

## Cheshire's Young Person Player Journey (YPPJ): Testimonials from clubs and schools in 2016

“On behalf of Hollingworth Cricket Club I wish to extend my thanks to Cheshire Cricket Board for the excellent work and support they provide in the Tameside District. In particular, I would like to express gratitude to Toby Mullins who has greatly assisted with our efforts to develop links with the local primary school, which in turn, has allowed us access to new junior members this season. Indeed, it is very likely that had the joint training sessions not taken place we believe that we may not have been able to fulfil at least one of our age group fixtures for the season.”

Tony Bowie, Hollingworth CC (Tameside)

Name: Rachel Banister

School: Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College

Comments:

I would like to thank Ben for the coaching he has done this year at School, he is extremely reliable and enthusiastic and the students really enjoy his sessions. Since he started we have got through to the County finals for both girls age groups which we wouldn't have done without him. Not only this but the girls who did the leaders course now run a lunch time cricket session for students which is well attended. We have not 1 but 2 lunchtimes sessions now thanks to the Chance to Shine scheme. Students that attend the cricket club are not necessarily sporty students who come to any other club so its attracting less active people which is fab!

Links have also been created with the local cricket club which is offering free coaching sessions, again our students wouldn't have this if it wasn't for the scheme and Ben.

“Cheshire Cricket and in particular Toby Mullins have been invaluable to the development of Trafford MV junior cricket during the 2016 season. The coaching sessions Toby provided at the start of the season were excellent and laid down a strong foundation for the rest of the season. We hope that this will continue next season (2017). We have been able to attract a number of parents to help us with coaching throughout the season. We have entered an u10's team into an indoor cricket league starting at the end of September, to try and keep the core younger players playing cricket and with indoor training starting in February we hope this will also continue the interest in readiness for the start of next season.”

Andy Hamer, Trafford Metrovics CC (Trafford)

Name: Miss H. Rogers

School: The Kingsway Academy

Comments:

The quality of coaching has been superb. The coaches strike the right balance of being both friendly yet professional in a school environment. Our pupils have thoroughly enjoyed attending the clubs provided and attendance has been a good mix of both boys and girls across different years. Without this scheme we would most likely have not played competitively in cricket. The most progress has been shown by the girls, who traditionally would have not played much cricket before; they have really taken to the game so we are ensuring it is part of our future PE curriculum. The girls and boys teams thoroughly enjoyed the tournaments provided. They were pitched at an appropriate level - the equipment, venues and lenient rules made it an enjoyable experience. Support was given to staff (like myself) who had very little understanding of umpiring cricket!

We thoroughly appreciate the work you have done with our school this year.

Thank you.

“The great thing about the sessions was that it showed that cricket is a game that can be participated in by all, regardless of skill levels or gender, and can be fun. We regularly get a few girls attending our training sessions, and they are showing great enthusiasm, with learning about the game and taking part. As a club it is vital to continually introduce and develop players for the future. These sessions have ensured that throughout local schools, anyone interested in playing cricket will be able to approach our club, knowing that they are more than welcome.”

Colin Thompson, Tranmere Victoria CC (Wirral)

Name: Hayley Waites

School: The Catholic High School Chester

Comments:

Jo has been absolutely fantastic with our students at the Cricket Club she has set up. The numbers have increased each week and the girls have improved their knowledge and skills of the game. Jo has been an excellent Role Model to all our girls who have never played Cricket before, she has been extremely reliable and inspired the girls to want to play a new sport. We have set up a match for the girls to play in in the coming weeks which we are really looking forward to. Thankyou for providing the opportunity for our school.

“As the junior coach at Winsford Cricket Club, I was offered some twilight sessions by Mark Greaves during the summer we ran them on a Thursday evening from 4.30pm till 5.30pm. Our own junior seasons were after this at 6 pm so we hoped the kids would stay on and join the club. The sessions that were successful due to weather were really good we had 20 + players signed up and Mark and a junior activator ran the sessions, the players were really engaged and after the trial sessions we (Winsford CC) continued them up till August.”

Gavin Simpson, Winsford CC (Mid Cheshire)

Name: Amy Knowles

School: Culcheth Community Primary School

Comments:

Chance to shine has been an exciting programme to follow with Year 6. The coaching, lead by Owen Williamson, was delivered at a high standard and lessons were enjoyed by all. The children built up great relationships with Owen, and as a result progressed and enjoyed the sessions each week. Owen was able to meet the needs of all children regardless of ability. He allowed children to build up confidence and enjoyment. Many children now have the skills and knowledge to continue to play cricket outside of school and these sessions have definitely increased the number of children playing cricket at playtime! The programme also introduced an after school club which was extremely successful.

