



# SEAXE NEWS

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Editor: Glen Birkwood

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**Spring 2020**

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## **THE SEAXE CLUB - ANNUAL REVIEW 2019**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

“At this time of the year, my thoughts normally turn to all the matters that affect our everyday life-- the weather, family, the home, health and the wider future among many other items--this year however, there is something else to stretch the mind, namely the future of cricket and in particular, success at Middlesex Cricket.

As Seaxe members you will have been very aware of all the ups and downs and disappointments but I hope that you will also have been pleased to see that so many of our players have extended their contracts with us. I have spoken to Gus and Stuart about the “close” season activities and they are very pleased with the enthusiasm shown by the players. In addition, we have the real added benefit of the England World Cup winning captain committing to leading the T20 side in what we all hope will be a successful campaign.

So much for the cricket at the top level which will also be covered by others in this edition, let us not forget the amazing progress made by our up-and-coming young players, by the disability squads, by the various age groups and by women's cricket which is really establishing itself. To be the Chairman of Middlesex Cricket is a great honour but also requires significant commitment in time and as the areas that I have described above grow in importance. It is also necessary that the Board apportions them the necessary time and resource.

It is for this reason that I proposed to the Seaxe committee that we revert back to the format where the chair of Seaxe was a stand-alone role. They agreed, and I am delighted to say, that Glen Birkwood has agreed to take on the position, depending, of course on ratification at the AGM. I shall remain on the committee and continue to ensure that the close relationship developed between other parts of Middlesex Cricket and Seaxe continue to flourish.

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Now let me take a moment to reflect on our game over the last 3/4 years:

- the governing body (ECB) has got much more direct involvement with First Class Counties.
- the pressure from broadcasters has required a change in the approach to the game.
- the majority of First Class Counties could NOT survive without broadcast revenues.
- professional sport has had more money invested in it than ever before.
- professional cricketers have more opportunities available to them to play around the world.
- the differentials in pay across the game are enormous.
- injury rates and attrition rates among players have increased significantly.
- new competitions abound.

I have just highlighted some of the key issues so let's think what that means to county cricket

- fewer games at the "proper " time of the season.
- more demands on players.
- perceived diminution of value of county championship.
- financial pressures on counties.
- difficulties for some players in finding a career pathway.

At Middlesex Cricket we have faced all of these issues and continue to do so. However, we have in place a process which we believe will help and some of the following comments might help reinforce this view.

- a. the ECB have recognised the validity of the value of First Class Counties and the county championship and increased the money available.
- b. at Lord's we have a wonderful ground and the partnership with the MCC is stronger than ever
- c. 2020 will be Stuart Law's first full season with us and he and the players have made it clear that they want to prove that they are worthy of your support.
- d. our structure at all levels is strong and resilient.
- e. We also have in Seaxe (the club within a club) a group of people who care passionately about the game and who show that in tangible form with their support for young players.

I hope that you will give Glen your support in his role and continue, as always, to challenge me and the Board to deliver what you as Middlesex members want..... success on and off the field.

Let us look forward to a great season, we know that the county game is the

bedrock of cricket and now that there is now a dawning realisation of that among those of influence who doubted that...the future is looking distinctly brighter “

*Mike O'Farrell - Chairman*

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

This is my final report before I hand over the reins to our new Treasurer Stephen Lockwood, subject to ratification. The balance sheet remains very positive with our assets almost entirely vested in the various bank accounts. Total assets of £28,479 show an increase from last year of just under £2k. I will provide some comments below about the significant transactions during the year.

#### ***INCOME:***

**Members' Subscriptions:** Revenues decreased slightly year on year by £86 to £3,894. Perhaps this is an incentive to have a recruitment drive for new members. With that in mind, we are preparing a new membership leaflet that will be available for the start of the new season in April.

**The Seaxe Lottery (100 Club):** Once again, I am very grateful to all of our wonderful members who participated most generously in the Lottery (100 Club). I have tried to minimise the `100 Club` terminology as we do have some 290 numbers in issue, although we have to retain the name as the bank account is detailed as such. Using the rules laid down though our licence with Westminster Council, prizes totalling £1,209 (35% of income) were paid out from income of £3,457 allowing us to retain £2,248 (65%). Renewals for 2020 appear positive as I write and we would hope to retain a similar sum at the end of 2020.

**Teas in the Seaxe Box:** Due to the World Cup, the box was not so available as in previous years, although Brian Cahill and his team still managed to generate revenues of £510 (2018 £580) from sales of tea, coffee and cakes. On behalf of the Seaxe members, I would like to thank Brian and team for their excellent work.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorabilia:** You will recollect that through an initiative by Keith Macrae a range of logoed ties, glasses, pens and shirts was commissioned in 2018 and the year-end revealed that stock valued at £926 was held. During 2019 we tried to sell off that stock and managed to generate net income of £251. However, we were left with a net stock value of £675 (£926-£251) and, after deliberation, the Committee decided that the stock balance should be written off. We do still hold that stock as specified in the notes to the accounts and will continue to try to sell it in the coming year. Any income will be a bonus.

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**Elaine Knight Donations:** The Club received donations of £610 in memory of our much loved Secretary. The Committee is considering the purchase of a new award to be presented in April. More details will follow.

