

HECCSport Host High Profile ECB Level IV Coaching Course

The HECCSport Centre for Cricket has received a great accolade from the ECB when it hosted the ECB Level IV Batting module during the October half term week.

Gordon Lord, ECB's Head of Elite Coach Development, visited HECCSport in June early this year. So impressed was he by the new cricket centre he consequently booked exclusive use of the 5 lane venue and stated "HECCSport is a fantastic new cricket training centre which provides us with the high class facilities required to host the forthcoming Level IV Batting Module."

The Level IV Coaching Course is aimed at elite coaches, 1st Class Academy Directors and above. It is split up into modules looking at all aspects of the game from bowling and fielding to mental and biomechanics and takes two years to complete. This year's batting module was run by Dene Hills, ECB Lead Batting Coach, who's job is to nurture the up and coming England batsman and deliver them to Andy Flower, England Team Director. Dene gave great insight into his views on what is happening right now with England batting, what he sees in the future and his time that he spent coaching with Australia and in particular Ricky Ponting.

Dene has quoted that HECCSport is a "modern, world class indoor cricket centre with a country interior design...in pleasant country surrounds. Along with ECB certified coaches and modern technology, this cricket centre is an ideal venue to improve your game or host coach education sessions'



Dene Hills, leading discussions.

Course candidates included John Morris (Derbyshire head Coach, ex-England batsman), Graeme Fowler (ex-England batsman), Steve Kirby (Pace bowler - Gloucestershire, England Lions), Grant Flower (Top order bat and left-arm orthodox spin bowler - ex-Zimbabwe international, Essex) and Peter Such (ex-England and Essex) to name but a few. Steve Kirby remarked "I must say it was a great facility. In my experience of using indoor facility's this one is right up there with regard to the quality and size. I would have no problem in recommending

this place to anybody."

Throughout the course guest speakers addressed the candidates including Graham Gooch (ex-England Captain and batsman) who spoke of his thoughts and beliefs on batting and his experiences of being the Head Coach of Essex. Also speaking was Dave Alred who is Johnny Wilkinson kicking coach who focused on dealing with pressure moments and how to strive for perfection in training and playing. Both were extremely fascinating and insightful...if you love sport or cricket then it was a great place to be!



Will Jefferson with Luke Humphrey (HECCSport)

During the few days HECCSport was also visited by Will Jefferson (ex-Essex, now Leicestershire batsman) and the who used the net facilities and commented "HECCSport is a truly exceptional environment in which to train, practice...to all standards of cricketers [with] state-of-the-art facilities. It would not surprise me if future first class cricketers are developed from coming and learning their trade here and going on to represent Essex or one of the other London clubs."

Following the course Luke Humphrey (HECCSports Level III coach) was invited by Dene Hills to work alongside him with the England Performance Programme (England Lions). Following the two days at the National Cricket Performance Centre, Loughborough, Luke said "It was a fantastic experience! Working alongside some of the best players in the England as well as the high calibre of coach has been invaluable and will no doubt develop the quality of not only my own coaching but that of HECCSport as well."



Graham Gooch with Luke Humphrey (HECCSport)