

***Lachlan Tighe.....Talking tactically***  
***Website Bowls Coaching Column***

(March 2008 column)

**‘Games Performance Analysis’**

I did say in the Feb 2008 column that I would touch on this subject as the 2008 Bowls Australia Open was due to start and many bowlers throughout Australia are competing in pennant finals as this goes onto the websites. Players associated with our *Elbows* squad for the 2008 BA Open came runner up, semi finalist, two quarter finalist teams and a qualifier, not bad.

Here is my report (rewritten in the third person for this column) on a bowler who asked me to observe and review him as a *player*. What I do is set targets, objectives and strategies beforehand so we can compare ‘apples to apples’. You bowlers in fact should set the goals not me, the coach. You cannot kick goals if you don’t know where the goals are !!! Whether you or the *player* agree with my report is irrelevant; what is relevant is his capacity, like your own, to appraise performance. Read and see how you would react.

**Objective**

provide opportunity for the *player* to gain experience against an elite field of competitors  
 analyse and report on the *player’s* BA Open 2008 performance

**Strategy**

have *player* skip in pairs  
 Have *player* lead in triples  
 Aim to win 4 ends per 9 end set in both team formats  
 Aim for *player* to have one bowl per end in ML head each end when playing as lead  
*Player* to deliver both bowls on same hand when playing as lead  
 Definition agreed beforehand for EFFECTIVE delivery; draw delivery standard is ML (ML = Mat length), other effective delivery is one that fulfills the required call & result;

<b>Analysis of Player performance compared to Objectives/ strategies</b>	<b>Team one</b>	<b>Team two</b>	<b>Team three</b>	<b>average</b>	<b>‘pb’</b>
<b>PAIRS as Skip</b>					
<b>First set</b>					
Win the game (score)	6-17	3-12	5-11	5-13	5-11
the game if end losses kept <2	6-14	3-9	5-10	5-11	5-10
Win majority of the 9 ends	2	2	4	3	4
No. ends with contributions	6	5	5	5	6
No. ends with NO contribution	3	4	4	4	3
minimize ends lost > 2 shots	3	2	1	2	1
shots lost in excess of 2 shots	11	7	3	7	3
ML/ effective deliveries / 27	9	8	7	8	9
first bowl a ML delivery / 9	2	5	2	3	5
<b>Second set</b>					
Win the game (score)	8-5	5-13	8-8	7-9	8-5
the game if end losses kept <2	8-5	5-9	8-6	7-7	8-5
Win majority of the 9 ends	5	3	4	4	5
No. ends with contributions	7	7	9	8	9
No. ends with NO contribution	2	2	-	1	-
minimize ends lost > 2 shots	-	3	1	1	-
shots lost in excess of 2 shots	-	10	4	5	-
ML/ effective deliveries / 27	13	8	18	13	18
first bowl a ML delivery / 9	6	3	5	5	6
<b>Third sudden death set</b>					

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Win the game (score)	1-0			1-0	1-0
the game if end losses kept <2	-			-	-
Win majority of the 9 ends	1			1	1
No. ends with contributions	1			1	1
No. ends with NO contribution	-			-	-
minimize ends lost > 2 shots	-			-	-
shots lost in excess of 2 shots	-			-	-
ML/ effective deliveries / 27	3			3	3
first bowl a ML delivery / 1	1			1	1

<b>Analysis of Player performance compared to Objectives/ strategies</b>	<b>Team one</b>	<b>Team two</b>	<b>Team three</b>	<b>average</b>	<b>'pb'</b>
<b>TRIPLES as Lead</b>					
<b>First set</b>					
Win the game (score)	6-7	4-11	12-8	7-9	12-8
the game if end losses kept <2	6-7	4-10	12-7	7-8	12-7
Win majority of the 9 ends	4	2	5	4	5
No. ends with contributions	6	3	4	4	6
No. ends with NO contribution	3	6	5	5	3
minimize ends lost >2 shots	-	1	1	1	-
shots lost in excess of 2 shots	-	3	3	2	-
ML/ effective deliveries / 18	8	3	5	5	8
first bowl a ML delivery / 9	4	2	4	3	4
<b>Second set</b>					
Win the game (score)	2-7	2-12	9-6	4-8	9-6
the game if end losses kept <2	2-7	2-10	9-6	4-8	9-6
Win majority of the 9 ends	2	2	4	3	4
No. ends with contributions	6	6	3	5	6
No. ends with NO contribution	3	3	6	4	3
minimize ends lost > 2 shots	-	1	-	1	-
shots lost in excess of 2 shots	-	4	-	1	-
ML/ effective deliveries / 18	8	7	3	6	8
first bowl a ML delivery / 9	5	5	1	4	5

