



Press Information
For Immediate Release

Elite Success for East Midlands Coach Programme

The East Midlands' Emerging Performance Coach Programme has produced its first 'graduate' after British Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) Performance coach Alex Perry was announced as one of the seven coaches on this year's UK Sport Elite Coach Programme.

Alex was one of 27 coaches from 14 different sports that were identified by their Governing Bodies for the East Midlands' scheme. The three-year Programme, led and managed by **sports coach UK**, was launched in 2005. The main aim of the initiative is to support identified coaches to develop the necessary skills and competencies to move into coaching in a high performance environment, with the support and training required to really service the needs of the sport.

At the time of his selection Alex was a coach at the East Midlands' High Performance Centre based in Nottingham. Whilst on the East Midlands' Emerging Performance Coach Programme he successfully progressed on to the role of BTTF Performance Coach in 2006. Reflecting on the support and training he received Alex praised the Programme's 'coach-centred' approach. Alex said *'As a former player and coach, I had a level of coaching experience and the technical knowledge of my sport. The Programme supported me to identify and address other gaps in my knowledge and skills which was great'*.

The training and opportunities that Alex accessed through the Programme included a series of introductory workshops on athlete support services delivered by the East Midlands' English Institute of Sport (EIS) Team and a bespoke programme of strength and conditioning support delivered in his coaching environment. The Programme also provided opportunities for coaches at the same level from different sports to meet. Alex commented *'It was really useful to look outside of the table tennis world and learn from coaches in other sports that are in a similar position to myself'*.

Pat Duffy, **sports coach UK** Chief Executive said *'Congratulations to Alex on securing a place on UK Sports' 'Elite Coach'. Alex's progress is testament to the impact of the East Midlands Programme. sports coach UK and UK Sport continue to work together within the High Performance and Emerging Talent agenda, and it's great to see that the support offered to Alex over the last couple of years has helped play its part in his nomination and selection to the UK Sport Elite Coach Programme, where his personalized support will move to the next level'*.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

The East Midlands Emerging Performance Coach Programme is managed by sports coach UK. **sports coach UK** devised the Programme in partnership with Sport England,

Governing Bodies of Sport, County Sports Partnerships, Loughborough Sport and the English Institute of Sport.

The East Midlands Emerging Performance Coach Programme is funded through the community Investment Fund and distributed through the East Midlands Performance Action Group.

The UK Sport Elite Coach Programme is a three-year programme and is followed by a minimum two-year period working within a Governing Body of Sport. More information at http://www.uk sport.gov.uk/pages/elite_coach/

sports coach UK is a charitable organisation, jointly funded by Sport England and UK Sport, and is the lead agency charged with the development and implementation of the UK Coaching system. More information at www.sportscoachuk.org <<http://www.sportscoachuk.org>>

The UK Coaching Framework will put in place a structure to create an ethical, inclusive and valued coaching system where skilled coaches support children, players and athletes at all stages of their development in sport, and which is number one in the world by 2016. More information at www.sportscoachuk.org <<http://www.sportscoachuk.org>>

UK Sport was established by a Royal charter in 1996 and works in partnership with the home country sports councils and other agencies to lead sport in the UK to world-class success.

UK Sport is responsible for managing and distributing public investment and is a statutory distributor of funds raised by the National Lottery.