



Joanne Richardson

Jo Richardson from Beverley Town CC recently took the bull by the horns in 2018 to encourage women and girls to participate in the local softball festivals across East Yorkshire. She highlighted a number of mums, girlfriends and daughters that visited the club to see family members and, in her words, thought “why aren’t we playing!”. Following on from this Jo then organised a further three teams for the 1st East Yorkshire Women & Girls Indoor League.

Following on from this Jo has undertaken numerous roles at the club to assist the development and drive the club through the difficult time of COVID-19. Below are a few of these:

- Safeguarding Officer
- COVID-19 Risk Assessments and implication/management to get our cricket running
- Monday Night Softball Management
- Ladies Cricket Organiser
- Ladies Player - has even hit some sixes.

Alan Acklam Club Chairman quoted “The hours of work and commitment Jo has done this year has been commendable and a massive part of what we have achieved as a club this year”.



Alice Acklam

Alice Acklam 12 first began her cricket journey at 5-years-old attending the Beverley Town CC Monday Night Softball sessions, with her family encouraging her to give it a go and that it's a sport for all.

From being involved with cricket down at the club this has seen and great impact on Alice's school-life and seen improved social skills, been part of a club/team as well as given her insight into a healthy lifestyle as well as her most important creating friendships and then subsequently seeing her friends on a regular basis.

Alice's vision for future involvement would be to one day play for Yorkshire Ladies or participate in women's senior cricket at Beverley as she says the best thing about being involved is that "I just love cricket and been down at the club".

Ian Goff, Junior Co-ordinator outlined "Alice has been a massive influence on other girls within the community and at the club. From Alice taking the jump into cricket many others have followed and the club now boasts 20 girls regularly attending Monday Night Softball training as well as having three teams in the East Yorkshire Primary Girls League on Sundays."



Daisy Stokoe

This week Daisy Stokoe of Whitby and Sessay Ladies cricket clubs made her senior debut for the Yorkshire Women's side, aged 16.

Daisy has played little cricket this season owing to Covid-19 but proudly responded to the call and played in the match against NE Warriors, taking 3 wickets on her first appearance for the full county side.

Michael Stones Outlined a clear message of “Well played, Daisy!” Below is an image of Daisy bowling against the NE Warriors.



Yorkshire Girls County Age Group – Female Coaches

Eleanor Smith – Age 19

Came through the Yorkshire County Age Group system and now a member of the senior squad. Completed the ECB Coach Support Worker Course whilst attending Huddersfield New College and then gained the Level 2 qualification: ECB Certificate in Coaching Young People & Adults. Supported and coached our Pathways sessions. Worked with our u13 teams in the games played in August and September. Eleanor will be one of our winter pathways coaches. She knows the CAG system and acts as a coach/role model and mentor to the players.

Rachel Slater – Age 18

Came through the Yorkshire County Age Group system and is a product of our Diamonds Regional Development Centre. Rachel has now been named in the new Regional Northern Diamonds squad. She gained her Level 2 coaching qualification in February 2020, part of this was her supporting our winter pathways sessions. Rachel has been supporting CAG training sessions and matches throughout August and September and the plan is for her to coach over the coming winter when her own training schedule allows.

Ella Telford – Age 21

Ella came through the Lancashire County Age Group system and gained selection to the Yorkshire Diamonds Regional Development Centre 2 years ago and has now been named in the new Regional Northern Diamonds squad. She gained her Level 2 coaching qualification in February 2020, part of this was her supporting our winter pathways sessions. Ella is keen to carry on her coaching career (alongside her playing one) and our aim is for her to coach one of Yorkshire's regional u13 teams in 2021.

Other young female coaches we have supported through coach education and have mapped out a plan to support our Yorkshire County Age Group teams in the future include:

- Adrianna Darlow – Age 19
- Leah Dobson – Age 18
- Emilia Rossi – Age 18

Whiston Parish Church Belles

Hi, my name is Julie Thompson, aged 49 and I live in Whiston close to the ground of Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club.

When and how did you first get involved with cricket? Who encouraged you to get involved?