**Christmas Lunch:** The format for the Lunch was changed from a buffet to a slightly more formal 'sit down' lunch, once again held in the Tavern and it proved to be a most enjoyable occasion expertly organised by Steve Baldwin. Income was £1,689 and expenditure £1,724. The small loss of £35 was attributed to payment of a gratuity to the Tavern staff who, as usual, looked after us extremely well.

**Donations Received:** Our membership has again been extremely generous donating £4,193 (2018 - £4,052). We thank everyone for their kindness in helping us to pursue our goal of supporting cricket within the County.

**Bursary Donations:** We were delighted to receive another donation from the Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants of £1,000. We were requested to ' earmark ' the funds for Bursary Donations. We spent £472 on one specific bursary and a further £5k for a bursary to the Middlesex Cricket Board for All Stars Cricket.

**Interest Received:** We received £38 (2018 £44) by way of interest from the bank. Balances were slightly lower this year.

### ***EXPENDITURE:***

**Seaxe News:** The cost was £2,065 (2018 - £1,650) for the three editions. The reasons for the increase were: Each publication was larger than previously seen due to (a) much of the AGM published material being included in the first issue, and (b) our new editor, Glen Birkwood, generating many interesting articles and copy. I am sure you would wish me to thank Glen for his hard work. Once again, Middlesex CCC very kindly helped us out with the postage, for which we are very grateful.

**Administration Expenses:** £412 (2017 - £224). Once again, the members of your Committee generously claimed little of the expenditure incurred during the year. I have detailed the expenditure in note 7 to the accounts. The major spend was £289 for renewal of the web-site domain.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorabilia:** Stock write off of £926 as detailed above.

**Race Night:** This is an unusual entry of £15 and represents a refund, hence it is shown as a minus figure in the expenditure listing. Three generous members kindly decided not to present their refund cheques of £5 each from 2018 and it was easier for me to reveal those refunds in this way in the accounts.

**Social Events:** The hospitality cost of the AGM and Awards Evening was £59 and £304 (2018 - £89 & £230). We did not have a claim from Elaine Knight in respect of

the drinks she bought for the Box Reception on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 due to her illness. It was inappropriate to chase so we settled on a sum of £100 which we credited to her account before she passed away. Once again, we held a Reception in the Middlesex Room on 23<sup>rd</sup> September where the committee agreed to allow each member in attendance a 'free' drink and this cost the Club £149 (2018 - £231). Total 'social' expenditure was £613.

**Player of the Year Awards and Trophies:** Each year we have our awards engraved and also buy small trophies for the recipients to keep, and this cost £359 this year. In addition, in 2019, we bought and engraved a new trophy for the 'Women's Player of the Year' for £121 which was presented for the first time. It will be remembered that we also award bottles of Champagne to Middlesex players who achieve certain milestones and the bubbly cost £68 for their awards from 2018, presented in 2019.

**Awards:** Each year we make provision for the cost of the awards which will be presented the following year. We have provided £250 and £750 for those awards in 2020. For some years we have had difficulty with the awards as a number of vouchers have not been claimed by the winners. To simplify matters in 2019, we bought the winners retail vouchers from a national scheme with no stipulation as to how they might be spent.

**Middlesex Colts Association:** MCA did not need our help in 2019.

**All Stars Cricket:** We presented a further bursary of £5k to the Middlesex Cricket Board for the All Stars Cricket scheme.

**Seaxe Bursaries:** We were pleased to be able present one bursary in the year. Les Rowland is to be thanked for his excellent work and we hope that the beneficiary benefits as he progresses in his cricketing career.

**SUMMARY:** A surplus for the year of £1,939 (2018 – deficit £4,987) resulted generating an increase in the net assets of the Club.

In conclusion, I would like to offer my grateful thanks to Michael Wilson, our 'Independent Checker', for giving his time and expertise to the Club.

***Peter Jackson -Treasurer***

## SEAXE NEWS:

First of all, my thanks to all of you who have commented on the Seaxe News and how much you enjoy the read. It makes the head scratching, deadline sweating, page sorting, photo sourcing all worthwhile knowing that someone out there is reading it!!

## **SEAXE NEWS**

The features I've introduced such as "Behind the Scenes", Second XI updates, younger player reviews etc., has meant an increase in size of the News, on one occasion even a 20 page edition. This in itself brings its problems but I am enjoying the challenge.

The support I have had and am still getting from the Middlesex Office and the MCC is excellent and my thanks go to them.

As I've said before any ideas, photos for inclusion etc. are more than welcome, e.g. my thanks go to Peter Hollman for the photos from the England U19 tour of Antigua which you can see in this issue. If submissions do not immediately appear it is simply a case of space allocation and I'll try for the next edition. It is after all your News therefore your input is important to me. Look for this edition's poser - "Is the ECB right to reduce Test matches to 4 days?". I'm expecting a full postbag on this!!

In the meantime, enjoy your cricket.

***Glen Birkwood - Editor***

### **SOCIAL REPORT:**

In the early months of the year, Sunday socials were held at Nicholson's establishments, 'The Clachan' and 'The Clarence'. Attendances held up in comparison to previous years. This was due to the loyal regulars, but very little new intake. This alone gives cause for concern. The November head count had always been low, but November 2019 was noticeably poor which indicated something needed to change.

Any change might not be huge but the gradual dwindling of numbers should be arrested. If possible, the first trial of something different will be the mid-week lunch proposed in November. I would like to urge members to join in and attend. For the time being, the plan will be for socials in early 2021 to remain as in previous years.

