

Hitting the Seam



COACHES ASSOCIATION

The Official Newsletter of the ECB Coaches Association

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IT'S BACK - the Sky's the limit

'Hitting the Seam' has been reintroduced as a hard copy membership benefit for all members of ECB CA. Biannual publications will be produced in the summer and winter. New Community Coach Education Manager **Tim Lumb** (left) gives a current overview of the ECB Community Coach Education Programme



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ECB Coach Education sponsored by Sky Sports

'The question: Is Australia setting the standards and England following? In terms of Coach Education, England are definitely setting the standards and it's about time other nations looked to catch them up.'

Terry Jenner - Sept 2006

I firmly believe that the ECB has established itself as a world leader in the development of coaches. We will stay ahead only if we heavily invest both time and resource into our tutors, our courses, and our resources themselves to ensure the experience of becoming a coach & being involved in coaching is an inspirational world-class experience. Coaches need to be seen, & see themselves, as a priority & a vital factor in cricket's overall success. The support offered by the Sky Sports sponsorship of the entire ECB Coach Education Programme will help us to make this a reality.

It has been a fantastic task for me to be able to explain the value of the Sky Sports sponsorship package to Coaches Association Representatives, Cricket Development Managers, coaches & tutors. The benefits of having one of Europe's premier sports broadcasters as our main sponsor will be seen at many levels. Whether on courses, in clubs, or for members of the ECB CA, Sky's sponsorship of Coach Education will bring direct benefits to all.



Phil Knappett ECB CA London Region Chairman, with his Sky Sports Resource Chest

Benefits of the sponsorship include:

- Each Approved Centre has received a Sky Sports Resource Chest to assist with the delivery of Coach Education Courses and high quality County Board Coaching programmes.
- All Tutors will receive Sky Sports Kit to wear whilst tutoring.
- Sky footage and on-course DVDs will be provided to all Tutors to enhance the learning resources for candidate coaches.
- £250,000 of subsidies will be available via County Boards to reduce the costs of key coaches gaining coaching qualifications.
- There will be reward and recognition schemes for Coaches, Tutors and ECB CA members at a national, regional and local level.

2007 is going to be an exciting and busy year with a further range of courses being added or revised, as well as the continuing delivery of UKCC 1 and UKCC 2.

Future developments include:

- The 1st UKCC L3 Head Coach Course will be run.
- A conversion course for old style ECB level 1's to convert to a UKCC level 2 course.
- New Young Leaders course for 14 to 18 year olds.
- 6 New Coach Development Workshops will be available:

- Developing Batters; Using Video when working with Batters; Working with bowlers and using Video Cameras; Working in Nets; Working with Fielders and Keepers; Coaching a Team.
- The ECB Club Coach Award, which sits between L2 and L3, will be launched.
- New Working in Schools and Teacher Training courses will be available.

Our biggest priority for Coach Education will be to continue to invest in our Tutors, Assessors and Trainers to ensure we make our existing programmes and new programmes for 2007 as rewarding as possible for all who attend.

It is easy to forget the vitally important role that coaches play in the game. To enthuse, motivate, and inspire are by no means easy tasks. Having fun is integral and key to all of these. I hope you continue to have fun when you coach, and in turn I'm sure your participants will value the benefits you provide & enjoy being involved in cricket for years to come.



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Elite Coach Development

Gordon Lord, ECB's Head of Elite Coach Development, discusses with Chris Dirkin the background to the establishment of the new Elite Coach Development Unit and provides an insight into the future of High Performance Coach Development.

Q: What contribution do you think Coach Education makes to the continuing development of cricket in England and Wales?

A: There is without doubt a direct relationship between coaching and player development and performance at all levels. Success on the field at the very highest level impacts throughout the game by increasing interest, aspiration and investment. Coach Education seeks to ensure that coaches are equipped to support the development of players at all levels. By ensuring that the foundations are in place with high-quality coaches operating in the school, club, district, junior county, county & representative environments, we are investing in the continued growth of the game.

Q: There have been many changes in Coach Education during the last decade. What do you think have been the most important of these?



Kevin Shine ECB Fast Bowling Coach

A: During the past eight years, since the launch of the new National Coaching Scheme, more than 26,500 people have qualified as Level 1 coaches through the ECB's Coach Education programme. At Level II, we have achieved between 700 and 800 new graduates each year, and more than 6,000 have qualified at that level since 1997. At Level III the numbers are about 90 annually and 640 in total, while at the Elite Level IV stage we currently have 43 graduates and 44 more coaches still working their way towards that level of qualification.

Of those 43 coaches who have completed the level IV programme, people like Tom Moody and John Bracewell have since gone on to be appointed as international coaches with Sri Lanka and New Zealand respectively. Peter Moores, now the National Academy Director, is also a graduate of the Level IV programme, alongside ECB Fast Bowling Coach Kevin Shine, ECB Spin Coach David Parsons, and England Team Analyst/Assistant Coach Mark Garaway. I think the ECB Coach Education Programme is so highly rated that we will see more and more of 'our' top coaches being head-hunted for jobs around the world. In addition, key domestic roles are now filled by Level IV coaches.

The establishment of the ECB Coaches Association, building on the foundations of the ACC, has also been a major success. Last year Cricket and Rugby Union became the first sports to achieve full endorsement for their Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications from the United Kingdom Coaching Certificate, establishing cricket as a 'UK market leader' in Coach Education. A vital contribution towards this success was made by the Lord's Taverners who, since 2002, have funded a programme in which selected Level 3 coaches travel to other major cricketing and sporting nations to research, identify and report back on 'best practice'.

Coaches Phil Relf, Jason Weaver (both of whom are now employed by ECB and have played key roles in the development of the new UKCC qualifications), Richard Bates and Phil Newport went initially to Australia and New Zealand, and their findings have been incorporated into ECB's UKCC



Gordon Lord ECB's Head of Elite Coach Development

qualification, and other coaches have since visited India, Sri Lanka, South Africa and the USA - where the Boston Red Sox spring training camp was the subject of a study. Significantly, David Young, one of the South Africa scholars, has recently been appointed as one of two ECB Regional Performance Managers.

The impact of these scholarships on the continued development of our Coach Education and Development programmes cannot be overstated. The philosophy that has driven much of the change that you have referred to is captured in the words of Frank Dick at Cricket Live '99: "The only truly sustainable competitive advantage is to learn faster than our opposition."

I am very excited about the impact that the new UKCC Level 3 qualification will have next year and delighted that Cricket is once again positioned to "lead" on this. Phil Relf is to be congratulated on his work here. The UKCC Level 4 qualification across sport is still being developed. However, it seems likely that our existing model at Level IV is already close to meeting any challenges this may present.



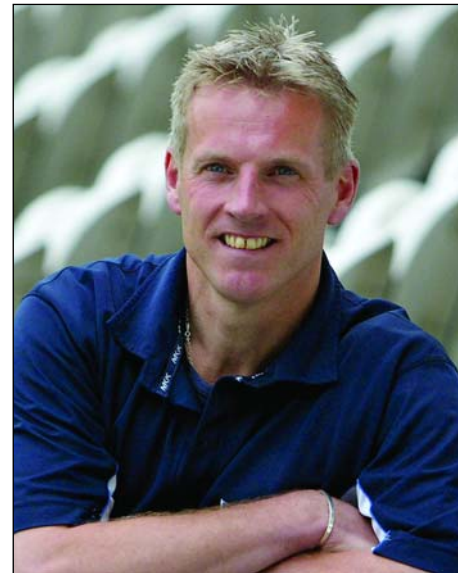
Tom Moody Sri Lanka's National Coach

Q: As coaches we have noticed that Sport Science appears to be taking an increasingly higher profile in Coach Education. What are your thoughts on this?

