



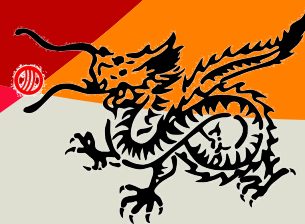
▶ I ALWAYS BELIEVE THAT YOU MUST PLAY WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FREEDOM, I DON'T WANT TO BUILD ANY PRESSURE ON MYSELF .....1



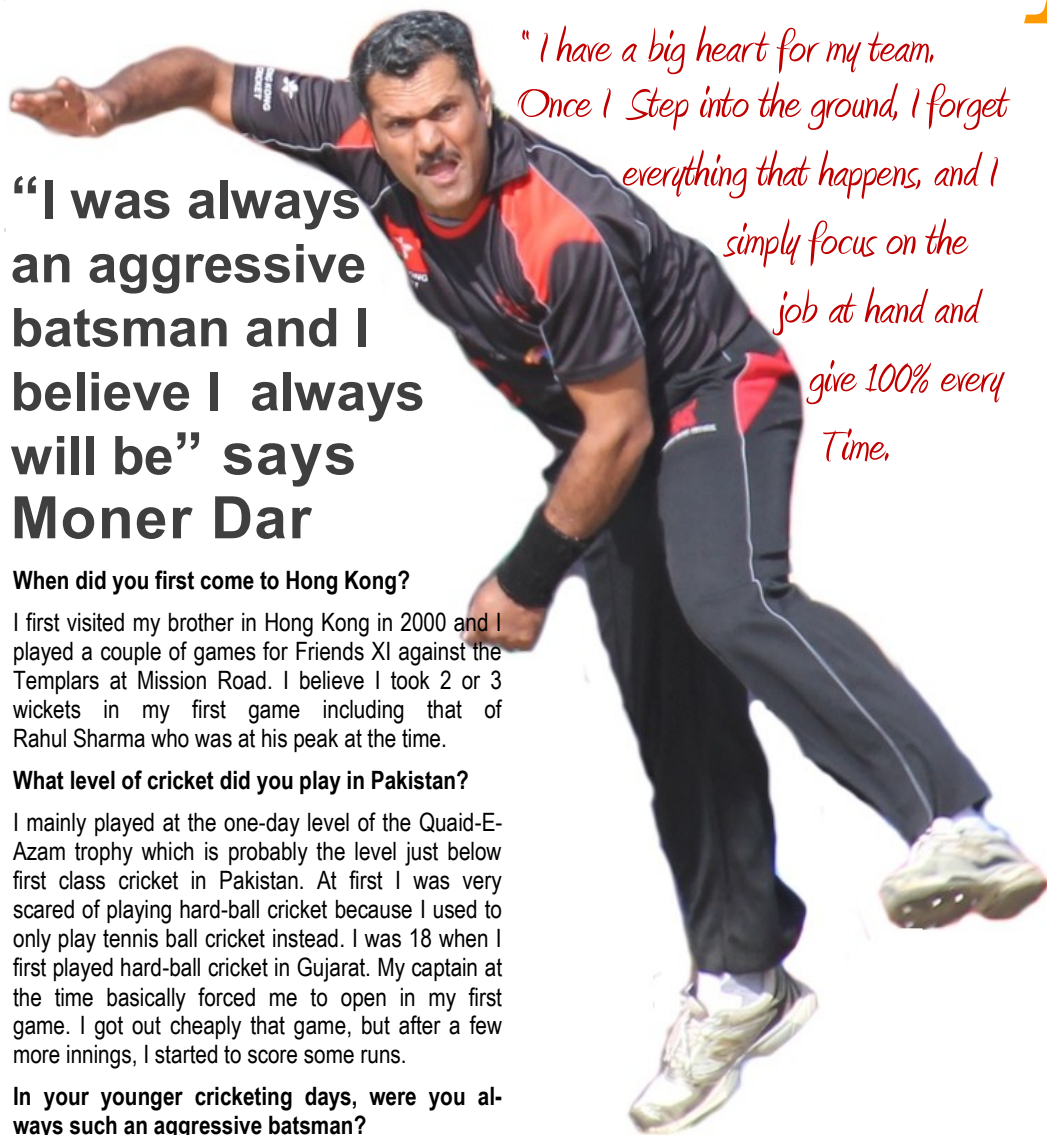
▶ ANSHUMAN RATH NAMED HONG KONG CAPTAIN FOR U-16 ACC ELITE CUP TO BE PLAYED IN MALAYSIA .....2