Fortunately, the turn out for our Christmas Lunch was over 50. The staff at Lord's Tavern laid on a very acceptable two course Christmas Lunch. All concerned seemed to agree that this was a better option than the previous buffet format. It is intended to have a similar menu this year.

Another planned repeat is the post-match drinks in the Middlesex Room during September.

Due to the structure of the fixtures this coming season, the long running and successful Box Reception will be held earlier this year and is scheduled for Sunday 24th May, thus avoiding Ladies Day which is being held on the 23rd May.

***Steve Baldwin - Social Organiser***

**MEMBERSHIP:**

This time of year is a good opportunity to reflect on the importance of your membership. Without you we are unable to do the important work of supporting and promoting youth cricket in particular, within Middlesex – details of which appear elsewhere in the review. We are therefore pleased to confirm that membership numbers remain steady with new people offsetting those who have sadly been unable to renew.

With that in mind, all members of the county club are welcome to join Seaxe so please encourage more people to become members to enable us to continue with and develop the work we do. Thank you.

***Les Rowland/Barbara Buxton - Joint Membership Administrators***

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**Year ended 31st December 2019**

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Income:</b>			
Members Subscriptions		3,894	3,980
Surplus from Lottery	1	2,248	2,299
Tees in the Seaxe Box	2	510	580
Income re Christmas Lunch	3	1,689	900
Sale of Ties (Old Style)	4	0	30
50th Anniversary Memorabilia (net)	5	251	306
50th Anniversary Lunch		0	3,451
Elaine Knight Donations		610	
Race Night		0	648
Interest Received		38	44
Donations Received		4,193	4,052
Bursary Donation	6	1,000	1,000
Geoff Norris Award Donation		259	0
		14,684	17,290
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Seaxe News		2,065	1,650
Administrative Expenses	7	412	224
Expenditure re Christmas Lunch	3	1,724	863
50th Anniversary Lunch		0	3,033
50th Anniv. Stock Write Off	5	926	
Race Night		-15	770
Donations Paid	8	0	30
Social Events		613	556
		5,725	7,126
<b>Net Income After General Expenses:</b>		<b>8,959</b>	<b>10,164</b>
<b>Donations:</b>			
Player of the Year Awards and Trophies		548	1,144
Geoff Norris Award		250	250
Awards		750	750
Middlesex Colts Association		0	1,000
Middlesex Cricket Board - All Stars Cricket		5,000	10,500
Bursaries		472	1,507
		7,020	15,151
<b>Surplus/Deficit for the year</b>		<b>1,939</b>	<b>-4,987</b>
<b>Basis of Accounting:</b>			

These accounts have been prepared on a consistent basis comparable to prior years

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BALANCE SHEET				
As at 31st December 2019				
	<u>Note</u>	<u>2019</u> £		<u>2018</u> £
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
Stock of Ties and Scarves	4	0		0
Stock of 50th Anniversary Memorabilia (Cost)		0		926
Bank - Geoff Norris Award Account		2,397		2,642
Bank - High Interest Account		20,514		20,476
Bank - No 1 Account		4,882		1,909
Bank - Lottery Account		666		594
		<u>28,459</u>		<u>26,548</u>
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
Prepaid Expenses re 2020 (Lottery Fee)	9	20		20
		<u>28,479</u>		<u>26,568</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>				
Membership Fees Prepaid 2020	10	388		243
Lottery Subscriptions Prepaid 2020	11	648		576
Accrued Awards Payment – GWN 2020		250		250
Accrued Awards Payments 2020		750		750
		<u>2,036</u>		<u>1,819</u>
		<u>26,444</u>		<u>24,750</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
<b>Represented by:</b>				
Accumulated fund brought forward		22,107		27,096
Geoff Norris Award Reserve	12	2,397		2,642
Surplus/deficit for the year		1,939		-4,988
Accumulated fund carried forward:		<u>26,444</u>		<u>24,750</u>

Approved by the Committee on Tuesday, 14th January 2020

Signed on behalf of the Committee

Mike O'Farrell M O'Farrell  
Peter Jackson P Jackson

Chairman  
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHECKER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SEAXE CLUB

In my opinion the accounts on pages 2 – 4 give a fair representation as per the records shown to me, of the state of the affairs of the club as at 31st December 2018, and of the transactions.

Michael Wilson  
Date: 30th January 2020

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
1 Surplus from the Lottery:		
Contributions from members	3,457	3,536
Less Prizes	1,209	1,237
Transferred to General Funds	2,248	2,299
2 Teas in The Seaxe Box: Income received net of costs	510	580
3 Christmas Lunch:		
Income	1,689	900
Expenditure	1,724	863
(Surplus/Deficit)	-35	37
4 Stock of Ties (Old Style)	0	0
Tie Stock = 25 (2018 = 26). The Stock was paid for by Middlesex CCC, hence no balance sheet valuation.		
5 50th Anniversary Memorabilia;		

	Income	Expenditure	Net	Stock	Value	Write Off
	£	£	£		2018	
Glasses	96.00		96.00	0		
Shirts	69.00	68.04	0.96	0		
Ties	112.00		112.00	57		
Pens	42.00		42.00	42		
	319.00	68.04	250.96		926.33	675.37



