



SEAXE NEWS

Editor: Glen Birkwood

Web site: www.seaxeclub.org
e-mail: enquiries@seaxeclub.org

Spring 2023

THE SEAXE CLUB ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

Whilst this edition is headed “Annual Review”, I feel I covered last year in the previous edition. So, looking ahead to 2023, the first piece of good news is that we will have a brand new website launching 1st April. This means we will become far more efficient in administrative matters, and you won’t be having to post forms back to us. It’ll all be online. We can inform you far more quickly of events, items of news etc.. My thanks go to Fletch for his assistance in helping to set this up, working closely with Barbara, Keith and me.

I had rather hoped that our popular Awards evening could revert back to its traditional slot, namely the Friday evening of the first home county match. As was pointed out to me, unfortunately this is Good Friday, not a good day to hold the event as a number of the recipients will be on holiday. Therefore, the event will now be held in the Middlesex Room on Friday 21st April, commencing ½ hour after close of play. The details of the award winners can be found within this edition. You are welcome to join us.

Whilst we bask in the success of the 1st XI’s promotion, we mustn’t forget our 2nd XI who only lost one of the seven 4 day games they played last season. An excellent achievement which augers well for the future of Middlesex cricket as these players grow and develop into 1st XI players. If, in this coming season you find the prospect of travelling to some of the far flung grounds we are now going to be playing at, just a bit too much; then there is a good chance that a 2nd XI match will be closer to hand. It’s good cricket and I know from meeting them that they appreciate the support.

Despite numerous mentions of our annual subscription increasing to £20 / annum, I’m surprised and a little disappointed at the number of members who have left their standing order at £12.50. Because it is a standing order, we



Glen Birkwood

SEAXE NEWS

are unable to amend the payment from this end, and we should be grateful if you could do so now. I'm sure our Treasurer will expand further in his report.

The objectives of the Seaxe Club this year are to maintain a level of support for the All Stars and Dynamo programmes, and to hopefully increase the number of individual bursaries throughout the year, whether they be for coaching fees, transport costs, kit etc.; whatever we can afford to assist Middlesex talent to grow, develop and benefit from playing this wonderful game with all its associated social benefits. You can read within these pages the latest news about Tyrone Visvakula whose coaching we financed last season, and how he is developing into a fine player. We look forward to working more closely with MCCC to our mutual advantage and to encourage as many of their members as we can to join us and help the Club in supporting youngsters to enjoy playing cricket.

On the subject of what we would like, a secretary is desperately needed. Peter Jackson has been fulfilling this role on a temporary basis (and very well indeed I might add). Because Peter is going to be our new Club President following the retirement of Alan Ashton; he is going to step down as our temporary secretary. If you feel you could step up to the plate and become our secretary, please get in touch.

It's all change at the top of MCCC as well, with the current President and Chairman standing down after a number of years. Their departing comments can be found within this edition. I imagine Selve will be leaving with a smile on his face having overseen us gain promotion. What a way to go out! On a personal note, I'd like to thank our outgoing Chairman Mike O'Farrell for everything he has done for MCCC, his constant reminders of the Seaxe Club and for cricket in general. I feel he will be sorely missed at the helm.

On the subject of thanks, I'd like to thank Alan Coleman and Richard Johnson not only for the work they have done over the past year, but for changing the ethos, culture or whatever term you wish to use, within the playing squad. There is a palpable change, a different atmosphere around the players. This not only filters through to the way they play, but very importantly their interaction with us the supporters. Much appreciated, to which my 8yr old grandson will attest.

Our forthcoming AGM is scheduled for Tuesday April 11th and will be held in the President's Suite in the Grandstand. We are hoping to have a panel of MCCC staff and players for a Q&A session after the meeting. Refreshments will be available, please try and make the effort to attend and have your say. Confirmation letter with the necessary information is enclosed with this mailing.

I still have in my possession a signed copy of the Graham Barlow book, should anyone wish to purchase it, the proceeds will go to the Seaxe Club. My details are on the back page.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Seaxe News, and I look forward to meeting a number of you during the coming season, either in the Seaxe Box, within the ground or at some of the away matches. Enjoy your cricket and let's win the Championship!!

