

Hitting the Seam



COACHES ASSOCIATION

The Official Newsletter of the ECB Coaches Association

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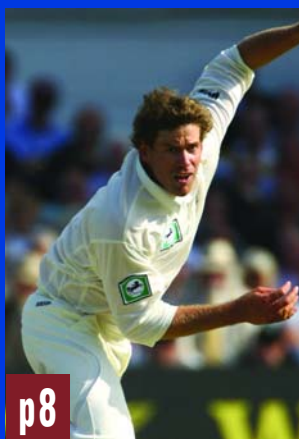
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WHAT GOES ON TOUR

How times have changed in elite level sport. “Tommy Docherty use to take us on a five week world tour at Manchester United” says footballer turned manager Steve Coppel. “To say there was never a dull moment would be an understatement. We’d drink all night and play all day. Let’s just say it wasn’t the best athletic preparation. The life of a professional sportsman is a bit different nowadays”.

Just a little. On November 5th England’s cricketers depart for 7 One Day Internationals and 2 Tests against India. What will the team do to prepare for such an arduous month and a half, playing in one of the world’s most sapping climates? What can ECBCA coaches learn about the planning, preparation and attention to detail of an England Tour and how can it help them in their own real life circumstances when planning junior programmes, maximising potential and winning cricket matches?

England Team Analyst Mark Garaway has experience of preparing England teams

England Operations Manager Phil Neale with Head Coach Peter Moores



bound for the subcontinent. His first tour, following his appointment in February 2006, was to India.

“We keep up to date with every player and every pitch around. Obviously we’ve got the stats, but it’s not just that. When we head out there we need to know each of the Indian players’ scoring areas,

the ways they’ve been dismissed, which side of the ground they’re strong and weak. Then we need to marry the info up to what we’ve got. It’s a layered approach. Say Sachin Tendulkar has been out 8 of the last 12 times caught in the slips. Is that applicable and relevant to our bowling attack?”

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England's Team Analyst, Mark Garaway



"The social cohesion is already nailed on", says Garaway. "Nowadays the guys play so much cricket together. We try and hit the right balance between practice and relaxation before we go and while we are away. Sometimes when the squad are relaxing they can get away from each other".

Just imagine being told by your boss you and your workmates are being sent to India for 7 weeks, where you will spend every minute of every day together. In most walks of life there would be mutiny, but for our international cricketers this is part of life. "I've got to admit we do chuckle when we see the footballers moaning about being away for two or three weeks", says England Operations Manager Phil Neale. He is in a good position to make comparisons between the national summer and winter sports, having played both at the top level. "Cricketers need to be more tolerant of each other. They spend much more time

together. The dressing room humour and banter is the same in both sports, but cricketers are together for months at a time".

You may not have to manage the same sort of programme as the England staff but as ECBCA coaches do the thoughts of Mark Garaway and Phil Neale have any relevance? As you are pondering this winter's junior age group programme the same team cohesion and planning challenges apply when working at a Club or County level.

Building team spirit; achieving the right type of preparation; and getting the best out of players in different conditions are all key coaching and management skills. Simple things in a coach's preparation can make all the difference to the enjoyment and success of a junior age group programme. A few personal and team goals can provide a real focus. Ask what would a successful and enjoyable programme look like? How do we want to play our cricket? How will we be successful? How do we want to be seen by our opposition? How will we hit the ground running next season? How can I as a coach create an environment where players are still excited and enjoying their cricket?

Research suggests that young people are more likely to take up, remain in, and excel at a sport if a few things slot into place. Firstly, the sport has to allow them to spend enjoyable time with their friends; secondly, that the environment is conducive to allowing success to take place and that the players enjoy being good at what they're doing; and thirdly, that

they experience the buzz and sensation element of the activity itself e.g. hitting a ball out of the sweet spot or catching a ball in the middle of the hands. The more when planning and managing a programme coaches can ensure these three things happen the greater the likelihood of successful performances and perhaps one day those same players might be preparing like the current England team for an exciting winter tour.

The England Team use the National Cricket Performance Centre at Loughborough University. Loughborough is a venue not just for teams to prepare, but where the country's best players can book themselves in for individual sessions. Spend a few days at the centre and inevitably a star name will drop in for remedial work. Neale points out it is there to help the elite players whenever they wish. "If they're not in nick they ring up and might ask for 3 or 4 bowlers, a specific coach, a bowling machine, or whatever session they want. The player can say what they want to get them back into nick".



Ottis Gibson discusses tour balls

Any coach who has ever taken a club or school team on an away trip will know it is a nerve wracking business. "If you are taking an Under 16 team away and they want to go out nightclubbing all the time you will have to be definite about this", says Neale. "We expect the England guys to know how to behave. We don't tell the guys to be in bed at certain times. When I work with younger teams, say the England U19's, we have a discussion and try and produce a code of conduct. Getting the players to come up with their own rules is very effective with mature enough players". Next time you are nervously driving a minibus full of rabid teenagers down the M5 for a long cricketing weekend in the West Country it is worth being thankful, unlike Neale and the England team, the world's media do not have their long lenses focused on you.

The specialist coaching teams spend months ensuring the player preparations are as detailed and relevant as possible. For instance the ECB fast bowling gurus Kevin Shine and Ottis Gibson need to find out what type of ball

Mike Gatting in charge of the England A Team



will be used in each game, which type of bowlers have had success on particular grounds, and what specific physical demands are likely to be placed on the bowling attack while they are away. "In India they use SGs (Sanspareils Greenlands)" says Shine. "Here we use Dukes and in Oz it's Kookaburras. We need to know the characteristics of each ball for conventional and reverse swing. When it comes to playing on different surfaces we need to know what pace range is most effective, and whether cutters have been effective on particular grounds. At the international level we have the advantage of being able to use Hawk Eye data to work out what the best lengths and lines to bowl are". The same detailed research will be carried out for batting, spin bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping.

Mike Gatting was responsible for England Under 19 and A team trips

in the late 90's. "That's when things started to get very technical. Before we went to Sri Lanka we'd wheel gas burners into the practice area, and crank up the heat to 90 degrees to try and simulate conditions we'd be playing in". When Gatting was England captain in the 1980s tours tended to be longer and the arrangements were very different. "The West Indies trip was always the tricky one, because they left around February time and you hadn't played for four months. All the other tours were joined up, so we'd do Pakistan & New Zealand together, or India & Sri Lanka".

The preparations for the trips were also very different. Players were left to get themselves ready physically and mentally. "Goochy (Graham Gooch) used to train with West Ham to keep fit. When we got to Lilleshall I'd play squash or swim. Lamby (Allan Lamb) and Goochy use to like their running". Compared to Loughborough

the facilities the England teams of the 80s had to work with seem archaic.

"At Lilleshall in the archery hall it was like whacking a ball into concrete. We'd drag different sorts of matts into the hall to try and slow the pitch down, but we could never make it like playing on the low and slow wickets of India. Facing Dev (Devon Malcolm) on that surface wasn't much fun". Regardless of how well prepared a team might be before heading abroad, the danger is once a few results go against you the team cohesion starts to break down.



Hammer time for Goochy

"India has a short snappy tour schedule" says Garaway. "We'll hang out in the hotels, which have all got gyms, spas and everything else you need to relax. We lead self contained lives. It helps the cohesive unit if everyone is together most of the time".

In the past teams would travel to the Taj Mahal on their rest day, but the management know that a six hour round bus trip is more draining than relaxing. "Last time we were in Mohali Steve Harmison's suite was turned into a games-room. We ordered in food, the dart board was up, they'd be crosswords and sudoku. This time we'll be taking Nintendo Wii's. All the corridor was open so the players would flit in and out of each others rooms. Some guys are more private and others want to be in big social groups all the time".

The modern coaching and management staff has clearly injected real professionalism into team preparation since the 80's and 90's but at the heart of successful performance is painstaking planning, preparation and attention to detail. At whatever level you coach are there lessons here for you to help you plan your programme, maximise potential and help win cricket matches?