6	<b>Bursary Donation:</b>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	Specific donation for Bursaries		
7	<b>Administration Expenses:</b>		
	Lottery Renewal Fee - Westminster Council	20	20
	Stamps	94	89
	Entertainment - Lunch re Seaxe News Takeover	0	38
	Middlesex Cricket Board Subscription	9	9
	Stationery	0	50
	Web Site Domain Renewal	<u>289</u>	<u>18</u>
		<u>412</u>	<u>224</u>
8	<b>Donations:</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>
9	<b>Prepaid Lottery Fee (City of Westminster) 2020</b>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
10	<b>Prepaid Membership Fees 2020</b>	<u>388</u>	<u>243</u>
11	<b>Prepaid Lottery Subscriptions 2020</b>	<u>648</u>	<u>576</u>
12	<b>Geoff Norris Award Reserve</b>	<u>2,397</u>	<u>2,642</u>
	Balance 1 Jan 2019	2,642	
	Interest Received	5	
	Less 2019 Award	<u>-250</u>	
	Balance 31 Dec 2019	<u>2,397</u>	

### Mike O'Farrell

Mike O'Farrell was already a leading figure in Middlesex Cricket and a keen supporter of the Seaxe Club when he became chairman of Seaxe in 2015 in succession to David Killick.

He was treasurer of the county club at the time, having been elected to the old general committee way back in the 1990s and was soon to become chairman of the county club, successfully juggling the two posts and establishing Seaxe as a prominent member of the county set up. It was



from then onwards that I never had to remind the chairman at the Middlesex AGM not to forget to mention Seaxe and its work for cricket throughout the county.

A busier chairman we could not have had as he is also a tireless worker for his local church and has managed to get a university degree in his "spare time"!

I could go on about his family commitments, but won't and just say well done as he continues in the post of chairman of the county club, leaving Seaxe for someone else to take up the mantle.

All the very best Mike and thank you from the whole of the Seaxe club.

***Alan Ashton, Seaxe President.***

## **SEAXE NEWS**

### **A REMINDER OF THE MCC DRESS CODE APPLICABLE TO MEMBERS STANDS AND THE BOXES**

It is probably easier to list that which is NOT allowed:

Gentlemen's shirts which do not have a collar (unless worn by under 16's) , including crew-neck shirts (polo shirts are acceptable), T-shirts or singlets. Torn ripped or unclean clothing. Football, running, athletic, cycling, tennis or other shorts worn for playing sport. Tracksuits, garments in military camouflage colours.

Ladies bikini tops or tops/dresses showing bare midriff.

All - beachwear, beach style flip flop shoes, bare feet, bare torsos and anyone wearing dilapidated or offensive garments of any kind will not be permitted under any circumstances.

Notwithstanding the dress standards outlined above, the MCC reserves the right to refuse entry to any person considered unsuitably attired.

These are the rules set by the MCC not the Seaxe Club or Middlesex and we must abide by them.

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### **BEHIND THE SCENES WITH SAM PRICE**

I have been on board at Middlesex for a little over two years now, having taken up the role as Communications Executive at the beginning of 2018, working under Steven Fletcher in the Media/Marketing department.

I joined up with Middlesex with a background in marketing, having spent a year with a marketing agency whilst also operating my website, which focussed on trends in the sporting industry from a media perspective.

One of my primary roles at Middlesex is to run our many social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube. Being in my mid-twenties, social media is a phenomenon which I have grown up alongside, meaning I am well accustomed to spending my life scrolling through timelines (often hours at a time). This is something which whilst my parents may not have been proud of at the time, has left me well equipped for this role at the very least!



I take great pride in this role, and one of my primary objectives upon arriving at Middlesex was to bring the club into the 21<sup>st</sup> century online, giving our fans instant access to any news and updates the club has. Now more than ever, I believe supporters are eager to feel as close to a club and its players as possible. Social media provides us with an opportunity to satisfy this desire, and this is a large part of why I feel it is so important to focus on.

We now have over 195,000 followers across our primary social media platforms and were the fastest growing club during the 2019 season. In real terms, this means we are connecting with more people who are interested with Middlesex, as well as potential new fans of the club, which can mean a great deal to the club in terms of revenue in the long term.

During the season, I spend a lot of my time with the players and backroom staff in the pre-match build-up and during matches, whether that's here at Lord's, or away around the country. One of the more nerve-racking moments upon arriving in 2018 was meeting them all for the first time, not really knowing what to expect! I'm pleased to confirm, however, that Middlesex are blessed with a great group of professionals – and I really had nothing to worry about whatsoever!

My role during the season does evolve somewhat, constantly fluctuating between part-time photographer, graphic designer, videographer and often even chair-unfolder at out-grounds. Primarily however, I spend the majority of my time on matchdays keeping our social media channels and website up to date, providing match updates as quickly and succinctly as possible – whilst running around the ground trying to grab as much exclusive content as I can. On days where Middlesex are winning in particular, I believe this to be one of the best jobs in the world.

I also help to manage our other online functions, such as the club website. My job includes keeping the website up to date at all times, not only with the latest news that we want to publicise, but also with our matchday live-streams, latest events & exclusive members content.

The website is ever evolving, and we were proud to launch a brand-new membership portal at the end of 2019, which we are confident will provide members instant access to all their information regarding their membership, as well as exclusive membership offers and content.

Our live stream also launched on our website in the time since I have joined the club. This has added another dimension to our online offering to fans, and we are all excited by the number of cricket lovers who are tuning in online throughout the season to watch us play.

We're looking forward to the 2020 season already, and we will be looking to continue to improve our online offering again this year!

