

Korrekturhinweise

Wimbledon ball boys

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Begründungen

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The speaker says: "Two kids of about 15 were standing in symmetrical formation stock-still. When a stray ball came their way they scooped it up, threw it with speed and perfect accuracy into the player's hand and returned to being statues once more. As someone who has spent a decade trying and failing to get teenagers to pick up stray, dirty socks from the floor and throw them in the general direction of the laundry basket I find this performance even more remarkable than the one being given by the grown-up men with the tennis rackets." The speaker has therefore not been successful in teaching youngsters how to be tidy.

1

The speaker says: "It turns out there is a formula for drilling these Wimbledon ball boys that has been in operation for decades. It's the last training course on earth that makes no concessions whatsoever to modern management methods. It also produces better results than any I've ever seen." The boys' training therefore ignores current principles of managing a business.

2

The speaker says: "4 months before the tournament begins, 700 teenage hopefuls begin to learn how to stand still, throw, march, look people in the eye and tuck their shirts into their shorts. [...]. They are expected to memorize rules and understand that following them isn't optional." The young people are therefore taught about doing as they are told.

3

The speaker says: "Absenteeism, even through illness is not tolerated." The teenagers therefore cannot even stay away when feeling unwell.

4

The speaker says: "In return for their time, effort and devotion ball boys get paid nothing at all. They don't even get thanked. When they threw the ball back to Karlovic he didn't turn round and said 'Great job' to help boost their self-esteem. He ignored them." The youngsters therefore do not do this ball boy job to get a reward.

5

The speaker says: "Yet half the children in years 9 and 10 in south-west London schools would gladly saw off their right arms for the chance." Local teenagers would therefore do a lot to be selected for the tournament.

6

The speaker says: "You might think that what makes a normal Facebook addicted teenager so desperate to become a ball boy is no mystery. It's proximity to sporting royalty as well as to actual royalty." The boys are therefore mainly keen on being close to famous people.

7

The speaker says: "But I suspect there is something more important going on too. It's about being part of something wonderful. It's understanding that a valuable institution rests on the perfect behaviour of everyone who works there. The Draconian training is not a drawback. It's a selling point. The stricter the rules, the more seriously the institution takes itself and therefore the greater the glory in being part of it." Working in this traditional institution therefore means sharing in something significant.

8

The speaker says: "Only last week I received a survey showing how even punctuality is no longer seen as a thing of value. Three quarters of bosses apparently don't care if their employees are half an hour late for work in the morning. 'Such flexibility is brilliant news for workers everywhere', said Mozy, the company that did the survey." Managers therefore no longer pay attention to their staff being at their workplace on time.