Poor light reducing contrast sensitivity

HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORTS VISION

By **SIMON FALK MCOptom FBDO**
Team Optometrist to
Yorkshire County Cricket Club,
Leeds Rhinos Rugby League
and Leeds Carnegie Rugby Union



Conventional wisdom tells us that "without good sight we cannot perform". This has always been measured by "visual acuity". That is the line of letters you read on a conventional Opticians chart, illustrated opposite (for an actual size example visit the website: www.mdsupport.org/snellen.html)

Over 80% of the information needed to make fast, effective judgement decisions comes from your eyes. The ability to focus on and follow objects, to gauge distances and edges, to coordinate hands with eyes and most critically for cricket the ability to clearly discriminate between objects and backgrounds. In techy speak Contrast Sensitivity (CS). (www.usd.edu/psyc301/CSFIntro.htm)

CS in its simplest term for cricket is red ball against white background of the sightscreen (or white ball against black in limited overs cricket). When CS is reduced "seeing the ball" is considerably more difficult. Famously, Manchester

United changed their kit at half time, against Southampton, as their grey socks were not visible against the advertising hoardings.

CS is affected by

1. The colour of the background. The closer to that of the ball the more difficult it is to see it.
2. Speed. The fastest the ball travels the more CS falls.
3. Light. The lower the light conditions the lower CS is

And if CS is reduced, visual performance falls and sporting performance will fall.

■ How much more difficult is it to react to fast bowling?

- How much does our performance reduce in bad light conditions?
- How often is it said, "I didn't see it"? It came out of a poor background.

Effectively, the ball was seen (visual acuity) but it was not recognised at the high processing areas of the brain because there was insufficient contrast between ball and background.

Whilst we have established training methods for all visual aspects it was always felt that CS could not be improved. That is no longer the case.

Neurovision is the worlds first, clinically proven training programme to enhance Contrast sensitivity. Whether you wear spectacles, contact lenses or are post laser eye surgery, a 10-week training programme will alter how the visual area of the brain functions to improve how information from the eyes is deciphered. A clearer, sharper image is perceived by increasing each athletes contrast sensitivity function.

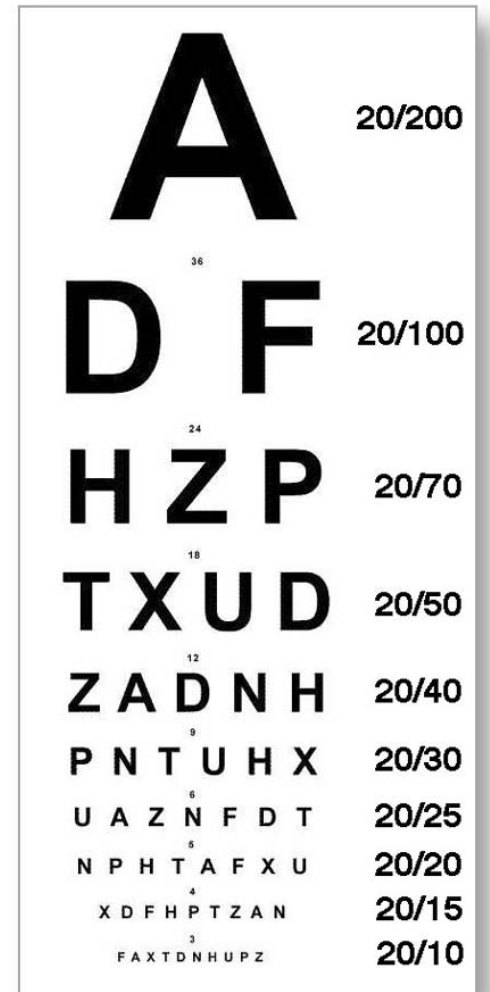
Neurovision is conducted with an individually designed programme, where the training sessions are downloaded from the Singapore website and studied

on ones own computer. Each session is a study of visual stimuli, which allow the visual processing areas of the brain to better "communicate" with each other, thus improving CS. 30 Sessions over a 10-week period should be sufficient. Although the sessions are intense the improved perception arrives quickly and is sustainable.

Neurovision is unique and it is 100% surgery and medication free. It is available from a limited number of practitioners. Over 20 years of clinical research has given us the knowledge and reliability to put forward a method of vision training that may well become second nature in years to come.

As coaches we are always striving to give our players a competitive edge. We strive for better bats, biomechanics, better throwing methods, physical fitness and strength; psychology methods and now we have the ability to improve our visual system. The quicker and more accurately we can decipher visual information the better we will perform.

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For further information
www.essilorneurovision.co.uk
www.usd.edu/psyc301/CSFIntro.htm
www.mdsupport.org/snellen.html



The high contrast of white ball against black back ground makes vision far simpler

REWARD & RECOGNITION 2008

SKY SPORTS

This year, Sky Sports sponsorship of the ECB Coach Education programme has once again allowed the ECB Coaches Association to identify nominations for the annual Sky Sports Coach Awards.

The Sky Sports Coach Awards were launched at the beginning of 2007 as a way of saying thank you to people who have made a significant contribution to the support and development of coaches and coaching in cricket. As part of the Sky Sports Reward and Recognition Scheme, the Coach Awards have been hugely successful, with 120 deserving coaches and administrators throughout the UK and Europe being rewarded in 2008.

There were three categories for 2008, with each County Coaches Association nominating one person in each category as their county winners.



Category 1, *"Outstanding Contribution and Services to Cricket Coaching"*, is awarded to people who have made a significant contribution to the support and growth of cricket coaching in a variety of ways, which in turn, has left a legacy for either their home club or county. This category may include a person who has provided administrative support and who has significantly aided the development of coaching communication channels locally. Alternatively it may include someone who has helped the development and growth of coaches and Coaches Association's locally or who has used innovation and inspiration to significantly increase the amount of coaching activity and player participation locally.

Category 2, *"Outstanding Coaching Achievement"*, is awarded to coaches who have made a significant difference to shaping the lives of cricketers and cricket programmes in both club and representative cricket. This category may include a person who has significantly encouraged the development and success of players and teams. They may have been the driving force behind the design, production and implementation of coaching programmes or have used innovation and inspirational coaching methods which have significantly improved player and team performances at all levels of ability and gender.

In addition to the above categories, 2008 saw the introduction of a third category to the scheme, *"Young Coach of the Year"* aimed at recognising some of our many excellent younger coaches.

This award is for qualified coaches under the age of 25 who enjoy a regular involvement in coaching, have shown a commitment to developing the game at grass roots and community level, and have had a clear impact with a local school or club.

As in 2007, the 2008 Sky Sports Coach Awards saw eighty winners, forty from each of the first two categories, invited to attend an

International Cricket Match in their respective regions. Throughout the summer, there were eight Reward and Recognition days planned across the country and although one event in Durham had to be cancelled due to poor weather, the other events were a huge success. Each coach was presented with coaching kit, consisting of two polo shirts and a rain jacket. They were also awarded their certificate in an on-pitch presentation during the interval. The presentations to the winning coaches were made by various cricketing greats and current Sky Sports presenters including Michael Holding, Nasser Hussain, David Lloyd & Sir Ian Botham. During these events, 16 regional winners were identified from the original 80 county winners and were invited to the final awards ceremony at the end of the summer.

Our forty young coaches were all invited to attend a coaching day at Lords where they were taken on a tour of the ground before attending a coaching session delivered by top coaches. The day concluded with an awards presentation ceremony.

The finals of the Sky Sports Coach Awards were held on the evening of the 12th September at Lords Cricket Ground. This prestigious event

saw the sixteen regional winners and the three short listed Young Coach of the Year nominees attend a black tie dinner held in the Long Room. During this event, the nine national finalists were announced and the three national winners were revealed.

