



SEAXE NEWS

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Spring 2021

THE SEAXE CLUB - ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

First of all some good news in this disappointing year! We have, at long last a Club Secretary to replace the much missed Elaine Knight. His name is David Marsh and you can read about him within these pages. Suffice to say the Seaxe Committee are grateful to David for accepting the role and we look forward to working with him in the coming months / years.

Well, what a year 2020 was, best forgotten for so many reasons, and yet impossible to ignore. Our cricket was streamed online and our thanks go to all involved who made it possible to at least watch some live cricket, albeit not in the surroundings we would have preferred. A year where we've learned to socially distance, unable to hug or play with our grandchildren. To wear a mask when shopping (there was a time they would call the police if you went into a shop wearing a mask!), mourn lost friends or family. If this sounds slightly depressing it's because it is. So what of 2021? We must remain optimistic and yet realistic that early in the season there is every likelihood that cricket will be played behind closed doors or at best with limited numbers attending. Should the former be the case, I've had confirmation that there will, once again be live streaming of the games. Limited numbers attending? How do you allocate within the membership? Whilst we know that the numbers attending County games are generally low, I think we can be assured that because of the dearth of live cricket last season, the numbers wishing to attend cricket at Lord's this season will be higher than normal. I know H.O. is looking into the logistics of this problem, but nothing can be decided until we know what the Government policy will be regarding social distancing etc.. With limited numbers and seat allocation, there is a distinct possibility that the Seaxe Box will be unavailable, although I will be requesting otherwise. Let's cross that bridge when we come to it.

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It's a shame that all the planned social events for the year were cancelled, especially our popular Christmas luncheon (more from Steve Baldwin within these pages) and our Awards Evening. On the subject of the Awards Evening, it is very unlikely that my original option of Friday 9th April will be possible. Various other dates have been listed as possibilities, namely Fri 23rd April / 7th May / 14th May. As I've previously said I would hope to have the 2019 winners there as well, seeing as they missed out receiving their awards last year. Here again we are in the hands of the Government / MCC and social distancing!!

The Seaxe AGM which would have been scheduled for 31st March, will now, naturally have to be postponed. As soon as a convenient date is available, you will be notified.

The final lottery draw was held in December via Zoom and the list of the winners is on the back page, congratulations to the lucky recipients.

It only remains for me to say that I truly believe we will all be able to meet up this season and enjoy the game of cricket and each others company. In the meantime stay safe, stay healthy and I look forward to your company ere long.

Glen Birkwood - Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

I start my first report as Treasurer with thanks to Peter Jackson, not only for his years of service as Seaxe Treasurer but for continuing in the role until we were able to achieve the handover in August 2020. I am also most grateful that Peter is remaining on the Committee and for his guidance as I gain experience in the role.

Seaxe Club supports cricket in the county of Middlesex and you, the Members, have continued to support the Club throughout 2020. This in turn has meant that we have been able to continue our support to cricket and cricketers as further detailed below.

The Members' support also means that we end the year with net assets of £25,514 having recorded a small excess of expenditure over income of £682 for the year.

INCOME

Members' Subscriptions: These totalled £3,648, a reduction of £246 on the 2019 figure. The planned recruitment drive over the cricket season, aided by the new membership leaflet, was not possible, but it is hoped that there will be opportunity over 2021. I am pleased to report that 2021 subscriptions received from those Members who pay by Standing Order are encouragingly similar to 2020, thank

you. However, the amounts received by cheque are significantly lower. This is probably linked to a lack of opportunities to meet and will, hopefully, pick up as 2021 progresses.

The Seaxe Lottery (100 Club): Net lottery income was a very creditable £2,237 compared with £2,248 in 2019. The ongoing support from Members is much appreciated. Total income for the year was £3,437 and four draws were made (three via Zoom) with at least two Committee Members present. Twenty prizes totalling £1,200 were paid out. This amounts to 35% of the total income, in line with the licence from Westminster Council.

