

EDITOR'S NOTES 10.10.06

This week's article by Allan Lewis should be asking questions of all coaches at all levels of the game. How do you coach? Why?

Rugby is a game that can all too easily become practised through a series of drills and practices. Sessions can quickly end up as well organised but virtually meaningless as the organisation becomes the key factor.

But it is not easy to practise game situations and the coach has to be very confident in his ability to be able to offer (a) the structure and (b) meaningful comment on what has happened in the activity.

Drills are, of course, important at the right place and the relevant time – if there is an aim and a purpose. But they also offer a comfort zone for coaches in that the players can be involved in strenuous activity that looks like rugby. But is it doing any good? At some stage, the drill content surely has to be put into a game situation in practice.

We have all been involved in the 'Just one more scrum' and 'Just one more lineout' scenarios, where the players get themselves into the comfort zone and confuse fatigue with usefulness and relevance. Drills are a bit like that; they are easy to run and players get knackered.

How do you coach? Do you, like Allan Lewis, have a philosophy? Or do you take the pragmatic line that says that next Saturday's 'W' is the philosophy? Do you try to develop individual players or is there simply not enough time? Do you try to enthuse your players to try more than safety-first play that might be enough to grab the points?

Please let the Technical Journal know. You must have a view on Allan Lewis's article, so why not e mail the Editor with that view? Or, for that matter, any view that you have formed on any article?

Perhaps you haven't got a view because the article you want is not here – so let me know that instead. There has been a distinct absence of feedback from you the readers in recent weeks. Why not change that with a comment (even an article?) once you have read this week's piece and send it to keithrichardson@therfu.com?