Our 2008 winners were:

Category 1
Outstanding Contribution and Services to Cricket Coaching

National winner - **Brian Foulkes** from Shropshire

National finalist - Mervyn Jones from Sussex

National finalist - David Jukes from Combined Services

Category 2
Outstanding Coaching Achievement

National winner - **Charlotte Burton** from Sussex

National finalist - Keith Beggs from Cheshire

National finalist - Alan Hill from Staffordshire

Category 3
Young Coach of the Year

National winner - **Merrick Fuller** from Cambridgeshire

National finalist - Andy Gannaway from Hampshire

National finalist - Tom Wright from Somerset

2008's programme was a huge success and we eagerly anticipate next year's awards which will see many more deserving people recognised for all their tremendous hard work and efforts in cricket. If you know anyone who you feel has made an outstanding contribution to cricket

coaching, please contact your County Board Coaches Association Representative to nominate them for 2009's programme. Details for County Board CA Reps can be found in the back of your ECB CA Yearbook. The closing date for nominations is 23rd January 2009.



Brian, Charlotte & Merrick receive their awards from Mike Gatting at Lord's

New! "INTRODUCTION TO CRICKET BE INVOLVED..." Course for Clubs



The "Introduction to Cricket - Be Involved..." Course replaces the old ECB "Introduction to Coaching" course which has ceased to be available as of December 2007. This new Course is designed to provide information to parents and others about how to get more widely involved in club life including volunteering; the important role that club's play in developing young sporting talent; and advice on how to best support their children's sporting development. In addition to

coaching, the voluntary roles highlighted are as diverse as umpiring, scoring, catering, fundraising, and managing IT systems all the way through to becoming a team manager, supervising sessions for young people or getting involved in coordinating club events. A full list of Volunteer Role descriptions can be found on the website <http://ecb.co.uk/ecb/volunteers>

The Course, designed to be run at a local club level and targeted at new and existing club members and parents, will not provide the attendees with any formal ECB qualification. However by attending the Course, attendees will be able to find out more about whom to speak to about gaining formal ECB qualifications and how to "Be Involved" in a voluntary capacity at their local Club.

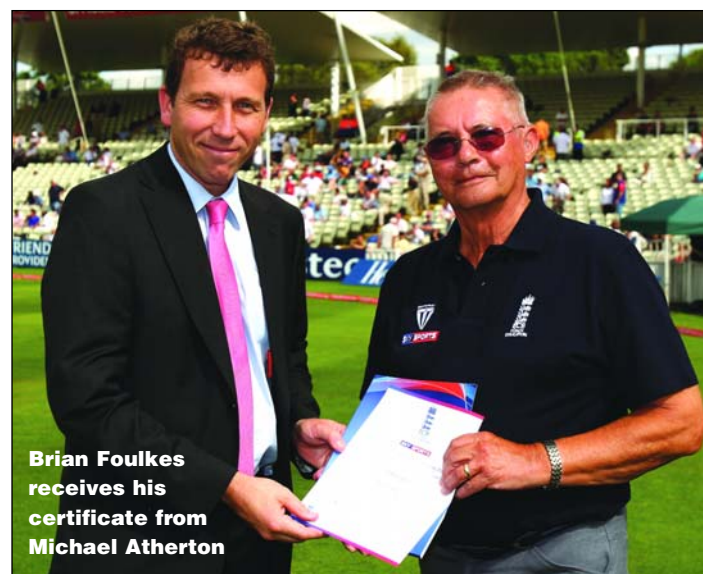
The "Introduction to Cricket - Be Involved..." Course is designed to support and complement other current ECB initiatives and programmes including the hugely successful NatWest CricketForce scheme; the ECB's "ClubMark" club accreditation scheme; the "Be Involved" poster scheme; the club development planning system; the "Volunteers in Cricket - Good Practice

Guide"; the ECB Officials Association; and the ECB Coach Education programme.

The Aim of the "Introduction to Cricket - Be Involved..." Course is:

- To raise awareness of volunteering opportunities at cricket clubs.
- To signpost where further information can be found for potential volunteers who want to get involved.
- To provide basic information on the role that a cricket club plays in the nurturing and development of young cricket talent.
- To provide basic information as to how parents and others can help support their children's cricket and sporting development.
- To give those attending the Course an opportunity to practically experience coaching, umpiring and scoring.
- To help remove fear and uncertainty, put at ease, and motivate those people who are new to the sport of cricket.
- As a resource for clubs as part of their workforce development strategy.

The course has been piloted throughout September and will be launched through your local County Cricket Board in October.



Brian Foulkes receives his certificate from Michael Atherton

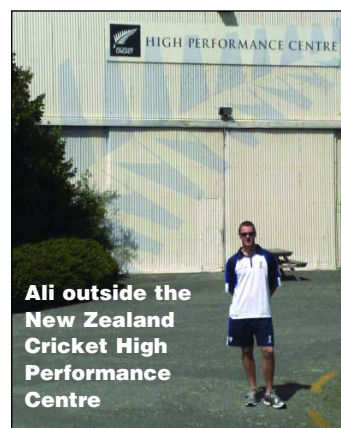
Lord's Taverners Report 2008

NEW ZEALAND BY RUPES KITZINGER

We dubbed it our 'official spying mission on New Zealand Cricket'. Ali Maiden and I were fortunate to be offered a six-week coaching scholarship funded by The Lord's Taverners. The trip completed a generous 5-year sponsorship by The Lord's Taverners who have sent scholars to all over the world to help the ECB with research missions. A great deal of thanks goes to them for their support.

The scholarship began with a 2 day briefing from leading specialists from the ECB at a cold and wet Edgbaston in December, which made us look forward to the trip both from an academic and weather viewpoint! On arrival in New Zealand we were based in Christchurch where the NZ Cricket Head Office is located. This is also 25km from Lincoln University which houses the NZ High Performance Centre and has strong links with University courses for coach education courses and aspiring players. We used Christchurch as our base and travelled to major associations all over the two islands.

The trip was designed to allow opportunities to research a number of subject areas within NZ Cricket. We aimed to find out what, how and why they do things differently from current ECB strategies and what we can learn from these differences. How this filters through the major associations to grassroots level. We were made very welcome and were impressed by how open everyone



Ali outside the New Zealand Cricket High Performance Centre

was with information! It was based on an agreement between cricketing nations to share knowledge and together try and take global cricket forward. The atmosphere of sharing

ideas and whatever can be done to promote cricket was priority rather than keeping good information to oneself! A very refreshing environment.

Our remit centred around 6 topic areas and our observations and recommendations were reported back to ECB, ECB Coach Ed and The Lord's Taverners.

Coach Education

NZC have a clear and structured pathway for coaches in direct alignment with player pathway. This is to ensure that coaches are supported with the skills and knowledge that they need for the age group and ability that they are working with and the coach develops with the team. It is recognised that many coaches are parents who develop with their children and need ongoing support, just as the player does.

Each major association runs their own courses taking the 'quality before quantity' approach, i.e. fewer candidates on courses (we visited a course with just 12 candidates). This is to ensure greater interaction and individual learning on courses. The view is that it also keeps the right people on the right courses and fewer 'paper coaches'. Re-accreditation every two years at Levels 2 and 3 also ensures coaches are staying up to date and on their toes!

NZC are considering the option of accredited horizontal development to help recognise a differentiation between coaches at the same qualification level. For example, we cannot all be coaching at first class county level but there may be a Level 1 coach who excels as much with U11s as the first class coach who is in the spotlight. A Level 1 'excellence' coach would then be recognised as much as a Level 3 'excellence' coach for their coaching skills at the level they work, but more recognised than a Level 1 'starter' or 'intermediate'.

Coaching qualifications are tough to earn in NZ as between 50-100 hours of supported practice is registered and monitored using 'critical friends'. Essentially, these are tutors who observe candidates coaching in their own environment



Level 1 Coaching Course at the Canterbury Indoor Centre

and offer coaches the opportunity to get more individual feedback and highlight areas for development.

Fast Bowler Development

The research from NZC shows that fast bowlers who make it in the game are late developers and do not start bowling fast until often 17-19 years old, often from the rural backgrounds. The feeling is that the fast bowling coaching should be more inner game and less technical. Coaches should also try to build on the natural talent to bowl with some non-negotiables instead of trying to produce a technical model. This is because they believe each bowler is different and their body learns to cope with their natural action. It was found that by changing this to a 'technical model' can often cause more harm than good as the body has to learn to cope with the changes, and often suffers as a result afterwards.