I've been a parent spectator at the club for the past ten years but in April 2017 myself and 3 other women decided we'd have a go at setting up a women & girl's team. We spread the word, placed adverts in local papers & posted on social media. Our club committee were very supportive of our endeavours, ensuring we had pitch time, coaching and sponsored shirts.

What impact has cricket had on your life?

Cricket has had a positive impact on my life, increasing fitness and social engagements. It has been good to learn a new skill within a friendly supportive environment & engage with more members of the local community.

What's your involvement with cricket at the moment?

I attend training sessions and play both softball & hardball cricket, indoor & outdoor, friendly & league matches. I am also a member of the clubs committee. Myself and many other women/girls support the club at social events, getting involved with the organisation & running of various events.

What's been the best thing about getting involved with this project? Women & Girls' cricket

I am proud to be part of a new expansion for our own club & cricket in general.

What's your vision for your involvement with cricket in the future?

I hope to be able to contribute to my local club in the future, probably more through recruitment, organisation & assistance rather than winning any awards for my cricketing prowess!

What's your hope for the game as a whole and specifically for women and girls?

I look forward to cricket being enjoyed, supported and encouraged at all levels and especially at grass roots level. It would be great to see girls playing cricket at school as much as hockey, netball & rounders so that it becomes a mainstream option within school.

Anything else you'd like to share about your journey?

South Yorkshire has been a great location to play women & girls cricket. Lots of clubs are participating now which means we have been able to enjoy playing local league matches.



Tickhill Cricket Club

Nicola Saunders, Tickhill W&G founder, captain and committee member. Trustee of Tickhill community connectors a registered charity to combat social isolation and encourage community activities to promote inclusivity.

Initially it was supporting men's cricket with cricket teas through friends and then I was approached by club president Michael Ford to create a W&G's section and 'hey presto' we made it happen. The impact of developing the section has increased my social interaction (making friends), fitness levels and assisted my mental wellbeing as I have a very stressful day job in business development.

I run the Allstars with a team of women, I run 2 W&G softball teams and a newly formed hardball team. We are also working towards creating a Tickhill Cricket Tots to reach out to more age groups.

Creating a fully inclusive environment and being welcomed so warmly by the men's section. 4 of our ladies have already played with the Academy Hardball team. We have a great following and the men enjoy watching us as much as we do them. Our age range is currently 11 years to 70 promoting that inclusivity. Also developing 3 women in to trained ECB level 1 coaches.

My vision is to ensure cricket is inclusive for all ages, abilities and disabilities. One day I would love to see a senior walking cricket team, Tickhill Cricket Tots is work in progress and disability cricket would be totally awesome.

My hope is to develop our w&G to county and then country level. Also to see more girls play in the mend league. This will take alot of time and dedication but we are determined to get there. We have been provided excellent support from the club and YCB, We have been in the local newspapers and regional TV showcasing our efforts.... What next perhaps a full blown documentary



Emma Lawson

Emma took her first Umpiring course in 2018 at Harrogate CC at the age of 13, before taking her Umpires Stage 1 and 2 at Caribbean CC in February, 2020.

Since last year, she has stood in some prestigious matches, including:

Yorkshire U13 CAG

Yorkshire U17 CAG

Yorkshire Diamonds RDC

And has umpired for a full season (as full as it could be due to Covid-19) in the Bradford Premier League, where she has officiated with her Dad, Tony (the first Father/daughter pairing to do so in the Bradford League).

Her last match sees her appointed to one of the Bradford League's Covid Cup Finals, along with Helen McGuire) between Sandal CC and Ossett CC, thus making the two of them the first all-female pairing to stand in a Bradford League cup final.

Emma is also a talented left arm spinner, playing her club cricket for Saxton CC, whilst also representing Yorkshire in U15 CAG team.



Petrina Drury

Petrina is 45 years old and had only picked up a cricket bat on the beach or in a park with her family until 2019, when she became inspired by the growth of the women's section at Sheffield Collegiate Cricket Club, driven by Katie Stewart. Previously, she viewed cricket as something other people understood, and men played. Last year she signed up to first ever all female 'SuperOver' competition with her daughter Ianna and Ianna's friend Hannah, in the hope that the young girls would get something out of it. Since then, all three of them attend training weekly and participate in matches.

