



SEAXE NEWS

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Winter 2020

MIDDLESEX CCC 2020 RICHARD GOATLEY CEO

We all love April don't we? Everyone associated with Middlesex cricket, whether a club member, a supporter, a player or a member of staff, feels that warm glow when we realise that our beloved game is about to return. The winter months are dark and cold, our cricketing thirst only slaked by TV coverage from far-away climes and perhaps for the most passionate amongst you, the arrival of the Annual Review. But, by April, the weather is turning, the flowers are growing and cricket starts.



Richard Goatley

Well usually. But not this year. Not in pesky 2020.

This year, everything stopped. Do you remember April this year? Do you remember going to the supermarket with queues hundreds of yards out of the door, standing two metres apart? Do you remember the empty shelves and the panic buying ? I do.

I remember pushing a disinfected trolley around Sainsbury's and, as I turned at the end of the aisle, an elderly gentleman virtually leapt out of my way to avoid coming within the prescribed distance of me. His eyes were full of panic with the fear at the prospect of merely being in my company. The world had gone mad and so had we. If we're honest the last six months haven't been much better. Sure we've seen some cricket behind closed doors, but again we can't share a drink inside with our friends and the hospitals are filling up again.

And that's why I, and we, are so lucky to be part of Middlesex Cricket.

When this crisis ends, and it will, the whole world will be in desperate need of a return to normality, of seeing their friends again, of buying them a beer or, indeed, of arguing with them. There will be an urgent demand from us all for the social interaction and comradeship that has been frankly denied us for so long. That's where clubs, like our own magnificent club, come in.

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Lord's will again be a place for us to gather and to share. It will be the ultimate antidote to these current, misanthropic times. On a rare trip to Lord's last week, just by the Crocker's Folly, I was delighted to bump into two of my favourite MCCC members. It was a joy to chat for a few minutes about Middlesex Cricket. It was the sort of conversation I have hundreds of times during a normal season. The sort of conversation that I'd taken for granted. The sort of conversation I can't wait to have again. Soon please.

Our wider Middlesex family have had vast amounts of communication with our Membership this year and we are all in awe of the commitment and passion of our membership. The way you have all supported us, both in terms of the Club but also at a personal level has been humbling and touching. Sure, I have the odd wound from Members who are unhappy with aspects or decisions of the Club but in every case, that unhappiness is driven by a deep love of the Club and a desire, indeed a need, for it to be better. In the darkest and most difficult of times you have all shown how brilliant you are and how lucky we are to have you. You have my undying gratitude. Every one of you.

I will be writing to you shortly explaining how we are rewarding those members who have stood by us this year without being able to support their team in person. But the biggest reward of all will be when we are all together again as a club. A great club. The greatest club.

Richard Goatley
Chief Executive Officer, Middlesex Cricket

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT GLEN BIRKWOOD

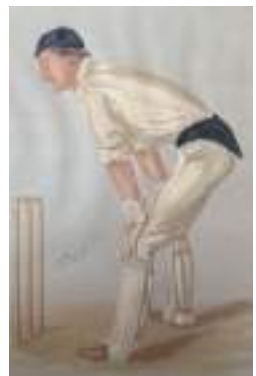
Well, Covid 19 continues to play havoc with life in general, and is also seriously affecting what we can plan to do for the months ahead.



Hylton Murray-Philipson

You may recall in the very early days of the pandemic, seeing this gentleman being applauded out of Leicester Royal Infirmary having survived Covid? He is Hylton Murray-Philipson and he just happens to be the great grandson of this gentleman, who is Hylton Philipson, who played for Oxford University, Middlesex and England!! My thanks to Alvan Seth-Smith for this fascinating snippet of information.

Hylton Philipson



There is the sad news of the passing of John Mackie, a staunch supporter of Seaxe, and I thank Alan Ashton for his contribution within this issue.

There has been, surprisingly, a significant amount of cricket played within a short space of time - Bob Willis trophy, 50 over and T20 and I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank all involved, especially Lorraine Poole for all their hard work in setting up the grounds and facilities which enabled us to view the games live online and to enjoy seeing the game we all love (despite some of the results)!

Even though we have not had a full season of cricket, I would still like the Seaxe Club to award the outstanding performances within the various formats. So to that effect please find attached/enclosed voting forms and stats for the 1st XI Player of the Year and the One Day Player of the Year. Our other Seaxe awards will be nominated by the various coaches as per usual.

