

Philip Relf, ECB Coach Development Manager, provides us with a progress report on the implementation of the new ECB Coach Award (UKCC 2) course. This course is due to be delivery in September 2005.

UKCC2 ECB Coach Award

THE STORY SO FAR



Philip Relf

By Easter, a number of county boards would have successfully run their first pilot Coach Award course. During the introduction of new qualifications, the pilot stage is absolutely essential to shaping the final programme.

Consultation with key personnel is already under way as we seek to make the final minor adjustments to the course in order to be ready for delivery in September, 2005.

Tutors have faced exciting and challenging opportunities when delivering the new course. Extra preparation has led to many tutors spending considerable amounts of their spare time planning for their delivery and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their hard work and support.

Our ultimate aim is to provide better players through providing better coaches. Time will tell if we are on the way to achieving this but it is encouraging to note the real coach centred emphasis of the pilot course. Tutors have responded to the challenges positively and continue to encourage candidates to think as coaches for as much time as possible during the eight modules.

Creation of the UKCC 2 has come at a good time as we have been able to embrace aspects of LTAD, Teaching Games for Understanding and coaching process skills (How to Coach skills).

The provision of a quality tutor pack which combines guidance notes for delivery with course resources has significantly raised the quality of support resources that we are able to offer tutors. This should improve the quality of delivery and help us raise the standards of coaching in clubs and schools.

The requirement for coaches on the Coach Award course to undergo at least 10 hours supported coaching practice ensures an immediate involvement in coaching and many clubs and schools are already benefiting from extra coaches at training sessions. These coaches need to be given assistance and advice from our existing ECB Level I and Level II coaches. This role is a vital part of the process as individuals will only become better coaches if they are exposed to constructive feedback about their coaching. Coaches who have provided that support can make a real difference to the development of the coaches they are supporting. Conversely, with the new coaches being exposed to new material, they can encourage the existing coaches to think and reflect upon their own practice.

We are in the process of a final review where we plan to consult with the team of Field Based Trainers who have been assisting tutors in delivering the new course. The creation of an online feedback channel is one of the important initiatives connected with this project. The advent of this communication network is beginning to have real impact for some of the key agencies in ECB coach development.

The proposed developments of UKCC 1 and the initial plans for UKCC 3 will enable us to see the bigger picture unfold over the next six months. Existing ECB coaches will have the opportunity to access updated information through the provision of modules designed to upgrade knowledge. In addition, the ECBCA Wings to Fly series of DVD resources includes specialist sections on key areas covered in UKCC courses.



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