Petrina really has improved dramatically! She has gone from someone who didn't really have a clue about cricket, to someone who bats and bowls confidently and hits regular 4s in matches! She has worked hard, and her understanding of the game, the scoring and the strategic thinking have improved a zillion percent.

Cricket has definitely improved her confidence, but it wasn't instant. Initially her confidence was dented as she felt quite incompetent, but she has experienced a turnaround and puts this down to fantastic, approachable coaches and team mates who have encouraged her and she is now far more confident than she was a year ago.

Petrina loves the social side and feels she is now part of a fantastic group of women and girls. She loves being part of a team, and enjoys the WhatsApp banter!

As a busy teacher, mother and wife, it can be difficult to fit a hobby in, but cricket has made Petrina carve out time for herself. She has made sure she leaves work on time to attend training, especially at stressful times when it was the last thing she felt like doing, but the very thing she knew she needed to be doing.

Petrina highly recommends cricket to any females who are in need of finding something for themselves. "You don't have to be any good", she says, "Just willing to learn something new. Local clubs are full of local people with the same outlook. Coaches are friendly and encouraging and over time, without you realising, you are improving- my score sheets are testament to that!"



Bradford Park Avenue Ladies Cricket Club

With the growing number of female players and teams in Yorkshire there is a huge need for more female coaches especially in the BAME communities. With funding through the core cities programme in Yorkshire we ran a Foundation I Coach Programme to support the work being done in Bradford. 16 Asian ladies attended who initially lacked confidence and self-esteem.

The Yorkshire Cricket Board have a coach educator workforce that are very quick to assess varying situations on courses, the three Coach Developers on this course created a learning environment that was required for this group, relaxed, fun and engaging and allowed the ladies to grow in confidence and smile all the way through. Two of the Coach Developers on this course were females who inspired the group to complete and move forward to achieve their goals in the community.

Since the completion of the course and some hard work by the development team within the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation, Bradford Park Avenue Ladies Cricket Club was formed. The club has gone from strength to strength and have just announced Parveen Malik as the junior girls lead.



Fitting nicely with the women's big cricket month we thought this was an ideal opportunity to support the coaches at BPAL. As part of our coach development programme we will be delivering a CPD evening at the club. This is an ideal opportunity to offer any support around coaching, CPD plays a big part of coach development in Yorkshire.

Although a new club the ladies are now playing hard ball cricket as well as soft ball options for players that just want to get involved and also have a junior section. The foundations are in place so hopefully the club will grow and be sustainable for many years, it has been a great initiative to be involved in and support moving forward.

Yorkshire WBCM Female Only Coaching Course (17th September)

With the growing number of female players and teams in Yorkshire there is a huge need for more female coaches. Fitting nicely with the women's big cricket month we thought this was an ideal opportunity to grow the workforce. As part of our upcoming coach development programme we will be delivering 2 female only courses concurrently at Sheffield Collegiate CC on the evening of September 17th. We have 18 places on the course and at time of writing there are 14 candidates registered. We can extend numbers if we need to.

Once qualified the women and girls will be able to support the sessions running at their clubs, we would like to think in the future this group of female coaches will be inspired to move into the Foundation Coaching programme to enhance their knowledge and skills. These courses are designed to develop people so confidence levels will grow too.

The 2 courses are:

ECB Cricket Activator (aged 14+) – this is proving a popular choice for a number of our County Age Group players who would like to take the first step on the coaching ladder and add to their personal CV. The Course aims to encourage young people to get more involved as cricket volunteers. The course will provide the skills and knowledge needed to volunteer in a wide variety of roles in clubs, community and education.

ECB Coach Support Worker (aged 16+) – Aimed at anyone above the age of 16 this course includes the online Safeguarding Young Cricketers Course and candidates also need to complete an ECB DBS clearance. It is designed to help to develop confidence and equip candidates with the knowledge, understanding and applied skills to support a qualified coach in a coaching session and create a safe, enjoyable and welcoming player-centred environment. Ideal for females looking to help with junior players and ladies' softball and hardball teams.

