

Lachlan Tighe...Talking Tactically

Website bowls coaching column

(August 2009 column)

Good to Great, bowls!

Every month I think what the hell will I write for the next column. Never really know why I ask that in hindsight because so much (sporting) material comes forward that I have the other problem of screening which theme to wax on for the month.

Why this title? Russell Saunders, a premier league bowler, referred me to a book titled 'Good to Great' by Jim Collins which I then read.

Interestingly the Australian Sports Commission just this week completed their review of our (bowls) national operation of high performance management and delivery. Many plaudits should be offered to the BA program and players in our national elite program. However it seems to me we are still at the 'good' level and need to aspire to the 'great' level of bowls performance and overall elite management.

Our barrier? Ourselves. Our colleagues with the responsibility especially at the development levels of controlling the sport who are (still) yet to take the competitive aspect of bowls into the elite and then 'great' international level.

Basically many of these colleagues do not comprehend the package that is elite sport, in this case bowls as an elite sport. They have little comprehension of their role and responsibility in the rung of the elite ladder. It will come, ultimately!

In that book Russ referred me to there were a few catchcries/ clichés that represent that intuitive feeling which propels you/ me/ us/ bowls from the level of being 'good' to that level we all know to be 'great'.

Here are a few of these clichés that loom large in my mind to aspire to:

- Transform by disciplined people, disciplined thought, disciplined action from good to great
- First WHO, then what to have the right people on the bus in the right seats THEN figure out where to drive it (those of you in RVBA group 13 will remember the role play I did on this at our induction)
- Sometimes people are on the bus because they see who already is aboard and therefore motivation is not a problem
- Unwavering faith regardless of the difficulties...is discipline
- Inspired standards- don't stand for mediocrity, be intolerant of those who do (I regret to say I have trod on too many toes because of my outbursts and adherence to this one)
- Letting the wrong people hang around is unfair to all the right people as they compensate for the inadequacies of the wrong people...that can drive away the right/ best/ great people
- Doing what you are good at will only make you good...focusing solely on what you CAN do potentially better than anyone else is the path to great
- To do with goals and plans – set your annual goals and objectives, ensure they are written and set in store; you can change your plans but not the objectives you are measured against; never focus on what you accomplish...focus on what was accomplished relative to the goals/ objectives you set.