The two areas of concern with regards to technique are counter rotation (in younger ages) and lateral flexion (older bowlers), both of which need biometric testing to see if they are dangerous and potentially hazardous. The problem with these tests, as we heard is so often the case with NZC is cost.

The education of coaches and captains with regards to fast bowler workloads are viewed as a key issue, as is the problem of one player having several different coaches. A situation where a player has several different coaching voices can be overwhelming and confusing and can easily lead to over bowling.

Talent ID

There are two key questions that NZC have asked to reverse tradition with regards to Talent ID:

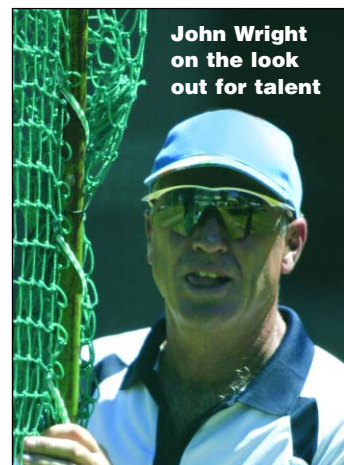
1. How early do we need to identify talent

How late can we leave it before we intervene?

2. How exclusive should we be How inclusive can we be?

These questions and the following quote we heard struck a chord for myself and Ali, compared with our own experiences: "The trouble with Talent ID is that the skills that will ultimately tell the difference between being great or not great are different to the ones that cause success when you Talent ID."

Are we set on trying to find the next Flintoff or Cook? Were these cricketers different from the norm at an early age when Talent ID'd and if so should we be searching for them or letting them shine through our system naturally. If we are looking for these types then are we letting several hundred other players who show great promise fall by the wayside because they are not? What are we doing by selecting a county or regional squad of players? Are we satisfying the select few who are given a shirt or cap or are we disappointing several hundred more who miss out and are possibly lost to the sport?



John Wright on the look out for talent

In terms of identifying talent NZC believe that the use of experienced eyes are the tried and trusted method and no system can replace this. John Wright said that he can tell within a few balls if a batter has talent and by talking to them and not just watching them play. It is then up to the coach to help nurture players by encouraging them and building up their game sense. Talent matures at different stages and ages, and the feeling is that players will be lost from the game if we only encourage a few. By selecting teams later (the first NZ team is now U19) it is felt that these players are better mentally, prevents burnout, avoids specialisation and complacency and allows for greater opportunities.

Cricket is part of sport in NZ and they take a 'whole' approach. They do not specialise in one or two sports until they are 17-19 and the culture is to identify the player centred level and not be coach centred. This also leads to a different view of age identification. In NZ a talented player who is good enough to represent their state is not judged on age. If they score runs or take wickets in domestic club/regional cricket they are given the opportunity to play for their state. It is not relevant if they are 21 or 31, in fact many feel older players have more chance to succeed at higher levels as they are more likely to be mentally stronger. Do our counties take the same approach or do they feel they have to play younger graduates of the academy even if they are not as good or as likely to succeed?

The overall attitude to player development and Talent ID in NZ is to let players play and develop at their own pace with the challenges provided by the coaching staff.

Unstructured Practice

There is a strong feeling that New Zealand punch above their weight on the world stage and that the rural background and wide open spaces may be responsible for this. Unstructured practice is actively encouraged by coaches and none more so than by John Bracewell's 'Golden time' where players are free to do their own practice (as long as it involves sporting/cricketing skills!)

Despite concerns about it becoming less safe and there being less space available to play outside in the modern world, outdoors culture is still evident in NZ. Research shows that players from

John Bracewell's 'Golden Time'



rural backgrounds tend to have stronger mental and physical attributes, and watching players like Ross Taylor and Jacob Oram it is easy to see how free play has influenced their natural flair and game. When looking for an 'X-factor' in players (see Keith Tomlins yearbook entry 2008) is this a clue to where it might come from? Should we go looking for this or just encourage and let it happen and develop?

The media contribute to free play by promoting a backyard cricket tournament using NZC role models. Coaches in NZ feel strongly that cricketers should be encouraged to play other sports as this helps them adapt to the unexpected situations that arise in cricket. Interestingly this means that players are not asked to train indoors throughout the winter but go outside and play rugby or soccer to try and develop interchangeable skills which may benefit cricket. They do not feel this is a risk of losing them from the game because coaches work hard from an early age to ensure a deep passion for cricket which will make players always come back for more.

Coaches also try to put athletes into less comfortable environments to challenge them to come through and understand what it takes to get further in the sport. This might include making the team organise their own transport to games, umpire, administration or otherwise!

Women and Girls

The social aspect to women and girls' cricket is vital to keep players from the age of 15, which is a critical drop out stage. There has been a need to go on tours to retain involvement and there is also a desire to play against more boys

teams as competition. The MILO programme is brilliant for getting girls involved but maintaining that interest seems to be the major stumbling block. The onset of Twenty/20 is helping with this as shorter versions of the game are seen as a way to continue interest.

LTAD and Coaching Styles

NZC adhere to the SPARC (the NZ equivalent of Sportscoach UK) model which encourages passion and participation in sport at every level: learning, recreational or talented. SPARC took LTAD models including Bali's and 'kiwified' them to suit their culture and beliefs. A major difference between Bali and this is that NZC feel it is impossible to categorise into ages and there needs to be a focus on individual athletes' needs. They also believe that fundamental stage begins at 1-5 years old rather than at 6. If not what are the kids doing before their 6th birthday? SPARC reach every parent through an organisation called PLUNKET who are involved with educating and supporting all new parents.

There is a focus on community level sport, not just high performance and elite sport. These may be areas in the media spotlight but the majority play at community level. There is an emphasis on creating the right environment and a belief that that will produce cricketers. Coaches are not there to 'capture' athletes but have a moral responsibility to allow choice and avoid burnout. With increasing competition amongst sports and talented athletes this again seemed to be a fresh and invigorating approach. If a player decides to play another sport then they are wished luck and still supported through community cricket.

There is a strong feeling that game sense is the key to developing talented players and there is a need to further develop the way we coach mental and strategic skills. NZC are now very TGFU focused and athlete centred with all their coaching. The lack of funding was blamed for NZC not being as innovative with research and science as ourselves and other leading cricket nations. By comparison NZ are severely under resourced so they wait and see what is found and take those models and 'kiwify' them to suit themselves. This may leave them behind the 8-ball initially but eventually helps to shape their own unique infrastructure.

One of the strongest feelings we got from our travels around NZ was how open and generous coaches and key influencing personnel in cricket were towards us and each other. The greater good was the biggest picture for all coaches who obviously strive to win domestic honours with their teams but not at the ultimate cost of stunting a player's development towards the national team and world class status. The culture of coaching was very much a sharing one from the top down.



Our thanks go to Tim Lumb, ECB Coach Education and The Lord's Taverners for this rewarding opportunity and also to Head of New Zealand Cricket, Mark Lane (pictured with me above) for his generous hospitality and help co-ordinating our trip.

YOUR REGION

A round up of what's been going on near you

NORTH EAST



Membership:



North East News

The summer of 2008 has again been a huge period of development within **Yorkshire**. Newly appointed Gareth Davis has taken up post as CDM for South Yorkshire, whilst Steve Archer will begin his work as CDM in West Yorkshire at the start of October.

Coach Education in the Region continues to move apace. A new part-time Coach Education Manager has been appointed and will take up post in October overseeing all aspects of Coach Education in Yorkshire. Joining the Coach Ed team will be 2 new Tutors and a new Field Based Trainer who will all be attending ECB Coach

Ed training over the next few months.

For the upcoming Coach Education season, Yorkshire CB will be running the following courses; 15 Coaching Assistant, 15 Coach Award, around 24 Coach Development Workshops and a Club Coach Assessment day. For specific details please see the YCB website.

Yorkshire CA will be holding their 11th annual Coaches Conference on Saturday 22nd November at Headingley Carnegie Stadium; this will incorporate an AGM plus a series of seminars led by some of the countries leading coaches.