“The twilight sessions have helped us build good links with two local primary schools. We have seen a swelling of numbers in the lower age groups and are now in a position to enter teams into the league in 2017, which is fantastic. Huge thanks to Cheshire Cricket Board and Chance to Shine for providing these sessions.”

Dave Lee, Birkenhead Park Cricket Club (Wirral)

Name: Peter Jones  
School: St Marys Catholic College  
Comments:

The coaching we have received has been brilliant for students to access a sport they might not necessarily be able to do for socioeconomic reasons. Chris has provided really inspiring sessions that have had the lads buzzing about cricket and wanting to come back for more. Thank you so much for the service you are providing.

“The Twilight Sessions in April/May gave the start of the Junior season at Cheadle Hulme a real buzz. It was great to see the outfield full of eager children from our local partner schools; Hursthead, Moss Hey and Lane End. There were 49 children on the register as a result of the work James Hendry had already done in the three schools, with a healthy mix of girls and boys and nearly all attended all four sessions. The sessions also had a real benefit for our coaching staff as our new level two coach (Jordan Potts) assisted with each of them and then remained involved with junior coaching throughout the season. As a result of the positive outcomes that we have had at Cheadle Hulme this season, our club committee has requested that we organise similar sessions at the start of next season and continue our partnerships with the three local schools in future.”

Howard Read, Cheadle Hulme CC (Stockport)

Name: Andrew Stenhouse  
School: Poulton Lancelyn  
Comments: Our children have benefited greatly from not only the expert coaching provided by Chris but also from the CPD sessions provided by Gareth for our staff. The children in Year 6 really developed a keen interest in cricket and they really enjoyed the competitions that they entered. As a teacher I now feel much more confident when it comes to teaching cricket and I will ensure I take the skills that I have been taught further in my career.

“Following the twilight sessions run by Cheshire Cricket Board, we saw a rise in numbers of around 15 per cent. Many of the children who attended the free sessions, ‘stayed on’ afterwards to participate in the club practice sessions, and some went on to play for the teams throughout the summer. Perhaps of even greater benefit has been the number of new parents looking to get involved in the running of the club. I am confident we will be able to persuade a couple to attend the Coach Support Worker course in 2017, which will put us in a much healthier position in terms of volunteers. Many thanks once again to CCB and Chance to Shine.”

Chris Davies, Parkfield Liscard Cricket Club (Wirral)

Name: Mark Lindley  
School: Bishop Heber  
Comments:  
The Chance to Shine programme has been a resounding and invaluable success in the school with all concerned. The coaching by Owen Williamson has been of a very high standard throughout the programme and his delivery and rapport with students is first class.  
It has catered for students of all abilities and supported the development of cricket in the school for both students personal development and also for staff with the practices used to support our own personal CPD

“The twilight sessions have worked well in bridging the gap between schools and clubs. One of the main challenges we face as a club is to get kids and parents through the gate in the first place, so this was a great help. With 3 new Level 2 coaches they helped out with the sessions with Mark, so this also helped them develop as coaches with the new ideas that Mark passed on to them. Several of the youngsters stayed behind to join in the Club's Junior session after and have now joined the club. Great work same again next year please.”

**Phil Guest - Oakmere CC (Mid-Cheshire)**

Name: Jon White

School: Clare Mount

Comments: Without the Chance to Shine programme, our young cricket players would never have had the chance to play organised cricket. Gareth's competition format is superbly organised. Through allowing us to include overage players in the development competitions, Gareth has created the opportunity for young people with autism and moderate learning difficulties to be able to access the school games delivery model.

He also adroitly integrated the pathway into the Cheshire Cricket Board Disability Squad by offering this opportunity and developing younger players. Without Gareth's knowledge, understanding and flexibility our players would not get their start.

We have had unbelievable highlights; beating mainstream schools and encouraging our mixed age girls' team to interact with their peers in mainstream from grammar and state schools. Things like this breaks down barriers and changes perception.

We have also fully embraced the coaching offer from Chance to Shine. The funded sessions are utilised in our Community Sports Night and help to develop the game as well as using the rules & ethics of the game to develop character and leadership skills. Chance to Shine have also provided us with a table cricket set to help support young physically disabled pupils with their cricket participation and skills. It is a great programme. Long may it run.

