



# SEAXE NEWS

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## Winter 2022

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### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT WINTER 2022

Well, dear reader, we are finally back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. After a hard fought long and protracted season, we deserve to be there. Our congratulations to all involved, an excellent team performance. With a number of outstanding individual performances throughout the season it is going to be interesting to discover who gets the vote as the Seaxe Player of the Year. Please make the effort to complete the form or simply email me with your choices; it is important we recognise their success. How many of the matches we will be able to watch at Lord's next season depends on the fixture list. I personally hope that the proposal to reduce the number of County games from 14 to 10 fails at the first hurdle. Again, this is a personal view, but I have no interest in the Vitality Blast nor the Hundred. I accept there is a market for them, but I'm a County game supporter as well as the Royal London; i.e. a full days cricket. It is vital that we bring revenue into cricket and maybe County cricket has sold itself too cheaply for too long. My recent visit to Worcester cost £16 a ticket online, £19 at the gate. More than Lord's but it's still cheap for (weather permitting) a full day's entertainment.

On the subject of costs, enclosed with this mailing is a letter confirming our subscription increase to £20 per annum. As I have previously stated, this is our first increase for over 20 years and will enable the Seaxe Club to continue to provide support in areas where it is most needed. We recently held a cheque presentation in front of the Pavilion donating £6,000 for use as bursaries within the All Stars and Dynamo programmes, thereby enabling a lot of children to enjoy the benefits of playing cricket, together with the associated social interaction. A year end report on the success of the programme can be found within this edition. Our thanks go to Pete Jones and Sharon Eyers for the excellent work that they do.



*Glen Birkwood*

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We have a few new bursary possibilities in the pipeline for discussion at Committee and hopefully in place for next season. This had to be put on hold this year due to a prolonged spell of ill health suffered by Les Rowland our bursary manager. He is, I'm delighted to say, improving although he has to take things easy for a while. We all wish him a speedy recovery. On the subject of bursaries, you may recall we covered the training costs for an outstanding prospect Tyrone Visvakula. We have had a progress report from his coach at Sunbury CC, and also from Middlesex coaches Stewart Davison and Mark Lane on his performances for Middlesex. Their reports are within these pages.

Due to his ongoing health problems, our President Alan Ashton has tendered his resignation which I have accepted. There will be more on Alan's outstanding contribution to the Seaxe Club in the next edition of the News. Meanwhile all within the Seaxe Club wish him well in his battle to good health.



Geoff Norris our Honorary Life President recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Still going strong but not as sprightly as once was. Alvan Seth-Smith visited Geoff on behalf of the Seaxe Club to congratulate him on reaching this milestone, and Alvan's wife Rowena baked the cricket themed cake.

*Geoff with his  
Birthday cake*



*Geoff and Alvan  
Seth-Smith*

A new book has been written about someone a number of you will know, namely Graham Barlow, a Middlesex stalwart. There is a brief synopsis about the book, together with information as to where you can purchase it within these pages.

Once again Marilyn Storer provided some home made cakes for the Seaxe box, and they were much appreciated by all. Indeed, a particular fruit cake resulted in Marilyn receiving a well deserved round of applause. My personal thanks to Marilyn for her continued support. Thanks also to Brian Cahill for running the box in his own inimitable style. This year he exceeded all previous incomes, so well done Brian. Don't forget the box is open all day for tea, coffee and biscuits, not just at teatime. It would be nice to see a few more of you visiting us.

Finally, our Treasurer Stephen Lockwood conducted a lottery draw at our end of season drinks reception in the Middlesex Room, held to thank Seaxe members for their continued support. The first prize in the lottery was a very popular result; not only that but the recipient just happened to be in attendance. Our congratulations go to Don Shelley the Middlesex scorer. The full result is, as usual on the back page.

Thank you for your continued support and company in the box. I look forward to seeing you in the coming season, and hopefully at some of the away matches.

**Glen Birkwood**  
**Chair Seaxe Club**

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### OUR SEASON AS SEEN BY MIKE O'FARRELL

You will by now have seen the outcome of all the hard work done by players and coaching staff to move forward and Alan and Gus have also explained much better than me how this was done.

Let me talk a little about cricket in a wider context and what the future might look like. First and possibly most contentious, the High Performance Review which many of you will have seen covered by the media in various forms and perhaps more accurately by the note in Middlesex Matters.

The season 2023 will hopefully be confirmed in the same format shortly and then the debate will focus on other competitions and future years.

The structure of the discussion has not presented cricket in the best light and now all involved in the game must play their part in demonstrating that we are trying to do what is best for the many not the few.

This is of course where the Seaxe club plays its part because you have been key to helping young players forward and there are several current and recent examples of that. It looks as though the First Class Counties are going to play a more important role in creating the pathway for future professional cricketers, men and women, as the opportunities become more and more varied with the increase in "franchise" cricket. How do we help those young people develop their skills to meet the increasing demands and will we need to invest more in academies?