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# POWER *Play*



**“I was always an aggressive batsman and I believe I always will be” says Moner Dar**

*“I have a big heart for my team. Once I step into the ground, I forget everything that happens, and I simply focus on the job at hand and give 100% every Time.”*

**When did you first come to Hong Kong?**

I first visited my brother in Hong Kong in 2000 and I played a couple of games for Friends XI against the Templars at Mission Road. I believe I took 2 or 3 wickets in my first game including that of Rahul Sharma who was at his peak at the time.

**What level of cricket did you play in Pakistan?**

I mainly played at the one-day level of the Quaid-E-Azam trophy which is probably the level just below first class cricket in Pakistan. At first I was very scared of playing hard-ball cricket because I used to only play tennis ball cricket instead. I was 18 when I first played hard-ball cricket in Gujarat. My captain at the time basically forced me to open in my first game. I got out cheaply that game, but after a few more innings, I started to score some runs.

**In your younger cricketing days, were you always such an aggressive batsman?**

Yes. I was always an aggressive batsman and I believe I always will be. Unless the team really needs me to be slightly more defensive, I will always play my natural game.

**Have you played many longer versions of the game, such as 2 or 3 day matches in Pakistan?**

No. I haven't really been exposed to the longer version of the game before coming to Hong Kong. This year, we are playing far more 2 day games and I'm really enjoying them, especially as I'm captain of

LSWCC. Perhaps I can score a double-hundred in the 2 day games, but generally speaking, I like bowling longer spells in such games.

**What do you think are the greatest differences between the longer versions of the game and the ODIs or T20s that we play internationally for Hong Kong?**

There is a huge difference for the players as we need to adopt a very different mindset for both versions. Obviously, T20s are totally different from 2 day games in terms of the pace of the game, but

I also believe that the longer version demands far more skill and thought throughout. As the captain of LSWCC this year, I've learnt a lot playing these 2 day games from the experience of it as well as from other captains in the league.

**What in particular has stood out for you playing these 2 day games?**

I've learnt to be a little cooler during these games. It isn't as necessary to be so aggressive but at the same time, strive to win each session during the game.

**When were you first selected for the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes?**

Since 2005, and I've been fortunate enough to continue playing in Sixes tournament since then.

**During those seven years of playing in the Hong Kong Sixes, what has been your best performance or your greatest highlight?**

It has to be our team performance in 2009 when we nearly beat South Africa to win the Hong Kong Sixes! During that tournament, I would say that it was also my best overall performance as I scored crucial runs in almost every game to get us to that final. In almost every game, I also performed well with one or two wickets when I opened the bowling and it set the tone for the team. We lost off the last ball so it was so very close.

**What was the main difference between South Africa and Hong Kong in that final then?**

Besides their higher levels of experience, I believe that the crucial difference was their planning in the end. We had already beaten them twice in the preliminary rounds of the tournament and by the time we faced them in the final, they had certain plans in store for us. For example, Loots Bosman had struggled against us in the earlier rounds, but when he faced me in the final, he knew exactly how I would attack and he ended up smashing me for 21 runs in the first over. We ourselves did not have much of the necessary planning involved, but credit goes to South Africa as they really held their nerve to win off the final delivery.

