

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

Summer 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SUMMER 2023

As I write the sun is at last shining, the very wet start to the season severely impacted the players preparations. Net practice is all well and good, but doesn't compensate for full play in the field. Much like the golf driving range doesn't relate to being on the course. I was +2 on the range but somewhat different on the course. Such were the conditions that early on the 2nd XI couldn't get a game completed, a frustrating time for all. I recently visited Horsham CC to see our 2nd's beat Sussex, joy writ large on all their faces.

After our first County match, which we lost, the doom mongers were out in force on Facebook "we're out of our depth", "shouldn't be here" etc.. Blimey one game in and they call themselves supporters. Let's see where we are at the end of the season. Personally, I'm just looking to us staying up. Unfortunately, the bad run of results in the T20 doesn't help with player morale. They say "success breeds success" but can a run of losses become habit forming and filter through the squad? One hopes not.

Elsewhere, we have finally launched our revamped website www.seaxeclub.org. You should have received an email reference logging on. Further information can be found within this edition. We are still fine tuning the site and sorting out initial teething problems, any queries you may have should be directed to enquiries@seaxeclub.org The site will, in the long run improve our efficiency, reduce mailing, simplify communication and lower our running costs.

We have recently produced a leaflet explaining the raison d'etre of the Seaxe Club together with some examples of what we've achieved. The purpose of the leaflet is to encourage more members to join. Copies are available from the Seaxe Box or from me should we meet. They are a useful tool to hand to those who know of but not what the Club does. This will hopefully encourage them to join and thereby help us continue our support of youngsters throughout the County of Middlesex.

On the 11th April we held a successful AGM in the President's Suite, the minutes of which can be found on our website, and within this edition. Post AGM we had a panel for a Q&A session, consisting of Toby Roland-Jones, Simon Shepard

and James Hawkins. This proved to be very popular and well received. My thanks to the attendees. The panel will become a regular feature of future AGM's. I raised the matter of the Club still requiring a secretary and would welcome any interest in filling said position. With the resignation of Mike O'Farrell from the committee, we needed to find a replacement and I'm please to say that Bob Baxter has agreed to join us. Bob has a wealth of experience throughout the County of Middlesex with regards to cricketing matters, we believe he will be a great asset to our committee. You can read Bob's bio on our website, simply go to committee click on his photo and the bio will appear, as indeed will all committee members bios when clicked.

Our Awards Evening was held in the Middlesex Room on April 21st half an hour after close of play. Weather forecasts had been mixed with a threat of heavy rain, but fortunately the heavens didn't open and we had a full days play followed by an excellent attendance at the Awards. More details and photos can be found within this edition.

I'm often asked what support is Seaxe currently giving and to whom, what bursaries are in the pipeline? As well as Tyrone's Academy support and our continuation of All Stars and Dynamos programmes and the purchase of a much needed helmet for Amelie Munday; we have also been in discussion about financing the setting up of a new girls indoor winter league to be known as the Seaxe Girls Indoor Winter League, for under 9's upwards. Once the logistics have been confirmed, details will be posted on the website and within the next edition of the News. Following meetings with Kari Carswell, Mark Lane and Stewart Davison ref potential bursary support within the Pathway, and also with some involvement with the Middlesex in the Community programme. I am

delighted to confirm that the Seaxe committee has agreed to fund the Middle 6's competition for U11 and U13 players during the summer holidays. Also refugee cricket in hotels, a Mddx in the Community project to run during the months of July/August/September. The work the Seaxe Club has done and continues to do, is something for all of you to be justly proud of.

In the meantime, enjoy your cricket, thank you for your support, take some leaflets and help get more on board. I

look forward to your company in the box (thank you Marilyn for the cakes), and hopefully see you at some of the away games.

Glen Birkwood Chairman Seaxe Club

MINUTES OF THE SEAXE CLUB'S 54TH AGM

Minutes of The Seaxe Club's 54th Annual General Meeting held in the President's Suite, Lords Cricket Ground on Tuesday, 11th April 2023 at 6pm.

Members Attending: A signed list of Members in attendance is attached.