Teas in the Seaxe Box and Merchandise sales: With no opportunity to meet in person at Lord's over 2020, both these items were, understandably, not able to generate any income.

Christmas Lunch: Similarly, it was not permitted to arrange a Christmas lunch in 2020, although this is run as a breakeven event and there were, correspondingly, no costs incurred.

Bursary Donations: We were, as ever, very grateful to receive a number of donations totalling £650 over 2020. The associated support that Seaxe Club has been able to provide is detailed in the next section.

Interest Received: As interest rates continued to fall, the interest received on our broadly similar bank deposits fell to £15 compared with £38 over 2019.

EXPENDITURE

Seaxe News: The cost was £2,057 (2019 - £2,065) for the three editions. Glen did a superlative job in coaxing interesting and inspiring articles out of a wide section of the Middlesex Cricket community. With Lord's closed, Glen and Les also took on the task of distributing the issues, via email where possible. There were additional postage and stationery costs that have, in recent years, been, kindly, picked up by Middlesex CCC. These costs have been mitigated through the reduced printing costs arising from the use of email.

Administration Expenses: £314 (2019 - £412). The bulk of these costs was £245 relating to the printing of a promotional membership leaflet referred to above. Whilst it was not possible to circulate this at Lord's over 2020, it is hoped that it will aid the recruitment of additional Members over 2021. Once again, Committee Members claimed little in the way of out-of-pocket expenses.

Social Events: The closure of Lord's also prevented the planned AGM / Awards Evening and the September Drinks Reception from taking place. There was therefore no associated expenditure. (2019 - £613).

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Player of the Year Awards and Trophies: Despite not being able to hold an awards evening at Lord's, the Club purchased the small trophies for the recipients to keep and engraved the permanent trophies at a total cost of £376. A new trophy for 'Disability Player of the Year' was purchased in 2020 using some of the proceeds of the generous donations given to the Club in memory of Elaine Knight. The balance of these proceeds will be used to make a corresponding award to the recipient each year.

Awards: The Club has made provision totalling £1,175 for the cost of the awards for achievements over 2020, but will be awarded in 2021. As for 2019, vouchers that could be redeemed in a number of national retail outlets were purchased and sent to the recipients in the absence of the usual Awards Evening.

Middlesex Colts Association (MCA): As was the case in 2019, MCA did not need our help over 2020.

All Stars Cricket: As detailed in the Winter 2020 Seaxe News, despite the curtailed season, the Club was able to support 76 young people attending All Stars Cricket in August. The total of £2,660 was lower than the £5,000 that has been provided in recent years but it is hoped that there will be the opportunity to revert to previous levels of support in 2021.

Seaxe Bursaries: The Club invites applications from the Middlesex Cricket Community for assistance and, after due consideration by the Committee, was able to make one bursary during the year totalling £663 (2019 - £472).

SUMMARY: As reported earlier, the Club made a small deficit for the year of £682 (2019 – surplus £1,939). This means that the overall financial position of the Club has remained broadly similar to 2019. The Club is fortunate that much of its expenditure is discretionary, but we hope to increase our donations and bursaries back to 2019 levels over 2021. This will require an equivalent increase in income. Once again, we remain grateful to our Members for their support through subscriptions, lottery shares and most generous donations.

A draft set of accounts has been included with this report as there has not yet been opportunity to meet with our independent examiner, Michael Wilson. We do remain most grateful to him for his time and professional input.