On the subject of awards, I am truly saddened that we have been unable to hold our Awards Evening this year for our winners to enjoy the company of their peers. With this in mind I am hoping that, all things being equal to hold a double awards evening early next season, so your votes are important!

I have previously mentioned that we are intending to have a presence on social media, specifically Facebook. Due to the lack of activity this has been put on hold until such times as we get back to normal. Keith Macrae is poised and awaiting the all clear.

I've been in communication with Steve Baldwin, our Social Secretary and with the current restrictions in place for the foreseeable months, there is nothing he or anybody else can do in organising social gatherings. Our popular Christmas luncheon is off and unless there is a relaxation in the numbers able to attend, there doesn't seem to be any chance of the various Sunday pub lunches that Steve usually arranged. All in all disappointing, but I'm sure we can and will make up for it next year!

I am pleased to announce that I shall shortly be having a meeting with Rory Coutts, Head of Youth Cricket, to discuss how best we can utilise the Seaxe funds for the 2021 season. Whilst we don't have a bottomless pot, I'm confident we could do more to support youth cricket on top of the occasional bursary and All Stars Cricket that we currently support. I will keep you all posted as to the outcome of our meeting.

We have also had another Lottery draw, the result of which is on the back page. Congratulations to the winners.

We recently put out an appeal for a Seaxe Club Secretary via our Seaxe website, Middlesex website, email and on Facebook. Unfortunately we have not had a positive response, and whilst our Committee members are willing to share the duties, it is not the most efficient way to run the Club. So if you have previously

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considered taking on the role but not pursued it, please reconsider and email me (address on the back page).

Finally my grateful thanks to all who have taken the time and trouble to contribute to this edition of the Seaxe News - thank you.

Hoping to see you next season!!

Glen Birkwood
Chairman



Glen Birkwood

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CRICKET - MIDDLESEX CCC **ANGUS FRASER**



Angus Fraser

Cricket, as a game, should be extremely proud of what it achieved in 2020. During an unprecedented crisis the sport came together to produce a summer of cricket very few would have thought possible in April, May or June. Then, with the UK in lockdown and the cricket ball being viewed as a vector of Covid-19, many of us feared we would not witness a competitive ball being bowled.

That Test, 1st Class, ODI, men's and women's international and domestic T20, club and youth cricket was played, highlights why this sport is special. Yes, we occasionally bicker and disagree with each other, yes,

we know best, especially after the event, and yes, some people do have different agendas. But behind all these contrasting views, we all, ultimately, love cricket and we all realise the health of the game, in its many different forms, is what is really important. It would not have been possible for the game to achieve all this without everybody buying in, which, thankfully, they did.

During the summer of 2020, people will have stood up to take on extra responsibility at every club and this happened at Middlesex. At Middlesex there have been three people that I would like to mention. The first is Peter Waxman, the club physiotherapist. Waxy became a Middlesex Zoom sensation in the way that he organised things, looked after the players and kept everyone entertained during Lockdown.

The next was Phil Batty, our club doctor. Phil happily gave us far more time than we expected and his attendance at meetings meant that our cricket department was always fully aware of what was happening and where things were likely to move going forward.

The last but certainly not least person we all need to thank is Lorraine Poole, who took on the responsibility of being our Covid Officer. Lorraine grabbed hold of this

incredibly challenging task with both hands and ensured that as a club we were as well prepared and looked after as any county in the country.

Lorraine's task was made even more challenging by the fact our base was Radlett CC. As is always the case Radlett CC looked after us magnificently but Lorraine did not have the security and staff of a county ground that could lock the world out; Lorraine, to all extent and purposes, was attempting to turn a field in Hertfordshire into a bio-secure zone. That she did this should have made her player of the season.

The differing approaches of counties meant that it was quite hard to work out exactly how we performed. In both competitions counties had differing approaches. Some teams, essentially those with settled 1st XI's, were quite hard-nosed about it all and played their cricket as they would in any other season. Other counties used the period to give youngsters an opportunity.

At the end of every season I sit down and digest figures and it was not a coincidence that Essex fielded the most experienced side in the Bob Willis Trophy and Nottinghamshire did the same in the Vitality Blast.

We attempted to do both. Yes, of course we went into each competition looking to qualify for the finals and ultimately win a trophy, but we also wanted to give some of our younger players a go. And, for me, the most pleasing thing about the two months of cricket we had were the performances of the younger players.

Looking back at the season as a whole I was, if anything, more pleased with our T20 than BWT cricket. This was because of the relative experience of the teams we fielded. In the BWT we fielded the 5th most experienced side in the tournament. In the Vitality Blast we were the 16th most experienced.