Chance to Shine Secondary School – Girls Leadership Programme

Tapton School

We selected Tapton Secondary School as part of our Secondary school girls leadership programme because of the enthusiasm shown by the PE staff to support our delivery and drive the initiative that was funded by Chance to Shine. Initially the girls that signed up for the programme were very shy, quiet and introvert, we gave a lot of thought to how we might deliver this. We employed a female cricketer, Molly Whitaker to steer the ship, although Molly is a great player and coach she had never delivered a programme like this. The year group we selected was Sarah Goodheads (PE Teacher at Tapton) group, Sarah is very enthusiastic about girls cricket and supports all the schools competitions run in Sheffield.

Molly and Sarah formed a great relationship where Sarah proved to be an amazing mentor for Molly. To see Molly blossom over the weeks she spent with Sarah was unbelievable and the relationship Molly had with the girls on the programme was truly inspirational.

Under Molly's guidance the girls developed the art of leadership and the confidence to speak in front of a group, organise activities safely, have the knowledge and understanding around the role of a leader etc. The girls supported our programmes in Sheffield, leading on many events through the school year. The end of year one flagship event was at Headingley, the girls were amazing they organised a carousel of activities and saw 300 children on the day.

Chance to Shine made a video on the day which was powerful. There are messages on there from the girls, Molly and Sarah are truly inspirational. The girls are now moving into year two of the programme and are planning lunch time clubs and afterschool clubs for younger girls. The idea is that the girls who were on the programme last year will mentor the girls onto the programme this year.

The end goal would be to get the girls involved at the local cricket clubs and become role models for the younger girls to look up to and be inspired to become the same.

*****Thank you to Chance to Shine as there is a short video available to support this case study***

[Chance to Shine Secondary School Girls Leadership Programme \(Tapton School\)](#)

Claire Sanderson

When asked to describe herself in cricketing terms, Clare Sanderson's modest response is, "I'm a 50-year-old cricket fan!" She could have said so much more – award winning coach, All Stars Lead Activator, youth worker, qualified cricket coach.

Apart from being a self-confessed cricket "nut", Clare has a passion for cricket and the benefits it brings to those coaching and playing – fitness, fun and friendships in equal measure. From an early age, going to cricket matches at Headingley has been a massive part of her life, but until 2016, Clare had never considered that her relationship with cricket would ever be anything other than as a spectator. It was then, facing potential redundancy that she took a risk and made the life-changing decision to become a volunteer for Cricket Without Boundaries, "They are an AIDS and HIV awareness charity that uses cricket to engage with young people, while sharing key health messages about AIDS and HIV.. I did two, 2-week trips to Africa in 2017 and 2018 and through these realised that I had more to give to the game. I quickly got on to a Level 2 coaching course and the rest is history."

Clare went on to run an award-winning project for Chance to Shine Street, and also became an All Stars Cricket activator at her local club, "The Heera-Ranis (meaning Diamond Queens) is an award winning girls group in the heart of Harehills - they are all from South Asian heritage, predominantly Pakistani. I am an Allstars coach at my local Club, Old Leos in Leeds, and I work hard to engage girls and get them to play alongside their brothers etc. I have also set up and play in a women's soft ball team at Old Leos/ Alwoodley CC (2 neighbouring clubs) we've played in festivals - but really enjoy training and learning to play too"



Nick Boyes, Chairman at Old Leos CC had this to say about Clare and her passion for cricket, "Clare has been involved at Leo's for a few seasons now, and from the outset her enthusiasm and energy for cricket and the development and expansion of the game into new areas has been there for all to see. She is an All Stars lead activator and is also heavily involved in the Leo's U7 and U9 group, actively promoting the pathway from All Stars into existing playing offers at the club.

Clare also spearheads a Women and Girls group that she has created along with Alwoodley CC, our neighbouring club and her involvement in these 2 projects is key for the development of Women and Girls cricket in our community. As girls graduate from All Stars and Dynamos cricket in future

seasons, there will be an established Women's group at the club which will give girls a genuine choice of where to play their cricket, which will hopefully mean that more and more women and girls join the club and play our great game."

Clare sees her future as still being involved with coaching but would like to pass on her skills and knowledge to a new generation of coaches – particularly the importance of the wider benefits of cricket – social and personal development and community engagement.

In conclusion, I think Clare's own words sum up her relationship with cricket, "I never thought that I would be more than a spectator - and now I can't imagine my life without coaching and playing (a bit) I LOVE CRICKET!"