Stephen Lockwood
Treasurer

THE SEAXE CLUB - DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2020

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Income:			
Members Subscriptions		3,648	3,894
Surplus from Lottery	1	2,237	2,248
Treas in the Seaxe Box	2	0	510
Income re Christmas Lunch	3	0	1,689
Sale of Ties (Old Style)		0	0
50th Anniversary Memorabilia (net)		0	251
Elaine Knight Donations		0	610
Interest Received	15	38	
Donations Received	31	4,194	
Bursary Donation	4	650	1,000
Geoff Norris Award Donation		250	250
		<u>6,831</u>	<u>14,684</u>
General Expenses:			
Seaxe News (including associated postage)		2,057	2,065
Administrative Expenses	5	314	412
Expenditure re Christmas Lunch	3	0	1,724
50th Anniversary Stock Write-Off		0	926
Race Night		0	(15)
Donations Paid	6	0	0
Social Events		0	613
		<u>2,371</u>	<u>5,725</u>
Net Income After General Expenses:		<u>4,460</u>	<u>8,959</u>
Donations:			
Player of the Year Awards and Trophies		376	548
Geoff Norris Award	12	250	250
Elaine Knight Award		318	0
Awards		875	750
Middlesex Colts Association		0	0
Middlesex Cricket Board - All Stars Cricket		2,660	5,000
Bursaries		663	472
		<u>5,142</u>	<u>7,020</u>
(Deficit)/ Surplus for the year:		<u>(682)</u>	<u>1,939</u>

Bank of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on a basis consistent with previous years.

THE SEAXE CLUB - DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2020

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Current Assets:			
Stock of Ties (Old Style)	7	0	0
Stock of 50th Anniversary Memorabilia	8	0	0
Bank - Geoff Norris Award Account	12	2,149	2,397
Bank - High Interest Account		20,530	20,314
Bank - No 1 Account		4,060	4,882
Bank - Lottery Account		<u>466</u>	<u>666</u>
		<u>27,205</u>	<u>28,659</u>
Prepayments:			
Prepaid Expenses	9	20	20
		<u>27,225</u>	<u>28,779</u>
Total Assets:			
Current Liabilities:			
Membership Fees Prepaid	10	138	387
Lottery Subscriptions Prepaid	11	448	648
Accrued Geoff Norris Award Payment		250	250
Accrued Awards Payments		<u>875</u>	<u>750</u>
		<u>1,711</u>	<u>2,035</u>
Net Assets:			
Represented by:			
Accumulated fund brought forward		<u>25,514</u>	<u>26,444</u>
Geoff Norris Award Reserve	12	24,047	22,108
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		<u>2,149</u>	<u>2,397</u>
		<u>(682)</u>	<u>1,939</u>
Accumulated fund carried forward:		<u>25,514</u>	<u>26,444</u>

These accounts have been prepared as a DRAFT pending independent examination.

THE SEAXE CLUB - DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2020 £	2019 £
1 Surplus from the Lottery:		
Contributions from members	3,437	3,457
Less Prizes	1,200	1,209
Transferred to General Funds	2,237	2,248
2 Teas In The Seaxe Box:		
Income received net of costs	0	510
3 Christmas Lunch:		
Income	0	1,689
Expenditure	0	1,724
(Surplus/Deficit)	0	(35)
4 Bursary Donation:		
Specific donations received for bursaries	650	1,000
5 Administration Expenses:		
Lottery Renewal Fee - Westminster Council	20	20
General Postage and Stationery	0	94
Sundry	40	0
Middlesex Cricket Board Subscription	9	9
Stationery (Seaxe promotional leaflets)	245	0
Web Site Domain	0	289
	314	412
6 Donations paid:		
	0	0
7 Stock of Ties (Old Style):		
Stock = 25 (2019 = 25). The Stock was paid for by Middlesex CCC, hence no balance sheet valuation.	0	0
8 Stock of 50th Anniversary Memorabilia:		
Tie Stock = 57 (2019 = 57). Pen stock = 42 (2019 = 42). The value of the stock was written off over 2019	0	0

THE SEAXE CLUB - DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

	2020 £	2019 £
9 Prepaid Lottery Fee (City of Westminster):		
	20	20
10 Prepaid Membership Fees:		
	138	387
11 Prepaid Lottery Subscriptions:		
	448	648
12 Geoff Norris Award Reserve:		
	2,149	2,397
Opening balance	2,397	2,642
Interest Received	2	5
Awards during year	(250)	(250)
Closing balance	2,149	2,397

SOCIAL REPORT
Steve Baldwin

Taking an optimistic outlook that the vaccination programme will have the desired outcome, and Government guidance allowing, winter socials should be possible next winter.