As part of their second

annual Outstanding Services to Cricket Awards (OSCAs) ceremony Yorkshire CB will be recognising the achievements of coaches in the form of awards for: Services to Coach Education, Services to Coaching and Young Coach of the Year. Last year's winners were Jack Bethell, Adrian Grayson (father of Paul and Simon) and Adam Cutmore in each of the respective categories. Those nominated this year, along nominees from many other areas of cricket will be invited to attend an awards ceremony at Headingley Carnegie which will take part during the Warwickshire vs Yorkshire Pro40 fixture.

LONDON



Membership:



London News

One of the strengths of **Middlesex** CA has been the involvement with the first class side. The county cricket club coaches, led by Toby Radford have continually supported the CA throughout the year.

The next CA meeting will be a curry in Southall with members of the Middlesex CCC coaching staff on Friday 28th November. To book please email

phil.knappett@middlesexccc.com The Coaches' day this year will be held on Sunday 19th April at the Middlesex Academy, East End Road, Finchley when there will be practical sessions led by the Middlesex CCC professional staff. This will look at some of the routines the coaches used to prepare for the successful 20/20 cricket competitions. A session will be led by Roger Cook on the information gained from each match the county side played last year and how it is used.

During March '08 the **Sussex** CA staged its annual Coaches Conference Day with a batting workshop from Alan Wells (Sussex & England) supported by a lecture and coaches discussion with John Barclay on the topic 'Psychology of Coaching'.

During October the CA, on request from ECB Coach Ed., staged a pilot ECB Club Coach Award assessment. Fourteen coaches attended and eleven successfully qualified for this new award.

Surrey has 7 UKCC 2 courses and 4 UKCC 2 courses running

over the winter period. There is also a Women's only course planned with Sussex for early 2009. These are complemented by 21 of the additional first aid and safeguarding courses. Surrey ran 2 Young Leaders courses over the winter and will be looking to develop a programme of courses over the next year that will link into specific need from the clubs as well as supporting some of the work being done with the competitions managers across the county. The aim is to provide the leaders with a course and follow that up with opportunities to try out their new skills. Surrey is running all 6 CDWs before Christmas and will look to run a Club Coach Assessment in 2009. There will also be a Training Methods Workshop in November.

Surrey Coaches Association have held an inaugural meeting and will be looking to develop fully over the next 6-12 months. From the initial discussions it appears that the group are keen to support coach networking and

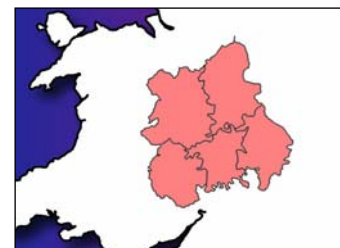
mentoring to enable continual development in the field and not just on courses.

For the 2008/2009 cricket year **Hertfordshire** CB have engaged Sports Mentoring Limited to manage their Coach Education programme.

Sports Mentoring Limited specialises in the delivery of coach related training courses and will work closely with the Hertfordshire Association of Cricket Coaches in designing and delivery the Autumn 08 and Spring 09 programme. Through that period a minimum of 2 x UKCC2 and 4 x UKCC2 will be delivered along with six Coach Development Workshops and a number of the new Training Methods Workshops.

Peter Williams on behalf of Sports Mentoring will bring his tutor/assessor and FBT skills to the effort along with the vast experience he gained whilst working in a similar capacity with Essex County Cricket Board. Hertfordshire are looking forward with enthusiasm to the future based on this new partnership.

WEST MIDLANDS W Midlands News



Membership:



Staffordshire CB are running a comprehensive Coach Ed programme over the course of the winter. The programme includes 5 UKCC1 Courses, 4 UKCC2, a UKCC conversion course designed to convert existing ECB Level 1 Coach qualifications to a UKCC2 Coach qualification and six Coach Development Workshops. For more information please contact Stephen Walker, Staffs CB Cricket Support Officer at Stephen.walker-staffscb@ecb.co.uk

Sport Across Staffordshire will again be hosting the Staffordshire and Stoke onTrent coaches conference. This will be held on Sunday October 12th at Staffordshire University. Staffordshire CA are pleased to announce that Alan Hill has become a regional winner and has also been shortlisted with two others for Coach of the Year award. Alan's recognition comes on the back of many years of service in a variety of roles within Staffordshire cricket.

The finale and awards ceremony will take place in the Long Room at Lord's on Friday 12th September.

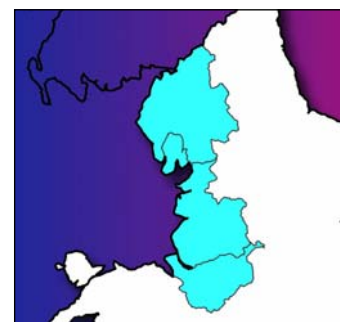
UKCC1 & UKCC2 Courses are now being arranged in **Shropshire** on a regional basis from December '08 through to March '09.

Louise Pugh and Paul Sparrow will be attending Tutor Training this winter whilst David Nock is now competent as a Tutor and is now due to attend Assessor training in the near future

Louise Pugh and Phil Lloyd are attending the next UKCC3 coaching programme.

All Development of Excellence Coaches will be attending Coach Development Workshops as part of their ongoing CPD.

NORTH WEST



Membership:



North West News

Cumbria has held a range of UKCC courses so far this year,

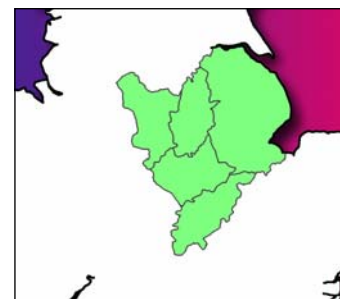
with more planned for the closed season. UKCC1 and UKCC2 for local coaches and a UKCC2 for overseas professionals have gone well. It is interesting to note that the take up of places on UKCC1 courses by 16-18 year olds is increasing, which is very positive.

Two UKCC1 are planned in November, in Penrith and

Barrow in Furness. A UKCC2 is going to run in Penrith in November and one in February in Barrow. These courses are supported by a set of SPC and First Aid courses in both north and south of the county in September and October.

Take up for these courses is good but there are still some places left if anyone is interested?

EAST MIDLANDS



Membership:



attended as a means of recognizing and rewarding their achievements.

Ten Focus Club Head Coaches attended the day and received one to one support from Howard Dytham which included Coach Observations, Invitations to observe Emerging Players Training Sessions and support in developing individual coach development actions plans for 2009.

Seven Coach Development Workshops are planned to be delivered based on the 'needs' of the Focus Clubs and District/County Coaches and Managers.

Based on the feedback from District Development Groups and after cross referencing with Focus Clubs and Affiliated Clubs the DCB have planned three UKCC Level 1s and one UKCC Level 2

All courses are being

delivered at strategic locations within Derbyshire based on the Feedback and needs of Clubs and Coaches

Disability news

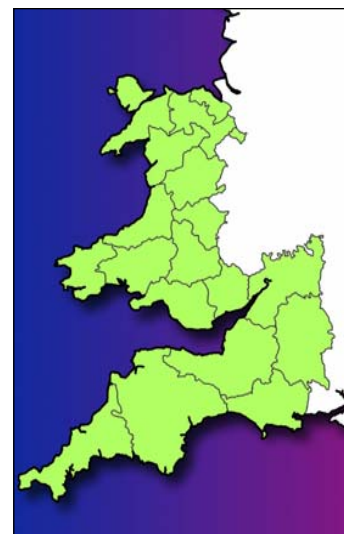
The Derby Disabled Cricket Team managed and coached by Level 2 Coach, Paul Roe have played a lot more matches in this, their third year since formation. They have been practicing regularly too. A high proportion of the players have learning difficulties and are beginners, so progress is not always regular and usually hard earned, but they certainly enjoy their cricket.

The Derbyshire Sight Impaired Cricket Team have not played any games this year. Their 'host' club Elvaston CC have continued with their monthly 'Youth Club' and training sessions have been weekly throughout the summer. However, insufficient numbers

of young players have come forward to field a cricket team, although the Youth Club for the sight impaired, is doing well. Elvaston through 'Chance to Shine' and Coaches Rob Bull, Dave Hartley and Greig Wright have been delivering quality sessions into a local secondary school which has a facility for the sight impaired, since the start of the season.