“Most of the new players didn't even know we existed prior to the tournament and twilight sessions, so that is a lesson for our marketing approach, and I would be very keen for this exercise to be repeated in 2017 if Cheshire Cricket board and Gareth would be available. We will be able to supply venue and support coaching for however many sessions could be offered. Overall we are extremely grateful to Gareth and the Cheshire for this initiative and hope to see continued success for the appeal of cricket for young boys and girls over the multitude of other leisure opportunities.”

**Tim Watkins, New Brighton CC (Wirral)**

Name: Diane Penn

School: St. Peter's CE Primary Heswall

Comments: Once again, as a school, we have really benefited from the Chance to shine coaching and access to competitions. The children love 'Cricket Chris's as they call him and they learn so many skills which help them in their games. It inspires children to want to play and is a great start leading to many children then joining local clubs. This year after the coaching we ran comps during lunch time and had over 40 year 3/4 children taking part both girls and boys. We then took 32 of these to the diamond cricket comp which they thoroughly enjoyed. year 5/6 had a block of coaching and the enthusiasm of the children was again noticeable. I took three teams of boys to the local competition and could have taken more. I also had one team of girls. The coaches are so committed and enthusiastic and their love of the game is passed to the children and even the staff who also learn so much from the sessions. Thanks again to Gareth and Chris for all their hard work and help it is really appreciated. We look forward to working with them again. Diane Penn

With the help from the Cheshire Cricket Board, we have managed to put four parents through the Coach Support Worker course this season. The majority of parents had no cricket background and the support worker taster session they provided us helped enormously. It broke down any fears or barriers they had to not attend the course.

Once the parents had taken part in some of the drills and games, they could see everything from their own children's perspective.

**Paul Jones, Marple CC (Stockport)**

Name: Danny Hart

School: New Brighton Primary

Comments: The Chance to Shine project continues to be a huge success in our school. It entuses children to become engaged in a sport they might not otherwise participate in whilst giving staff at our school some useful ideas when teaching. Gareth has proved to be a popular coach within our school community as children and staff regularly ask if its "cricket day today!" The opportunities the children have to compete in school against their peers and at local school games competitions have been a great experience for both boys and girls. Children are wanting to play more cricket as a result of the positive experiences at school and competitions. I can't thank Gareth enough for his continued support of PE and School Sport and quality of delivery during our curriculum time lessons.

In collaboration with Cheshire Cricket Board, we (Lindow Cricket Club) ran girls-only cricket sessions for the first time this summer. We are a club passionate about growing cricket participation amongst all members of our local community, but would not have been able to develop and run these sessions without their assistance and expertise. We worked alongside the Cheshire Cricket Board to advertise the sessions to girls in the area, particularly in the local primary schools, and across the summer we had on average 15 girls at each session. These sessions were led and organised brilliantly by Jessica Lewis who created an enjoyable atmosphere and it was fantastic to see girls enjoying their first taste of cricket. Some of these girls may decide cricket is not for them and some may now develop a life-long love for the game, but either way I am very proud that we are providing them with the opportunity to make that decision. This would not have been possible without Chance to Shine funding Jessica's involvement in the sessions and for that we are extremely grateful. We are hoping to build on this again next year and are trying to develop our infrastructure of volunteers and coaches to create a thriving women and girls section at the club. I believe that in our catchment area this is very possible, but it does take time and we would therefore require Jessica's support and involvement again next year as we look to capitalise on the hard work and progress of 2016.

**Adam Bull, Lindow Cricket Club (Macclesfield)**

Name: Jonathan Palmer

School: Malpas Alport Primary School

Comments: The coaching sessions were fantastic. Each session would focus on a new aspect of the game and would build on skills taught in the previous sessions. The activities were always massively engaging and entertaining for the children as well as allowing them to perform at their own skill level. The sessions were always well resourced and prepared for and the management of children during these session was very good. The teaching staff who accompanied the children have also commented on how much they have learnt from the sessions and how it has helped when they deliver lessons on striking and fielding games. Thank you very much, we hope we can continue to utilise your expertise next year.

Just a quick note to say thanks again for yesterday and please pass on our appreciation to the U13s team you brought yesterday. It was a brilliant experience for our girls to be able to play at a high standard against another girls team. Probably the only time this season we have had that opportunity. Going into next season, we would always welcome a friendly opportunity against a Cheshire/Development side at pretty much any of the girls age groups. We accept that there may be some travel involved but we are keen to play games that will benefit our group and that the girls will enjoy. I know the girls were chuffed with their t-shirts and I am sure you will see the girls you spoke to at the winter courses too. All the best for what remains of the season and thanks again for your support, not just yesterday, but for the whole season.

Ray Bell, Stockport Georgians CC