**Observations specifically on this player in the team formats:**

- Aim for *player* was get at least one delivery per end as a contribution for the team
- Higher aim was getting the first delivery per end within ML, to better his 'pb' and it automatically pressurizes opponents
- Contributions by all in the team striving to contribute a ML / effective delivery each end which is something *player* as Skip must focus on to encourage team mates
- *Player* in 'front team' triples strive with team mate to have 2/4 bowls within ML every end
- *Player* given the prerogative as lead of choosing both length and hand, however he had to deliver both bowls on the same hand – a few times *player* disregarded this instruction which indicates a limited capacity presently to discipline and challenge himself
- When it was apparent that we were losing in triples the Skip revised goals for *player* for the remainder of set; a lesson for the *player* to introduce for himself in future games
- If we lost the first set easily revised our goal to improve on the number of ends won in second set and if achieved early enough in the set then aimed for the initial goal of winning 4 ends
- When he skipped *player* forgot the objectives in the haze of the unfavourable results, thus the goal of win 4 ends got lost and was overtaken by the scoreboard, *player* chose some rash shots and played some too, only adding to the progressive losing score

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- **Player** has a smooth athletic delivery, however it only has to have one erratic movement and an unfavourable consequence and **player** goes 'overboard' worrying and thinking about the previous delivery
- not surprising the **player's** next delivery is prone to be suspect, thus the mental aspect is confused
- Body language of **player** reflects worry, concern, anxiety whether bowling or not – top opposition will always feel confident sensing that demeanour, whether the **player** agrees or not, as it is not about him but how others have a perception of him, his 'language'
- Triples Skip had the **player** pick up skip bowl every end to get **player** to focus on what the team was doing, competing, despite the **player** having no more deliveries to influence result
- What to do to remedy 1 – **player** to reduce time taken to deliver and that can be done by knowing his pre-delivery routine and the time it takes to deliver
- What to do 2 – **player** appears to be thinking too much, clear the mind and focus only on where you have to deliver
- What to do 3 – recall what you do when delivering very well and revert back to that
- What to do 4 – forget the score, forget all the other distractions, which **player** struggles to do, and focus on the skill of delivery
- The **player** is reasonably inexperienced coming from a club lacking a strong competitive history to learn from – regardless of experience, it shows a degree of ignorance to not realize that the 6 opponents were high quality at worst premier league level and at best a world champion- to expect to be as good as this level of opposition for every end , every bowl is totally unrealistic and too insular, even self centered; the whole exercise is to learn from the vast skill and experience of the bowlers we were fortunate enough to compete against
- **Player** has to learn about A Game B Game C Game performance levels and know when he is in any of the 3 playing levels, and, when your opposition is too, as it influences your decision making, or it should
- **Player** needs to develop trust – his team mates were far more experienced yet he had to see things for himself, make some decisions that reflected his concern not the consideration of the team goals
- I still do not have a measure for rating team spirit other than my eyes and ears. Some bowlers will bowl brilliantly though be passive as team members. Others will cheer and yell and be noisy yet 'have no add on value' – so this is such a personal thing to evaluate.
- Skipping again is a value judgement when we evaluate bowlers. The spirit of a rink team is apparently affected by three factors - either the demeanour of the skip, tactics chosen by the Skip or the playing performance of the Skip. When all three factors function well, or even two of the three, then the Skip is performing well in my view.
- reviews in bowls are only anecdotal and very shaky when reliant on, generally post game post booze, recall, so player take responsibility for your development for as a coach I encourage game analysis for improving your performance
- reviews: example the Triples Team one opponents column does not show that 16/18 ends were one shot results and that is a extremely good level of performance, which is reflected when no adjustment can be made to modify the actual score as no multiples were lost
- reviews: similarly the change in the Triples team two opposition game to change the length to bring our best bowler back into the game was vindicated when our team mate bowled 10 consecutive effective deliveries thus helping our team minimise the loss as his contribution kept us from being thrashed
- use the stats to discuss and honestly appraise for future bowls improvement

#### **What 'player' might do from here**

- if I have not shell shocked him, which on re-reading I may have, hence a need to talk with the information in front of us
- technically gain and maintain consistently that good fluency of delivery action

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- tactics – experiment at training; apply training in games having a lesser level of importance as often as possible; set out to apply in games not to ‘win’ games with old approaches
- mental – use training to reinforce winning behavior and team behavior;
- mental - use games to apply the behaviour changes you are making;
- mental - learn to support team members during the event not being introspective about your own performance;
- mental -work at being less defensive; accept mistakes yours and others;
- mental - set personal goals and review progress

April is the next coaching column issue and as it is the ‘anniversary’ of the World Indoor championship we were involved in with Judy (Nardella) I will do something on preparing world champions as Judy, Safuan and Lina are three I have trained and coached and can share approaches in future columns. And in future columns I will comment on limitations in the tactical and mental skill I see in pennant bowls, and, some suggestions as to how to improve those skills without too much effort and no extra time required out on the green.