Introduction: The Chairman, Glen Birkwood, opened the meeting by welcoming the Members present and thanked them for attending.

- 1. **Apologies for Absence:** A list of the Members who had sent their apologies is attached.
- Approval of minutes of the 53rd Annual General meeting held on 5th
 April 2022: The minutes were approved unanimously. Proposed by Peter Jackson and seconded by Brian Cahill.
- 3. Matters Arising: None.
- 4. Chairman's Address:
 - The Chairman gave the good news that the Club had more Members than at the same time last year. The majority had paid the increased annual subscription of £20, including a new Member "Mr Middlesex" Russell Grant. He asked that those who had paid at the old rate should provide the additional £7.50.
 - It was 55 years since the Seaxe Club had been formed. In that time it has supported a great number of individuals throughout the County of Middlesex, helping them achieve their ambitions or just introducing them to the wonderful game of cricket.
 - The Awards Evening recognises young talent and for example in 2018 we rewarded some young players whose names will be familiar – Luke Hollman, Joe Cracknell, Jack Davies, Lucy Porter and Emily Thorpe. All now feature at senior level within MCCC. This year's Awards Evening will be in the Middlesex Room on Friday 21st April.
 - Seaxe News has highlighted our support of the All Stars and Dynamos' programmes which has enabled 265 young boys and girls from poorer areas of Middlesex to begin enjoying cricket. We also covered coaching costs for Tyrone Visvakula at Sunbury CC and purchased a much needed helmet for Amelie Munday.
 - In 2023 we will continue our support of All Stars and Dynamos, and of Tyrone's coaching. We are also looking at helping

- finance a new indoor league for 9/11/13/15 year old girls. This would be known as the Seaxe Girls Sunday Indoor League at an estimated cost of £2500.
- This financial support was possible because of well managed funds boosted by the long overdue increase in subscriptions.
 We still need to increase membership numbers and have produced a new attractive leaflet for general distribution across the county club.
- The old Seaxe Club website had become obsolete and had been closed down a year ago. A new fully functional website should be ready by the end of the month.
- The Chairman concluded by saying that he thought Seaxe had turned a corner with there being greater awareness of The Seaxe Club and its objectives throughout MCCC, which can only be of benefit to Seaxe and the County of Middlesex.
- 5. Treasurer's Report: Stephen Lockwood reminded everybody that the accounts for 2022 had been published in Seaxe News which also included a full report. The signed accounts had been received back from the independent checker, John O'Gorman. The new website would incur some costs but it would be much better allowing payments online. Income had been boosted by donations and the sale of tea and cake in the Box. The Treasurer noted that a direct debit facility was not feasible for the Club; so the standing order system for subscriptions would remain. Adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 was proposed by Jim Knight and seconded by Barbara Buxton. The motion was carried unanimously.
- 6. Election of Officers: The Chairman noted that Alan Ashton had stood down as President owing to his ill health and inability to come to Lord's. He had given great and long service to the Club particularly as editor of Seaxe News and President. The Committee was nominating Peter Jackson, who had served as Treasurer and Secretary to be the new President. The Committee had two new nominations to be Vice Presidents, Alan Ashton and Les Rowland; both were unable to attend because of poor health. Mike O'Farrell was not offering himself to continue as a Committee Member. Having retired as Middlesex Chairman, he now wanted to concentrate on watching cricket. Katie Berry had joined the Committee and Bob Baxter was also being proposed to be a Committee Member.

The following were in turn proposed and seconded for election and approved unanimously for election:

President: Peter Jackson

Peter Jackson thanked the Members for the great honour of being President of such a wonderful Club.

Vice Presidents: Alan Ashton, Mike Brearley, David Killick, Geoff

Norris, Les Rowland, Charles Robins, Dorothy

Rynhold and Jane Saxton.

Chairman: Glen Birkwood

Treasurer: Stephen Lockwood

Secretary: Vacant

The Chairman noted the Club still needed a

Secretary and asked for a volunteer.