Glen Birkwood
Chair Seaxe Club

SEAXE CLUB ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The accounts for 2022 are included in this edition of the Seaxe News. At the time of writing, they are still undergoing the independent check by John O Gorman and we are grateful to him for performing this role for the Club.

The Club recorded a surplus of £1,275 over the year aided by some very generous donations. We therefore start the new year with reserves of just over £23,000 and are well placed to continue our support to initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos, plus other requests for support.

Over 2022 we sponsored 135 All Stars places and 130 Dynamos places at a total cost of £6,000.

A full season of spectator cricket allowed us to make the box available to Members and we are grateful to Brian Cahill for his ongoing efforts, generating revenue from teas and memorabilia sales.

On the expenditure side, administrative expenses of £235 are higher than the previous year of £47 due to costs for the new website. Costs for the three editions of the Seaxe News were slightly higher at £2,084 compared with £1,900 reflecting the general increase in raw materials. Social events cost £488 compared with £351 reflecting our ability to host a box reception this year.

Looking to the future, it was encouraging to receive £900 of advance lottery subscriptions ahead of the year end. A substantial proportion of this related to new subscriptions or existing subscribers increasing their holding. This means that at the time of writing, having experienced a 20% decline over the previous two years, the lottery is, once more, all but fully subscribed.

We have also gone through the first bulk membership renewal date (on 20 January) after increasing the subs



Stephen Lockwood

SEAXE NEWS

from £12.50 to £20. The total received was just over £600 higher (25%), compared with 2022. Around 100 Members have yet to amend their standing orders, this can be done at any time before next January and in the meantime, one-off payments for the balance of £7.50 may be made by those using internet banking, to The Seaxe Club; Sort Code: 20-74-63; Account Number: 70831921.

So, plenty of good news early in the financial year. We hope this will continue so that Seaxe Club continues to serve its Members and deliver on its wider aim of supporting Middlesex Cricket.

Stephen Lockwood -Treasurer

THE SEAXE CLUB - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2022

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 December 2022

| | <u>Note</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Income: | | | |
| Members' subscriptions | | 3,553 | 3,455 |
| Lottery surplus | 1 | 1,772 | 1,914 |
| Teas in the Seaxe Box | | 580 | 225 |
| Christmas lunch net income | 2 | 65 | 145 |
| Memorabilia sales | | 87 | 28 |
| Interest received | | 17 | 2 |
| Donations received | | 5,800 | 2,271 |
| Donations for bursaries | | 250 | 300 |
| Transfer from Geoff Norris reserve | 7 | 250 | 250 |
| | | <u>12,374</u> | <u>8,590</u> |
| General Expenses: | | | |
| Seaxe News (including associated postage) | | 2,084 | 1,900 |
| Administration expenses | 3 | 235 | 47 |
| Social events | | 488 | 351 |
| | | <u>2,807</u> | <u>2,298</u> |
| Net Income After General Expenses: | | <u>9,567</u> | <u>6,292</u> |
| Expenditure on awards and support: | | | |
| Medal and trophy costs | | 416 | 376 |
| Awards | 4 | 1,080 | 1,125 |
| Middlesex Cricket Board - All Stars Cricket | | 4,050 | 4,980 |
| Middlesex Cricket Board - Dynamos | | 1,950 | 2,490 |
| Bursaries | | 796 | 500 |
| | | <u>8,292</u> | <u>9,471</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year: | | <u>1,275</u> | <u>(3,179)</u> |

Basis of Accounting:

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

THE SEAXE CLUB - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2022

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2022

| | <u>Note</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Current Assets: | | | |
| Bank - Geoff Norris Award Account | 7 | 1,651 | 1,900 |
| Bank - High Interest Account | | 22,500 | 18,000 |
| Bank - No 1 Account | | 386 | 3,323 |
| Bank - Lottery Account | | 1,140 | 426 |
| | | <u>25,677</u> | <u>23,649</u> |
| Prepayments: | | | |
| Prepaid Expenses | 5 | 20 | 49 |
| Total Assets: | | <u>25,697</u> | <u>23,698</u> |
| Current Liabilities: | | | |
| Accruals | 6 | (2,585) | (1,612) |
| Net Assets: | | <u>23,112</u> | <u>22,086</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Accumulated fund brought forward | | 20,186 | 23,365 |
| Geoff Norris Award Reserve | 7 | 1,651 | 1,900 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year: | | <u>1,275</u> | <u>(3,179)</u> |
| Accumulated fund carried forward: | | <u>23,112</u> | <u>22,086</u> |

