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A magnificent view from top at Oval

Great view and rubbing shoulders with big names doubles the pleasure of watching from commentary box

BIRMINGHAM

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Sitting alongside three former international captains in the commentary box with the best view of the Oval ground was an unforgettable experience.

It is from here that UAE listeners get live radio coverage of the happenings on the field.

Dubai-based Channel 2 group has roped in some of the greatest players to commentate for Cricket Radio – including Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, Shane Warne, Alec Stewart, Mike Gatting and commentators Ralph Dewlor and Brian Murgatroyd. Ajay Sethi, Chairman of the Channel 2 group, is also usually on hand.

I was fortunate to get nearly an hour with these greats and they had lots of interesting stories from their careers to talk about.

The International Cricket



K.R. Nayar/Gulf News

Elite company

■ Former India captain Kapil Dev (seated left), former England captain Alec Stewart (back right), commentators Ralph Dewlor and Brian Murgatroyd (seated middle and right) and Channel 2 Group boss Ajay Sethi in the commentary box.

Council's mobile app is now using Cricket Radio's world feed and all commentators were in a great mood as their tally of listeners crossed the one million mark through feeds to Sirius XM in North American and Canada, Reliance Mobile in India, KJas FM in the Caribbean and Radio 4 in the UAE.

Though Gavaskar is an expert commentator, Dev is yet to get used to the role. Irrespective of his commentating experience, Dev's views based on his cricketing knowledge are thought-provoking, such as an observation he had about India's rising star Shikhar Dhawan: "Have you noticed no-one has noticed the

absence of Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag or Gautam Gambhir? Everyone is now talking about Shikhar Dhawan and Ravindra Jadeja. That is the way of the world when youngsters take on the role of seniors."

The panoramic view from the commentary box makes one appreciate many interesting aspects of the game, and when one is along with the former greats they draw your attention to some of those minute details that could be easily missed or may not even be visible for television viewers.

During the India-West Indies match, I would usually have missed seeing M.S. Dhoni leave his position and jog nearly 20 yards to congratulate Rohit Sharma, who had produced an acrobatic bit of fielding. While sitting there I also realised how quick Ravindra Jadeja is in the field.

One could also clearly notice from the commentary box that Ishant Sharma's new long hair could be dangerous for his bowling. At the point of delivery, his locks, at times, totally blinds his vision. No wonder he was hit for 21 runs in the 49th over by Darren Sammy!