



**Rehaan Rather Cheshire Cricket Board
Community Development & Coaching Officer
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Q&A Introducing Rehaan Rather

- 1. What is your earliest memory of playing cricket? Who first introduced you to the game?*
My earliest memory would have been playing in my local park with my 2 elder brothers. I would follow my father around when I was around 8/9 y/o when he played matches and I would also score for his team so I learnt a lot about the game before actually playing it myself.
- 2. Where did you play your junior club cricket? What did you enjoy most about it?*
I played all my cricket at one club, which was my local club, Cheetham Hill CC. I enjoyed it so much because a lot of my friends played. Not only playing with my friends but making new friends through cricket was another reason I enjoyed playing at this club.
- 3. When did you first become interested in coaching? What was your first coaching role?*
My journey into coaching was unplanned! I played and watched cricket all throughout my childhood and never thought about getting into coaching. I was asked to support my local club at junior training nights and from there the club had supported me to complete my Level2 qualification. My first coaching role would have been at my local cricket club from around 2008 as I was helping out with junior training voluntarily.
- 4. When did you start working in cricket on a professional basis? What was your first job?*
I first started coaching professionally in 2011 when at the time Chane to Shine had approached me to launch a community programme in the area where I lived which had a high area of deprivation and lack of cricket facilities.
- 5. What do you enjoy most about coaching and working in cricket? What is your coaching philosophy?*
The thing I enjoy the most about coaching is helping young people learn and develop. Not just in cricket but other areas too. As a coach you build relationships with players and they get to trust you and come to you for advice and that's one of the things I enjoy about coaching. I also enjoy how much cricket helps people socially and goes beyond playing. Learning new skills, making new friends, treating each other with respect are all key parts of cricket and helped me mature as a person the more I played it. My coaching philosophy has changed through my coaching journey and I think now its supporting players to help and grow, challenging them along the way.

6. *What do you hope to achieve in your new role as Community DCO for Cheshire Cricket Board?*

I hope to set up a pathway of cricket within communities that provide opportunities for young people all the way up to adults. Its important to realise that cricket is not only considered as the traditional hard ball game with white clothing and equipment but there is more to cricket than this. Everyone deserves an opportunity to play cricket and some may want to play cricket socially, short formats, fun and games. If we can set up and establish programs which are centred around fun and engagement, this will hopefully enable more people to take cricket up and become more active.

7. *Which aspects of the job are you most looking forward to?*

I am looking forward to working with people from communities to try and understand what their needs are and how we can make cricket more accessible to them. I am really looking forward to getting out there and meeting new people, making new relationships and working with my colleagues at Cheshire Cricket. I am also looking forward to working on performance cricket as this is and has been a great passion of mine. Offering advice and support to youngsters who are on the pathway and helping them to take their game forward is something I am really looking forward to.

8. *Who are your cricketing heroes and why?*

A hero of mine would have to be Imran Khan who I would love to meet one day! The way he led Pakistan to the 1992 World Cup triumph with almost no expectation will go down in cricketing history. Not only that but the work he has/is doing outside of cricket is also why I consider him as a cricketing hero. In terms of a player I would say my favourite player would have to be Ricky Ponting from Aus. His technique was incredible and I watched him a lot growing up and tried to take parts of his game and put into my own.

9. *What message would you give to youngsters just starting out in the game?*

Enjoy it, have fun and don't worry about anything else. If you have fun, you will stay in the game and become a better person and learn so many new things.

10. *Tell us something interesting about you? What are your interests outside of cricket?*

I have a Masters degree in Management with IT.

I was given a bat from Indian Legend Mohammed Azhuruiddin as a youngster and scored a hundred with it.

Fav film – Shawshank Redemption

Hobbies – going to the gym and lifting heavy stuff!