THE SEAXE CLUB - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

| | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 1 Lottery surplus | | |
| Subscriptions | 2,722 | 2,944 |
| Prizes paid out (35%) | <u>950</u> | <u>1,030</u> |
| Surplus for the year | <u>1,772</u> | <u>1,914</u> |
| 2 Christmas Lunch: | | |
| Income | 1,055 | 1,295 |
| Expenditure | <u>(990)</u> | <u>(1,150)</u> |
| Surplus | <u>65</u> | <u>145</u> |

SEAXE NEWS

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 3 Administration Expenses: | | |
| Lottery Renewal Fee - Westminster Council | 20 | 20 |
| Sundry | 25 | 0 |
| Middlesex Cricket Board Subscription | 9 | 9 |
| Postage and Stationery | 87 | 0 |
| Website expenses | 94 | 18 |
| | <u>235</u> | <u>47</u> |
| 4 Awards | | |
| Geoff Norris Award | 240 | 250 |
| Elaine Knight Award | 120 | 125 |
| David Newton Award | 120 | 125 |
| Gerry Lillee Award | 120 | 125 |
| Jack Robertson Award | 120 | 125 |
| John Piddington Award | 120 | 125 |
| Richard Davis Award | 120 | 125 |
| Rynhold Family Award | 120 | 125 |
| | <u>1,080</u> | <u>1,125</u> |

THE SEAXE CLUB - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2022

| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 5 Prepaid Expenses | | |
| Prepaid Lottery Fee (City of Westminster): | 20 | 20 |
| Postage bought in advance | 0 | 29 |
| | <u>20</u> | <u>49</u> |
| 6 Accruals | | |
| Prepaid Membership Fees: | 285 | 37 |
| Prepaid Lottery Subscriptions: | 900 | 300 |
| Lottery prizes not cleared | 275 | 150 |
| Accrued awards payments | 1,125 | 1,125 |
| | <u>2,585</u> | <u>1,612</u> |
| 7 Geoff Norris Award Reserve: | | |
| Opening balance | 1,900 | 2,149 |
| Interest Received | 1 | 1 |
| Awards during year | (250) | (250) |
| Closing balance | <u>1,651</u> | <u>1,900</u> |

Dear member please find herewith a draft of the Seaxe Constitution for discussion and approval at the forthcoming AGM.

1. NAME:

The name of the Club shall be “The Seaxe Club” (hereinafter called “the Club”) and shall be affiliated to the Middlesex County Cricket Club (hereinafter called “The County Club”)

2. OBJECTS:

The objects of the Club shall be to foster the interest of the County Club and its promotion of cricket within Middlesex.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

- 3.1 Membership of the club shall be open to all members of the County Club who shall make application on the official form and pay the annual subscription.
- 3.2 The Contracted Players, the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Permanent Office Staff, First Team and Club Coaches and Scorer of the County Club, shall be Honorary Members of the Club.
- 3.3 Honorary Members as confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.4 All members shall be bound by the Rules of the Club.
- 3.5 Membership shall be of the same category (where possible) as that held by the County Club.
- 3.6 Any members whose subscription shall be in arrears for 30 days after becoming due forfeits all privileges of the Club until the subscription is paid.

4. MANAGEMENT:

The administration of the club and all its activities shall be under the management and control of a governing body called “The Committee.”