Committee Members: Steve Baldwin (Social), Bob Baxter, Katie

Berry, Barbara Buxton (Membership), Keith MacRae, Les Rowland (Membership) and

Alvan Seth-Smith.

Honorary Members: Mrs Jill Bailey, T Cliffe, Vinny Codrington, Paul

Downton, John Emburey, Mike Gatting, Grant Halstead, Miss Shirley Harrop, Mrs Joan Lillie, Ian Lovett, John Scarborough, Dr Hilary Spencer, Sir Andrew Strauss, Phil Tufnell and

Paul Weekes.

MCCC Playing Members and MCCC Staff

Members

7. Appointment of the Independent Checker of the Accounts: John O'Gorman. Proposed by Stephen Lockwood, seconded by Peter Jackson.

- 8. **Approval of the Revised Constitution:** Peter Jackson introduced the revised constitution which had been printed in Seaxe News. He had reviewed the previous version and some updating had been required. Overall it was a tidying up process. He proposed it be approved, Alvan Seth-Smith seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.
- 9. Any Other Business: nothing was raised from the floor.

The Meeting closed at 18.30 hours.

Invited panel - Questions and Answers

After a short break, the Chairman introduced a panel of three guests: Toby Roland–Jones (Middlesex Captain in the County Championship), Simon Shepard to talk about the new venture Middlesex in the Community and James Hawkins (author of the book The Graham Barlow Story).

A WELCOME FROM THE MCCC PRESIDENT MARK RAMPRAKASH

When Mike Selvey took me out onto the balcony of the pavilion at Durham last year & asked me if I would consider being the next President of Middx CCC I had absolutely no hesitation in saying yes! Despite not really knowing what the role entailed.

Since watching Roland Butcher in a final at Lords running round the boundary, picking the ball up one handed & buzzing it in over the top of the stumps I have been a Middx fan.



Mark Ramprakash

I look upon this 2 year role as a real opportunity to take a keen interest in the workings of the club & the many challenges that we face.

I would like to praise & give heartfelt thanks to the membership for their faithful support through the difficulties of the pandemic. I look forward to interacting & getting to know Middx supporters.

The cricketing landscape has changed significantly in recent years with the proliferation of short format tournaments around the world together with our governing body's insistence to shoehorn the 100 into the domestic season.

As I write the club are close to appointing a new Chair which is a hugely important role & one that Mike O'Farrell did with great skill. I look forward to supporting his successor.

In terms of the men's playing staff, happily I have got to know them quite well over the last year. All are committed to improving both as players & men. However, there is a brutality to professional cricket. Performances need to improve or young talent must be given opportunity to play & learn. In my opinion Middx need all format value for money players. Tough decisions may need to be taken particularly in the light of financial constraints.

Women's cricket has seen some changes & is clearly making progress both in terms of results & participation. With the demographic of Middx as a county, diversity & inclusion should be a given.

Once again I look forward to supporting that process to see representation in county age groups, the professional staff, the coaching structure & our supporter base.

Enjoy your summer!

Best wishes,

Mark Ramprakash

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Last year, it was clear that the (old) club website was out of date and unable to support enhancements required to modernise it. Simply, it was not fit for purpose and so obsolete that a decision was taken to close it. The structure and content necessary for a new site were quickly identified, but how to design or achieve the ambition remained elusive.

Fortunately, an approach to MCCC Communications Director, Steve Fletcher for advice, resulted in an almost immediate offer of help. Steve, with considerable assistance from Sunrisers & MCCC Engagement Manager, Peter Withams (who undertook most of the detail design), developed a template into which they put content provided by several knowledgeable Seaxe members. Thanks to them and huge input from Peter and Steve we have a fully operational website via the new domain name (www.seaxeclub.org) which now appears on the front page.

The site includes a password protected Members Hub, which gives access to Seaxe Club documents or forms and information, including Lottery details. It is hoped to add a section in the coming months that will allow members to book for events and make payment online.

To register for use, simply click any button on the Members Page, then select "Sign up with email", on the page that appears when you first try to access. Enter your e-mail address, then add a username and password. Please note you will not be able to log-in immediately as each registration requires approval by a site administrator, which may take a few days.

