

# ESSEX MAN

RONNIE IRANI PROFILE BY  
CRAIG BAMFORD

Ronald Charles Irani played his cricket at Skelmanthorpe Cricket Club.

Despite being born in Lancashire, Irani played most of his cricket career at the other end of the country, at Essex County Cricket Club. In 1994 Ronnie made the move to Chelmsford.

Through what was an enjoyable time at the club, he quickly grew into a well established role and was named captain in 2000.



He only played three Test matches for England which came with both ups and downs, but he found a more successful role in the one-day side. Irani was seen as an all-rounder by both club and country and by 2005 he had a batting average of just over 38 and a bowling average of somewhat less.

As well as making his name as an all-rounder, Ronnie also enjoyed his cricket and was always playing with a smile. During a one-day match with England he was doing a warm-up exercise on the boundary rope while fielding – and unbeknown to him the humorous Australian fans behind him were imitating him move by move! He only found out when teammate Nasser Hussein stood laughing at him!

Ronnie's best bowling figures were a superb 5-26 in one-day international cricket – and a not so convincing 1-23 at Test match level.

During his captaincy at Essex, Irani is said to have done a decent job and helped bring through young talent such as Alastair Cook and Ravinder Bopara.

In the summer of 2007, he announced his retirement from first-class cricket and finished with immediate effect.