### WORK IN PROGRESS

If you haven't visited the ground lately and would like to know what has been happening, I present the latest view as of the 2nd February.



No Edrich / no Compton / no clock !! With Test match tickets having been sold for both stands, it strikes me that the builders have their work cut out to be ready in time.

My thanks to Viveca Dutt for the February photos.

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### LUKE HOLLMAN'S REPORT ON THE ENGLAND U19'S TRIP TO THE W/INDIES DECEMBER 2019

Having completed my A levels in June, it was a relief to finally be able to concentrate solely on cricket. The priority focus was a Middlesex professional contract and after an enjoyable season, especially at Club level, I was delighted when I found out that I was to be offered one. It was around this time that David Graveney contacted me to tell me that I had been recalled to the England U19's squad along with Blake Cullen who had been leading the attack for U19's during the summer in a tough series against India and Bangladesh.

So instead of resting, I began weekly trips to Loughborough, working on my fitness until the Middlesex winter training season started in November. Following more regular training sessions ahead of departure, including a 3 day outward bound trip to the Lake District, the Young Lions met up at Gatwick airport late November to travel out for a one month tour of Antigua.

We had 2 warm up matches at the beginning of December against an Antigua XI, followed by 3 matches each against West Indies and Sri Lanka followed by a final. The games were scheduled at Sir Viv Richards Stadium and the Coolidge Cricket Ground. Blake and I both picked up a wicket in the first warm up game but did not bat in a comfortable 7 wicket win. In the 2nd game Blake was rested and it was an even more straightforward win by 10 wickets, bowling out the opposition for 81. I had figures of 6-2-15-1.



*Luke Hollman bowling*

Because of visa issues, the Sri Lankans arrived late so the Tri Nations schedule had to be hastily rearranged. Before the first match at the Sir Viv, we paid tribute to Bob Willis, led by David Graveney. I was rested but Blake was recalled and opened the



*Blake Cullen bowling*

bowling, picking up 2-39 and bowling out the W Indies for 164. Unfortunately an uncertain batting response saw us come up 36 runs shy although Blake batted well, supporting Kasey Aldridge (Somerset) in a 32 run partnership for the 9th wicket. A disappointing start but I was raring to go for the 2nd match 2 days later - same oppo, same ground. This time it was the W Indies who failed to chase what was a paltry total! Game 3 was against Sri Lanka and Blake and I were delighted as were both playing. Unfortunately in piecing together 149-4, neither of us batted and felt helpless being unable to give the innings its necessary impetus. A wicket from Blake, 4 wicketless overs from me, and Sri Lanka romped home by 27 runs DLS. A very frustrating day, but hopefully a proper opportunity would come in the next match against the W Indies.

Blake 3 wickets and Aldridge 6 wickets blew the W Indies batting away for just 116 and despite losing 4 wickets the total was passed in the 40th over. Unless they reached the final, the opportunity to play them and repeat my century innings from 2016 had gone! The next match was another low scoring



*Luke and Blake in the field*

Blake retained his place ( there was now a clear rota for the 3 main seamers - 2 games on 1 off). Blake 3 wickets and Aldridge 6 wickets blew the W Indies batting away for just 116 and despite losing 4 wickets the total was passed in the 40th over. Unless they reached the final, the opportunity to play them and repeat my century innings from 2016 had gone! The next match was another low scoring

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game but I did finally get in to bat scoring the winning runs. Earlier 6 overs bowling saw some strong appeals and balls frustratingly not quite going to hand. The final round robin game against Sri Lanka was a dead rubber as they had since beaten W Indies again but I was pleased to be picked and delighted to come in at number 5. We were 153-3 with just over 12 overs to go. I was pleased with how I was able to support Jordan Cox and bring out his positive play. I was delighted for him as he scored the only 100 of the tour. When I was out to an extraordinary caught and bowled, we were 194-4. Finally we had a total to put the opposition under pressure. Blake picked up an early wicket and I got a brace in what was surely the best performance of the tour and a final to look forward to.



*Luke with Ian Bell and Nic Pothas*

Blake retained his place but I was surprisingly and disappointingly dropped. The batting reverted to its early tournament form running out 66 run losers despite Blake's 3 wickets and a strong opening seam display. It was a great honour to meet Sir Curtly Ambrose who handed out the medals.

Overall it was a wonderful experience to be away in the West Indies for a month. I really enjoyed working with some great coaches like Ian Bell and of course our own Nic Pothas and Andy Mitchell who were both a reassuring Middlesex presence for both Blake and me. Indeed I was really grateful for the reassurances from both head coach Jon Lewis and Chairman of Selectors David Graveney my having been worried about the minimal opportunities afforded and thus just missing out on being selected for the ICC U19 World Cup being played in South Africa in January. And to have spent time with a great bunch of lads all of whom I wish well in Kimberley in what is bound to be a testing competition for all of them including our own Blake Cullen.

Meanwhile, I have been looking forward all the more to meeting up with the Middlesex players again and continuing to improve on what I learnt in the summer, and hopefully contribute with strong performances this coming season.

**Luke Hollman**  
**Photos courtesy of Peter Hollman**



**SEAXE AWARDS 2019**

First of all can I thank all of the members who took the trouble to send me their nominations either by post or via email. The response this year was excellent, an exceptionally high number were received. So please come and join us at the Awards Evening on April 27th in the Father Time Bar (main grandstand), 30 minutes after the close of play.