5. OFFICERS:

The Officers of the Club shall be:

- 5.1 President
- 5.2 Vice Presidents (who shall be elected in recognition of services rendered to the County/Club)
- 5.3 Chair
- 5.4 Treasurer
- 5.5 Secretary

Who shall constitute “the Executive”

6. COMMITTEE

6.1 Constitution:

- 6.1.1 The Officers of the Club
- 6.1.2 Five (5) Elected Members

SEAXE NEWS

6.1.3 Editor

6.2 Powers and Functions:

6.2.1 To deal with all matters affecting the club and with any matter not provided for in these rules

6.2.2 To appoint sub-committees as from time to time it deems necessary and define their terms of reference and constitution.

6.2.3 To accept or reject any application for membership.

6.2.4 To administer and resolve matters of finance and fix all rates of subscription and the annual date when same become due.

6.2.5 To nominate the President, Vice-Presidents and such other members as may be desirable to be Hon. Life Members and/or Hon. Members.

6.2.6 To co-opt not more than three (3) members.

6.2.7 To appoint a successor if an officer ceases to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

6.2.8 To declare, should any member of the committee be absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse, such member as having resigned and, if required, to fill the vacancy.

6.2.9 To appoint the Editor of Seaxe News

6.2.10 To designate a vice-chairman be in order to facilitate the continuous functioning of the Club in a manner which meets the Club's declared objectives. The individual appointed to this role be appointed by and only with the authority of the Committee.

6.3 Quorum:

The Quorum of the committee shall be three (3) members plus (1) member of the Executive.

7. FINANCE:

7.1 All funds shall be under the control of the Committee

7.2 All monies shall be paid into the Club Bank Account

7.3 Cheques and On-Line Payments shall be signed/originated as directed by the Committee

7.4 Funds not required for immediate use may be invested in such investments or securities as approved by the Committee.

8. GENERAL MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the 30th April in each year for the following purposes:-

8.1 To receive and adopt the independently checked Accounts of the Club.

- 8.2 To receive and adopt the Report of the Committee.
- 8.3 To elect the Officers
- 8.4 To elect the Committee
- 8.5 To appoint the Independent Checker
- 8.6 To confirm the appointment of the Honorary Members
- 8.7 The quorum for a General meeting shall be twenty (20) members.

9. EXTRAORDINARY:

- 9.1 An Extraordinary General meeting shall be convened with at least twenty-one (21) days notice either when:
 - 9.1.1 Instructed by the Committee
or
 - 9.1.2 A requisition signed by not less than twenty (20) members of the club and delivered to the Honorary Secretary specifying the purpose for which the meeting is to be convened.

No other business other than that stated in the Notice convening the meeting shall be transacted.

The quorum for an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be twenty (20) members.

10. VOTING:

- 10.1 Voting at General and Extraordinary Meetings, other than the election of the Officers of the club which shall be by ballot, may in the first instance, be by a show of hands, but the Chairman, at his discretion, may direct a poll to be taken and shall so direct if requested by twenty members.
- 10.2 The Chairman shall have a casting vote in all case where the vote is declared to be equal.

11. DISSOLUTION:

If upon the dissolution or winding-up of the Club there remains any properties or monies after the discharging of all debts and liabilities, this shall be transferred in its entirety to any other institution which has similar objects to the Club and that such an institution will be acceptable to the majority of Seaxe members.

12. ALTERATION (AMENDMENT) OF RULES:

- 12.1 The rules may be amended at a General Meeting subject to approval of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those present and voting at the meeting.
- 12.2 Written notice of the proposed alterations must be received by the Secretary at least twenty-eight (28) days before the date of the Meeting.

SEAXE NEWS

SEAXE CLUB SOCIAL REPORT SPRING 2023

This winters' social programme closed with a visit to "The Clarence" in Dover Street. Being at the end of January, numbers were down due to winter ailments affecting our members.

The food, especially the roasts were well received; this and the fact that we had exclusive use of the upstairs facility and bar, make "The Clarence" an attractive venue. The manager was helpful throughout and the general feeling was that we should make more use of this establishment.

Having said that, we are always open to suggestions for new venues that are central for members travelling from all parts of London and the Home Counties.

