

Memo to HMC Schools Masters in Charge of Cricket and Cricket Coaches

ECB was delighted to host 160 Master in Charge and Cricket Coaches at Loughborough University on 08 November 2011.

This inaugural conference was oversubscribed within days of the information being circulated. However, by insisting on a limit, attendees were also able to be part of the Conference at Holywell Park and at the National Performance Centre where the features were on Fielding and Strength and Conditioning of young cricketers.

The purpose of this letter is to share information with those who were able to attend and the many that were unable to do so.

ECB have sent slides of the presentations made at Holywell Park under separate cover and believe it is of equal importance to share conclusions and outcomes of the discussions with as many recipients of this Memo as possible.

Conference Recommendations:

1. When considering a match play programme the school should consider a balanced menu of cricket which reflects the modern game. The match play programme should recognise the age and the ability of the player together with travelling costs and time required for study.

This means that an optimal summer match play programme would contain:

- All day timed cricket with three breaks in play, lunch, tea and innings change.
 - 50/45 over cricket with one break and if appropriate include Powerplays.
 - 20 over cricket
 - A two day match, although it is understood that this not a high priority.
2. Communication between County Academy and Schools needs to be improved and 11th hour requests from Academy Directors for players to represent a County Academy for a Premier League fixture was unacceptable. David Graveney was to raise this point at the Academy Directors and Emerging Player Head Coaches Conference the following week.
 3. It was accepted that, up to an including, GCSE years that multiple sports' were of benefit to the player. It was agreed that the post GCSE period was the correct time for players to specialise. For England Development Players, no more than 12 in any age group (Under 16 – Under 19) that due to increased commitments required in attending modules of the programme specialisation may take place at an earlier stage.
 4. It was accepted that behaviour in cricket needed to be improved and that whilst the problem existed outside of the HMC school environment Masters in Charge would continue press Cricket Coaches and players to uphold the Spirit of Cricket. ECB ACO Officials to be appointed to matches.

5. Technology is now playing a key role in 'Inspiring people to choose cricket'. Schools are encouraged to use products such as Total Cricket Scorer. www.totalcricketscorer.com and CricScore. www.cricscore.co.uk for 2012 season. Both products are connected with ECB Play Cricket website www.play-cricket.com allowing parents and other interested parties, if the connection is effectively made, to see Live Scores from School matches in much the same way as one could watch a Test or County Match on a computer screen. The benefits could be that expensive scoreboards can be replaced, when funds allow, by a screen which displays the information direct from the scorer.

6. Although ECB have a robust scheme for finding young players using the County Board network we are still keen to discover young players who may have been missed. If you have a talented player who you believe has been missed, for example an Under 15 playing in the school 1st X1 please advise David Graveney, National Performance Manager and Chief Selector – England Development Programme - david.graveney@ecb.co.uk or call on 07825 582982.

Thank you for taking the time to read these notes, ECB look forward to your continued support in future.

With best wishes



Paul Bedford
Head of non first class cricket