



Second Coaching Summit and the UK Coaching Framework

The Second UK Coaching Summit, hosted by **sports coach UK**, was held at Grantham from April 17-18.

Representatives from national governing bodies of sport, key funding agencies (UK Sport, the Department for Culture, Media & Sport, Home Country Sports Councils, the Department for Education & Skills, the British Olympic Association, Youth Sport Trust and Skills Active) and other key partner and funding organisations, attended the two-day event that concentrated on the UK Coaching Framework and the movement from consultation to action and practice.

The conference was opened with a well-received address from Minister of Sport Richard Caborn MP.

The Minister's speech was followed by a presentation from **sports coach UK** CEO Pat Duffy that looked at the progress made since the previous Coaching Summit 12 months ago, before examining the vision and strategic action areas of the Framework, as well as the current thinking on the UK Coaching model.

sports coach UK Project Manager Vlad Ivic gave an overview of programme management of the Framework, before Pat Duffy spoke on management and decision making and the schedule for the year ahead.

David Sparkes, CEO of British Swimming delivered an entertaining and informative talk on how the Framework relates to his sport, emphasising the importance of a skilled workforce in delivering Swimming's vision, before Mark Frost – Head of Coaching and Sports Science at the Sports Council for Wales – spoke about the practical benefits that the Framework brings, such as comparing and copying good practice and standardisation of coaching plans.

A packed first morning concluded with a panel *question and answer* session giving delegates the opportunity to air their views and concerns.

The afternoon session of day one was given over to workshops discussing the specific action areas in the UK Coaching Framework, namely *UK Coaching System, Front line Coaching, Support for Coaches, Professionally regulated vocation, and Research and Development*.

The second day opened with presentations under the banner *Translating the UK Coaching Framework into Action* by Rugby Football Union Coaching Development Manager Gary Henderson, England Hockey Performance Coaching Manager Jane Powell, John Mills, Coaching and Education Director of British Cycling, and ECB Community Coach Education Manager Tim Lumb.

Another session of workshops including *Coaching Children* and *Supporting Coaches of High Performance Players* followed before the summit concluded with a summary from Pat Duffy of the two days and the next steps.

The presentation re-emphasised timescales for the next 12 months and underlined the key principles of the UK coaching Framework, namely that:

- The Framework is sports specific
- Home Country application of the Framework is flexible
- The Framework is UK-wide

The event formally closed with all 210 delegates adopting the following Declaration:

- This Summit formally endorses the UK Coaching Framework
- And commits to the first stages of implementation
- Including formal launch and significantly advancing the key elements of *Building the Foundation* by April 2008.

Fantastic conference! I gained an awful lot of information and ideas, and made some great contacts. Jim Messenger, President of the British American Football Coaches Association.

sports coach UK extends its sincere thanks to all colleagues and organisations that contributed to the delivery of the Summit.