A: The debate regarding the positioning of coaching as an "Art or Science" is as old as coaching itself, I suspect. My personal view is that we have a responsibility as coaches to understand all the potential influences that

may affect a player's development. Clearly, many of these involve aspects of Biomechanics, Physiology, Psychology and Medicine. However, our role as coaches must be to distill and apply this information appropriately, dependent upon the needs of the individual player with whom we are working. The modern coach therefore needs to be "bi-lingual", able to interpret and communicate with Sport Scientists in their language and to do the same with players at each stage of their development as human beings and as cricketers. In most circumstances the same message will, and should, sound very different when it is given to these two "audiences".

This becomes particularly significant at levels 3, 4 & above, where the integration of Science and Medicine into annual and long-term individual player development programmes comes to the fore.



Peter Moores ECB National Academy Director

Q: I am aware of the latest strategy to develop our Emerging Players via "Specialist Skill Sets", using highly qualified Specialist Coaches. What are your views on Specialist Coaches in Cricket?

A: My personal view is that young players become cricketers first and may then, having developed strong foundations in a number of disciplines, specialise, for example, either as spinners, wicketkeepers, or opening batsmen. Of course, it is essential that the modern cricketer is more than competent in a number of disciplines and is able to combine a number of specialisms in their overall package. I believe that Coach Development is the same. Coaches need to be coaches first and specialists second.

An interesting analogy is the medical profession in which developments in Science and Medical practice have accelerated to such an extent that it has become increasingly difficult and now, in fact, impossible for any one person to be an expert in all areas of the profession.

The role therefore of the modern Head Coach in the Elite game is to manage and co-ordinate a carefully selected team of specialist coaches, sport scientists and medics to maximise the potential of players in their charge.

Q: Tell me more about your and Heather Nash's new roles.

A: We have, during the last six years, developed a group of Elite Coaches through our Level IV programme. We currently have 102 coaches either qualified or progressing through this programme. We are now in our 3rd year of delivering a structured leadership



Heather Nash

development series to our "graduates", and extensive one-to-one support is available "in the field". These coaches are occupying influential, full-time professional positions and therefore fulfil a vital role in developing our elite players of the present and future. Heather and I are responsible for supporting these coaches in their continuing development and driving forward the Elite Coach Development Programme to ensure it retains its competitive advantage. Her vast experience in Coach Education, administration and people management will contribute enormously to this continued growth.

The Coach Development Pathway is a continuum, and much of the success of this programme has depended to date on the quality of coaches emerging from the Level III course. The Level IV course represents a major and, for some, prohibitive commitment of time and money, and we are working with the Community Coach Development Team to ensure that a range of CPD opportunities is available for our Level III coaches who are unable to access the Level IV programme.

'Sportscoach UK' Award Winners



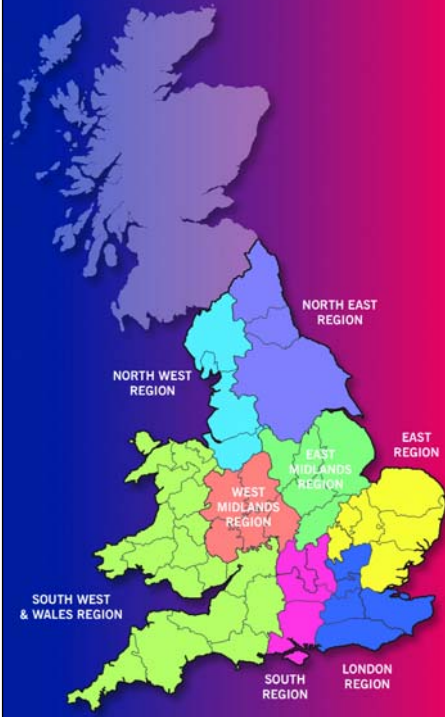
Following the incredible Ashes series of summer 2005, cricket received an unprecedented three awards at the "Sportscoach UK" Coach of the Year Awards 2005. Prior to his appointment as Head of Elite Coach Development, Coach Education Manager Gordon Lord received the Dyson Award for his "influential and sustained contribution to the development of coaching and individual coaches in the UK." Troy Cooley (a), prior to his return to Australia, was awarded the Mussabini Medal, and Duncan Fletcher (b), the prestigious "Coach of the Year Award".

Gordon Lord said: "I am immensely proud to have received this award and do so on behalf of a tremendous team of coaches, coach educators and administrators who have worked tirelessly during the last decade to place Cricket's Coach Education programme at the forefront of best practice world wide."

In addition, Coaching Consultant Penny Crisfield (c) was recognized for her immense contribution to Coach Development across a number of sports, including cricket, with a Dyson Award.



YOUR REGION



An insight into what's going on in some counties in your region

NORTH WEST REGION (including Cheshire, Cumbria & Lancashire)

BEYOND FUNDAMENTALS IN CHESHIRE

The ethos of Long Term Athlete Development is essentially player-centred, as is much of the coaching in our county. However, the main focus of Cheshire Youth Cricket, and indeed of ECB, has always been on groups, squads and teams. We looked at being able to use this traditional focus at County age-group level to maintain an individual's progress through each stage of LTAD as far as it was possible.

In 2003 we embarked on a programme which embraced LTAD within each county age group from the ages of 12-15. The key outcome would be to provide every player with the skill, the experience and the tactical awareness to be able to make regular major contributions to winning cricket matches, at all levels, when they were 15 or 16. Some of the players would, during this period, be selected at regional and, it was hoped, at national level.

In the past a coach would stay with the team for one year and try to win every match and tournament with that group, before passing them on to the next age-group coach, who would try to do the same. Although we had many short-term successes, this approach did not seem to be in the best long-term interests of the players; Cheshire players at regional and national U15/U17 levels were few and far between.

From 2003 a Level 3 coach would be assigned to the U12 team and would stay with them for four years with the task of developing players over the longer term. Each match represented a learning opportunity for the players, and the development of each player would be the focus; winning the match was not the priority.

The importance of having a coach for the whole period ensured that factors which affect young players eg. puberty, growth spurts, exams, late development, etc., could all be considered and put into context over the longer time scale.

Because winning games had less importance, a strong learning environment was able to develop. This meant that players were given opportunities to experience batting in different positions (opening, middle order, lower order), to bowl in different phases of the game (at the death, attacking, defending) and to field in different positions. We have also had 5 different captains during the first 2 years. It also ensured that every team member played in more or less the same number of games and importantly had a role in each game. By having experiences in various cricketing situations, players' tactical awareness improved and, as we found later, their mental approach to the game was also enhanced.

A most important aspect of this approach was that it allowed these players to develop at a pace that suited them. With the county's "one-to-one" programme, the various components of their game would come together naturally.



A key area of the first 3 years of my personal involvement has been the gradual transfer of decision-making from me to the players. They have been given the opportunity to experiment during matches, thus expanding their knowledge of the game. They have practised 'making things happen' - sometimes they did happen, sometimes they didn't, but, most importantly, there was no fear of failure. By accommodating our young players' natural desire to experiment we were presented with lots of scenarios which became the basis of many of our coaching sessions.

