

COMPATIBILITY

Introduction

The expression that the players within a team need to be compatible to enable it to play well as a unit is used so often that has almost become a cliché.

To examine this subject we must have a common understanding of what is meant by the expression. A dictionary definition of compatibility is:-

'capable of functioning well with another or others'.

A key word in that definition is 'functioning' which a dictionary describes as: -

'capable of performing a purpose'.

Definition for this Article

With these descriptions in mind I write this paper under the following definition:-

'Compatibility is that relationship between players which will enable the group (team) to play well together in attempting to achieve a common objective'.

Whatever we do or say will cause our team mates to make an observation and so react. Those reactions will have any of the following effects on the ability to play well:-

assists,

does not affect / neutral or

detracts.

Some reactions will be an excuse for a poor performance rather than the reason, the opportunity to blame lack of compatibility has not been missed to justify a below standard effort.

The Major Ingredients

respect for the team mates,

play to the agreed role of the Position in which selected within the Match Plans,

attempt to be a positive contributor on the day

All have a similar level of commitment,

an open pro-active discussion on likes and dislikes with each player paying heed to the others' preferences and aversions.

Sport and Family Commitments

The fact that we may not socialize together should not be a major consideration as we each have our own private lives to lead outside of playing bowls together. Sport and family have their different commitments.

It is difficult to leave all our personal trials and tribulations behind us when we arrive at the venue on Pennant day, so our team mates should allow for some variances between players in the Team.

Some call a spade a spade while others may refer to it as a 'b-----' shovel. We all see things slightly differently, so be aware that we may not all agree all the time. These differences may or may not have an effect upon our '*compatibility*' with each other.

Compatibility within a Team

Understand the Roles and Responsibilities of each Position,

Be tolerant of the positive efforts that fall short and not achieve them.

Praise only those attempts that deserve praise rather than to encourage a poor effort.

Never criticise honest but failed attempts even though we may be disappointed in the result.

Summary

Be tolerant of those who may not agree with us, we live in a democratic society. As one wise person once said to me: -

' if we all had the same likes and dislikes,

then

all the men would be Supermen and all the ladies would be Lois Lanes'

It is the selectors role to put together that combination that will have the best chance of meeting its objective, rather than to be the judge and executioner of minor differences within the combination as selected.

We are all adults and should act and react accordingly.