For access after signing up, click the 'Log in' link, after Already a member? Then enter your chosen username and password on the new page that should appear, for unlimited use of the whole site. In event of any difficulty, please e-mail: enquiries@seaxeclub.org.



Keith MacRae

Keith MacRae

SEAXE CLUB AWARDS EVENING APRIL 2023

The annual Seaxe Awards evening was held in the Middlesex Room on Friday 21st April. After keeping one eye on the weather, all turned out well, and we convened half an hour after close of play. My thanks go to the 1st team squad and the team coaches for their attendance and involvement with the presentations. Something I know our winners appreciated. My thanks also to the "Legends" of Middlesex cricket, namely Angus Fraser, Clive Radley and Mike Gatting for making it an occasion that will stay long in the memories of the award winners. Our Club CEO and some of the office staff for attending, they are always very supportive and helpful, for which we on the Seaxe Committee are extremely grateful. The final thank you goes to the families and friends who came to witness the presentations, it was pleasing to see so many there giving their support.

What we witnessed that evening was the potential future of Middlesex cricket. Young talent, many of whom with the desire to represent the Club at senior level in the future. We must continue to support, reward and encourage them. The Seaxe Club wishes them every success in their endeavours.

Glen Birkwood

John Simpson receiving the Player of the Year from Seaxe Chairman Glen Birkwood.

Stevie Eskanazi receiving the Mike Gatting award from Mike Gatting.



Kari Carswell receiving the Women's Player of the Year on behalf of Tash Miles from Angus Fraser.



Sue Benson receiving the Disability Player of the Year from Michael Wilson.



Jack Davies receiving the 2nd XI Player of the Year from Clive Radley.



Nathan Fernandes receiving the Geoff Norris award from Richard Johnson.



Nathan Fernandes receiving the Jack Robertson award from Mike Gatting.



James Isbell receiving the David Newton award from Stevie Eskanazi.



Eddie Campion receiving the John Piddington award from Ryan Higgins.



Riya Patadia receiving the Gerry Lillee award from Toby Roland-Jones.



Eddie Campion receiving the Rynhold Family award on behalf of the U16 Squad from Alan Coleman.



Iqraa Hussain receiving the Richard Davis award from John Simpson.



Pieter Malan maiden century award from Clive Radley.



Toby Roland-Jones 10 wickets in a match award from Tim Murtagh.



John Simpson special award over 1000 runs in the season from Richard Johnson

TIME SPENT AWAY - ETHAN BAMBER

On the 9th of November 2022 I arrived at a small block of flats in Adelaide, South Australia. Closing the door behind me I felt a long way away from home; I hadn't met anyone from the club I was playing for, I didn't know my way around and at that moment four months in this new place was quite an intimidating prospect. On the 28th of February 2023 I walked through customs at Heathrow airport slightly confused...I had made it, but not just that, I had loved it, and I felt different somehow.

The principal reason for my trip was, of course, a professional one. Alongside the coaching staff a decision was made that match practise was what I needed, and that Australia (the pitches, balls and style of cricket there) would test my skill set and ability and offer opportunities to learn how to be effective in a

number of conditions. Steve Eskinazi very kindly set me up with a childhood friend who captained Adelaide University CC, and off I went. The cricket was indeed fantastic; a combination of timed red ball games played over two Saturdays and the fact the club didn't have huge bowling reserves meant that I was able to bowl lots and lots in all sorts of scenarios and often against good quality opposition. The nature of being the overseas player meant that I had extra responsibility and was expected to perform and lead, and that was something I found challenging but immensely enjoyable. I was fortunate too, to net bowl every week at South Australia and train with other English guys out there.

Alongside the cricket ran the fact that I was living on the other side of the world for four months in a beautiful city with a group of guys (there were about five or six of us who spent a great deal of time together) who I would now call



Ethan Bamber

firm friends. The independence to explore and relax offered a great tonic to that desire every cricketer has to get better and work hard, and I feel very fortunate to have been able to strike that balance. Playing club cricket relit a real joy and passion for the game that can sometimes get overshadowed in the professional environment (only by virtue of the fact it is your job), and so I returned feeling refreshed and extremely excited for the summer ahead.