The aim will be for a lunch in the first week of November, mid-week was suggested as a trial. The Lord's Tavern has been shut since the start of the pandemic and all the staff are furloughed. As yet there is no planned opening date; consequently only a provisional booking has been made for the Seaxe Christmas lunch at the Tavern - Sunday 12th December. We had originally hoped to have our Christmas lunch on the 5th December, but we have since discovered that is the date for the Middlesex Members Christmas lunch being held in the Long Room (another date for your diary!).

The Sunday lunches will then continue in January / February 2022. If restrictions are eased for spectators to attend first class cricket this season, then members are encouraged to have an input with the social calendar e.g. preferred venues, dates etc (i.e. mid week / summer meeting). Alternatively contact the mobile number below with your thoughts and suggestions.

Steve Baldwin - 07956 439807
Social Secretary - Seaxe Club

SEAXE NEWS REVIEW SPRING 2021

It's not been the easiest of years to produce editions of the Seaxe News what with very little happening. Therefore I am eternally grateful to all those who took the time and trouble to contribute. To Fletch and his team for allowing me to plagiarise various snippets from the Middlesex website; and, although this has been said before, it's worth repeating, thank you Lorraine and your team for giving us access to live cricket which has also enabled us to have Seaxe Awards winners. The "Behind the Scenes" section continues, and my grateful thanks to everyone who agreed to take part. If any of you have a name or member of staff you would like to know more about for inclusion in this section, please let me know.

I hope you enjoy the read, strangely enough, I enjoy the challenge of finding something to write! And on that theme, your comments, suggestions (physically possible please) are always welcome. My contact details are on the back page.

Glen Birkwood - Editor

THE NEW SEAXE CLUB SECRETARY DAVID MARSH

I am originally from Rochester, Kent and my first cricket experiences were when I was a few weeks old and I was taken to Canterbury for my first game - needless to say, I don't remember the result.

I went to Portsmouth University gaining my degree in Business Studies and trained as an accountant from my first job with Unilever, which was a make-up factory in Kent! I then worked in Germany before coming back to work for the largest part of my career with British Gas in Staines Middlesex (1997/8). I had 12 great years there, met my wife Hayley, another accountant, and we settled down in Staines. we have 2 children Ed (13) and Anna (8). They both play cricket down at Chertsey (one of the oldest clubs in the country), which is our nearest Club. I am pleased to say that Ed has more skills than I ever had on the cricket field, and he has ambitions of hopefully playing for Middlesex County Cricket Club one day.



David Marsh

I have been a contractor/consultant for the last 10 years and now that time is also coming to a close with the Covid pandemic forcing many businesses to close up shop over the last year.

During lockdown I have trained as an umpire - completing stages 1 & 2 (with Middlesex CCC), and I have been contributing to the Middlesex Heritage page run by Russell Grant on Facebook during this latest lockdown. I look forward to working with the Seaxe Club Committee as its Secretary, and hope that in the not too distant future we can all meet up and share a drink together.

David Marsh

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

As one can imagine, preparing for anything in these times is difficult, so I ask you all to take a moment to consider what the governing body of our game, the ECB, had to consider. Many of you will have seen the outcome of their negotiations and deliberations, namely that the ECB have new sponsors and a full fixture list which is good news.

