



Hertfordshire Coaching Conference

Sunday 22nd February 2009

**“Developing (modern day)
young players for the
professional game”**

Dale Welch

My (coaching) development...

- *Average* footballer (Middlesex County Team and school Captain) / Semi Professional
- Helped organise and coach sessions at local Boys Brigade
- Started (football) coaching badges aged 23 (Experience in schools, community level, development centres etc.)
- Managed and coached semi professional teams from age of 25 and current 1st team manager at Amersham Town
- Sports coach UK Coach Development Officer for 2 years+
- Currently football Academy coach / 16 to 19 year olds

Session outcomes...

- To explore 'issues' that youth academy **players and coaches** face
- To identify **key skills** for coaching players in the 'modern game'
- Understand the 4 Corners model (and how to use it when planning sessions)
- 'Some **tangible tips**' for you to apply!!!

The dream...





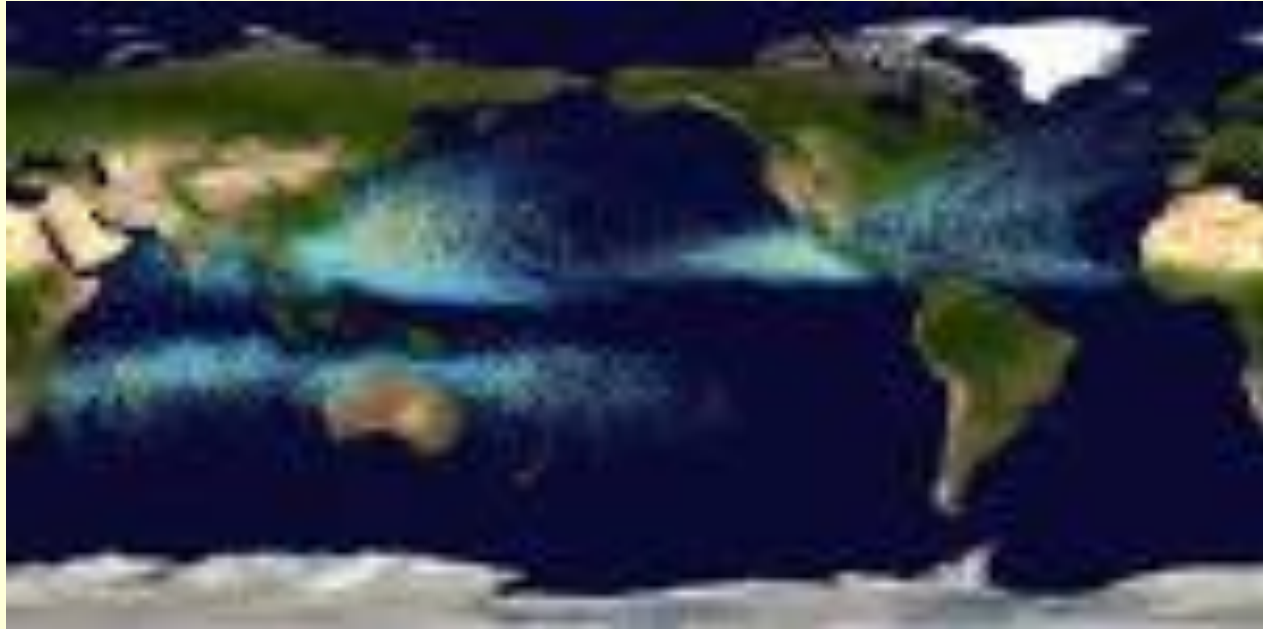
The reality...



3 x Pro contracts in 4 years!!!

Society's impact!!!

Globalisation



Europe, Africa, Asia. Middle East, Australasia

16 to 19 year olds...

Crucial Age!!!

- Constant feedback
- Education / work experience
- Networks and opportunities
- EXPECTATIONS AND PERCEPTIONS!
- Advice / mentoring (older players?)
- Excellent coaching

“Avoiding the participation dropout!!!”

Before we start coaching... **players...**

*Use the **4 Corners model** as a starting / reference point...*

e.g.

- Family / background
- Culture and religion?

Opponent analysis...

(KISS)

- 4-4-2
- Direct style / hit channels and 'cross' early!
- Physical and 'in your face'
- Vulnerable to 'quick passing' / high tempo counter attacks
- Score lots of goals from crosses / need to stop this!
- Do not get frustrated by decisions going against you

Analysis tools...

- Software e.g. Actim / Opta Index / Pro Zone
- Scouting
- Contacts / networks (other managers?)
- Good observation / coaching!!!

What can you learn
and apply???

Group task



Coaching **skills** are essential...

- Technical, tactical knowledge / Quals
- Observation
- Talent ID
- Networks / contacts
- Education / workplace / sports development
- (People) Management skills

Debrief...

- Questions (for me / each other / the players?)
- Feedback
- Further information
- Links / networks