**SEAXE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

There were 3 clear contenders for this award and up to the day of the Seaxe Xmas luncheon it was a 3 way tie!! Help, what to do? The nominations seemed to have dried up so I was in a quandary; but then at the Xmas lunch I was presented with 2 nominations and a week later another 1 via email, all 3 for the same player. Problem solved. Quite a number of members stated that they would have voted for Dawid Malan but because he wasn't going to be there decide against doing so. I am very pleased to announce that this years Seaxe winner is Tim Murtagh, narrowly beating Dawid Malan and John Simpson. "Mr Consistent", 43 wickets at an average of 17.60 in eleven matches, were the comments that cropped up again and again. Well done Tim.

*Tim Murtagh**Nathan Sowter***THE MIKE GATTING AWARD TO THE ONE DAY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

We had a clear winner in this category although interestingly 11 different players were nominated for various reasons. Quiet a number mentioning AB de Villiers, Dawid Malan and Nick Gubbins, but way out ahead was Nathan Sowter. The consistency of his bowling being the main factor within the nominations.

**SECOND XI PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

This player has been nominated by Alan Coleman who goes on to write: Thilan Walallawita has bowled consistently well throughout the season taking 47 2nd XI wickets, his best being 6-63. 12 T20 wickets at an average of 20.42 in 9 games and 33 Championship wickets. A worthy recipient of this Award. I would personally like to add that having seen him play for the 2nd's on a number of occasions, I felt it was only a matter of time before his ability was rewarded. **Glen Birkwood**

*Thilan Walallawita*

### WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Danni Warren writes that the recipient of this year's award was a unanimous decision among the coaches. The award goes to Sophia Dunkley.

Sophia began her cricketing journey at Finchley CC. Her potential was spotted at an early age, and as a 12 year old she was invited to be part of a County Junior Emerging Player Programme. From there she moved onto the county run ECB Emerging Player Programme, and made her senior County debut for Middlesex aged only 14!!

Her 2019 County season started with a bang, scoring 138 against Worcestershire in only the second Championship match of the season. The rest of her 50 over campaign included three half centuries and an unbeaten 114 against Wales. In a Ben Stokes-esque display, she single handedly took the team to a competitive 163, scoring 56 of her runs with numbers 9 and 10 at the other end. She finished the season with 587 runs at an average of 48.92.

With the ball in hand she took 18 wickets at 18.50 and with an economy rate across both 50 over and T20 of only 3.92!! Her best 50 over spell being 4-18 against Durham and in the T20's 3-10 against Hampshire.

Still only 21 and with so much already achieved, we are sure we will see a lot more from Sophia in the years to come on the International stage. **Danni Warren**



*Sophia Dunkley*

### DISABILITY CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

This is a new award introduced this year with the approval of Michael Wilson Head of Disability Cricket at Middlesex. The award goes to Jaidev Charan.

Jai has come a long way in the last 18 months, he has gone from a part time bowler to opening the bowling for the D40 disability squads 1st team, and has cemented his place in the starting XI. He has been selected to be a part of the England Lions learning disability squad and narrowly missed out on a trip to Australia in November.

Jai works extremely hard on developing his game and the results have been seen in many of our games this season, taking key wickets at important times within the match. **Michael Wilson**



*Jaidev Charan*



## **MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM THE SEASON**

Well this took me by surprise, having listened to the moans and groans about the season, you certainly seemed to have enjoyed a lot of it!! I received no fewer than 16 different “memorable moments” with multiple nominees being AB de Villiers batting, Simpson’s 167 at Old Trafford, the T20 match at Taunton, Sam Robson’s hundred in his first one day game, Toby R-J at Merchant Taylors, Max Holden’s 166 at Canterbury and Finn’s 50 together with Murtagh at Hove.

We had Gubbin’s and Eskinasi’s partnership versus Glos., Malan’s 117 at the Oval, Murtagh’s bowling for Ireland at Lord’s, James Harris’s 117 versus Lancs., Paul Stirling’s 138 versus Glamorgan, beating Surrey (always popular!), and even walking onto the hallowed ground during the Sussex match.

So you see there was a lot there that gave pleasure and will bring us all back to watch and support Middlesex in 2020. It is these memorable moments that make watching the game so enjoyable. **Glen Birkwood**

### **Geoff Norris Award:** Lucy Porter

Lucy is the epitome of commitment, and evidence of how this pays off. Rarely missing an opportunity to train or get match time, both with the County and away from the Middlesex programme. Her 2019 season saw her score a total of 299 runs with her highest score of 40\* coming in quick time against Buckinghamshire U17’s. In addition to this she took 18 wickets, with best figures of 4-12. Lucy’s capability to change matches was displayed in her spell of 3 wickets for only 2 runs, taking the T20 match against Wales from a precarious 67-2 to 71-6 in the space of her 3 overs. Middlesex’s Women’s Development team going on to win the game comfortably. Her selection for the Eastern Sunrisers Regional Development Centre for the 2020 season is just reward for her continuing development.

### **Jack Robertson Award:** Josh DeCaires 157\*

The highest score by a Youth Cricketer in 2019 came ironically in 2nd XI cricket. Middlesex 2nd XI played a combined Kent/Sussex 2nd XI at the start of last summer and it was during this 3 day fixture that Josh scored 157\*, opening the batting in tricky conditions against a very good attack. He showed patience and awareness beyond his years in what was an outstanding knock.