Closer to home at Middlesex Cricket, our professionals, men and women have been in full training and we have been



Mike O'Farrell

preparing for the pressures we are anticipating from the following scenarios:

1) closed grounds **2)** 20 % capacity **3)** 50 % capacity **4)** travel restrictions

We have also had to work out what all this will mean at Lord's and our out grounds in terms of meeting the Health and Safety requirements of spectators, players and staff.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you that have continued to offer unstinting support to the club in so many ways and have kept the lines of communication open .For my part I really appreciate the many calls and emails that I received offering suggestions or asking me to pass on thanks to the staff. We will continue to use Middlesex Matters as our prime communication vehicle together with the website, but if there is anything of real importance regarding any aspect to the start to the season, we will contact you in as many ways as possible. In the meantime lets all hope that the vaccine process and nature together with the human spirit will make it possible for as many of us as are able, to be present at that opening game of the season at Lord's !

Mike O'Farrell

Chairman Middlesex CCC

BEHIND THE SCENES

Raj Nath

I started working for Middlesex Cricket in October 2015 as a Community Coach on a casual basis in the Participation Department. Having, from the age of 8, developed the love for the game, playing at school and Hampstead Cricket Club till the age of 13. I was 8 years old when I first visited Lord's, a neighbour of ours was a Middlesex member and he took me along to watch the Mighty Middlesex taken on Somerset. It was great to see my childhood heroes playing in both sides. Middlesex legends such as Haynes, Gattling, Emburey and Edmonds along with the Somerset team of Richards, Botham, and Garner. When my family moved from Swiss Cottage to Kingsbury and at the age of 14, I joined Kenton Cricket Club, which has been a part of my life for over 35 years. It was at Kenton I started to learn about coaching and groundsmanship. Little did I know, when I visited Lord's and started my cricketing journey, that one day I would be working for Middlesex and get to walk the 'Hollowed Turf'.

My role as a community coach was to deliver cricket in schools via the Chance to Shine Program. Soon



Raj Nath

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I was offered a permanent role and in September 2016 I was given my own borough to work in, Islington. I was given the opportunity to work with Islington council as part of our new drive for cricket in the borough. Using cricket as the vehicle to unlock potential and change lives by entering school environments. Having regular weekly sessions at various Primary and Secondary schools in the borough, I could see that the children and teachers were buying in to wanting to play and learn new skills. I saw that they were becoming more confident, they were having fun. This filtered through to giving the children values, collaboration, teamwork, respect, self-esteem and confidence.

In the first year of working in the borough I was able to engage with 5,543 children across 13 primary and 8 secondary schools. I also set up a Secondary Schools Summer League in the borough for both Girls and Boy's Teams. This was played out of Wray Crescent, the once home of Islington Cricket Club, the only place in the borough that has a cricket provision in the shape of a non-turf cricket pitch. This saw an increase in activity at Wray Crescent with the idea of revamping Islington Cricket Club and to rebuild the pavilion which has been neglected over the years.

With cricket becoming popular once again in the borough I was awarded the Middlesex Chance to Shine Award for Schools Coach of the Year in 2017. In 2018 Islington Council awarded me with the Sports Coach of the Year.

In 2019 I was given my current role as an Area Manager, looking after the development of a network of clubs in the boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham and Hounslow. Guiding clubs through their ECB Clubmark Accreditation and in recent times supporting clubs during the difficult times due to the Pandemic.

Part of my current role is to oversee the running of our Player Transition Competitions; namely, The Middlesex Development League (MDL), Vitality Blast U19 T20 and Middlesex Youth Club (MYC). Celebrating its 10th edition this year, The MDL is a competition allowing younger players (16+) to develop their talents in a longer format of the game. It exists to assist clubs in the retention and development of younger players. Namely: to bridge the gap between age group cricket and open age cricket; and integrate players into an adult environment effectively. The Vitality Blast U19 T20 is a T20 competition for young players aged 15-19 using the pink ball and wearing coloured clothing. The competition was founded to give young players an exciting new format of playing T20 Blast-style cricket with peers. The Middlesex Youth Cup is a T20 competition played in coloured clothing, providing a first experience of playing Vitality Blast-style cricket for young players (U14, U15 and U17s). The competition was founded to give young players an exciting new format of playing the game once school exams finish. Entries into the competitions have risen by 24% this winter, as more clubs continue to take advantage of the coloured kit formats aimed at retaining more young players.

