

Stuart Broad remembers taking to the cricket field with his father, Chris, in 1991



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This was taken when I was about five at Trent Bridge, Nottinghamshire's home ground. Dad was playing for the county at the time, two years after ending his England career in 1989. He had done really well with England and had been the man of the series when they retained the Ashes in the 1986-87 series in Australia, having scored centuries in three successive Test matches.

My parents split up when I was three, but they both lived in the Nottingham area and remained on good terms, and I spent most weekends staying with Dad. That's when I first became aware that he was a cricketer – because he had to take me to work. Trent Bridge became a home from home, with the staff looking after me while Dad did his stuff. One of my earliest memories is following him on to the pitch as he went out to bat when I was four. I thought, well, if Dad's playing, I'm going to, and I had to be grabbed by one of the members. Another time, I got way out on to the pitch in the middle of a match and had to be brought back by a fielder.

I loved being around the cricketers. I went to grounds all over the country, so it was a real eye-opener to the lifestyle and it was also inspirational to be in the dressing room. I got quite obsessed with cricket and from a young age. I insisted on wearing white clothes, even when I was out playing with my mates. In this picture I am wearing a proper Nottinghamshire match jumper, which belonged to the batsman Paul Johnson. His wife had shrunk it in the wash, so he gave it to me.

I was very proud of Dad when I was growing up. I used to walk about a yard behind him because it was hard to keep up, so I'd see people do a double-take and say, 'Hey, that was Chris Broad.' He was always encouraging me to follow in his footsteps, but the key was that I had fun with sport and, even to this day, I still treat cricket as my hobby, not as a job. It's the only way if you want to keep loving the game.

Dad and I are still really close and we live near each other in Nottingham. We are very competitive, especially at golf. He is now an ICC [International Cricket Council] referee and is really proud of me. He used to tease me, saying, 'I will only know that you have made it when I am called Stuart Broad's dad.' Then, about 18 months ago, he was at an event and he was introduced as 'Stuart Broad's dad'. He phoned me and said, 'Well, son, it looks like you have officially made it.'

Interview by Rob McGibbon

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