For the first two years (12 and 13 year-olds) most of the maturation issues were encountered and addressed. Last year, year 3, provided strong evidence that the players had matured as cricketers, more quickly than expected. They controlled games through strong batting; fielders became specialists; the bowlers were able to bowl to a plan; and the captain could use his resources with confidence.

Although we were not, specifically, setting up teams to win matches in 2006, our players were now able to create winning positions by knowing how to compete in different and changing situations. Players became comfortable in whatever role was thrust upon them - they were learning how to win.

In 2006 the team finished 3rd in the ECB County Cup and won the Wolverhampton tournament. Four players have represented the North during this period and a further 2 or 3 will be knocking on the door in 2007.

The fourth year, and the culmination of the programme for this group of players, is next year. There is still much to do as players set themselves higher standards, but we feel comfortable that the total development programme within Cheshire will help the players (and the teams) to achieve their goals.

Peter Hancock *Coach Cheshire Juniors*

EAST MIDLANDS REGION (including Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire)

DERBYSHIRE COACHES ASSOCIATION - PROGRESS REPORT

Managing change is often seen as one of our greatest challenges in life. Invariably it involves people, often those who neither welcome nor accept the need for that change. Certainly we in Derbyshire have found the recent round of changes to UKCC1 & 2 challenging enough and will continue with the implementation of the Club and Head Coach qualifications together with the Coach Education Workshops (CEW). Add to this the Internal (IV) and External Verifiers (EV), Quality Assurance (QA) together with a new Awarding Body and perhaps inevitably a number of us were very suspicious. There still is a perception that the balance between those who are delivering and those who are monitoring may become too bureaucratic with the obvious effects on morale and costs. However, having been involved in delivering courses for over 30 years I had little doubt of the need for a fresh look at what was being delivered. It is my view that the old courses had become tired, perhaps spoiled by too much local variation and a lack of controlled coach assessment standards. Perhaps those delivering them had become complacent and set in their own comfort zones. Change was inevitable if not actually welcome!

In considering our approach to the changes we felt that Quality Assurance requires that the 'product' is 'fit for the purpose' and one of our first steps was to determine what we considered to be the product. Some would say the process and administration is where the quality lies but we took the view initially that the quality of the coaches coming out of the system was of prime importance and therefore the product in this context.

There has been and still is ongoing conjecture about the content & philosophy of the new courses. We decided to apply the principle of 'controlling the controllables'. As Tutors we had little control over the content and philosophy of courses but we do have control over excellence in the delivery and assessment process. We started there, the rest has developed as we progressed & it has all gone well. We are of course well short of being perfect but we are progressing well. Our relationship with First4Sport has been excellent & our interim meeting with our new External Verifier was very positive.

If we are to pursue the ideals of ECB in making the progression from The Playground to the Test Arena as seamless as possible it seems essential that all stages of development are in harmony through clubs, leagues, Cricket Boards, the County Cricket Club and including the County Coaches Associations. Anecdotal evidence suggests that full co-operation between the various groups is not always apparent and if not, clearly that must change as a matter of urgency.

Next step for us in Derbyshire is to consider again the fundamental question of why we are doing coach education and where do coaches and coach education really fit into the 'big picture'? In the past we have advertised courses randomly and they've been well attended if not over subscribed. We've been very successful at 'number crunching' but perhaps now it is time to take a more focussed approach not only to produce more coaches but also to develop those who are already active to be

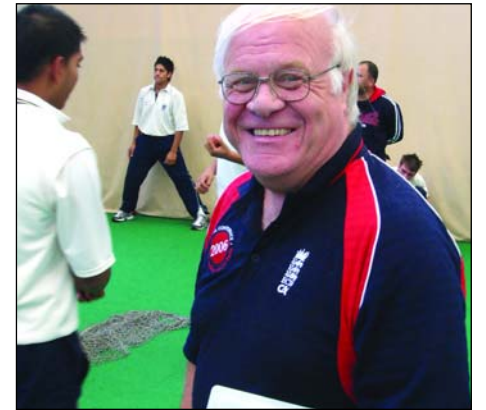
more effective over a wider area. It is apparent that there is a tremendous amount going on in the county. Kwik Cricket, fundamentals, community development in schools, junior club cricket, Chance to Shine, District Cricket, Development Squads, County squads and more all of which require the benefit by having good quality and well motivated coaches. There is ample evidence of terrific success in many areas but of course it can be improved.

There is much concern about "natural wastage" of qualified coaches in county and perceived lack of development opportunities and support post qualification. We have not been particularly successful in providing the horizontal and inclined coach development opportunities intended through the old Coach Development Workshops. In conjunction with the District Development Groups (DDG) the Cricket Board is encouraging clubs to list their active coaches together with their level of qualifications and asking the clubs to highlight development needs and aspirations for new and existing coaches with a view to addressing these issues. The object is to define and implement a clearer development pathway for those who are sufficiently committed.

In terms of clubs, an interesting development was an approach from Lullington Park CC who asked us to deliver a UKCC1 course exclusively for their club. There were some initial doubts but they funded it, put forward nineteen people from their club, two from a neighbouring club and 3 teachers from schools where they have school/club links. There was a good balance between cricketers and helpers and the whole process was good. An unannounced visit to a club practice night showed 110 young cricketers engaged in various training activities as well as an under 15 match on the second ground. The whole area was awash with children & parents and 15 of those who attended the course were actively assisting the process. These numbers of young cricketers are not unusual at other clubs and we wonder if this approach gives food for thought?

We currently use 6 regional venues all of which have good sports hall and excellent classrooms with access and facilities for those with disabilities. A few grumble about having to travel but we are unable to blanket cover the county. In general the coverage is good. The UKCC1 course has gone well and has been very well received. Inevitably there have been times when candidates would have been happier on UKCC2 but the whole process including the assessment has been good. Many of the good cricketers have expressed the value of the "how to coach" skills to compliment their "what to coach" skills. As the process has progressed the relevance of this change has become more obvious.

The delivery of UKCC2 has been successful and well received. For us the power of being able to effectively observe, analyse and provide feedback is a big issue in coaching. There is little doubt that effective net coaching is dependant on the prior development of these skills. Like other counties the provision of an IV for the courses has caused a few problems. This has generally been overcome locally by developing an informal "self help" group



with people in other counties who we know and trust. This approach has been useful not only in manpower terms but also in the exchange of ideas and problem solving. The Cricket Board now intends to put all its planned courses on the National Planner.

We find the course resources provided to be excellent and the laptop and projector has sharpened up the presentation of the courses very well. We will soon be receiving a Sky Coach Educator Case to support our practical delivery.

Field Based Training (FBT) has taken place and we have one fully signed off FBT, one is very close and 2 fully signed off Tutor/Assessors. Additionally we have 2 coaches who are Tutor Trained and will be further developed in delivery this winter. We have also provided some FBT in other counties.

Another success has been the delivery in county of Good Practice & Children Protection (GP-CP) and Time to Listen (TTL) Workshops. We work very closely with the County Welfare Officer to serve the needs of the coaches & his Club Welfare Officers. Experience has shown that GP-CP courses with a mixture of candidates are much more interesting particularly when there are a number of women involved. They bring a refreshingly different point of view that enhances the discussions. We also deliver 2 courses to serve the overseas professionals who come into the county each spring. Again these courses are excellent with all the language and cultural differences involved.