With the hope of a cricket being able to get a full season this year. I look forward to contributing to the growth of participation in Middlesex. My colleagues in the Participation Team are ready for a full program of school's delivery and looking forward to engaging with as many youngsters as possible in the All Stars Cricket and Dynamos programmes.

Raj Nath, Participation Officer
Middlesex Cricket - Participation Team

VAGARIES OF SPIN BOWLING

Watching the first test against India, I was struck by the marked difference in performance by Dom Bess from one session to the next! I asked Luke Hollman why this should be? What goes through the bowlers mind to bring about such a change in performance? He replied:

Confidence - massively integral - relates to experience and age. Bess is a confidence bowler, and if he isn't bowling too well or getting hit, he feels the pressure. Also pressure from the media, after success you try harder to prove to the media you deserve your place and prove any critics wrong. You bowl your best when relaxed and clear minded.

Experience - with experience comes calmness and knowledge of the game.

The pitch is conducive to performance and this pitch the spinners were expected to get the job done, which in itself put pressure on the inexperienced.

Rhythm is so important and comes from confidence in your ability. A dip in confidence affects rhythm and how it feels coming out of hand.

Dom Bess is young and has areas to improve, and as he gains more experience the rhythm will become more natural, better balls will be bowled and confidence will grow.

Luke Hollman

SEAXE NEWS

MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM THE SEASON

The response for this category was down on previous years which came as no surprise, so I shall just list the most popular moments which a number of you enjoyed:

Robson's 2 wickets in 2 balls when bowling against Surrey

Gubbins century at the Oval

Eskinazi's T20 batting performance

Simpson's overall performance in both formats

Looking at the comments I received, it would appear that the friendly win (if there is such a thing?) over Surrey at the Oval certainly resonated with you. Maybe they came from members who were able to attend the match?

SEAXE AWARDS 2020

Thank you to all who took the trouble to complete the forms and register their votes. The response to this year's Players Awards was, understandably down on previous years; but nevertheless sufficient votes were cast to produce winners. There is no 2nd XI Player of the Year because as Alan Coleman confirmed, there wasn't any 2nd XI cricket played. Our Player of the Year was from the Bob Willis Trophy, and obviously the One Day Player from the Vitality series.

SEAXE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

There was a clear winner within this category whose main competition came from Simpson and Andersson. Our winner's stamina and commitment are beyond question, and so, for the 2nd year in a row our congratulations go to the Middlesex Warhorse himself - Tim Murtagh!



Tim Murtagh



THE MIKE GATTING AWARD TO THE ONE DAY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

This category was much more closely fought, featuring Steven Finn, Luke Hollman, John Simpson and Max Holden. The winner by just 2 votes is a young man who many believe will play a major role in the future of Middlesex cricket, performing well with both bat and ball- Luke Hollman

Luke Hollman

SEAXE CLUB'S WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Gayatri Gole

We have become accustomed to this players contributions with the ball in her hand over the last two years, 2020 though was the year that she grew into her promise as a genuine all-rounder. In a truncated year the contributions she made with the bat left their mark. In her only two innings she helped rescue her side when in trouble. Coming in at 60-4 at The Oval in the London Cup, her unbeaten 28 from 24 balls helped steer Middlesex to a competitive 108 after their 20 overs; and then putting on 107 with various partners to steer the side to a total of 229 against Essex in the 50 over London Championship. Her performances resulted in selection for the Sunrisers in the inaugural Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy. Her campaign was troubled with injury and ultimately consistency. However her presence around the squad provided her with valuable experience that will no doubt be key in coming years.



Gayatri Gole

Danni Warren
Regional Director of Women's Cricket
Sunrisers - London & East Region

SEAXE CLUB'S DISABILITY PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Samuel Kumar

There hasn't been as much cricket for the disability squad as we would have liked but Samuel has been nominated for his level of development during the year.