Kirsty Gavillet – Chair of Bradford Park Avenue Ladies CC

Kirsty Gavillet is the Chair of Bradford Park Avenue Ladies CC, providing a safe, fun and inclusive place for women to feel comfortable to play, regardless of ability, race, religion or sexual orientation. This has allowed the club to create a great environment where women and girls can come along without feeling any judgement.

Joining the army gave Kirsty a fantastic opportunity to play cricket and helped her decide that cricket is a game for her, “Military service allowed me to play for 7 months of the year, all over the world. It also gave me the opportunity to do my coaching and umpire qualifications. I feel I have lived and breathed cricked for well over a decade now. Cricket most definitely kept me in military service longer than I would have normally and it’s allowed me to make friends I never thought I would ever meet, and I met my fiancé playing cricket too. So, I’d say it’s had a really big impact on my life.”

The health and wellbeing benefits of cricket are very important to Kirsty and she tried to pass this message on through her coaching whenever possible.



Kirsty also has some strong feelings regarding the Women’s game, “unfortunately cricket still isn't equal, on or off the field. At international level, women don’t get paid the same and their games are only second to the men's. At grass roots level, the Women's game is constantly plagued by inequality. I would like to see the game become as it is in Australia, where Women and Girls are seen and treated the same as their male counterparts, without feeling like there just a tick in the box to prove equality.”

Kirsty is determined to create an environment where no such inequality exists at BPALCC. The club has been so successful within Bradford because it offers something other ladies’ teams don't. “Inclusivity and full focus. Most ladies’ teams are part of a men's club who have a women's team. BPAL is a women's club for women. Therefore, we give them our full commitment.”

It certainly seems cricket is in safe hands at BPALCC!

Bradford Park Avenue Ladies CC

In August 2019, a charity ladies' soft ball cricket match was played at Park Avenue Cricket Ground in Bradford. The day was such a success, and inspired so many of the participants that within a few days, Bradford Park Avenue Ladies CC (BPALCC) was founded. The club draws its membership from a variety of communities and family backgrounds. Almost all have one thing in common – they have been around cricket for most of their lives, supporting partners and children but now have their own opportunity to play.

Kirsty Gavillet, BPALCC Chair explained the club's goal is to "provide a safe, fun and inclusive place for women and girls to feel comfortable to play, regardless of ability, race, religion or sexual orientation." 12 months on, the club has a settled structure and playing offer with an ambitious five-year development plan in place. Kirsty also has thoughts on what makes it such a special place to play cricket. "I think it offers something other ladies' teams don't. Inclusivity and full focus. Most ladies' teams are part of a men's club who have a women's team. BPAL is a women's club for women. Therefore, we give them our full commitment."



Currently the club has 47 senior and 27 junior members who can access a variety of coaching and playing options free of charge. These include a 1st XI and Super 8 team playing 'Hard ball cricket' and regular social 'Soft ball' matches as well as weekly training sessions for all. For juniors, the ECB's flagship All Stars Cricket programme has given a fantastic first experience of cricket to the club's girls who now have an eye on playing competitive cricket in the local junior leagues in 2021. But it doesn't end there as Parveen Malik, the club's Junior lead explains, "My vision as the Junior Girls Lead is to provide a safe haven for girls up to 15 years, to have fun, make friendships and to feel a sense of belonging through cricket. Alongside this, the 5-year plan is to have an u9/u11/U13s/u15 girls' team."

Positive role models improved mental and physical health, lifelong friendships, community engagement, breaking down barriers and negative stereotypes – all delivered by Women for Women & Girls at BPALCC.



Andre Greaves – Higham Cricket Club

My name is Andrea Greaves and I am the newest member of the Higham Cricket Club – Ladies Team; I joined the club mid-August of this year.

Originally from Germany, I have lived in England for over 21 years now.

I am in my early 50's, married and my husband and I have three children between us: My husband's son is in his second year of Mechanical Engineering at Leeds University, his daughter is in her second year of A-Levels. My daughter started her third year at college studying Theatrical & Special Effects Make up after completing her level 2 in Media & Techniques, and level 2 & 3 in Make-up Artistry.