Despite there being many encouraging things about the cricket we played I still walked away from the season feeling slightly frustrated. The reason for my frustration was that with some better decision making at important times, without the occasional unwelcome umpiring decision and rain arriving at the wrong time we could have easily pushed Essex harder in the BWT and qualified for the quarter finals of the Vitality Blast. Had we not had a dreadful 90 minutes v Hampshire in the BWT and managed a couple of T20 situations better and qualified for the quarter finals I would have been pretty pleased with the abbreviated season we had.

Even so there are a number of reasons to be optimistic. Prior to the Vitality Blast I felt our batting was vulnerable. This was understandable as the top five we selected for our opening game at Essex was unrecognisable from that which played in our final Group match of 2019 Vitality Blast against Somerset at Taunton. Instead of a top five containing Dawid Malan, Paul Stirling, AB de Villiers, Mohammad Hafeez and Eoin Morgan ours contained Stephen Eskinazi, Max Holden, Martin Andersson, Nick Gubbins and Dan Lincoln. In Taunton we fielded a top five with over 1,300 T20 games of experience. At Chelmsford it was 74.

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The pleasing thing was that this group of batsmen, with the addition of Joe Cracknell, Luke Hollman, Jack Davies and John Simpson posted competitive scores in all but a couple of matches.

Eskinazi was outstanding with the bat in the Vitality Blast but it was the emergence of Hollman and Cracknell that was the highlight of our T20 campaign. Cracknell and Hollman are products of our Academy and North Middlesex Cricket Club, as is Ethan Bamber is too.

I visited North Middlesex CC on a couple of Saturday's in 2020. Like many Middlesex County Cricket League clubs North Middlesex has and continues to have its issues but it is currently an extremely well run club. It is producing a number of exciting young cricketers and continues to give them opportunities to play at the highest level.

In the BWT it was also great to see Martin Andersson, Max Holden, Robbie White, Thilan Walallawita, Blake Cullen and Jack Davies show that they have much to offer. As a club we want and need to see them become the cricketers they could be over the coming years. Covid-19 is changing the landscape of county cricket and the best way through this period is by producing your own cricketers.

Miguel Cummins highlighted what he could offer in a couple of BWT games and Tim Murtagh was as brilliant as ever. How Tim keeps doing what he does is remarkable. He also showed that we should not write him off as a T20 cricketer too. He continues to prove wrong the adage that 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks'.

Look after yourselves, stay safe and have as good an off-season as you possibly can.

Angus Fraser

AN UNSUNG HERO OF THE SEAXE CLUB



John Mackie

It is with great sadness that we report the death of John Mackie, who had been suffering from dementia and Parkinson's disease for the last few years, *writes Alan Ashton*. He was 84.

He will be best remembered as custodian of the Seaxe Box at Lord's from 2003-2015 when he also served on the Seaxe committee where his knowledge of cricket in general and Middlesex in particular was invaluable.

Middlesex born and bred, he went to school in Stanmore, worked for local telephone and car companies, married for 55 years to Shirley. had a daughter, Janet, and settled in Stanmore. Shirley can't remember when he actually joined Middlesex – "he always seemed to be at Lord's", she said, "cricket was his life".

It was former chairman Jane Saxton who described him as an unsung hero, who went about the job with no fuss nor bother. "I really enjoyed working with him", she remarked. Jane remembers a day in August 2002 when she was i/c the Box and they were visited by Stan Sismey and his family from New South Wales. He had played in the Victory test and was revisiting Lord's. Stan and John had some mutual friends in the cricketing world and the two of them spent what seemed an age chatting and reminiscing while the rest of the Australian's Lord's tour was almost forgotten.

We at Seaxe won't forget gentleman John.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH LORRAINE POOLE

I've been involved with Middlesex CCC since 1995 when I made my debut for the Women's First XI in the County Championship. When I first played, the County Champs were played over five days in Cambridge, at the University grounds. Five, 55 over matches played over five days. It was hard work but great fun and we had as much fun off the pitch as on it! Middlesex CCC were, even then, really supportive of women and girl's cricket and we were given support from the County in the form of subsidised kit and net facilities at Finchley; when most other women's county sides were independent from their County Board structures. I played until 2007 when it became harder for me to commit to training and matches because of work commitments (and strength & conditioning coaches started to appearing!!).