On the 7th October the first of the new Working in Schools workshop will be delivered in county with about 18/20 coaches attending. The Cricket Board will continue its policy of only recommending those who have attended this Workshop to go into schools. This will of course depend on the co-operation of the schools. I understand that Module 2 of the new Head Coach Award may be delivered in county and the England Deaf Team use the County Ground in Derby for training camps. The facility has a good Induction Loop and there is a hotel adjacent to the ground.

In conclusion we can safely say "so far so good". There is of course so much happening at such a pace that sometimes we all get dizzy. However, we have met the challenges so far and will probably continue to do so in the future.

John Bown *County Representative*
On behalf of Derbyshire Cricket Board CA

WEST MIDLANDS REGION
(including Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire)

WORCESTERSHIRE CRICKET COACHES ASSOCIATION - 'A TESTING YEAR'

The launch of the new Coaching Courses last September heralded the start of a fairly challenging year in Worcestershire and I suspect in all other Counties. A number of major challenges had to be overcome and a whole new way of thinking embraced for our Tutors and Administrators alike.

So what were those challenges ahead and how are we meeting those challenges?

The first task was to obtain Approved Centre Status from 1st4Sport (The awarding body) and to ensure that facilities we intended to use were suitable for the new coach education programme. We needed to ensure we had access to a suitable on site classroom facility which included power points for computers and projectors. It was important that candidates were comfortable during theory sessions and as such we wanted to create a quality learning environment for them. The old course programme was not as conducive of this and what once was accepted use of just a sports hall was no longer appropriate. However, through sponsorship provided by the Lord's Taverners the ECB did provide us (and all other counties) with a laptop and data projector to support the delivery of the new programme. The application process for Approved Centre Status seemed pretty onerous at first glance but this was made much easier by using the very useful templates provided by ECB and the supportive staff at 1st4Sport. Our accreditation status was achieved fairly quickly and painlessly.

In common with all other Counties, the demand for courses, driven partly by requirements of other ECB driven initiatives such as Focus Club Status, The Cricket Foundations Chance to Shine Appeal and partly by the England Team success in the Ashes; continues to grow at a fantastic rate. Our planned course programme was quickly oversubscribed with people placed on to coach education waiting lists. The Cricket Board Administration Staff together with our Cricket Development Manager, Stuart Lampitt, were extremely supportive, receiving applications, printing literature, collecting payments, and liaising with myself as Key Contact in order to place candidates on the most suitable course.

Staffing of coach education courses in a small County can be very challenging at times, particularly with the new requirement that each course must have, such as an Internal Verifier and in some cases a Field Based Trainer. With only two fully trained Tutors and two undergoing training we were at times stretched. We did work with Tutors, IV's and FBT's from other counties to support our need and this seemed to work quite well. What did initially happen for us was that our experienced Tutors worked virtually every Sunday

from September to Christmas. We supported our two "Rookie" Tutors very closely to ensure they were signed off as competent Tutors before Christmas. We were delighted when this happened because demand for course places is so high we had to arrange an additional course in January to deal with our waiting list.

To ensure that all courses were run as smoothly and as professionally as possible, our two experienced Tutors would deliver course modules alternatively. One Tutor acting as Lead Tutor and the other Tutor acting as support. By doing this it enabled discussions to take place with our "Trainee Tutors" to discover and agree which elements they would be happy to initially lead on. By using this method all Tutors became comfortable with all Modules by the end of the Winter. The same procedure was followed for Module 2 etc. Tutoring the new programme has been challenging for us initially as we have had to retrain and learn new content, new methods of delivery both theoretically and practically. I have to admit to lots of doubts and insecurities during the first course, but the feedback from candidates and the Internal Verifier were very encouraging. Subsequent courses ran more smoothly with timings improving and feedback continuing to be very positive. I think the biggest transition that had to be made was accepting the level at which the courses were pitched. It was clear after the first few courses we needed to ensure the right people were enrolled on the right course. Applicants with limited cricket knowledge and playing experience would need to be signposted to the UKCC1 course and applicants with more cricket knowledge and playing experience were signposted to the UKCC2. As Tutors we are keen to pass on knowledge to our candidates. Now that we know how to signpost applicants to the right course, we feel we can now impart knowledge more effectively certainly in terms of pitch and content.

We had initial problems with our first UKCC2 where we found it a challenge to timetable the final assessment in order to allow enough time for candidates to carry out their supported coaching practice. It was clear after our first course that during future courses we and they needed to ensure that they had access to quality supportive coaches in clubs and districts. Our initial final assessment saw 11 out of 19 attend. We are now confident this will improve in future UKCC2 courses with clear guidance and ongoing support.

The demand on Tutors during assessment is also quite high as there is more paperwork than the previous coach education syllabus. We have managed to overcome this and we haven't had any negative feedback from the awarding body so we must be doing the right things.

FINAL REFLECTIONS

Our 4 UKCC 1 and 1 UKCC 2 courses have produced 60 new UKCC1 Coaching Assistants and 10 fully competent UKCC level 2 Coach Award holders, all we hope are working to improve the skills of our young players.

Feedback from candidates has been very positive both on the nature of the course and the input of the Tutors, particularly the 'How to Coach Skills' has been well received.

It is great news that a partnership has been formed with the ECB and Sky Sports to provide some extra finance and resources to support Coaching Associations deliver coach education programmes; this will be a great help.

With all of the above we've had the opportunity to work closely with the ECB Coach Education Department to discuss our challenges and concerns. We have been able to do this direct and also through the ECB Coaches Association Regional Forum meetings. This is working well as modifications for courses and assessments are underway. Discussions are underway to look to at the possibility of developing a range of conversion courses and coach development workshops to provide a pathway from old to new and also from level to level. All this will no doubt improve the quality of programme, service and delivery thus increasing the level of experience candidates will receive now and in future years to come.

Finally, finally we are once again positively inundated with applications for the 2006/7 Coach Education Season and we are now in the process of getting ready for another challenging and rewarding winter

Dave Collins
Worcestershire Coaches Association

SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION (including Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire and Wales)

DEVON COACHES ASSOCIATION "CRICKET IN THE ENGLISH RIVIERA"

Matt Theedom took over from Stuart Priscott, who moved on to Chance to Shine, as Devon's CDM in March and has been a leading figure in a Chance to Shine initiative that included for the first time a Community Sports Coach as a lead coach and involving a cluster of clubs. The project has been an outstandingly success and the county are intending to mirror it other districts of the County.

Theedom explains; 'Three clubs selected by my predecessor, Stuart Priscott, have been at the forefront of club and school cricket in Devon over the past summer. In January, three clubs were approached to have the opportunity to be involved in an inspiring programme which promised to revitalise school cricket in England, and provide clubs with a chance to create stronger links with local schools.'

Chance to Shine has had an instant impact in Torbay. Barton, Paignton and Torquay Cricket Clubs have provided over 900 coaching hours and over 70 games of cricket to 2000 children from 18 schools. Without the financial input from the Cricket Foundation and its sponsors, there



would be no possibility of a scheme of this size running in cricket clubs in Devon. I feel clubs sometimes forget what has been provided for them. Although it is a large undertaking, paper work and evaluation are a small price to pay for the huge benefits gained!