**How did Hong Kong do in the Sixes this year?**



Along with some fresh new faces in the team, I believe that we did very well again this year. However, it was a little unfortunate running into a very strong Pakistan team but once again we lacked the planning necessary to give ourselves the best chance of beating them. It was a similar case of beating Pakistan in an earlier round, and then seeing them adjust their game plans but us not developing a similar scenario. **You recently returned from the last T20 qualifier in Nepal displaying a very masterful man-of-the-series performance without having attended too many training sessions. Tell us a little bit more about that whole process?**

Yes I couldn't attend many training sessions at all for quite a few reasons. But the main thing is your ability to perform in the ground and I am able to do that because I have a big heart for my team. Once I step into the ground, I forget everything that happens and I simply focus on the job at hand and gave 100% every time.

**Unfortunately, Hong Kong came up a little short against Afghanistan in the finals of that T20 tournament, where we only needed 12 runs off the final 2 overs. What was the difference between the two sides?**

I think the main difference was once again due to the lack of experience in dealing with the pressure of the situation. We had some young players brought in but we backed them to perform in the toughest conditions.

**Prior to performing extremely well in the T20 tournament in Nepal, what has been your best performance in international cricket?**

Hong Kong did really well under coach Aftab Habib in the 2008 ACC Trophy held in Malaysia where we beat several top nations such as Afghanistan and U.A.E. to win. We had already lost the opening game against Nepal and we were struggling against Qatar in our second game. What I consider to be my best innings was when I hit 89\* off 59 balls and shared a great partnership with Ilyas Gull to get Hong Kong out of serious trouble. If we had lost that game against Qatar, we would have been out of the tournament.

**Would you consider that this team has become even better since winning in 2008?**

I believe that Hong Kong is right to invest in new players that are only now in the team, and we are a much better fielding unit. However, it is hard to top such a winning combo with the team that we had in 2008.

Nearly every game we were 4 down in the first 10 overs, but our experienced players such as Najeeb, Ilyas or yourself were always able to handle the pressure in any situation.

**How did you develop your trademark reverse-sweep for six? Currently, there is a statistic that shows that every time you play that shot for six, you end up scoring plenty of runs for that innings.**

I simply developed it and backed myself over the years due to the regular fields I face. I am also proud of the fact that I hardly get out playing that shot.

**You have this reputation of being a very good counter-attacking player. What mindset do you adopt which contributes to you being very successful for that role?**

I always believe that you must play with a certain amount of freedom. I don't want to build any pressure



on myself when I'm in a tough situation and therefore my mind is very clear during my innings. I run very hard between the wickets so it also helps to create pressure for the opposition team. My LSWCC captain Tabarak Dar has also given me plenty of confidence over the years to play my natural aggressive game because I never used to bat like this.

**Hong Kong, along with other Asian amateur nations used to play 3 Day cricket matches in several tournaments. Would playing such matches raise the level of cricket in Asia again?**

Of course playing 3 Day matches would raise the standard of our cricket. We seem to only be playing ODI matches and we need longer versions of the game to test our application and other facets of our game such as mental strength and patience.

**However, it doesn't seem likely that the powers dictating Hong Kong's future is generally heading in that direction, but instead T20 tournaments seem to be the popular format. Is this a correct decision by the ICC or ACC?**

I certainly don't think it's healthy for the amateur nations to only play one or two formats. T20 is completely different from the longer format and playing such shorter versions of the game isn't as beneficial to us because we need to learn to adjust, survive and plan accordingly to a 50 over or even a 2 or 3 Day match. For me, T20 is an important and exciting version of cricket but it's mainly for enjoyment!

**You have a reputation on the field as being a 'scolder'. Tell us a little bit more about this.**

If I am a 38 year. old cricketer running around the field and giving my all, I expect the same standards from my teammates, especially if they are young 20 yr. old cricketers! These young cricketers are rather soft when things don't quite go their way. They need to learn to toughen up before they can truly perform so that's why I'm always quite hard on them.

**Who is your favourite roommate on tour?**

Oh definitely Nadeem Ahmed since he's never in the room and I can enjoy my quiet time alone. He's also a great roommate because he always listens to me and gets me stuff whenever I need anything!

