

## Local Cricket Coach Ivo Favotto (ZCCC) Recognised by Former England Captain Mike Atherton

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Ivo Favotto from Horgen, Switzerland was recognised for outstanding services to grassroots cricket by Mike Atherton at the third npower Test Match against Pakistan at The Brit Oval on Friday 20th August.



Favotto was presented with a coaching certificate by the former England captain and current cricket broadcaster and journalist as part of the Sky Sports ECB Coach Education Programme. Fifteen coaches met with Mike Atherton on pitch during lunch at the test match against Pakistan.

Over one hundred coaches from across the country are being acknowledged by the programme's 'Reward and Recognition' scheme which comprises of a series of on-pitch presentations throughout the summer by various cricket legends, including the Sky Sports commentary team.

Favotto has been instrumental in raising the profile of cricket in Switzerland. He was elected to the board of the newly founded Cricket Coaching Association of Switzerland in 2008 and he immediately set about organising a Level 1 coaching course in the Geneva area to encourage the budding junior clubs in this area. Over 20 candidates successfully completed the course, providing Swiss junior cricket with a massive boost. Favotto also put together a Swiss U11 squad which toured to Surrey in August 2009 for ten days to play against club and district teams. Even though youth cricket in Switzerland is only 5 years old, the team was competitive, fought well and produced some fine cricket, which produced complements from our Surrey hosts. The spirit shown by the squad, and the hard work the players were prepared to put in for the team was due to the inspiration and efforts of Favotto. On a local level Favotto ran the Under 11 teams of the Zurich Crickets CC in 2009, which flourished. Favotto has ensured that young players between the ages of 10-13 have the opportunity to play serious and fun cricket on a regular basis so that the better players are capable of playing against their peers in other European countries, including England, in competitive matches.

Following the presentation Favotto commented "I think it has been a real honour to be part of the day representing junior cricket in Switzerland. Without the support of Sky Sports cricket in Switzerland wouldn't happen and it's great to raise its profile to aid development"

The Sky Sports ECB Coach Education Programme aims to attract and train coaches at all levels of cricket in England and Wales, from schools cricket to the international game. Since the beginning of Sky's sponsorship in 2006 over 23,000 coaches have gone through the scheme, more than triple the original target. There have been 10,000 newly qualified coaches in the last 12 months which is 77% up on the first two year and now for every professional cricketer in England and Wales, there are over 100 grass root coaches.

For more information about Sky Sports ECB Coach Education Programme please visit [www.ecb.co.uk/development/coach-education](http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/coach-education)