggestion of mine make sense to you? Instead of everyone on the rinks, just drawing to the jack (leads excepted), each player each end has one draw to the Jack and then do something useful like playing a position bowl to the skips feet, playing a bowl off centre to the skips feet, playing through the jack, drawing to the ditch etc., skip directed by third?

Thanks John

ANSWER:

Hello John;

Sorry for the delay of response as I must have overlooked your email earlier. Oldtimers maybe.

Anyway, there is nothing that says you have to do anything specific in the roll up prior to the event.

Traditionally in Victorian pennant and likewise elsewhere, from my bowls experience, we all hurl the two bowls to where the lead, ours or the opposition, rolled the jack regardless what team position we are playing that day.

What I see over time is one bowl one hand, one bowl the other hand and the same on the return end.

A few bowlers and I mean only a few in all my years, give it much thought beyond the above.

As coach, what I have persuaded some of the squad members to do is two deliveries on the same hand that end and set your line on the adjacent rink peg both times. If the bowl goes narrow both times you have the knowledge to take relevant grass as your grass line was a constant.

In addition, watch the various lines where all other bowlers deliver their bowls and see if you can presume where these bowls will end up so

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you are using their deliveries to switch on. Then, on the return roll up end

apply the same practice / principle you did in roll up end one.

John, you may remember the brief session on the green where I had the bowler tell a partner where they felt their bowl was going to finish whilst that bowl was still only halfway up the green.

I added another aspect where the non-bowler partner had to inform the bowler where the bowler's delivery would finish up whilst that bowl was also in progress.

All these are tools to make us aware early on what to expect of the conditions on the day.

UHope that helps.

Thanks

Lachlan Tighe, 2017