I am hugely grateful to Middlesex for letting me go, to Adelaide Uni CC for being so generous and welcoming and to the universe for letting that be part of my 'work'.

Ethan Bamber

WINTER SEASON 2022/23 INDOOR FINALS

The final day of the indoor season ended here at Lords with officials gathering from 7:30am until the final presentation was over 12 hours later. The mentions will come later but meanwhile here's an umpire's view we don't normally expect to see. MCCL's Matti Watton taking a break from duties while lead umpire & scorer Ashish Lakhlani & Euan Dean officiated.

It was an excellent day for all involved & with talent & enthusiasm & spirit in abundance.



The view from the balcony for a day that began with the U10s match at 8:15am.

U10s North Middlesex vs Ealing

A last ball thriller that could have gone either way.

The boys arrived well before 8am and they were full of excitement and enthusiasm as they engaged in their warm-ups and drills. It was then time to start. North Middlesex won the toss and elected to field.

The last pair in were Aaryan and Kabi who accumulated 37 runs



in their 3 overs without losing a wicket to take Ealing to a score of 121.

North Middlesex had now advanced to 97 with 3 overs to go. A wicket on the final ball which meant Ealing had won by 11 runs. Well done to the Ealing boys and Coach Shal for achieving something the club has never done before - Middlesex U10 Indoor champions !!!

U11s North Middlesex vs Ealing

Ealing won the toss and decided to bat. Good tight bowling kept the Ealing score down to 86. Nth Middx batted steadily with their last pair taking the score to a winning 96 and with it the trophy.



GU11s Actonians vs Ealing

Actonians out played Ealing in all departments and put on a big total for Ealing to chase. This proved too much of a challenge and Actonians took a well deserved victory. It was a fantastic team performance. The final score 157-101.

GU13s Actonians vs Roehampton & Fulham

Roehampton & Fulham elected to bowl. Steady positive batting



from Actonians resulted in their innings total of 153 runs. Roehampton & Fulham were ahead of the run rate at the halfway stage.

Actonians captain Valeria got a hat trick with the last 3 balls of the final over. Score 153-105. Another Actonians trophy.



13's Stanmore vs Primrose Hill

Adam Musikant saw the competition advertised, sent an email asking for players, and almost by accident PHCC had a team. After batting first PHCC put on 100. Tight bowling meant Stanmore were always behind the run rate, finally losing 100-80

15s Stanmore A vs Finchley

Stanmore CC won the toss and batted first. A strong display saw them reach 133 for the loss of only 1 wicket. Excellent bowling and fielding meant Finchley

CC could only manage 77 runs. A clear victory for Stanmore.

GU15s Richmond vs Roehampton & Fulham

Richmond chose to bowl first and they managed to limit the opposition to a moderate total of 78 runs. The Richmond girls batted sensibly, maintaining a steady scoring pace, finally emerging victorious 146-78.



17s Stoke Newington vs Roehampton & Fulham

Richmond chose to bowl first and they managed to limit the opposition to a moderate total of 78 runs. The Richmond girls batted sensibly, maintaining a steady scoring pace, finally emerging victorious 95-78.

My thanks to all the invaluable help in running the Indoor season to all those involved but especially lead umpire Ashish Lakhlani & MJCA treasurer Simon Mollett & all the coaches & club representatives & treasurers who combined to give so many of our Middlesex club juniors the opportunity to keep their cricket going through the off season.

Peter Hollman











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EARLY SEASON UPDATE ON ALL STARS / DYNAMOS

Whilst it is very early in the season for the All Stars and Dynamo programmes, they were not commencing until late May. We are delighted to say that the Seaxe support to date has so far enabled 1462 youngsters to participate throughout the county of Middlesex. This breaks down as 1122 All Stars and 340 Dynamos with 25% of those taking part being female.

We will keep you posted as more information comes through, with a breakdown of the regions / schools supported, any increase of numbers and where monies have been best spent etc..

