



As Hampshire coaches we are all aware of Dave's enthusiasm and love of what he does, so at the recent Coaches Development Day at the Rose Bowl I took 10 minutes out to sit him down and find out a little bit more about his journey.

*"Firstly, thank you Dave for taking this timeout, having just finished your 3 sessions I'd like to get an understanding of how things have changed for you since your first involvement in the game."*

*"To begin with can you go back to your earliest introduction to cricket, how did you first get involved?"*

**"Well, like many of us, I started playing because my family played. I'd go along to watch and just naturally got playing. I was playing cricket at school and joined a great local club, Stockport, from where i got involved in the Lancashire colts setup. I progressed from there and spent 2 years on the ground staff prior to joining the armed forces.**

**I continued to play and represented both the Army and the Combined Services teams, the army gave me the opportunity to travel and play"**

*"So what about coaching, how was that structured during your early career?"*

**"I was coached, I recall enjoying it but unlike now it was all focussed on technique. There was no indoor facility, so we just practiced in the nets from April through May and then played through until September.**

**I look at the work we do now with the youngsters, all the conditioning and speed and agility work is excellent for them, my closed season was either playing Football for overall fitness and Squash**

which helped with Agility and Hand Eye co-ordination! Essentially you ended the season, oiled your bat and put it away for the winter..."

*"Was coaching always of interest to you, how did the interest come about?"*

**"My first experience of coaching was in 1976 when I was in the army, I was playing for the combined services and got the chance to do the level 1. But I did little with it for about 15 years, I was nearing the end of my army career based at Middle Wallop, I thought it would be interesting to work in coaching and there was the start of a new structure in the game. I guess in a way I was fortunate that I had qualified as a Coach trainer, early days of coach ED, as well as a level 3 coach. I started working around the local area in both Hampshire and Wiltshire."**

*"I guess the Army had you travelling the world but has that continued with cricket?"*

**"indeed, I joined Hampshire shortly after they setup the Academy and I was involved in coaching all age groups, I had of course played in Germany with the combined services so when I had the chance to join the ICC as the part of the European development group I was more than happy. I left Hampshire and was appointed as the 1<sup>st</sup> development manager for Cricket in Gibraltar, this included, I have played or coached in more than 20 countries throughout Europe, I also spent 4 years based in Hong Kong and played throughout Asia."**

**"It has certainly made for a varied and extremely diverse life"**

*"With all that you have done and seen, if you were starting out again would the pathway be the same?"*

**"I think so, I have no regrets about any of the choices I made along the way. There may have been a couple of things I'd have done differently but from beginning to end I have had a great time and as I said there are no regrets"**

*"Is there another step that you want to take, where will Dave Gelling go from here?"*

**"Well, retirement at some point. There will be a time when I will start to become less active as a coach. I'd like, I think, to become more active in the Coach Education as a mentor, I feel it is important that we carry on the development of coaches and this is something I'm hoping to work more on. I'll keep in touch with both Army Cricket and Coach Ed, but a growing amount of what I do will be off the field, possibly in the bar..., that's going to keep me involved. I couldn't just stop it's the enjoyment and the activity that I'd miss most."**

*"Thanks Dave for the insight and honesty, one final obvious question. A keen cricketer about to leave school, would you recommend a career as a cricket coach to them?"*

**"That's the easy one, I'd recommend it 100% to anyone, it's hugely rewarding if you are prepared to put the effort in."**