In my 30+ years of professional life I have acquired a variety of skills sets such sales & marketing, organising corporate & social events, business travels, representing companies at International Trade Fairs, leading projects, Supply Chain, editing and designing the company magazine.

As a member of the Charity, Community, Social & Wellbeing Committee at work I have developed close relationships with our chosen charities organising and participating in fundraising events in addition to organising social events & trips for employees.

I am a First Aider at Work and Mental Health First Aider.

I am also a member of the Worsbrough Ward Alliance and get involved in community activities such as environmental matters, to help tackle loneliness and isolation and providing support setting up food banks to name but few.

I have a wide range of hobbies and interests such as the outdoors (camping, gardening, clay pigeon shooting), travelling (fell in love with Cornwall & Canada), socialising, music, history & politics ...

In my younger years I participated in regional Gymnastics competition. I also played a bit of tennis, badminton, volley ball, and I'm quite good at table tennis.

I don't really like jogging, although I did a 10k run for charity once. I simply lack the patience for running.

I also have completed other challenges, all on behalf of various charities: 11-mile canal walks, 20-mile walk, 26-mile mountain bike ride on the Salisbury Plains, and the Yorkshire 3 Peaks.

After many months of resistance, my friends Helen and Nicki finally convinced me to come along to join the Cricket team. I was quite apprehensive at first since I never played Cricket in my life, nor did I know anything about it, but everyone made me feel welcome and took me on straight away.

I somehow got hooked and have been enjoying all the practice sessions since. Although, I still need to get my head around the rules. Nevertheless, I cancelled my gym membership immediately after my first session.

I can also see that being part of a great team is helping my mental wellbeing following a recent tragedy in my family.

It is apparent that the coaches are very much dedicated and treat each of us with respect irrespective of our skills and abilities, always at hand giving tips how to improve. All of us are very supportive and respectful of each other.

I am eager to learn and to get to practice sessions as much as I can; and maybe in a year's time or so I might even make it into the team to play in competitive matches.

I have plenty of additional skills to offer, but for now I am happy to take a back seat and let the more experienced members to take their turns of captainship a team, attending board meetings or getting involved otherwise.

It would be great to see the Higham Cricket Club – Ladies Team progress and develop to become one of the leading teams in the region. With the dedicated support by the coaches and our determination there is the potential to make this happen. Some of the younger team members could have the potential to move into professional cricket.

I would like to see local women's cricket teams to be promoted more widely, advertise games and other events on social media outlets, have an info stand at Barnsley town events. This could potentially attract sponsors, to be able to purchase new equipment and sports gear, help with potential travel costs (bus hire etc),

More importantly, attract more girls and women wanting to join a cricket team.

Charlotte Plant

My name is Charlotte Plant, I am 22 years old and a member of Higham Cricket Club's Women's softball team. I joined the group after my Mother (who also plays) encouraged me to give it a go. As an individual who had never played cricket (aside from at family picnics etc,) I feel as though I have thrived within the team environment and have well and truly developed a passion for the sport. For myself joining the women's team had a massive positive impact upon my life. When I first joined, I had recently graduated university and moved back home, taking on a challenge and learning new skills gave me a much needed sense of purpose. Not to mention the social aspect of the club including the friends I've made there, making the transition so much easier. Many members of my family are also a part of the team and it has been amazing to have the opportunity to play competitive cricket alongside them. Having initially joined the club not even knowing how to properly hold a cricket bat, myself and many other members have now progressed to hardball cricket training as encouraged by our coaches. It is fantastic to be part of a team that constantly supports one another and I only hope our progress as well as our enthusiasm, can act as encouragement to other women to get involved in the sport.