Northamptonshire CB is organising an event on the evening of 12th November 2008. Cookie Patel who has been working as fielding coach with NCCC this year will deliver a session at the event and the evening will conclude with the AGM for the Northants Coaches Association. This event will launch the roll-out of a programme of events for Coaches in Northamptonshire. Cost £5 which includes food and entry into a prize draw.

SOUTH WEST AND WALES



Membership:



South West News

■ **Dorset** have organised a UKCC1 to be held in October and a UKCC2 in November.

Jonathan Webb, Tom Snape and Greg Parsons are to attend the next Assessor Training session hosted by ECB Coach Education.

To improve communication and efficiency Dorset are appointing four District Head Coaches to assist with coaching matters within the district.

■ Over the past few years **Cornwall** Coaches Association has only been able to run two UKCC1 and two UKCC2 course across the county. In 2008 / 2009 the association are increasing the numbers of coach education courses, providing one UKCC1 course available in each cricketing area hopefully making them more accessible to potential new coaching assistants. There will also be one additional UKCC2 course with the intent of making the courses more accessible for the

club coach. This can only be good news for community cricket clubs and the provision of coaches with their clubs.

The Cornwall Cricket Board has shown huge commitment to coaching by investing heavily into the UKCC1 and 2 courses. This applies to Focus Clubs and Affiliated clubs across the board and will serve as an incentive for volunteers to become qualified in cricket coaching.

■ The **Somerset** Cricket Board has finalised the Coach Education programme for the period from September 2008 to April 2009. They will be running 4 UKCC1 courses, 1 UKCC2 course (along with a specific UKCC2 Assessment date) and a Club Coach Award course, at various venues around the County.

In addition the SCB are looking to re-form the SCB Coaches Association with initial meetings and activities commencing in September 2008. Following on from this a Coaches

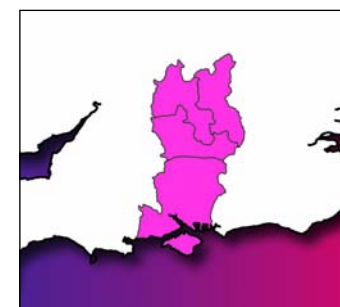
Association Conference is planned to take place at the Centre of Cricketing Excellence in February 2009.

Please contact the Development team on 01823 352266 or email steve@somersetcofe.ndo.co.uk for further information.

■ **Wiltshire** are running the Coach Development Workshops and subsequent Club Coach Award for the first time this year and will be running the workshops on an invitation only basis. Those invited are the coaches that have been identified to work with Wiltshire district, area or county age group squads, thus ensuring all of the talented young players Wiltshire receive as high a standard of coaching as possible throughout the winter programme.

Wiltshire CA have also arranged three UKCC1 Courses, one UKCC2 and a Conversion Course over the winter, please see the Wiltshire CB website for more information.

SOUTH



Membership:



South News

■ The **Oxfordshire** CA has been very active over the last couple of years and helping the broader aims of the County Board to develop and improve the standards of Oxfordshire Cricket. A coaching programme has already been planned for 2008/09 with two Level 1 and two level 2 courses due to run. Our programme this year also includes the full CDW programme with the opportunity for level 2 coaches to obtain the new Club Coach Award.

The CA through the support of the Board and the CDM have

during 2007 supported three coaches through their Level 3 courses, and a further two in 2008. In addition the Board has supported two coaches through their tutor training and have already been active in delivering courses. The Board are also supporting both of these tutors through the Assessors course this autumn held in March.

The Chairman of the OCBCA, Darryl Woods a Level 3 coach has now been appointed as the County's EPP Head Coach, and has already began work with the County EPP Programme and liaising with other First Class Counties who have Oxfordshire players of various ages in their own Academies.

■ This coming winter the **Buckinghamshire** CA plan to deliver three UKCC Level 1 courses, two UKCC Level 2 courses, the full set of Coach Development Workshops with the Club Coach assessment and an ECB Conversion course. This is all part of the plan to continue to improve the quantity and quality of coaching being delivered throughout Buckinghamshire. Plans are in place for our representative squad's winter program to become more specialized skills focused

where coaches will be invited to view the delivery and implement into their club programmes. With the introduction of the Bucks Sport coaching agency the BCB are aiming to provide coaches with more opportunities to pursue a full time coaching career.

■ **Hampshire** have decided to double their UKCC2 programme due to demand from clubs which will offer a maximum of 96 places to clubs, primarily with junior sections.

They aim to run two sets of CDW's along with a Club Coach Assessment this year, which will provide all of our Focus Clubs with a coach who holds the 'Club Coach' qualification as well as several other non-focus clubs who have a high number of junior members.

Also we aim to run six Training Methods workshops to up skill existing Coaching Assistants.

We have also registered a course for the deaf and hard of hearing which will be delivered at Gloucestershire CCC commencing the 20th September. It is hoped that 12 coaches, covering a range of hearing impairments will complete the course and apply their skills to deliver high quality coaching sessions to the deaf and hard of hearing. Attendees from the course are coming as

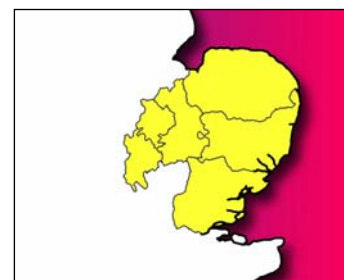
far as Durham to attend, so this hopes to impact on a national level to advance communication, development and participation within players who are deaf or hard of hearing.

■ The **Combined Services** Winter programme is in place & will commence with a "Coach Education Week" in October (27-31 Oct) at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth. This will include a UKCC2 course, a UKCC2 Assessment (from April UKCC2 course), SPC/1st Aid workshops and an Executive Committee meeting.

As part of the player & coach development there will be a "High Performance Day" for selected CS squad & invited CSCCA Coaches forming part of the pre tour preparation of the CS trip in early '09 to Namibia & South Africa. Distinguished guests from ECB, ICC Europe & CSCCA will be in attendance.

Prior to this a CSCCA Dinner will be held on the Thursday evening hopefully ensuring a full and exciting week for all. After holding successful ECB Coach Development Workshops and an Club Coach Assessment there are also plans to hold another Coach Development Workshops programme in December. After the CS tour in February it is hoped to hold another Coach education Week in April.

EAST



Membership:



East News

■ The latest news from the **Suffolk** CA: Martin Taylor has been appointed Cricket Development Manager and will oversee a rejuvenated Coach Education programme. Along with Martin Mary Munley joins the team as Cricket Projects Officer.

Martin and Mary together have produced a programme for the 2008/2009 Coach Education season, this can be viewed at www.suffolksport.com/content-420

Further to this an AGM for the Suffolk CA is planned, the date will be announced shortly.

■ Over the past six months, **Essex** have been working on a project aimed at changing the delivery of all Coach Education courses and workshops within Essex. The main element has been to ensure that Focus Club coaches are given priority to courses whilst also meeting the needs of affiliated clubs. The aim is to ensure inclusion at all levels of the recreational game. The new system commenced in June and plans were made to deliver a residential UKCC2 course at Felsted School, renowned for producing Essex cricketers including Nick Knight, Derek Pringle and others. The course was run very proficiently and it was deemed a great success.

Essex CA also ran the six Coach Development Workshops over three days. Two workshops ran during a day at The Ford County Ground on a match day which allowed the participants to relax between workshops and watch some cricket. Once again, this was a great success Essex believe that this underpins the view that some coaches will put themselves out to undertake courses and workshops during the working day rather than the traditional weekend structure. More initiatives are currently being worked upon, again with pleasing progress.

It is with great sadness that Essex report that Alan Medley has decided to retire as Secretary of the Coaches Association upon reaching his 70th birthday. Since inception, Alan worked tirelessly on Association matters and kept everyone, including the Chairman on the straight and narrow! For all of his hard work

Essex CA would like to pay tribute to Alan and thank him on behalf of all our members for his dedication and support.

