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The boss is key to successful team building

The company CEO, managing director or general manager is usually a winner in team building exercises, according to long-time team building specialist Hugh Sykes.

"It's not that all the other teams let the boss' team win, it's that the boss usually brings the attributes of success into their team," said Mr Sykes, a state manager for Corporate Challenge Events.

Having planned and delivered team building events for companies large and small since 2010, Mr Sykes has seen how team building has evolved.

"Back in 2010, outdoor team building activities were primarily focused on physical challenges to build team spirit, now there is a greater variety of options with a focus on building a positive team culture," he said.

"However, over this time one element I have observed that hasn't changed is that the boss is usually on the winning team.

"I would say the boss is in the winning team on about 75 percent of occasions."

Why is this?

Mr Sykes said it was for the same reasons why they are the boss.

"They have strong leadership, experience, communication, strategy, skills and competitiveness," he said.

"Sometimes the boss may be a tad older in age but that does not lessen the influence they have on their team.

"The boss is rarely the designated team leader in a team building program, just a member of that team, however they do maintain their competitive instincts to be in the winning team."

An example that Mr Sykes highlighted was from a recent City Scramble team building program that Corporate Challenge Events delivered in a suburb of a metropolitan city.

"One of the tasks for each team was to collect a tennis ball," he said.

"Now what this boss did was take his team to the only sport's store in the suburb and, not only purchase a tennis ball but, purchase every single tennis ball in the store.

"The boss thought on his feet to find a solution to the problem but, better than that, he thought of a strategy to set back the competition."

This is a little secret to all those corporate events planners out there tasked with organising their monthly, quarterly or yearly team day.

"Get the boss on your team," said Mr Sykes.

"And the best team building events to maximise your boss are those events where you can see the opposition like a Mini Olympics, Toys for Tykes, Survivor, Give a Dog a Home and Bikes for Tykes.

"That way the boss can analyse the opposition and contribute strategies to overcome them. You might just learn a thing or two from the boss as well."

One of the leading corporate events planners in Australia and New Zealand, Corporate Challenge Events specialise in delivering tailored corporate training and team building programs.

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