Lorraine Poole

I joined the Middlesex Cricket Board in Sept. 2000, as Women's Cricket Development officer. Previously I had worked for the London Community Cricket Association, a charity delivering cricket in London secondary schools, and I delivered the girls' coaching programme. It's a small world, as I got the job at LCCA when Sharon Evers left to join Surrey, and then when I left to join

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the Middlesex Cricket Board, Katie Berry took my old job at LCCA - now we all work at Middlesex!

In 2004, I also started working for the County Club helping to organise the out-ground matches in the summer months and delivering the women's development programme in the winter. Then in Sept. 2006 I left the role as women's development officer and joined the County Club full time as Sponsorship & Events Manager. My responsibilities when I first joined were organising all out-ground matches, delivering and administering the packages and assets for the Club's sponsors and running the Club's events.

Over the years, with staff leaving and roles being revised, I also took on the role of cricket operations, which involves supporting the Director of Cricket with producing player contracts and dealing with player registrations, visas, ECB regulations, overseas players etc..

In 2016 when Rob Lynch joined the Club as Commercial Director, we saw a tremendous increase in the number of sponsors and therefore the number of events and hospitality we needed to deliver. My role changed slightly, as did my job title, to Events & Operations Manager, so I was responsible for the delivery of every event at the Club from out-grounds, to members forums, International hospitality for our sponsors, match day hospitality boxes, plus overseeing all the membership mailings, editing the annual review, AGM notice and accounts. One thing Middlesex can offer you is a varied day!!

My role now is Head of Events & Operations, so I'm basically responsible for planning and executing all the Club events for members, sponsors and for commercial gain, delivering our match day garden hospitality at International and T20 matches. Match day box sales, organising and running all our out-ground matches (I am also a qualified safety officer, so fulfil that role on match days away from Lord's). Operations wise, I work closely with Julie, our Membership Secretary on the delivery of membership and customer service, ensuring membership continues to be great value and making sure we look after all our members. Cricket operations wise, I continue to work with Gus and his team, which also involves arranging the players' hotels for away trips, fulfilling the match day manager role, match day travel plans, players' sponsored cars (and all the parking fines that comes with that!) as well as all the aforementioned regulatory administration.

This year has been a challenging one, and when the Government and ECB started to reveal plans for Return to Cricket, one of the roles that had to be appointed was a Covid Officer and Richard asked me to take on that responsibility. I have to say I've learned a lot this year and I have never been as busy or stressed! It has been really really hard work, and quite overwhelming at times. I was so proud when that first ball was bowled at Radlett on 8th August - everyone involved at the Club should be extremely proud of the way our staff came together to help deliver those

games under Covid regulations - from our participation team becoming the match day catering team, our commercial team becoming car parkers, membership team becoming medical screening and accreditation checkers and Comms team becoming TV producers!! We all pulled together and took on new roles to deliver the matches at the most cost effective way possible for our members. Our players too, have taken on the responsibility of the behaviours needed to keep the game on; and as much as I've nagged them to sanitise hands and keep a distance, it's all been done with smiles on faces. I've always felt 100% supported by the players, coaches, Board and all our staff involved. It's certainly been a year to remember!

Middlesex has been part of my life since I was 20 years old, so, as well as loving my job, I'm also a massive Middlesex cricket fan and am very lucky to have an office where I walk through the Grace Gates every day!

Lorraine Poole
Head of Events & Operations

DISABILITY REVIEW 2020 SEASON

This season has been a trying time for everyone, the restrictions and lockdowns put an end to the county season before a ball was bowled.

We were given an opportunity to start training at William Perkins School, the players were keen to get back to some form of normality and the sessions started on Wednesdays. We split the players into two groups and began what turned out to be a 9 week program with 2 inter squad games, 1 for our Super 9s squad and D40 squad, we also had 2 friendly T20 games against Surrey disability.



Michael Wilson

We have had some real positives from within the squads over the past 12-18 months and the squad has now got 26 out 38 players that play regular club cricket within Middlesex and the surrounding counties, we have seen 4 players selected for the full England squads, 2 players in the England Learning disability squad and 2 in the England Physical disability squad, 3 out of the 4 players have also played in international tournaments for their respective teams.

We also have 5 players who continue to impress the coaches at the England Lions disability program and have been selected to remain for the 2021 season as well.

“this season has shown me just how important our game is to our players, they truly are an incredible group of people “

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“William Perkins school has been fantastic with their approach to the squads and they have built up a very good partnership with us from the site manager and groundsman to the head teacher of the school. Their support is there for all to see, even taking time out of their own private lives to come and attend fixtures to cheer on the squads.”