The CA are still seeking a replacement and if any ECA members would like to volunteer please make contact via the web: www.eccb.org.uk/coach_education.htm

■ **Huntingdonshire** CBCA will be holding a UKCC2 course at Stanground College, Peterborough on Saturdays from 8 November to 6 December, inclusive. Cost £160. More details available from Kevin Clement on 01487:773926.

■ **Bedfordshire** has appointed a Coach Education Mentor to assist trainee UKCC2 coaches during supported practice and through to certification. As a county we are implementing a benefit scheme that will help improve the completion rates on the courses we offer. We offer ECBCA clothing, an ECBCA membership refund as well as a cash incentive to the affiliated club upon certification.

EUROPE



Membership:



Europe News

■ 2008 has been a busy period for European coaches with the amount of cricket participation

increasing throughout the region. Currently there are 16,747 playing participants involved in some format of the game in our 30 ICC European member countries. ICC Europe staged 9 European tournaments throughout the year which included the European Division 1 (Ireland) and Division 2 (Guernsey) tournaments as well as the European Indoor Championship (Finland). On the field the major success saw Ireland, the Netherlands and Scotland all qualifying for the ICC World T20 in England 2009. ICC Europe launched the European Coaches Association at the start of the year with members currently being made

up from 25 different countries. The ECA is a free to join association in which European coaches are provided with a voice on determining how coach education moves forward throughout the region which dovetails into the ECBCA Regional Forums. It has been designed to bring all the qualified coaches within ICC Europe member countries closer together while also actively promoting the benefits of the ECBCA. One of the major highlights of the 2008 coach education year is the organisation of a Head Coach (UKCC Level 3) course in conjunction with the Cricket Board of Wales. All modules are

to be run at the National Indoor Centre at Sophia Gardens. 12 senior European coaches will be provided with the opportunity to develop their coaching skills which will significantly assist the development of players back in their respective countries. ICC Europe would like to thank the ECB and the Cricket Board of Wales for their assistance in the organisation of this course. Coach Education courses at Coaching Assistant and Coach Award level have taken place in countries including Germany, Guernsey, Luxembourg and Switzerland. Denmark and Norway are also due to host courses by the end of the year.

Cricket Circuit

Coach

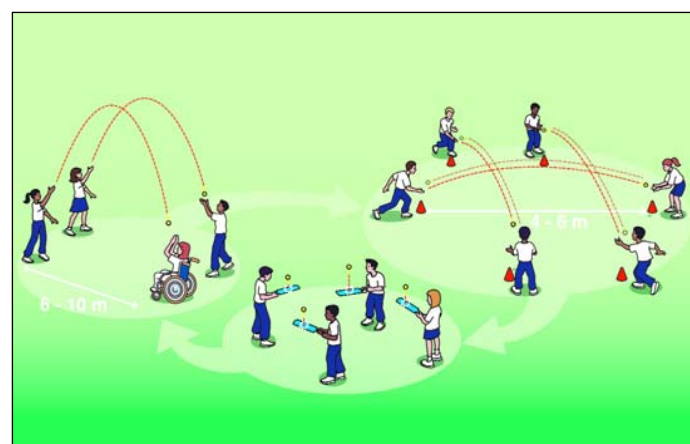
Mo Bobat is a Level 3 Cricket Coach, an ECB Tutor and Lecturer in Sport & Exercise at Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College (Leicester). He is Head Coach at Leicester Cricket Academy and Player-Coach at Barrow Town CC (Leicestershire). He also coaches at Nuneaton CC and Atherstone CC (Warwickshire)



Background

The cricket circuit is an ideal solution when working with large groups of players. The activities chosen within each station should be selected according to the ability of the group, in the example below the 3 activities are suited to children who are beginning to develop a basic understanding of the fundamental skills of striking and catching. The adaptations are limitless. The station provides a great opportunity for a coach to foster a sense of peer evaluation within a group whilst being able to evaluate performance.

- The duration of the activities can be determined by outcome, for example when 15 catches have been successfully taken or time;
- 2 mins per activity. A coach may even ask for outcomes within time, for example how many consecutive bat taps were possible in 2 minutes.



Organisation

- Groups are organised as illustrated and work in station practicing close catching, bat control by bat tapping and high catching;
- Groups have a time allocated for each station they then rotate and start at a new station.

Adaptation/Variation

- Increase / decrease catching areas
- Catch one handed
- Add more balls
- Use bigger balls
- Add another station
- Make it competitive – keep individual scores – team scores
- Add agility balance coordination exercises

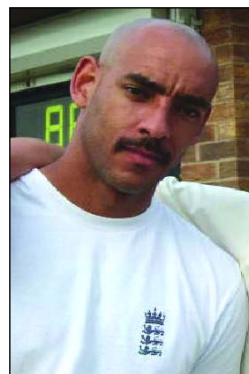
Equipment

- 12-18 Players
- 8-12 Tennis balls
- 6 Cones
- 4-6 Bats
- Time: 20 minutes

Coconut Shy Bowling

Coach

Tony Bettridge is an ECB Level 3 Coach, Nottinghamshire CCC cricket and development coach. He is coach to Nottinghamshire CCC youth teams, fitness specialist and avid Forest fan.



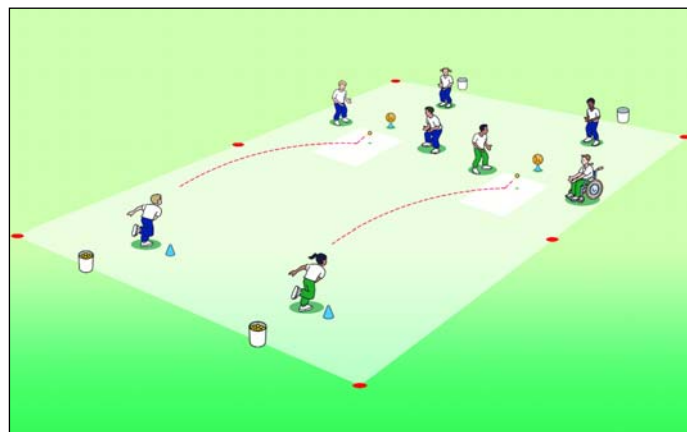
Background

Coconut shy bowling allows a coach to challenge their young bowlers by demanding accuracy and subtle changes of length. The practice allows a coach and players to explore the idea of changing length whilst working down a strict line. The success rate a player achieves changes according to whether they hit the stump to knock the coconut off or whether they hit the coconut itself the coconut itself.

The practice allows players to be able to explore and develop the tactics of being able to change the length they are bowling; a vital skill for young players seeking to develop their game. Adaptations can include, changing the size of the 'Coconut', or the number of stumps involved. The coach has a great opportunity to work with his players and through a questioning approach develop their understanding of when to apply the tactics of changing length.

Organisation

- In groups of 4 players take it in turn to bowl at the stump which has a large ball balanced on it (using a batting tee on top of the stump for balance)
- Waiting players act as fielders and wicketkeepers whilst the bowler bowls
- Fielders replace the ball on the stump if it is knocked off. Points can be awarded for successful hits
- The game continues for a set number of repetitions or time



Adaptation/Variation

- Start from a base position then use a one step method
- Increase / decrease the length of the pitch
- Increase the length of run up; Increase the target
- Add target cones
- Bowl underarm

Equipment

- Players - work in pairs
- 3 Cones per station
- 2 Tennis balls per pair (bucket of balls can be used)
- 10 Stumps (6-3-1)
- Time: 10-15 minutes

Lofted Drive

Coach

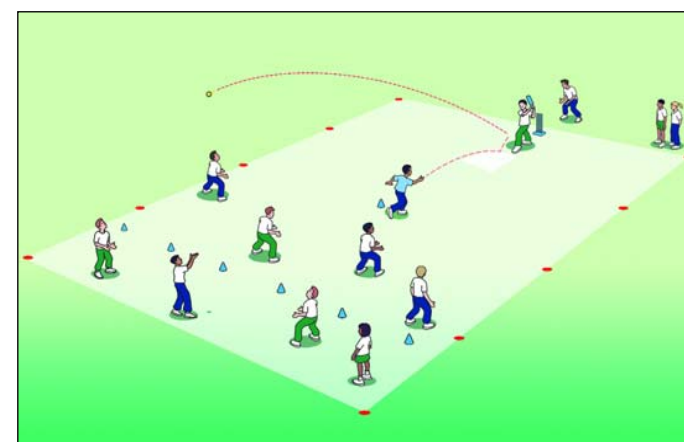
Eddie Burke is the new Head Coach of the Nottinghamshire E.P.P. He runs the CITC scheme and is a UKCC 1 and 2 Tutor/ Assessor. He also coaches Notts under 13's as well as planning and delivering the under 10's programme.



