

Being my first time overseas on my own I was looking to find a place to play cricket where I knew I would be comfortable and I could trust the deal that I would be given. When I was introduced to the BBM scholarship I knew that this would be the best way to experience the UK and enhance my cricket prospects.

I could not have asked for a better place to play cricket at then in Formby, Liverpool. Throughout my time playing in the league I would struggle to name a venue or village that would have been more accommodating or enjoyable. In saying that though the strong point about cricket over there is how both teams socialise after a game of cricket regardless of the result. I have had some great times out with the boys including trips to Aintree Racecourse, the Lancashire Cricket County Dinner, the Formby Cricket Ball and ofcourse the local night spots every Saturday night.

Formby CC also made it very easy for me to explore and experience life in the UK and Europe. Every second week I was given permission to take some time off to travel. During that time I was able to catch up with friends and see some amazing places. Some of the highlights included getting lost in Venice, seeing the fashion of Milan, the La Tomatina festival in Valencia, and the incredible Edinburgh Castle. However the best experience that I enjoyed was when I was given the opportunity to go train with the Middlesex County squad at Lords in London; the Home of Cricket. It was an occasion and privilege that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Hopefully one day I will get to play a game on the sacred ground.

I also experienced some personal career highlights while playing for Formby CC. I was given a chance to bat up the order which saw me accumulate 350 league runs with my highest ever score of 73. I took 46 wickets throughout the season with my best ever bowling figures of 8/61 which included my first ever hatrick.

It is fair to say I learnt a lot during my time on and off the field and it has definitely improved me as a player and a person. Since arriving back home the skills that I have learnt in the UK have transferred into my game here and I am achieving many goals. Receiving this scholarship has given me the confidence to pursue a career in cricket which I may not have received elsewhere. I would like to thank the Big Brother Movement for providing me with this life changing opportunity and I endeavour to promote its scholarship to talented youths in the future.

Thanks,

James Kennedy (Cricket Scholarship winner 2011)