

BOARD CANDIDATE HARRY CHATHLI

Cricket was the first sport I played whilst growing up in the suburbs of Bombay (Mumbai, as it is called today), India. I grew up with a passion for it and in awe of those who were able to do magical things with a stick of wood and a leather ball. It is this passion for cricket that connects me to Yorkshire. Yes, I have friends and business connections here – however, it is cricket that keeps bringing me back.

The Yorkshire County Cricket Club is not far from our minds when we think about great English players or about the miracles that have been performed at Headingley, its home. It is the northern powerhouse of English cricket.

The events of recent years have forced us to take stock of how we, at Yorkshire, see the future of English cricket. From the ashes of the turmoil of the past three years, the Club has risen and taken significant strides and made tangible progress to alter a culture that was regarded as not welcoming to all. The Board has worked tirelessly on the Club's behalf and, once appointed, my intention is to build on their efforts.

I believe cricket excellence is built on inclusivity and financial stability. As a parent of children who have gone through the system at a club level, through the pathway process and now a representative cricketer, I have seen firsthand what has and what has not worked for us and others. I intend to bring my perspective to enable the broadest group of children to filter through our system and ensure that we have a wide pool to choose from.

In my working life, I have been a management consultant advising governments on their economic reforms. This experience has taught me the ability to see how organisations and companies function, what gaps need filling and how to go about implementing change. I believe this experience will help me create structures, if needed, and bring together various parties – state and independent schools, clubs, local authorities – to name a few, to help us continue on our journey towards becoming a truly inclusive and sustainable organisation.

Over the past 25 years, I have led communications strategy for companies that are listed on various stock exchanges in key financial centres around the globe. I also am Chair of private and public companies. My work has involved media relations, investor relations, crisis communications and helping companies raise money. I have done this for large FTSE companies as well as small and mid-size enterprises. Through this work, I have built a network that I believe will be helpful to The Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

Outside my current roles, I like mentoring entrepreneurs, helping them shape their strategy to launch or grow their businesses.

There is much work to do at Yorkshire and I believe I have the skillsets to help the Club achieve all it wants to alongside the Board and, more importantly, the members. I may have swapped hitting cover drives on a cricket pitch for hitting cover drives on a golf course, but I remain committed to seeing the game I love fulfil its ambition to keep churning out cricketers that keep us purring and to representing Yorkshire at the top table of cricket in England and Wales.