Background

The Lofted Drive activity allows young players to develop the advanced skill of hitting a lofted drive with control and precision. During the practice the coach has the capacity to allow players to develop a sense of timing in terms of when the ball should be struck. The coach has the flexibility to differentiate by ability and shape the shot by allowing players to hit the ball from a tee, a drop feed, bobble feed or an overarm throw.

The activity simultaneously develops a young player's technical and tactical understanding, whilst engaging them through a game related practice. It is a very adaptable practice, suited to a variety of environments.



Organisation

Groups are organised as illustrated. In 3 teams of 4 the batting team stand behind the striking batter in a safe area. Fielders field behind the coned areas. Fielders must not encroach cones will be approx 30 metres away. The coach or teacher serves the ball so it lands on a length. Player 1 attempts to hit the ball in the air toward the coned area. Points can be awarded for successful attempts. All players should have an opportunity to have a set amount of goes each. Rotate the players quickly to avoid queuing. When established you can encourage players to take it in turn to serve.

Adaptation/Variation

- Hit the ball off a batting tee
- Use bobble serves
- Use over arm throws
- Use different balls; Increase / decrease serving distance
- Fielders can catch the ball; Increase / decrease the target
- Add another batter

Equipment

- Players - groups of 8
- 6 Cones per group
- 6 Tennis balls per group
- 1 Set of stumps per group
- 1 Bats per group
- Time: 15-20 minutes

Many Skill Fielding

Coach

Dale Kerruish runs *Direct Action Training* who specialise in providing support workshops to the sports industry. In the recent past Dale has acted as Cricket Development Manager in South Yorkshire. Over a prolonged period Dale has huge experience coaching cricket in clubs, schools at both a recreational and representative level.



ECB Level 3 Coach, ECB Tutor Assessor and Field Based Trainer, he played South Yorkshire Premier League Cricket at a variety of clubs including Elsecar CC in Barnsley.

Background

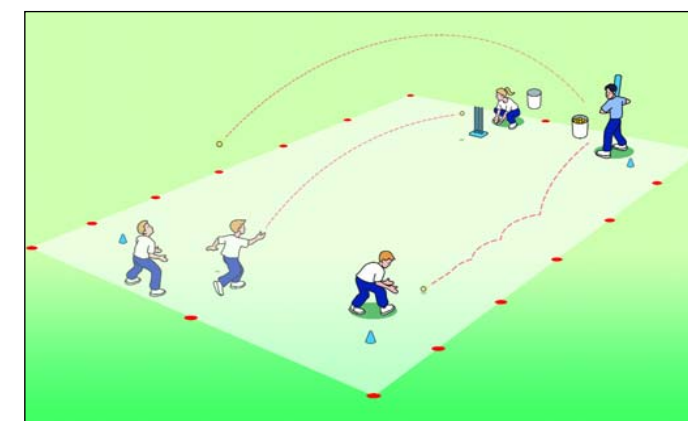
Many Skill Fielding allows a coach to apply the fundamental fielding skills of high catching, intercepting and the over arm throw to a pressurised situation in a practice. Through the practice the coach places the emphasis on decision making from the players in terms of selecting and performing skills. Many skill fielding is an ideal way of applying technical fielding skills to a 'live' environment. There is flexibility for a coach to create a scoring system for players to allow them to evaluate and monitor their performance.

Organisation

In groups of 5 as illustrated the coach hits a high ball for player 1 to move to the left to catch then throw back to the wicket keeper. As the player throws the ball back the coach rolls a slower ball for the player to attack and underarm throw to the keeper. Player 1 runs around the coach and back into the channel whereby the coach hits a further ball over the players shoulder for another catch – the ball is returned to the wicket keeper. The player then returns to the back of the group. This continues so all have a go. Once the practice is complete the players restart from the opposite side of the grid.

Adaptation/Variation

- Increase / decrease the catching distance;
- Increase / decrease the pace of the serve;
- Pick up with weaker hand; Use different types of balls;
- Use a bigger ball.



Equipment

- Players - groups of 5
- Tennis balls 2-3 per group (semi hard balls or hard balls may be used depending on group ability)
- 3 Cones per group
- 1 Set of stumps per group
- Time: 10-15mins

Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) Update

As you will be aware, the ECB now requires all qualified coaches affiliated to the ECB Coaches Association (ECB CA) to hold a current valid ECB CRB Disclosure certificate (ECB Vetting Check). ECB CRB checks have been a pre-requisite of CA membership since September 2004, a requirement introduced in accordance with UK legislation, Government guidelines and the recommendations from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

With effect from Wednesday 1st October 2008, the ECB will be outsourcing the processing of CRB Disclosure Application Forms to an external company. This company, The Media Group (TMG) of Nottingham, currently undertake the CRB processing for a significant number of sports, including the FA and several Government agencies. As a result of this change the current forms in circulation will no longer be valid and any remaining forms should be completed and returned to Lord's as soon as possible so they can only be processed ahead of the 1st October changeover. Please note: Overseas Vetting Checks will still be processed at Lords.

ECB CRB checks will still be valid for three years and, in accordance with recommendations from the CRB Team at Lords, the ECB is unable to accept the 'transfer' of CRB Disclosures from other

organisations, including those from other sports. Therefore, if you have a CRB Disclosure Certificate through another organisation, you are still required to apply for a CRB Disclosure Certificate through.

If you do not currently hold an up to date CRB Disclosure Certificate issued through the ECB, you will not be eligible for membership of the ECB Coaches Association in January 2009 and your membership status can not be renewed. Please ensure that your ECB CRB renewal is completed before the beginning of January. As a valued member of the Association we trust you agree that completion of this form is of the utmost importance as it enables you to access all the benefits that being a member of the ECB CA brings.

The ECB is committed to ensuring that cricket provides a safe, friendly and enjoyable experience for all participants. The purpose of a CRB check is to ensure that not only are we protecting children but we are also assisting and protecting you in the work that you carry out within cricket. It is therefore deemed essential that all coaches, whether they are paid employees or volunteers, active or inactive, undertake an ECB CRB check to ensure their suitability to work within the sport, especially if working with children or vulnerable people.



More information about ECB CRB checks and about the changeover to The Media Group of Nottingham will be provided on the ECB website in the Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Section which can be found by logging on to www.ecb.co.uk/crb. Alternatively please contact the Child Protection Team at Lord's, either on 0207 432 1200 or email crb@ecb.co.uk.

I am sure you will agree that CRB Checks are a necessity that can only enhance the safeguarding of everyone involved within our family of cricket.



In October 2008 the ECB CA website will be moving across to the ECB site and will undergo a complete overhaul, aimed at updating

its current content and making it a more accessible resource for both current and prospective ECB CA members.

The new look site will allow us to create our own look and feel, with greater functionality and to create a more user friendly setup.

The website will contain many of the elements currently on the website as well as many additional features and benefits. Information about membership, including how to join and the benefits of membership will be easily accessible. There will be links to various sponsors and suppliers, including the ECB CA shop, links to the Inter Cricket Awards, Insurance FAQs and information on the annual Reward and Recognition scheme. It will have backdated versions of 'Hitting the Seam' newsletters, the 'Coaches

Matter' technical bulletins and a monthly coaching practice to give you fresh ideas to assist you with your coaching programme throughout the year. As well as these improvements and additions, the new website will have the capacity to have regularly updated video footage, including interviews, skills and practices that we hope you will find useful and informative.

We are sure that these changes will greatly improve the website, offering better information, resources and benefits to all our members.

Log on to the new look website in October at www.ecbca.co.uk