Michael Wilson
Head of Disability Cricket

SEAXE CLUB TREASURER’S REPORT OCTOBER 2020

This is my first Treasurer’s report since taking over from Peter Jackson, albeit I wasn’t able to take over the reins until we could meet up in August in this strange year. I am most grateful to Peter for continuing to act as Treasurer over those ‘lockdown’ months and even more grateful that he is continuing to serve on the Seaxe Committee, meaning that his years of valuable experience are neither lost to me nor the Club.

Despite the lack of spectator cricket, cricket within Middlesex has been able to continue in the latter half of the season and the Club has been able to make bursaries where appropriate and has continued to support the Middlesex All Stars Cricket Programme which is designed to bring children into the sport – for more details please see the report from Sharon Eyers within this newsletter.



Stephen Lockwood

We are grateful that our Members have continued to support the Club over this (non-) season with membership and lottery subscriptions and some generous one-off donations. This means that our funds and, consequently, our support to Middlesex cricket are broadly in a similar place to last year.

I hope that I shall be able to meet many of you in person next season and also hope that you continue to support Seaxe Club, reassured in the knowledge that despite the COVID-monster, we have been able to continue our mission and look forward to seeing the fruits of this support, maybe in a Middlesex shirt, in the years to come.

STANDS UPDATE

No doubt you, dear reader are wondering how the Edrich and Compton stands are coming along? I'm indebted to Adam Matthews MCC Media and Communications Officer for these photos.



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THE SEAXE COMMITTEE

Dear Members

With the changes we have made this year to the structure of the Seaxe Committee, we believe it is important that we update you with who's who.

Glen Birkwood
Chairman



Alan Ashton
President



Glen Birkwood
Chairman
Editor Seaxe News



Les Rowland
V Chairman
Joint Membership Sec



Stephen Lockwood
Treasurer



Steve Baldwin
Social Secretary



Barbara Buxton
Joint Membership Sec

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Mike O'Farrell



Peter Jackson



Alvan Seth-Smith



Maria Holloway



Keith Macrae

ALL STARS CRICKET & DYNAMOS

Like many sports programmes, 2020 proved to be a challenging year for the All Stars Cricket programme in Middlesex and sadly with the launch of The Hundred tournament being postponed to 2021, so too was the Dynamos Cricket initiative, this programme looks to capture All Star Cricket graduates and new young people to the game in the 9-11 age groups.

However, once the game was given the approval to resume safe activities, the army of volunteers that keep club & community cricket vibrant stormed into action and managed to get their clubs & centres ready for some cricket!

Middlesex Cricket wanted to make sure that young people were at the heart of our participation delivery in this shortened season and where pockets of low or no cricket activity existed, we provided All Stars Cricket centres directly. Middlesex staff worked very hard to ensure all the centres were Covid-secure by implementing the required Government and National Governing Body guidelines.



Middlesex Cricket is pleased to report that twelve centres hosted All Stars Cricket in August, with 245 children attending of which 76 young people were supported via a full bursary by The Seaxe Club. The sessions were well run, safe and had all the fun elements that we have come to expect from this introductory programme. Female participation in cricket is a focus and a key priority for us over the next four years, this year 20% of the participants were girls and although this is in line with national averages, we must work hard to increase this next season. It was really important to ensure that young people wherever

they lived had an outlet to have fun and enjoy the game, especially after such a long lockdown period. Staff at the centres were overwhelmed at the positivity of the young people and their support adults and enjoyed seeing the smiley faces of those who were able to attend.

Cricket will face further challenges in the 2021 season, as we look to encourage more families to return to the game. Unfortunately there is likely to be more young people living in poverty in London as we see businesses struggle and income impacted as a result of the pandemic, but what we do know, is that cricket can be a safe haven for families to spend time together, it is where friendships are formed and it supports both physical and mental wellbeing. Middlesex Cricket, with the help of key partners like The Seaxe Club, will strive to provide opportunities to as many young people as possible, challenging and where possible, removing the barriers that stop young people participating in cricket to ensure that cricket is a game for everyone!

Thank you to all at Seaxe for supporting our young people this year and we hope you can support again in 2021 as we look to have many All Stars Cricket and Dynamos Cricket centres operational across the County.

Sharon Eyers



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OPINIONS / IDEAS ALWAYS WELCOME

As you know, 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 October 2020:

Draw	Number	Name
1st £125	272	David Wilson
2nd £75	168	Kathy Richman
3rd £50	126	Andrew Harper
4th £25	60	Ian Sands

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

Let's hope we can meet next season with a full fixture list!

Glen Birkwood
Editor Seaxe News