### **David Newton Batting Award:** Josh DeCaires

Josh has had a very good 2019 season, Josh played across the U17, U19 and 2nd XI teams throughout the summer. Josh scored well over 400 Youth runs but it was his performances in 2nd XI cricket that really caught the eye. His summer started with a very good 157\* against a combined Kent/Sussex 2nd XI and he continued through the year scoring over 400 runs in the 2nd XI which included

## **SEAXE NEWS**

2 hundreds. Josh's summer was capped off with selection into the London and East U17 side for the National Super 4's competition at Loughborough.

### **John Piddington Allrounder Award: Riva Pindoria**

In 2019 her off spin claimed 21 wickets at an average of 11.38 and economy of only 3.32; with 7 of these coming when representing Middlesex U17 Girls at the age of only 13!! With the bat she regularly contributed, taking on a number of different roles throughout the season. Often Captaining the Middlesex U13 Girls, continually developing her ability as a leader and her awareness of the game. Going in to 2020 her potential is being supported through the Middlesex skill set programme; being part of both the Spin bowling and Batting groups.

### **Gerry Lillee Bowling Award: Ishaan Kaushal**

Ishaan burst back into county Youth Cricket in 2019, having had a year out in 2018. Ishaan took 27 wickets across U17 and U19 matches at an average of 18. His consistency of hitting an uncomfortable length was the basis of his success and has been rewarded, following his summer performances, with selection onto the Elite Player Group (Academy) for the 2019/2020 season.

### **Rynhold Family Award (wicketkeeper or fielder): Matt McGowen**

Matt McGowen was the outstanding choice for his wicketkeeping season in the U14's. Matt took 22 catches and 14 stumpings in last years U14 County fixtures; this to go with 482 runs meant he was a very consistent performer and influencer in the outcome of matches throughout his teams summer. Matt is quiet, determined and goes about his business in a very team orientated manner. He reads the game very well for a player of his age and has been rewarded with selection onto the Elite Player Group (Academy) for 2019/2020.

### **Richard Davis Award: Katie Wolfe**

Katie's 2019 season saw her gain a number of plaudits, taking home the Club's Women's Youth Player of the Season in the process. Despite being only 18 Katie became one of the Women's 1st teams most reliable bowlers, taking 22 wickets across the 50 over and T20 formats. Match changing contributions were a regular feature for Katie, whether with the bat in the lower order - her 19 off 18 balls against Berkshire taking momentum into a successful run defence, and a 45 run 11th wicket stand with Sophia Dunkley against Wales - or with the ball. Her best figures of 3-12 against Berkshire and 3-16 against Sussex were surpassed by the manner in which she completed her 3 wicket haul against Somerset - all in the space of 3 deliveries!! This hat trick earning Katie the Richard Davis award.

### **Rory Coutts**

**MIDDLESEX PLAYERS UPDATES**

Once again for those of you you do not or cannot access the Middlesex CCC website, I have included some of the latest information below:

Toby Roland-Jones has extended his contract to the end of 2022

Martin Andersson has extended is contract to the end of 2021

Tom Lace has extended his contract to the end of 2022

Sam Robson has extended his contract to the end of 2022

Tim Murtagh has signed a new 2 year contract

Dan Lincoln / Thilan Walallawita / Joe Cracknell have all signed Professional Rookie Contracts

I believe this proves that our players have the commitment to make sure, and belief that, Middlesex Cricket Club has a successful future ahead of it over the coming seasons.

Amen to that.  
Ed.



*Toby Roland-Jones*



*Martin Andersson*



*Tom Lace*

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*Sam Robson*



*Tim Murtagh*



*Dan Lincoln*



*Thilan Walallawita*



*Joe Cracknell*

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## SEAXE CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2019

This year's Christmas luncheon was once again held in The Lord's Tavern, but this time with a 2 course meal instead of the buffet of previous years.

The festive scene was set with the addition of Christmas crackers against each place setting; there's nothing quite like a bad joke and a paper hat to tell you it's Christmas time!!

The members took advantage of the varied menu with the bulk selecting the turkey, a number for the fish dish and several opting for the Ox cheeks. These were followed by a choice of desserts, Christmas pudding, fruit crumble or a selection of cheeses. Finally culminating in tea / coffee together with mince pies. Everybody I spoke to said without exception, how much they enjoyed the meal, the atmosphere and the change of menu.

Unfortunately the sound system decided to give up the ghost and so the words of thanks etc., from our Chairman may well have been lost on some, but I think they got the drift of what was being said. Our outgoing Treasurer Peter Jackson conducted the final lottery draw of the year (no sound system was required because Brian Cahill made sure everybody knew the numbers being called!!). It is very ironic and in a way very fitting that the 4th and final number that Peter will ever draw as Treasurer, should have been won by him. As you can see from the photo, the delight on his face says it all!!

### December Lottery Result

1st	£160	No 116 Alex Orr
2nd	£100	No 250 Nick Storer
3rd	£74	No 155 John Harkness
4th	£50	No 274 Peter Jackson

So it just remains for me to say, on your behalf thank you Steve for organizing such a wonderful occasion; thank you to Alex at the Tavern for making sure service went smoothly and also for providing the Christmas crackers - a lovely seasonal touch.