Nobody envisaged this project would have the impact it has. Clubs have broken down tribal barriers set in stone for centuries, coaches and teachers are sharing ideas and schools now talk about cricket as much as school dinners. The greatest benefit of all has been a full-time

Community Sports Coach. My county have been used as a pilot incorporating a Community Coach and it has been a resounding success. We have been very lucky to use Chance to Shine funding, the local Sports College and the County Sports Partnership to fund this post. The creation of this joint venture has been priceless, and we have to thank Chance to Shine for allowing us to pilot what is hoped will be a template for others.

Torbay and Devon have witnessed the impressive effect of *Chance to Shine*. Schools from around the county are regularly enquiring, and clubs are

requesting more information on how they can be involved. This programme has started a chain reaction through Devon and clubs are now very willing to talk about school-club links and things like Development Plans and Clubmark. More work, but all in clubs!

With the final touches being made, I would imagine the picture next year will be even more impressive!

Matt Theedom
Cricket Development Manager Devon

TUTOR TRAINING IN WALES

During the early stages of our development strategy for Coach Education, which was also part of our Coach Action Plan soon to be submitted to the Sports Council for Wales, we identified a possible problem. We identified a shortfall in our Coach Education Workforce to deliver the required number of UKCC courses.

Our workforce did not have the capacity to meet our club developmental need. Some regions of Wales did not have any tutors at all. As the National Coach Education Co-ordinator for Wales I discussed with the ECB the possibility of running tutor training courses to meet our demand. This was duly agreed, and I was charged with the task of developing a programme to deliver our required tutor training courses as well as a parallel support programme.



The pathway for the first group of new tutors was constructed as follows:

Future developments include:

- **Autumn 2005**
Identification of potential tutors by Cricket Development Managers and local Coaching Associations
- **February 2006**
To run a 3-Day ECB Tutor Training course to support the identification process
- **Spring 2006**
New tutors were asked to attend, observe and assist on a UKCC level 1 course in their local area
- **September 2006**
A further training day with existing tutors was organised to practise the delivery of modules on UKCC Level 1 courses
- **October 2006**
Tutors were also then asked to attend an Assessor Training course

- **October 2006 - April 2007**
Tutors were asked to co-deliver on local Coaching Association UKCC Level 1 courses with experienced tutors

- **April 2007**
To run a 1-day seminar to review tutor progress & identify further training needs.

So far this has been very successful for tutors. This process has helped them to prepare thoroughly to deliver our UKCC courses. Our initial feedback from tutors and coaches has been very positive. Our October Assessor Training cycle has been completed with great success

By introducing this programme we are confident we will begin to create well-prepared tutors who, in turn, will want to deliver enthusiastically and professionally the new Coach Education programme, thus creating a coaching workforce that delivers a quality coaching experience to their respective players.

Peter Brett *Coach Education Co-ordinator Cricket Board of Wales*

SOUTH REGION (including Bucks, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire and The Combined Services)

AN INSIGHT INTO CRICKET ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

One of the Isle of Wight Cricket Board's long-term objectives was achieved in 2005 when our under 13 and -15 teams entered into the ECB competitions. 2 years down the road and suffering from early "Durham syndrome" (few wins or draws), a number of challenges now face the IWCB Coaches Association. Whilst these challenges appear on the face of it to be about representative cricket, I believe they are vital to all who work within the game at all levels. One problem is as under 10s we are competitive, but as we progress through the age groups the gap widens to our disadvantage. The quality of strokes by our young players in a practice session is often first rate and the coaches are working extremely hard, but when it comes to putting those skills into practice in the middle problems arise.

How do you develop the game plan and mental toughness to play your best when the game you play week in week out is not stretching you sufficiently to develop good habits? Many players in youth cricket have artificially manufactured playing conditions imposed on them, e.g. retiring when you reach x score or a very limited bowling allocation. These playing conditions tend to lead to 'cameo' performances, which set the parameters in which players operate even when the game becomes extended to 40 overs (or more). The habits created do not assist the players to make the transition from youth to adult cricket. In addition, the challenge level of adult league cricket that the players are first exposed to is often not high enough to develop county-level performers. Many players we produce seem happy to do just enough to be successful as opposed to being the best they can. The nature of a small community such as ours is that to be the best on the island is in some cases all that matters. This limits players from developing a wider view of the game and striving for higher goals. Whilst we also have Island-based clubs who play premier league cricket on the mainland, opportunities within those teams are limited. The majority are asked to play in a local structure where every side knows the strengths and weaknesses of the opposition and therefore the analysis/ tactical acumen/ games sense are not developed as well as we would like. In addition, some teams are not equipped to talk players through the expectations required for a given situation or to enable the young players to take responsibility for their performance.

The challenge for our Coaches Association is to devise a programme which sets targets that promote taking responsibility and sets smart targets for macro and micro cycles. Many of our better players can manufacture all the shots in the book in a closed skill indoor environment but are not so keen on deciding which to concentrate on and which to remove from their repertoire, as, for example, Steve Waugh cut out hooking to reduce risk. The development of decision-making skills, especially shot selection, hitting zones and game plans, is paramount to the development of our players and teams. We are looking into ways to promote players taking greater responsibility for their game. In addition, there is a shift in work patterns from the indoor winter programme work to a greater involvement in thought- and skill-related middle practice during the early season, when there are far more variables to consider.

We have taken inspiration from the Isle of Wight Cricket Board disability team (below) who won their county championship this year. We have asked why these players are successful. Allied to team spirit and quality of the coaching / practice ethic, the players have come to terms with who they are and what they can do, thus they have a greater understanding of their responses to given situations. They have had to analyse their own strengths and weaknesses and develop ways of adapting skills to suit their personal circumstances. They all have a clear plan of action based upon: *this is how I defend and this is how I attack*. I often have a discussion with young players regarding well-known Island characters. Who is the better cricketer? I ask. The batter who can from time to time hit a textbook cover drive to an over-pitched delivery, or the one who regularly plants the same delivery over wide long-on? Whilst the aesthetics of the game appeal to the purist, many in this day and age are talking about 'effective performance'. Kevin Pietersen has allied sound components of technique and physical attributes to a strong mental and tactically astute approach, enabling him to respond in a positive yet sometimes unorthodox fashion.

For many of our young players every match is just another chance to bat/bowl, but our disability team treats every game as an event. They play fewer games, so each opportunity is taken with renewed vigour. They are hungry to play and do the best they can for all. Hunger is not something that can be taught, but by developing good habits at an early age perhaps more of our young players can show the necessary desire and commitment to feast themselves on the joys of achieving one's best and in so doing recreating the current Durham success story.

David Reynolds
Isle of Wight Coaches Association



EAST REGION (including Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Huntingdonshire, Norfolk and Suffolk)

AN INSIGHT INTO THE ESSEX COACHES ASSOCIATION

At Essex, we have a very close working relationship with our Board and with the County Cricket Club, and there is no doubt that this helps greatly with a joined-up approach to coach education and development in the County.

In addition to the normal menu of ECB workshops, we have developed a number of hybrid additions for delivery to our members in two-hour or three-hour modules.