Jessica Lewis – Hallam Cricket Club

1. I'm Jessica Lewis I live in Sheffield, and I love sport. I play Rugby and Cricket. I compete at Olympic Weightlifting and I love Horse Riding. I play cricket for Hallam Cricket Club U11s along with a few other girls, and SY girls. I've been playing cricket since the age of 6 and from that age I've played many matches and made lots of new friends.
2. I started playing cricket at the age of 6 after watching my brother and his friends play. My parents and brother have been a big support to me and encouraged me to do well and have fun. There are some older girls in my club who coach me sometimes and inspire me to keep practising.
3. Cricket has had a big impact in my life because whenever I had bad days I could relax by practising my cricket skills and making new friends.
4. Recently my team (HCC Tornadoes) won the cricket league we play in and Hallam CC had their first girls cricket match! I have played for South Yorkshire girls with some very good players. Cricket at Hallam has finished for the season, but I will be playing in U13's cricket for Hallam next year.
5. The best thing is to see more and more girls playing and gradually getting better and better with each and every training session. It's also nice to see everyone making friends and having fun and enjoying it.
6. I'd love to keep playing as I get older and meet new people along the way and get better. I hope to become as good as Jofra Archer one day and I'd like to meet him.
7. More girl's/women's Cricket on the television and more of it played in different Cricket clubs. A girls Cricket league and a chance to meet other girl's teams from different places across England. School girls Cricket tournaments and more Cricket played in schools.
8. Fun Fact: Joe Root played rugby for my club, Sheffield Tigers RUFC when he was younger. His photo is still on the wall!



Alex Garner – Hallam Cricket Club

1. Tell us a bit about yourself (name, where you're from, a bit of background)

- Alex Garner, 17 years old A-level student from Sheffield play cricket for Hallam CC and South Yorkshire and been part of Yorkshire training squad. I've played cricket since I was 7, along side Football for SWLFC and SULFC and other sports during school. I'm an avid Liverpool FC supporter. I was the First female player to captain a Hallam CC team, and was awarded an award for Outstanding services to the club as a junior. I have. Been coaching since 2016, starting with the All Stars which was the largest cohort in the country. Outside cricket and other sports, I love to travel with my family and spend time with my friends.

2. When and how did you first get involved with cricket? Who encouraged you to get involved?

- I first got involved with cricket aged 7 because my cousin played so I went along with him. A player who I have always looked up to as a role model in cricket is Jonny Bairstow.

3. What impact has cricket had on your life?

- Cricket has had a huge impact on my life, not only has it taken up the majority of my free time outside of school but it has had a hugely positive impact on my physical and mental health. Cricket has always been something that I have put all my energy into and invested time and effort into and knowing that I have training, or a match gives me something to look forward too and enjoy. When I'm not playing cricket, I'm watching, reading about or learning more new things about cricket.

4. What's your involvement with cricket at the moment?

- At the moment, I play cricket for Hallam and for Sheffield Transport in the women's super 8 competition and this season I trained with the Yorkshire U17 squad. I helped run the Hallam U9 team, coaching them through the indoor, winter season and then outdoors when the season was allowed to start. I am the head coach of the girls team at Hallam, who recently played their first game as the first all-girls team at Hallam. In the coming weeks, I will complete my Foundation 1 coaching course.

5. What's been the best thing about getting involved with this project? Women & Girls' cricket

- The best thing about being involved with women's and Girl's cricket is seeing the amount of opportunities that the girls get compared to when I started 10 years ago. When I started I was the only girl, but watching as we can field a full team with spares makes me proud of the progress in women's cricket. Seeing the girls improve from their first session to the game shows how far a dedicated coach and frequent training can go.

6. What's your vision for your involvement with cricket in the future?

- In the future, I see myself still playing cricket (at uni, or at home) and hopefully part of a coaching set-up, specifically working with girls of all ages and abilities. I would also like to see/be part of a development/initiative in cricket aiming to increase the opportunities for girls and getting them involved more (through schools and clubs etc).

7. What's your hope for the game as a whole and specifically for women and girls?

- I would like to see/help reduce the stigma surrounding cricket as a men's sport (through increasing female role models, coverage of women, letting fans meet/train with players) and

reducing the stigma surrounding girls who play cricket, thus making them more comfortable to join/play for a club (this along with creating more teams etc). Ultimately, I would like women's cricket to be recognised more and held similarly to the men's game, hopefully for coverage from the media, new schemes will attract people to women's cricket, bringing in more fans and in turn more money.

8. Anything else you'd like to share about your journey?

- Being a girl in a primarily men's sport is difficult, people assume that because I am a girl I will be less capable than them. People make premeditated thoughts about me (and other girls) because of our gender is something that needs to be tackled.