***Glen Birkwood***



*Peter Jackson enjoying his win*



### MIDDLESEX EVENTS FOR 2020

#### MEMBER'S QUIZ NIGHT

Fancy yourself as the ultimate quiz master? Here's your chance to prove it as you pit your wits against fellow members! Book individual places and be put into a team of fellow members, or get a group of friends together and enter a team (max 6). Teams will be joined by Middlesex cricketers. Booking is ESSENTIAL!

**Date:** 24th March, **Location:** Lord's Nursey Pavilion, **Time:** 6pm

Price: Members £15 / Member's Guests £20

Please book via the new members portal, if you have registered. If you cannot register please email [events@middlesexccc.com](mailto:events@middlesexccc.com) or call the office.

#### AGM & post AGM drinks

Join us at Middlesex's Annual General Meeting and a post AGM Forum, where Members will have the opportunity to ask any questions to a panel of club representatives. The post AGM party will be held after the close of the forum. No tickets are required for this event. Please bring a current valid membership card with you in order to gain admittance.

**Date:** 7th April, **Location:** Thomas Lord Suite, Lord's, **Time:** 6pm

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

#### MEMBER'S MATCH DAY LUNCHES

**Dates:** Sun 26th April, Fri 22nd May, Wed 9th Sept.

**Location:** Centurion Roof Terrace (above Mound Stand)

More details to follow in the pre-season mailing.

#### CHEESE & WINE EVENING

**Date:** Fri 8th May

More details to follow in the pre-season mailing.

#### LADIES DAY

**Date:** Sat 23rd May, **Location:** Centurion Roof Terrace (above Mound Stand)

More details to follow in pre-season mailing

#### MEMBER'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

**Date:** Sun 13th December, **Location:** Lord's Long Room

More details to follow in pre-season mailing

***Lorraine Poole - Events Manager Middlesex CCC***

**SEAXE SOCIAL REPORT WINTER 2019/2020**

December saw a very well attended Christmas lunch. This is covered in a report elsewhere in this edition.

The other winter socials have not had an increase in numbers for quite a few years. In fact there has been a small but persistent erosion in numbers attending. Our November gathering has always been the most affected, none more so than in this winter's gathering when we hit an all time low.

The January lunch at "The Clarence" was attended by the usual regulars and, thankfully some new faces. A committee suggestion of a week day lunch was put to those present and a provisional agreement was reached to trial this in November. This may not be final answer to increase numbers, but we are prepared to try anything new that brings us a positive result.

To finish on a positive note, there is no intention to stop the Sunday winter lunches because those members who do attend have a very convivial afternoon.

The Christmas lunch will continue and will be held in The Lord's Tavern on December 6th.. Discussions are already underway in an effort to duplicate the success of 2019.

**Dates for the diary:**

**Seaxe AGM** - 31st March     **Seaxe Awards Evening** - 27th April

**Seaxe Box reception** - Sunday 24th May

***Steve Baldwin - Social Secretary***

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**A Unique Family Memoir  
from a Middlesex and Seaxe Member**

*Other Times, Other Places* is a book based on the unique diaries kept by two unremarkable young Brits at two different times on two different sojourns in two different continents in the 1930's. The two were the author's parents whose observations of travel to and life in Western Australia and then Sierra Leone give a fascinating glimpse of a vanished era. The modern reader is given a picture of the background of both diarists in industrial Central Scotland and of the society which shaped their attitudes to the pioneering culture where they found themselves. Comprehensively researched with helpful Notes and Appendices which explain or expand on a wide range of topical or technical allusions. The book includes hitherto unpublished sketches and rarely seen photographs.

Proceeds from the sales of this book will be donated to registered charities, the first of which is the RNLI Hastings Lifeboat.

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Details: 250pp paperback

From: [www.completelynovel.com/books/other-times-other-places](http://www.completelynovel.com/books/other-times-other-places)

Contact: Donald Yule - (m) 07368 416120 (h) 01424 258785

[donyule@the-pres.org.uk](mailto:donyule@the-pres.org.uk)

### About the author:

Donald Yule has been a familiar figure around Lord's since the 1980's and wears his 30 years badge with pride. He comes from a Scottish cricketing family, many of whom played for Uddington CC south east of Glasgow. During his active years Donald was closely associated with Warrington CC - a club which produced some Lancashire and England players. Now retired to St Leonard's on Sea, he is happy to visit Lord's from time to time and let members buy him a drink!!

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## OPINIONS WANTED

As previously stated, I would be delighted to receive your comments (good or bad), any articles etc., for inclusion in the Seaxe News and possibly for placing on the Seaxe / MCCC websites.

All correspondence to: email: [glen.birkwood@hotmail.com](mailto:glen.birkwood@hotmail.com) - by post to: 86 Edgell Road Staines upon Thames Middx TW18 2EL

Thank you.

Poser - What are your thoughts on the proposal to make Test matches 4 day events?

If you have yet to do so, could you please forward your email address to Les Rowland - see below. This makes communication so much easier and efficient.

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to Barbara Buxton, 1 Croft Court, Chelmsford, CM1 6UQ - email: [buxtonb@hotmail.com](mailto:buxtonb@hotmail.com)

If you prefer to receive Seaxe News by email, please send your email address to our joint membership secretary Les Rowland - [leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com](mailto:leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com)

Finally don't forget to keep an eye on our website for general information: [www.seaxeclub.co.uk](http://www.seaxeclub.co.uk)

Enjoy your cricket

**Glen Birkwood Editor**