Following the changes in coach education, these modules are designed on a "How To Coach" as opposed to a "What To Coach" basis and take in batting, spin bowling, wicketkeeping, etc., plus an excellent fast-bowling workshop. The workshops are delivered by our professional coaches at Essex CCC. During the spring/early summer, we fixed our programmes of Coaching Assistant and Coach Award course and will be delivering some seven and two, respectively, subject to demand.

To ensure as far as possible that the candidates have attended a First Aid workshop and a Good Practice and Child Protection workshop, we have encouraged our five District Boards to run these prior to the courses being run. If this is not possible, then 'sweep-up' workshops are made available to ensure that certificates can be issued prior to the season commencing.

The message about CRB checks being essential is taken very seriously and we will continue to work with ECB CA Membership Officer David Gallagher on chasing up people who are affiliated to our County. We are delighted with our Sky Sports Coach Educator Case which contains many coaching aids for courses/workshops, and thanks go to both Sky Sports and ECB for making this available.

We wish all our friends in other counties every success in their activities and look forward to continuing to share ideas and best practice as we all move forward positively in these changing and challenging times.

David Wilson
Essex County Cricket Board Coaches Association

Development of the UKCC 3 Qualification

The final ECB Level III coaching course was completed at the Rose Bowl on February 26th, 2006.

Coincidentally, three members of our Tutor Team on that final day were also coaches on the initial 'pilot' course at Lilleshall 8 years previously. Richard Cox, Richard Holdsworth and I were fortunate to be involved in that initial pilot and hopefully it is a good sign for consistency and continuity that we remain involved! The course has certainly evolved over 8 years and has established an international credibility during that time. Recent changes to content have included updated research from the Elite Fast Bowling group, which Kevin Shine has presented, and a session on developing teams led by Steve Harrison. The most recent course also included an interesting addition to the Movement and Balance session led by Mark Sheppard. Mark invited Nino Severiano along to demonstrate a range of sport-specific footwork drills, which provided a range of ideas for coaching.

The recent courses have all been week-long residential events with a practical coaching assessment on the final day. Feedback from coaches and tutors, and research into the practice of other governing bodies, have resulted in a completely different look for the new UKCC 3 qualification. Whereas early indications point to some content being similar, the manner of delivery will vary considerably. Initial plans see the UKCC 3 as being run on a modular approach over a period of up to 4 months. All skill sets have been allocated a longer



Richard Cox
Warwickshire Academy Director



time period and we plan to run a practical-based session on skill acquisition and its implications for cricket coaching in Module 1.

An intensive self-appraisal will aim to ensure that all coaches come into the national UKCC 3 with a similar knowledge base. This means different pathways for existing ECB Level II, Senior and Advanced coaches. These may involve a combination of distance learning and attendance

at coach development workshops that have just started to be piloted in some counties. Our current thinking for the UKCC 2 coach wishing to progress is for them to have the opportunity to attend a series of 6 coach development workshops. Their content will be based on previous ECB Level II material and new trends in coaching. It may be that through self-assessment, existing coaches with ECB Level II, Senior or Advanced Awards also feel it will be beneficial for them to attend one or more of these workshops, which will be run on a county or regional basis depending on demand and will be 3 hours long.

The format of the UKCC 3 Head Coach qualification will consist of a series of modules. Module 1 will be 2 days, followed by the requirement for coaches to do some coaching practice with their players and teams before coming into a second 3-day module. This second module is likely to be 6 weeks into the process and will be followed by more coaching practice before a final 2-day module. At the end of the process, coaches will contact us and an assessor will assess them working with one of their players in their own environment.

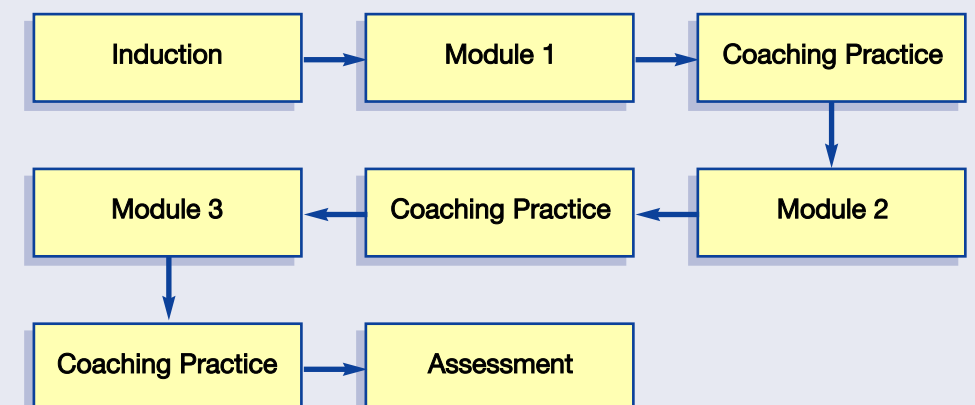
The new plans will allow coaches a greater opportunity to reflect upon information shared in the face-to-face modules. The intense week-long experience will be mentally demanding and challenging for all coaches, and



Phil Reff ECB Coach Development Manager

maintaining a positive learning environment is not easy, with sections of assessment interspersed with new material. Coaches wishing to be involved with the new UKCC 3 will need to commit to a longer term programme and they will need to have access to opportunities to work with players and teams on a regular basis. We are determined to provide the best possible programme for our coaches at this level and we have relied heavily on evaluations received from coaches on recent ECB Level III courses. This feedback has gone a long way to drive the new programme forward, and technical specialists, sport scientists and ECB tutors are all committed to ensuring we act on this feedback. Details of the new course have gone out to all county boards, and the course has been piloted in November 2006. An initial meeting of key personnel involved in the programme including Tutors, Assessors and Presenters was really positive and developed some excellent ideas to take forward into the pilot.

Phil Reff ECB Coach Development Manager



It's all in the MINDSET!

Michael Fordham is a Senior Fellow in Management Development at the University of Bradford Management Centre.

'Mindset' appears to be the 'in word' in international sport. 'Freddie' Flintoff, for example, reveals what helped him to bring off his astounding all-round match-winning performance at Edgbaston.

'I spoke to people about how to get back to playing the sort of cricket I can play. I think a lot of it was mindset. I'm a positive cricketer. At times it's not pretty or technically perfect, but I've a method of playing that I have to trust. I'm going out there and playing the same way at Old Trafford. I can't change' Guardian 8 August 2005.

Yes, mindsets are difficult to change - that's the problem!

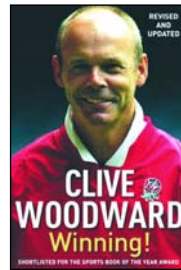
When people talk about the need to 'change the mindset', they are usually referring to the difficulty in breaking away from past ways and cultures to something new. This is the theme of Clive Woodward in his book *Winning*. He makes it clear that he set out to drive through the change by re-engineering the way the England Rugby team was coached, managed and played. 'Re-engineering' is a drastic process if applied strictly. It sets out to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It sees the past, what we have done before, entrenched ways of thinking, as the real block to change - so removes it from the equation. One influential writer states the dilemma dramatically - 'Nothing fails like success'. He maintains that even with success, a failure to continue to question what we do and how we do it leads inevitably to stagnation and backward progression. Some of our big retail stores are having to learn this painful lesson right now.