**Are you looking forward to the 2014 ICC World Cup Qualifier tournament?**

I'm looking forward to 2015! I want to keep playing since I feel fit and there is a lot of exciting cricket up ahead for Hong Kong.

**What does your nickname 'Muna' mean?**

I was given this nickname by my captain back in Pakistan and it basically means 'small boy'. I myself have a young 18 month old 'Muna' too and he'll end up being an amazing left-arm fast bowler for Hong Kong one day!



## Moner Dar

Full name Moner Ahmed Dar

Born March 4, 1972, Gujarat, Punjab

Major teams Hong Kong, LSWCC, Gujranwala Cricket Association

Also known as Moner Dar

Batting style Right-hand bat

Bowling style Slow left-arm orthodox

# Hong Kong U-16 Team Ended Tour on High Note, Beat Iran by 7 wickets

The Hong Kong under 16 team had some mixed results at the ACC- under 16 Elite Cup played in Malaysia in early May . The Hong Kong team was placed in Group A alongside Singapore, Thailand and Oman.

Hong Kong had played their first few matches in Penang during the group phase of the tournament, All matches in Penang were rain affected and played in very difficult wet conditions causing Hong Kong to lose all their matches very marginally, Hong Kong team fortunes changed when they traveled to Kuala Lumpur for the play-off matches, The weather was good and for the first time in the tournament, a 40

over match was made possible, The Hong Kong team beat Iran convincingly by 7 wickets and ended their tour on a high note.

The Hong Kong team was led by Anshuman Rath, with Hersh Khatri as his deputy. Hong Kong team for the ACC Under-16 Elite Cup 2012

**Squad:**Anshuman Rath (Captain), Hersh Khatri (Vice Captain), Ansh Lulla, Apurv Sharma, Asim Hussain, Ashfaq Daood, Hamza Jawaid, Harpreet Singh, Jhathavedh Subramanyan, Karan Shah, Suhaib Ahmad, Abdul Rahman, Niraj Patwari, Usama Ahmad.

**Reserves:** Giacomo Lamplough, Arslan Yasin, Mohsin Khan, Rahul Prakash Choithramani.

**Officials:** Jawaid Iqbal (Coach), Najeeb Amar (Manager), Rosemary Burnett (Physiotherapist)

## Anshuman Rath has led Hong Kong at ACC U-16 Elite Cup 2012



### Hong Kong U13 Emerging Squad Members

*Name all these players in the picture and win gift of HKCA polo Shirt, send your answer's to dar@hkcricket.org*

### From The History

#### 1st South East Asian Championship –Jan1984

*The first South East Asian Tournament took place in Bangladesh between Hong Kong, Singapore and two Bangladeshi teams, Bangladesh and Bangladesh –U25 Tigers, as Malaysia had withdrawn just prior to the start of the tournament. The teams played each other twice (45 Overs) on league basis, and the top two teams then contested the final .*

*The start of Hong Kong third match was delayed due to overnight rain and reduced to 40 overs. Before the start, the start, the clay pitch was “fired” by using sawdust soaked in petrol. This dried out the surface upon which a mat was placed. No one in the Hong Kong side had ever seen such a drying technique.*

*Although Hong Kong reached the final played in the Dhaka stadium, and had improved on their previous two outings against Bangladesh, the batting never gathered momentum and the total of 151 runs was too low a score to be successfully defended.*

*Hong Kong team lost the final by 7 wickets, Hong Kong team was captained by Peter Anderson.*

# The Experience has been great in the Emerging Squads

by Ravi Mulchandani U15 Emerging Player

Cricket has been one of my many passions so when my club asked me to try out I was very excited. The emerging squad was under way for the second season. I am in the under 15 emerging squad and I feel that my skills in cricket have developed a lot over this past season.

The process of getting into the emerging squad was 2 trials of fitness and cricket skills and a long wait to find out whether we make the prestigious squad, so when I found out this good news I was ecstatic. We have training on Tuesdays from 4-6 and during training we do multiple skills. When we arrived at the ground for our first training session all the boys were all excited to take part. In the second training session when we received our red shirt and cricket trousers a special feeling erupted from the team and we know that we are in a great squad.