This has seen him go from the 3rd team to the 1st team at his Club.

The huge improvement in his game has also seen him move up the order in the disability 1st team.

It is this dedication and improvement that makes Samuel a worthy recipient of this award.

Michael Wilson
Head of Middlesex Disability Cricket



Samuel Kumar

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SEAXE CLUB AWARD WINNERS 2021

Geoff Norris Award - Nathan Fernandes

Jack Robertson Award (Highest Score) - Atharva Prasad

David Newton Batting Award - Atharva Prasad

John Piddington Allrounder Award - Josh Decaires

Gerry Lillie Bowling Award - Rhodri Lewis

Rynhold Family Award (Wicketkeeper or Fielder) - Daniel O'Driscoll

Richard Davis Award - Lucy Porter

Rory Coutts
Head of Youth Cricket
Middlesex Cricket

JAMES HARRIS ELECTED AS PLAYERS CRICKETERS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

We are delighted to announce that Middlesex's James Harris has been elected by the PCA Player's Committee as the new Chair of the Association, replacing Daryl Mitchell who will step down at the PCA Annual General Meeting on 25th February after completing his four year term.

Harris assumes the role following an independent election process, where each of the 18 first-class counties and the England Women's squad voted.

Harris is the 15th PCA Chair and the first to come from Middlesex. He replaces Mitchell who has completed his four years; each Chair may complete a maximum of two, two-year terms.



James Harris

Harris, 30, has been with Middlesex since 2013, when he moved to Lord's from Glamorgan, the county where he began his professional career in 2007. With 270

professional appearances, an impressive 630 wickets and 4,443 runs, he brings considerable experience to the role.

Harris already has a good working knowledge of the PCA, having been Middlesex's Players' Committee representative since 2017. In the last 12 months he has served as Vice Chair under Mitchell and alongside England Women skipper Heather Knight.

Harris said "It's a great honour to become the 15th Chair of the PCA and I am both humbled and grateful for the support I have received from the Players' Committee. I'm looking forward to getting stuck into the role, tackling the current challenges the game is facing, while ensuring that the PCA remains a leading player association for the benefit of all our members, past and present".

I'm sure I speak for all Seaxe members when I wish James well in this role.

Glen Birkwood
Chairman Seaxe Club

A FLOODLIGHT HISTORY **A snippet from Alvan Seth-Smith**

The world's first floodlit cricket match was held in 1952 at Highbury stadium, four years before Arsenal played a league match there under lights, making up for the FA Cup final having been played at The Oval.

Arsenal v Middlesex was a three hour benefit match for Jack Young, a slow left-arm bowler who played eight Tests, and was arranged by Denis and Leslie Compton, the only brothers to win both the County Championship and the FA Cup. The Bedser twins acted as umpires. Though a frippery, it attracted 7,000 spectators, an hour of primetime television and a leader in The Times.

Floodlights did not make another appearance in English cricket for 28 years and again it was at a football ground, when West Indies played Essex at Stamford Bridge. An unbeaten 111 from Graham Gooch was the highlight. The next weekend, as Chelsea laboured to a draw with Wrexham, the home fans could be heard chanting "We want cricket"!!

How times have changed.

SEAXE NEWS

OPINIONS / IDEAS ALWAYS WELCOME

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 by email: glen.birkwood@hotmail.com - or by post to: 86 Edgell Road Staines upon Thames Middx TW18 2EL

Thank you.

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

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

Lottery result December 2020:

Draw	Name
1st £125	Christopher Shiels
2nd £75	Robert Leggett
3rd £50	Mark Parker
4th £25	Peter Hollman
5th £25	David Sneddon
6th £25	Steve Baldwin
7th £25	Stuart Marley
8th £25	J. F. Wilson

Finally, don't forget to keep an eye on our website for general information: www.seaxeclub.co.uk

Let's hope we can meet later this season with a full fixture list, and some live cricket!

Glen Birkwood
Editor Seaxe News