But re-engineering, once the watchword in business organisations, is now largely discredited. It was found

that in wiping the slate clean, some of the good practices of the past were lost, even though they were still relevant and needed. Maybe Clive Woodward, so successful with England, committed this error with the Lions. His drastic change programme, with a large squad, many coaches and lots of meetings, was different, but perhaps it failed to recognise that the short timescale of the Lions tour called for a small, focused squad, with fly-in replacements and fewer coaches - the way, in fact, that had worked successfully in the past.

Benchmark statements seeking to define the qualities needed in a top level coach (i.e. at Level IV and Level V) talk of the need to 'manage change consistently in a dynamic environment' and at Level V, the very top, 'to push the boundaries of accepted coaching practice...design the solutions rather than consuming others' ideas'. The expectation is that these coaches will use 'applied creativity that brings ideas and solutions from a variety of sources'.

So, while the likes of Clive Woodward, Arsene Wenger, Duncan Fletcher, John Buchanan and Bob Woolmer meet some of these criteria, they would probably be the first to admit that they are not the only triggers of change. One assumes that top players may also get involved. At some stage the Australians decided that an aggressive one-day style of batting could be employed in Test Matches. Quick and high scoring gained time to bowl the other side out twice, and the impact of coping with a hurricane start often imposed pressures on other sides that caused them to crumble. India and now England have followed suit with success. Graeme Smith, the South African captain, after his success with Somerset at 20/20, claims that 20/20's very short timescale and the large crowds create a big game atmosphere that will make it an ideal proving ground for potential Test players. So different forms of cricket trigger change too. It is ironic that one-day cricket, which proved it was possible to play with urgency and aggression, is itself in need of something different. Is there a coach out there working on some new strategy or new team mix who



will get a head start on the rest? Let's hope so!

Most, if not all, County Coaches read Clive Woodward's book. Some passed copies on to their players. There is no doubt that some counties made use of his ideas in pre-season to attempt to change the mindset of their players and maybe their clubs too. So, for example, players experienced military-type endurance days and explored the implications of applying 'second-half thinking' to cricket, deciding on those 'critical non-essentials', the returns from thinking laterally or having a 'black book', teamship rules, ways to get 'the upper hand' and of developing a one-team mentality in the club as a whole. Looking elsewhere is a proven method for both getting new ideas and solving problems. But there is always the danger that this just becomes a superficial 'let's find out this season's buzz word and use it!' It will be interesting to see how many of the coaches stick with some of Woodward's ideas in the coming season.

As everyone always says, cricket is a simple game. But change has been quickening in recent years, as coaches and players are prepared to 'think outside the box'. Baseball has been the basis for significant changes in fielding, particularly throwing and catching. Only recently, a baseball coach working with cricketers wondered why out-fielders walked in with every ball. Should they not wait, in readiness, he asked, like the person waiting to receive the serve in tennis? Trevor Penny's excellent fielding demonstrations show him advocating somewhat similar readiness positions. The wearing of helmets continues to influence batting, close fielding and also determines what is acceptable in fast, short-pitched bowling. The white ball swings more, but as even spectators are beginning to notice, it becomes increasingly difficult to see, as it gets older. Is reverse swing easier for the club cricketer to learn than leg-break bowling? So there are plenty of questions.

This is what we are faced with, as coaches, captains and players. First, there must be an acceptance that change is always necessary, because without it we are likely to regress. Second, we will only change things if we continue to question what we do now and are intent on continuous improvement. But it is never easy to decide what to drop, what to keep, and what to do differently. 'Freddie' Flintoff has reminded us that sometimes the best change that we can make is to 'go back to basics'.

A parent's point of view

I wish life was simple. Since the age of 9 or 10 my son, Calum MacLeod, has wanted to play cricket as a career, not for money, not for a living, just play cricket, & has been lucky enough at every stage to be nurtured by good coaches to be within touching distance of his prize.

Coaches tell us they provide everything, make the player, complete the package, or do they? A good coach will certainly make the player better, channelling energies and ability into greater potential. All very technical of course, and then there's luck.

Calum is in a very privileged position, and, speaking as a parent, his place in all this is nothing less than a fairy tale! It is a surreal notion for a young player from Solihull or Smethwick to be able to walk through the gates at Edgbaston, never mind a 17 year old growing up near Glasgow.

To do this not only does he need to be a good player, but in the opinion of coaches has to offer more than anyone else available, otherwise why would a County side bother?

Coaches tell us that spotting a talented player early is paramount. Scotland does not have the infrastructure in cricket that England enjoys at present, but we have had for some time a decent set-up that allows clubs to nominate young players to district sides (North, South, Central, East and West), from where, in theory, Scotland age group players are identified.

Scotland's youngest side is U12 which competes in a very worthwhile annual tournament at Ampleforth College, Yorkshire, run by London Schools Cricket Association.

Our youth representative sides are U13, U15, U17, U19 up to U23, all who play in annual ECC European Championships against Denmark, Holland and Ireland, under the guidance of volunteer managers and staff coaches, working with Youth Development Manager, Andy Tennant, in turn working under the guidance of the National Director of Cricket, Peter Drinnen.

Tennant and Drinnen, with support from people like Mohammed Ramzan, Sam Scott, Clarence Parfitt and Saltires skipper Craig Wright, all set the ground work for Calum, coaching him at local and national level. Again speaking as a parent, it seems to me that these coaches mentioned all carry an authority, a cricket stature or delivery style perhaps, who pressed the right buttons at the right time in Calum's development, and to date their efforts have brought him over 60 youth representative outings for Scotland.

And so to luck; As a 12 year old Calum pops up at a National Training Centre session and finds Mike Hendrick is there, working with the bowlers. Hendo's "work hard and I'll work with you" creed slowly tunes a seamers action, by which time Calum was playing 1st team national league club cricket.



Then more luck. With a slight gap after Hendrick (top left), Andy Moles (top right) is appointed National Coach and he likes Calum's action and attitude enough to have Bob Cottam (bottom left) do some work with him. An invite to Edgbaston follows, where Mark Greatbatch (bottom right) asks Calum, now 16, to join the Warwickshire youth set-up, initially under the guidance of Richard Cox. If Calum had been a couple of years older, or younger, the luck of working with Hendrick, Moles and now Greatbatch might have passed him by. This is not to say that the work of other coaches put in place by Cricket Scotland could not have done the job, but the luck for Calum of having former players of world stature bringing experience and learning from them is a key factor.

The importance of various initiatives through the ICC and ECC in funding European youth competition and domestic support - most visibly in the ever present and watchful eye of Philip Hudson, working for Richard Holdsworth's ICC European Development dept - should not be underestimated in coaching and producing players. Annual European Championships make for international competition, international travel and above all the opportunity to meet European players and coaches willing each other on to success, not just as opponents, but cricket friends who you see most summers!

Similarly the re-vamped European Cricket Academy (again under the aegis of Philip Hudson) offers the best players (outside England) a truly elite-level experience to train and play cricket at a near professional level. Another important route for players of higher potential, when identified in national and ICC/ECC events, is entry to the MCC Young Cricketers Scheme where skills are honed and Counties come sniffing talent.

At first glance our 'wee' boy was leaving home, consigned to digs in Birmingham, a strange accent in a strange land, no familial support, no obvious job structure for him to slot into, doing his own washing and barely

17. We thought we knew how a County worked, the Academy, the selection process, the coaching system and how a young player might see his future. In fact we knew very little about the structure of the English game, and Mark Greatbatch quickly realised that normal rules need not apply, and the learning curve that Calum was stepping onto - and the support that we, as parents, would need help with - was much greater than any of us realised.