The Seaxe Christmas lunch was once again held in the Lord's Tavern. Unfortunately, the numbers were down a little on previous years; this may well have been the fear of further potential train strikes. As it was



Xmas lunch 2022

those that attended enjoyed a two course lunch followed by coffee and a mince pie. The service this time was far more efficient and nobody had to wait for any length of time. After the meal, the final lottery of the year was drawn with the winners being listed on the back page of this edition; our congratulations to all of them

Moving on to next winter, the Sunday Socials will open with:

Sunday 5th November – venue to be confirmed. The committee have agreed in principal that the first drink be complimentary as this is scheduled to replace our usual end of season drinks reception that was held in the Middlesex Room but has been poorly attended of late.

Sunday 3rd December – Christmas Lunch at The Tavern – full details to follow. Members and guests welcome.

Steve Baldwin – 07956 439807



Xmas lunch 2022



Drawing the lottery

FINAL MESSAGE FROM AN OUTSIDER

I was born in Lincolnshire – a minor county, but went on school outings to Nottingham for the second day of the first test – saw a Bradman century and a record stand a couple of years later between Worrall and Weekes for the West Indies.

Later I watched Yorkshire in Sheffield and visited both Lord's and the Oval for tests and one day finals. Retiring early from the BBC, I was persuaded to join Middlesex by a former colleague, Chris Lowe towards the end of the last century. Seaxe were desperate for an editor of Seaxe News and the chairman Isidore Rynhold made me an honorary member – little did I realise that I would hold that post for some 20 years, but never quite reached a century of issues. In that time I also edited Middlesex matters, the annual review and reports of the forums, started by Chris Lowe in his role as chairman of the membership committee. I also was on the general committee for nine years, now known as the Board of Directors. I also acted as host to visiting committee members alongside Eric Howes, Chris Lowe, Alvan Seth-Smith and Andrew West among others.

SEAXE NEWS

I still considered myself an outsider, never having lived or worked in what was Middlesex and living on the Herts and Essex border where all cricket lovers were members of Essex. My local pub landlord was a friend of Duncan Fletcher and told him not to speak to me as I had joined Middlesex, rather than Essex. Hence the term –“outsider”.

I was privileged to work under the Seaxe leadership of Jane Saxton when the club really took off and was fully recognised for the first time by the management of Vinny and Richard. I took over the presidency from Geoff Norris and reluctantly had to give it up, like Geoff, because of ill health.

I wish every success to my successor Peter Jackson as vice president and wish him, Glen and the rest of the committee all the best. Keep fighting for the county game, for without that, Tests will become also rans against the limited 20/20s and the hundred...I will continue to watch all forms of the game on television and on the Middlesex web site with possibly an odd visit to Lord's.

Alan Ashton



Alan Ashton

A FOND FAREWELL AS PRESIDENT

Many of us at the BBC and here at Middlesex just know him as Badger. The history of that is complicated but the fact that badgers are hairy little creatures that tend to emerge after dark is of course quite irrelevant.

I have known him for half a century. First, at BBC News where he had a distinguished career ending up as editor of Newsbeat on Radio 1. The man was always young at heart! Before that, he had been deputy editor of the “Today” programme where he introduced the horse racing tips. That was nearly forty years ago but, sadly, there is no authoritative record of how accurate those tips were. They exist to this day – it’s part of the Badger legacy – though, at the time of writing, the winds of change are threatening to blow those tips away.

As he has said, he is not a son of Middlesex but it took no time to adopt him over 25 years ago. He has given so much to Seaxe and the parent club and it is one of my proudest achievements that I helped to bring him on board.

Alan gave generously of his time and contributed hugely to the work of the membership committee of the club and the General Committee. His journalistic skills were invaluable as he edited so many Middlesex CCC publications – and coherent and authoritative match reports of away games he had been unable to attend.! Ian Lovett – president of ECB and a former Middx CCC chairman -

describes him as a chairman's dream in that his devotion to Middlesex meant he always wanted what was best for the members and the club itself.

But maybe his finest hour was with Seaxe. Isidore Rynhold persuaded him to take over Seaxe News and he brought his professional skills to the task. He edited well over 80 editions – including the first one in colour - and all of them benefitting from all those years as a journalist. And the final honour – the Presidency. I know how much of an honour that has been to him. He has enjoyed it and Seaxe and the County club are the better for it. He never missed a principal date in the Seaxe calendar and he tapped many a Middlesex member on the shoulder and signed them up. His jovial and good hearted manner won over many a member – as did his critical eye on the performance of the team!