It is your support that has enabled these youngsters to enjoy learning the game of cricket and all the social benefits attached to this wonderful game.

Thank you

Dan Reynolds

DISABILITY SEASON REVIEW (APRIL TO JUNE)

After a very good winter programme the disability squads came into preseason full of optimism knowing that with a couple of friendly games planned for each of the squads this could be a great season ahead, but unfortunately the weather had other plans and we lost all friendly games due to the rain, and that meant going into the start of the County season with no match practice for any of the players prior to their first games.

D40 1st XI

First game of the season was against Surrey 1st XI at the Oval and unfortunately, we lost by two wickets of a low scoring day for both sides, next game we played Essex and we started to really see the guys performing the way we know they can, bowling Essex out for 108 and then chasing the required runs and winning the game by 9 wickets. The next game was against Hampshire who hadn't lost a game since 2019 and had proven over the years to be a well organised and very good batting team, Hampshire won the toss and put us into bat and we put on a competitive 247-9 off of our 40 overs, Hampshire lost regular wickets throughout their innings and with some fantastic bowling from the Middlesex team, we restricted them to 157 all out, winning the game by 90 runs.

D40 2nd XI

First game was against Essex and the batting from the Middlesex team was very rusty and no one really got going and we were bowled out for 66 chasing 122. The second game was away to Surrey and the Middlesex team fell short of the required runs again, losing the game in the last over by 6 runs; but the team really looked like they were starting to pick up momentum with some very good all round performances. The third game saw us playing a Hampshire /Dorset combined team. Middlesex chose to bat first, putting on 212 in their 40 overs and they then restricted their opponents to 201, winning by 11 runs and putting their season back on track.

Super 9s

So far this season the Super 9s squad have won their first two games and really set the tone for their season in their first game against Kent, scoring 148-

7 off their 30 overs and then bowling Kent out for 21 in only 15 overs with some very impressive bowling. Second game against Essex was a repeat of the regional final from last season and Essex put on 102, but the Middlesex batters really showed their class chasing the set score down with 3.3 overs remaining and only 3 wickets down.



Michael Wilson

Upcoming fixtures:

D40 1st XI vs Sussex at the county ground in Hove on the 18th of June D40 2nd XI vs Northants at William Perkins school on the 25th of June Super 9s vs Hampshire at Chiswick CC on the 18th of June

Michael Wilson Head of Middlesex Disability Cricket

SOCIAL REPORT - SUMMER 2023

On Friday 21st July during the home game against Surrey, the Seaxe Club will be holding its Box Reception in the Tavern Stand, usually G/H. Join us for bite to eat, a glass (or 2) of wine and meet your fellow Seaxe members in a convivial atmosphere. 12.30 onwards.

Change of date:

We originally stated that the Seaxe Christmas lunch would be held on December 3rd., but because of a



Steve Baldwin

potential clash of dates we have changed it to December 10th. Once again in the Tavern, full details of menu choices and booking details will be with the next edition of the News and also online on the Seaxe website.

In the month prior to the Christmas lunch there will be the first winter social. Instead of the end of season meet in the Middlesex Room, we will now be meeting at the popular venue The Clarence. The committee has agreed a complimentary drink upon arrival for all members and guests. Details below:

Sunday 5th November - The Clarence - 4 Dover Street off Piccadilly

Drinks voucher issued to each member and guest upon arrival. Drinks from Midday onwards. Lunch at individual's leisure.

For those requiring a voucher and lunch, booking is essential. Details below.

Seaxe Christmas Lunch - Sunday 10th December

Further details and booking:

Steve Baldwin - 07956 439807

SUMMER 2023

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 MCCC website and eventually the new Seaxe site.

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: membership@seaxeclub.org

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: The Lottery draw was done at a recent committee meeting. The results:

Prize	Name	Lottery No:
1st £150	Philip Catchpole	92
2nd £100	Alan V Jones	58
3rd £50	Jane Saxton	14
4th £25	lan L Harris	201
5th £25	Roger Down	284

Congratulations to the above winners.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Lord's this season.

Thank you.

Glen Birkwood Editor Seaxe News