Differences in the Scottish education system meant that dates for coaching session schedules always needed checking, as Calum was at school studying for Highers (Scottish equivalent of A Levels).

Contact over last summer at Edgbaston can not be faulted. Whether as a result of good coaching practice, or simply as friendliness, arrangements for regular coaching sessions or one-off matches were made to include accommodation, people considering the distances involved, and giving Calum (and us taxi service parents) the opportunity to see what might be ahead of him.

Last autumn was a blur of activity. Calum, still 16, was selected to the Scotland U19 ICC World Cup squad, requiring an intensive training schedule in Edinburgh and Glasgow, preparing for Sri Lanka in January. During this period Warwickshire also invited him on tour, Cape Town in December, which needed preparation, in Birmingham.

The first proper visit to Birmingham began with a "wander" through the old pavilion and committee rooms, seeing history unfold in black and white, right up to more recent colourful times, as if to emphasise that being there, even as a kid, was about more than just playing cricket. Calum still speaks about that tour, despite being able to go there now, daily, if he chooses.

And so to where we are now; Calum lives a mile or two from Edgbaston, in excellent accommodation with a sports minded family, and plays weekend club cricket for Moseley CC. On a daily basis he plays or prepares for Warwickshire CCC matches up and down the country, to represent a County that clearly have gone to some length to do things properly for him.

Now working regularly with Gary Steer, Mark Greatbatch, Steve Perryman and Neil Abberley, Calum's access to quality cricket advice and guidance is assured, guidance that I am sure will last a lifetime in a sport he loves, no matter if this fairy tale lasts one year, or twenty, and only time will tell whether his ability will match the opportunity.

Golfer Gary Player once said that the more he practiced the luckier he got. Hard work and luck have played a part in Calum's development, luck fashioned at every stage by hard working coaches, delivered by genuine individuals who seem to earn respect from their players by a mix of personality, work ethic, talent and experience, and who, without exception, perform better than those who demand respect because of their position.

Donald MacLeod

European Round-Up

COACH EDUCATION THE KEY TO EUROPEAN ACADEMY



The 4th intake of the European Cricket Academy took place in April at the La Manga Club Resort in Spain. 16 young players from 7 European countries were selected from 32 nominated players for a programme which has evolved over recent years under the leadership of European Development Officer and Academy Manager Philip Hudson, Academy Director Richard Cox and their Academy Staff. The aim is to identify and select the most talented cricketers in Europe between the ages of 16 & 20. We then develop them through excellent coaching and support services so they achieve their potential and represent their country at senior level.



The coaching support team included ECB Elite Coach Development Manager Gordon Lord, who commented: "The ECC Academy is an outstanding opportunity for some of ECB's emerging elite coaches to participate in a 'total immersion' coaching environment with some of the best young cricketers from all over Europe.

"Part of this long-term legacy of work at the La Manga Club will only be ensured if Europe's member countries continue to develop their own coaches with support of the ECB Coach Education Programme to generate suitable levels of coaching and sustainability."

The programme in La Manga involved a series of specialist sessions in the areas of batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping, and physiology in the form of fitness testing and programmes, pilates, pool work and yoga. Sports Psychologist Joce Brooks, formerly ECB Performance Lifestyle Coordinator, worked with the players on their mental approach to the game. The players reconvened at the ECB National Cricket Centre in June where they played a series of one-day matches against England U17 and a two-day match v Warwickshire U19.

Richard Holdsworth
European Development Manager



ECB CA Support Centre Update



ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVER

FROM JANUARY 2007

Following members feedback, the ECB CA will be enhancing the insurance cover currently being offered to its members as of the 1st January 2007.

The existing cover will remain the same with the addition of Legal Defence. In short, this provides cover for legal costs (up to £25,000) which a coach may incur in defending criminal proceedings against them arising out of allegations of abuse or allegations against them of discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, age, religious belief or political opinion while they are carrying out their coaching activities (subject to policy terms and conditions).

As many of you coach children and young adults, we believe that this cover is invaluable and have therefore arranged with the UK's leading legal expenses insurer, DAS Legal Expenses Insurance Company Limited, to provide this cover along with access to a legal advice helpline available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

A full copy of the policy wording will be provided in your member's handbook for 2007 and can also be found at www.rsib.co.uk/ecblegalprotection

Insurance provided whilst carrying out coaching activities includes:

PUBLIC LIABILITY - The member's legal liability for injury to third parties and/or damage to third party property - £5,000,000 - limit of indemnity.

EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY - The member's legal liability for injury to helpers in coaching sessions - £10,000,000 - limit of indemnity

PERSONAL ACCIDENT - A range of benefits from: Accidental Death at £20,000 to cost of repair of spectacles or dentures at £300

LEGAL EXPENSES - Recently introduced to provide additional protection for members in respect of various potential legal actions

LEGAL AND TAX HELPLINE - Advice on any legal/tax matter 24 hours a day 365 days a year

The information shown above is intended as a brief summary and full details can be obtained by contacting our brokers, Russell Scanlan.

Contacts

Bryan Banbury
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Martin Bradley
Tel: 0115 9838827 email: martin.bradley@rsib.co.uk

Address: Russell Scanlan Ltd, Wellington House, 15 Wellington Circus, Nottingham, NG1 5AJ. Website www.rsib.co.uk

ECB CA FUND RAISING

Delegates at the 2006 National Conference "Standing up for Spin" received a copy of "Coaching Top Club Cricket", a book produced by the late John Moore.

John Moore made a significant contribution to cricket and cricket coaching in Staffordshire. He was an integral part of the re-design of the Coach Education Programme in the 1990's early 2000's.

During the conference dinner delegates raised £1,110.76 in recognition of the exceptional work carried out by John. During his illness John was cared for by the Coseley Branch of the Compton Hospice. With this in mind we felt it right and fitting to award these funds to the Patient Care Department of Compton.

The picture above shows Liz Gamble (Chairperson) and David Clifford (Chairman) of the Coseley Branch of the Compton Hospice Support Group, Kevin Drew (Chairman) and Ghazi Zaki (Youth Development) of Penn Cricket Club, and David Gallagher (Coaches Association Membership Officer).

Other monies raised at the Conference totalled £2,131.00 and have been awarded to Macmillan Cancer Relief.

The ECB CA team would very much like to thank all concerned for their kind donations and are sure that these monies will be of great benefit to these organisations in carrying out their wonderful work.



CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU (CRB) DISCLOSURE CHECK

As you will be aware, the ECB is undertaking a programme of CRB checks on all our qualified professionals, including coaches.

The ECB Coaches Association (ECB CA) is part of the ECB and its members are subject to this requirement. This requirement is in compliance with UK legislation, Government guidance and the recommendations from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

The purpose of a CRB check is to ensure that not only are we protecting children but also assisting and protecting you in the work that you carry out within cricket. A CRB Disclosure is free of charge to volunteers in sport. A volunteer is a person who is unpaid except for travelling and other approved out of pocket expenses. However, if you are a paid coach who earns a living from activities within the game, there is a charge set by the CRB currently priced at £36.

For further advice or assistance regarding the ECB CRB check contact the Child Protection Team on 020 7432 1200 or email crb@ecb.co.uk