Like his distinguished predecessor, Geoff Norris, ill health has forced him to retire. But he should look back with great pride.

He has played a huge part in the life of Seaxe and the County Club over the last 25 years thanks to his energy, his ideas and his positive approach. He has been a glass-half-full man with a ready smile and a generosity of spirit. Many of you will know him and will have enjoyed his company. Fingers crossed, let's hope we see him this summer. The Seaxe Box will feel empty without him.

Chris Lowe



Alan Ashton as Seaxe President presenting champagne at Lord's to England Captain Andrew Strauss.

MY TIME AS MCCC CHAIRMAN

The last day of the season of 2016 was very special for so many reasons.

It was the end of a very stressful and challenging period of time and we were up against a very strong opponent (Yorkshire). For the first time for a long time we were on the verge of success but we needed a lot of runs. I had taken over as Chair in the middle of the season and felt the pressure personally.

Around Lord's the ground was filling up as the afternoon wore on and BBC starting talking about it on the news, I was sitting on my own at the Edrich / Compton end and found myself joined by 2 men who had been working on a nearby building and had been attracted by the excitement, hadn't been to Lord's before and wanted to know if it was always like this!!

We all know the outcome and my abiding memory of the day is the late great John Hampshire, then President of Yorkshire walking up to me as I sat on my own, grabbing my shoulder, shaking my hand and asking me to congratulate the team for their performance,

As we all know the next 5 seasons were a battle and it is a great tribute to the players, staff and Board that we fought our way back to Div. One for the coming season.

Many of you will be aware of all the activities that have taken place around the game we love, on and off the field both with Middlesex and the wider game and it seems to me that we are in a period of transition ...so why is this? I offer below a few personal observations.

First and most importantly, the players are faced with some very different opportunities and let us remember, without the players there is no game.

The recent High Performance Review has identified the demands that players, but not all players face. Player skill and expertise comes as a result of creating pathways and opportunities for development but like all other professions, not everyone can get to the top and we must recognise that and manage expectations.

The growth of the IPL franchise model, most recently demonstrated with the announcement of a tournament in America and perhaps even more significantly, of women's franchise teams means that there is so much more opportunity for young men and women to make a career in the game.

It therefore becomes very important that there is a process in place to support these young people through the highs and lows which will occur, and in the past that has been the county structure. I believe that this is vitally important for the process going forward, because it underpins the game, if we want young men and women to contribute to cricket in the future they must be able to see all that is there for them.

So the future is very exciting and clearly will be attractive to wider audiences many of whom will be new to cricket, so it is incumbent that all involved in the

governing of our game accept all the responsibilities which will result from this growth.

Closer to home, the last 5 years have seen significant changes and challenges at Middlesex. We have had several personnel changes, on and off the field. We have new tournaments established. The wider game has been significantly criticised for its behaviour in several areas. We have faced the challenge of the pension issue. We all had lockdown. However, we have also had an enormous growth in recreational cricket and incredible support for women's cricket and the establishment of a women's professional squad.

We have had increased support and further development in our relationship with the MCC, very ably supported and encouraged by their executive and Board for which I am very grateful.

You, our members have been a joy to work with, whether through offers of support following the DCMS hearings (only 1 year ago) or the pensions issues or volunteering to be on committees.

To be the Chair of this great club has been a privilege and an honour and to know that the players themselves have always been ready to step outside the playing area and help has been very humbling.

Perhaps, though, one of the fondest memories I will have will be that of going into the Middlesex Room and getting engaged in earnest conversation about the "meaning of life" or seeing members in Middlesex shirts at away games.

To you all, thank you for your support to the club and to me personally, and let us hope that 2023 brings a continuation of our success, both on and off the field.