In training we do many drills from catching to batting under strict pressure. I believe that these experiences

have helped my skills. Apart from these drills, training has also been quite enjoyable as these sessions are often competitions, which often make us want to win more and more, which helps us in matches for our club. The coaches have been great during our development!

The experience has been great in the emerging squads and I have met many great young cricketers



# Train to Play or Train to Perform?

by Charlie Burke - Hong Kong National Coach

A question I have for many cricketers, do you train to play? Or do you train to perform?

Take an example of many young cricketers both Men and Women that enter the international scene on a big stage, in front of a big crowd and perform. Can't think of anyone? Well there are a number of them all over the world but as a typical Australian and a Western Australian at that I want to use Shaun Marsh as an example.

Shaun or 'SOS' as he is known made a test century on debut, 141 against Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka last year. The stylish and very gifted left hander has always been in the Australia selectors eye's and not just because his father, Geoff 'Swampy' Marsh was one the greats but he always showed that awful word in 'potential'.

The reason he went from a 16 year old that had 'potential' to a test cricketer and joined an elite club by scoring a test century on debut is because he trained to perform. Some might be wondering what I mean, it is simple in my view, you have the players that want to have a game so they come to training so the coach selects them and off they go. Then you have the player that wants to perform, he or she wants to turn up and perform both individually but also wants to perform so the team has success.

Now how do you decide a player that is training to perform over a player that is training to play you ask? Well it is very easy, the players that make excuses like "I must attend a dinner tonight" even though they know

training is every Friday or "I need to go to the Drs and the only appointment was halfway through training" is the type of player that is training to play and simply don't want to do the hard work.

The other is a player that arrives early or stays late catching balls, sit ups, sprints before any coach arrives as it isn't about the coach seeing it is about them performing. Shaun Marsh is exactly that, even when he was going to school he would wake up at around 6am and hit 5 to 6 buckets of balls on the bowling machine which is around 250 balls and then after school if no training he would then go and hit another 6 - 8 buckets or face his brother Mitchell along with some catching and running.

Now no coach saw Shaun do this, but they did see a kid go from potential to performance, there are no shortcuts and the bottom line was he enjoyed it and wanted to be better than anyone else.

So when your next at training and someone say's "OH I must go to see my Dad as he wants to take the dog for a walk and I need to look after the gold-fish" you know exactly the type of player they are. They came to training to get a game, which they probably succeeded but then on the weekend when they are 'unlucky' to the 'best ball' of the day, you will know why.

By the way Shaun is called SOS as it is short for Son of Swampy, his father Geoff was nicknamed Swampy...

## WIN A CRICKET BAT SIGNED BY ALL STAR SIXES TEAM YEAR 2011

TO WIN SIGNED CRICKET BAT PLEASE

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

QUESTION:

IN JUNE 1992 HONG KONG PLAYED ITS THIRD SOUTH EAST ASIAN TOURNAMENT IN SINGAPORE. THE QUESTION IS WHO LED THE HONG KONG TEAM IN THE TOURNAMENT?

1. RAHUL SHARMA
2. STEVE ATKINSON
3. PAT FORDHAM

Please send your answer to [dar@hkcricket.org](mailto:dar@hkcricket.org), if we have more than one correct answers, winner will be pick by lucky draw.

## HK Programmes

May-July 2012

1. Hong Kong Under 16 Team tour to Malaysia 1-12 May 2012.
2. Emerging Squads Matches May 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th June 2nd & 3rd at Kai Tak Cricket Ground.
3. HKCA AGM & End of Season Awards, 9th June 2012 at Hong Kong Cricket Club.
4. HK Women Training Camp Dehradun, India 17-25th June 2012
5. HK Women U21 Series & Singapore Tour 1-5 July 2012
6. Heat Wave Training at PKVR July every Wednesdays 7pm-10pm.
7. HK Women vs U15 Emerging Night Series at PKVR July & August.

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