Mike O'Farrell



Mike O'Farrell

MY TIME AS MCCC PRESIDENT

We were just shuffling our way into the chapel for John Murray's funeral when I was asked whether I would like to be the next President of Middlesex. It is in the gift of the President to nominate his successor and John Emburey knew when to pick his moment. By contrast Mark Ramprakash and I were sitting in the sun at the Riverside watching the county playing Durham when I in turn asked him to be my successor. He is young (have we ever had a younger President?), intelligent, articulate, and one of this County's greatest players: he will, I am confident, make a brilliant President.

It is not for me to tell him how to do his role but I hope that he feels able to continue broadening its scope into a really meaningful additional Board position, if ex officio. When John asked me, I contacted the Chairman, whom I

SEAXE NEWS

had never met, to see if we might catch up as I would like to see what was expected before I committed to the position. So, myself and what I now recognise as a remarkable man, sat down in the members' café at the British Library where he was studying for his doctorate, and chatted. Instead though he reversed the conversation asking me how I saw the role. My reply, which I have used often since, was that I did not wish to be the "regimental goat", displayed ceremoniously, but that I wanted to make a meaningful contribution to the governance of this great club. I was not good at 'hosting' or committee room chat. But I wanted to relate to players, and our members and try and help draw everyone together into One Middlesex. That it totally aligned with his own view was the start of a fruitful relationship: I consider Mike (and his wife Sue) to be a genuine family friends.

How successful this has been I leave you to judge. I have been fortunate, largely but not exclusively through circumstance, to have had four years as President, and it has certainly focussed my mind on what, given the sort of parameters I have tried to establish for the Presidency, is the optimum length of term. Those at other counties seem to vary from one year to life, with two a generalisation, as it is here constitutionally. One year, of course, is a pointless nonsense: effectively six months, it is gone in a blink. After two years I found I was only just starting to get to grips with the role and have the confidence to become a meaningful voice at Board level. So it was in the third year that I, and I think the rest of the Club, began to see an impact, and I have already argued that I believe this to be the optimum term for the job (let's call it that) as now defined.

In my four years, I have established a close relationship with the men's senior squad in particular, and through this I hope a greater link between them, their employers, and supporters. I have never felt such a recognisable figure around the grounds as, say, Gatt or Gus, or indeed the Chairman (whose networking in the Middlesex Room at Lord's is an object lesson in communication) and not entirely helped by my (whatever anyone says) natural shyness. But I believe in these four years I have seen a burgeoning community emerging, inclusive of all what I suppose we must call ' stakeholders'.

I have been involved in the governance during what has been, for a variety of reasons, probably the most turbulent time in its history. But the adhesive effect of tribulation has made this Club stronger, stronger indeed than the sum of its parts. If my skills have been able to contribute in a positive way to that, then I can return to the back benches a pretty proud fellow.

Mike Selvey



Mike Selvey

2022 SEASON MEMORABLE MOMENTS

I certainly received a lot of memorable moments for last season, could it possibly have anything to do with winning matches and gaining promotion??! I'll list the most popular here:

Simmo's 1000 runs

5th batting point at Worcester – ensured promotion

The demolition of Glamorgan

Our batting performances against Notts and Worcs.

The atmosphere at Radlett with the stands

Toby R-J's bowling performances

Shaheen Afridi's bowling

The return of Higgins smile

Luke Hollman getting the wicket of Ben Stokes

Home made cakes in the Seaxe box

All the above and plenty more gave our supporters something to smile about.

SEAXE AWARDS 2022

Like the memorable moments, the response this year was excellent, my thanks to all who responded with their nominations. I'm delighted to say that the award for the 2nd XI Player of the Year is back, having missed out during the pandemic.

SEAXE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Although a few names were submitted, this was very much a two horse race, and was extremely close until the last few nominations came in. It gives me great pleasure to announce that this years winner by narrowly beating Toby Roland-Jones is John Simpson. Not only for achieving 1000 runs and his outstanding keeping, but because of the number of match changing innings he performed. Fully deserving of the award in this his testimonial year.

SEAXE NEWS

MIKE GATTING AWARD – ONE DAY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Again a few names were submitted but like last year it was dominated by one person. This award goes to Stevie Eskinazi whose performances with the bat were the seasons highlight.

WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2022 – TASH MILES

Tash represented Middlesex on 12 occasions in between her stints playing for Hong Kong where she played 13 T20 matches scoring 220 runs. For Middlesex, Tash scored 379 runs at an average of 37.9, with a highest score of 81 against a Sunrisers select team at Felstead. Other significant contributions include 64 versus Huntingdonshire, 56 versus Bucks and another 58 not out against a Sunrisers select team. Tash is an excellent team player always encouraging her team mates.

DISABILITY PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2022 – SUE BENSON

Sue is the current D40 2nd XI captain and led the team to a winning first season and got them through to the National Final, where unfortunately they suffered only their 2nd defeat of the season. Sue is a batter who really led from the front coming in at 3. She was the leading run scorer in the 2nd's. Sue went on to play in the disability league at the end of the county season, being the only female selected to play.

SEAXE CLUB 2ND XI PLAYER OF THE YEAR – JACK DAVIES

In the 5 Championship matches Jack played, he scored 412 2nd XI runs at an average of 68 including 2 hundreds with a highest score of 146 against Lancashire. Well deserving of this award.

JUNIOR AWARDS

GEOFF NORRIS AWARD – NATHAN FERNANDES

JACK ROBERTSON AWARD – NATHAN FERNANDES – 167 V HANTS

DAVID NEWTON AWARD (BATTING) – JAMES ISBELL – 803 RUNS – AVE 61.8

JOHN PIDDINGTON AWARD (ALL ROUNDER) – EDDIE CAMPION – 410 RUNS AVE 37.3 – 34 WICKETS

GERRY LILLIE (BOWLING) – RIYA PATADIA – 22 WICKETS U15 + U18

RYNHOLD FAMILY (SPECIAL MOMENT) – U16 BOYS SQUAD WINNING ECB NATIONAL COMP.

RICHARD DAVIS AWARD (FIELDING) – IQRAA HUSSAIN – 9 CATCHES - 6 STUMPINGS - 3 RUNOUTS - 18 VICTIMS IN TOTAL

SEAXE CONTINUES SUPPORTING TYRONE VISVAKULA

Last year we agreed to support Tyrone Visvakula with his coaching costs, resulting in an improvement in his batting skills, so much so that he excelled in senior matches at Sunbury CC and also when representing Middlesex CCC in his age group.

His next stage is an academy that John Maunders, the Sunbury coach has set up. Basically, it is the most promising 15 players from Sunbury CC from 14-18 yrs. They have group sessions, master class sessions, a Lord's trip and two group sessions at Lord's, plus each player receives 6 x one to one sessions in the package. This academy is supported by our very own Martin Andersson and Owais Shah for the one to ones.

The fee for the academy is £500 and the Seaxe Committee had no hesitation in agreeing to finance Tyrone's place, and we look forward to receiving further progress reports on Tyrone's development. Martin Andersson having already been impressed with Tyrone's technique.

Herewith a quote from John Maunders "It's tremendous support from you all, it really is and I'd like to personally thank you and applaud what you have done for this young lad, for others in the past, and no doubt in the future".

A response from Tyrone: "Dear Glen and Seaxe Committee, I would like to thank you for being so generous for sponsoring my cricket. It truly means a lot to me and my family. I had a great season last year performing for both club and county; and I am really looking forward to this season! Again, thank you so much for your kindness and generosity that has helped me develop my cricket". Tyrone.

We'll keep you posted as to his progress.

Glen Birkwood



Tyrone playing for Middlesex

SEAXE NEWS

SPRING 2023

OPINIONS / IDEAS ALWAYS WELCOME

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 either by email: glen.birkwood@hotmail.com - or by post to:
86 Edgell Road, Staines, 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 would 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 Dec. 2022

| Prize | Name |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1st £150 | Jim Borritt |
| 2nd £100 | Ian Murray |
| 3rd £50 | Alan V Jones |
| 4th £25 | David Utting |
| 5th £25 | Jenny Webley |

Congratulations to them all.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Lord's next season, and hopefully at a number of our away games.

Enjoy your cricket.

Glen Birkwood
Editor Seaxe News