This is a personal view, but seeing some of the great young men and women cricketers who have blossomed



*Mike O'Farrell*

## SEAXE NEWS

in the last 2 years, I believe we have a responsibility to create a wider platform to encourage more, and help with the financial burden as an action by the whole game.

Moving onto a different subject, as many of you will know by now I step down as Chair of Middlesex Cricket at the AGM in Mar /April 2023 and would like to thank the members of the Seaxe Club (the club within a club) for all they have done for Middlesex Cricket to foster the true spirit of the game. I would also like to thank on behalf of the Seaxe members, the members of your committee who have helped keep the spirit of the game alive by their work and commitment.

I was reminded of what Seaxe stands for at the recent EGM when some of the most loyal members were there, in support and voicing their views. Driven by a clear desire to do what is right for the game we all love, and for Middlesex Cricket.

Let us all hope that our time in the First Division is a success and that we may see yet more players in the side through the support and efforts of the Seaxe Club.

Thank you all

**Mike O'Farrell**  
**Chair MCCC**

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## ALAN COLEMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2022

Well, we got there in the end!

About halfway through match day 77 of the season (with only 1 to play!) we managed to secure enough points to finally fend off Glamorgan and secure 2nd spot in Division 2 of the County Championship.

It truly was a phenomenal batting performance. To score our 400 inside 110 overs on a pitch that had been 'tricky' to bat on - probably the understatement of the season - was one of the best Middlesex batting performances of modern times.

It was a shame that there was no big promotion moment; we didn't get a chance to bowl Worcestershire out on day 4 due to a wet square. Nonetheless it was a special, yet subdued moment in the changing room at New Road when Steve Eskinazi clipped the ball down to deep backward square leg to reach our 5th bonus batting point. There was no jumping around, just a few pats on the back and acknowledgment that as a group, something special had been achieved. I will say though that we were taken back by how many 'Seaxes' had travelled to

New Road to support us during that final game, and it was great to see (and hear) you all at that moment!

I suppose that Championship Cricket isn't about the big moments, but more the consistency of the cricket you play and winning lots of small battles throughout the 56 days that you are scheduled to play. I'm sure everyone will have their moment that they look back on as the key one - mine was quite early on as we battled under floodlights with the bat against Nottinghamshire. Yes we had some good fortune with the rain that day, but it was at that moment that it confirmed to me we had a group that weren't prepared to let the opposition always have their way.



*Alan Coleman*

We didn't set out to get promoted. I mean, obviously, we didn't set out not to get promoted either! I asked for improvement from the players and not results when I took on the role of Head of Men's Performance, and Richard Johnson was tasked with growing a team that is hard to beat when he was appointed First Team Coach. I would say we can look back at those two measures and say that we are closer to where we want to be in both areas - but not mission accomplished by any means. The team are undoubtedly closer and more aligned than they have been in past years, and if you need evidence of that, look no further than Handscomb, Afridi and Yadav on FaceTime to the changing room at New Road on that Thursday, with having played only 11 Championship games between them in 2022.

At times like this you do receive many congratulatory messages, but on a few occasions the phrase "back where we belong" has been used. My inquisitive mind had to look into this, and by my reckoning in the 23 seasons since the two Division format was introduced to the County Championship (minus 1 year for COVID), we have played in the highest Division 10 times.

And that for me is perfect, and provides a great narrative to latch on to for 2023 and beyond. We undoubtedly have a team with talent, who on their day can beat anyone in front of them, but have lacked the consistency to do so across the 12 sessions of a match and 14 matches of a County Championship season.

So, are we "back where we belong"? No, I don't believe we are. We are where we deserve to be based on the cricket we have played in 2022, the improvement we have shown and the hard work that the team have put in over the last 12 months or so.

## SEAXE NEWS

Our collective challenge now is to take a further step forwards - to train harder, prepare better, cover everything off in even more detail than we have done this year to compete at the highest level of domestic cricket.

Our target for 2023? To play hard, competitive, never-say-die cricket for 168 sessions in County Championship Division 1 next season. At the end of 2023, we will get what we deserve as a team based on what we have put in. I can't wait to see where the next 12 months takes our great club.

Thanks, as always to the Seaxe Club and its members for your unwavering support.

*And for what its worth, I hope that the season remains at 168 sessions of County Championship cricket beyond 2023 too....*

**Alan Coleman**

**Head of Men's Professional Performance**

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### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (MEMCOM) 2022

Last year I wrote about the new Membership Committee of the Middlesex Board, and the work it does. It is now time to reflect on what we have achieved for members and what we can do to give more value to members.

Having Martin Hadland from the Members Communication Group and Glen Birkwood from Seaxe has really widened the views and influence on the committee, as they are able to canvass a lot of members opinions and bring feedback and suggestions back to the committee.

If anyone has any comment to make, ideas that want to be discussed, please either put through the Seaxe Committee or Members Communication Group, or use the email address that has been set up specifically to serve the membership [memcom@middlesexccc.com](mailto:memcom@middlesexccc.com). It has to be said, not many people have used the memcom email address, so I hope that means that everyone is channelling views through your MCG or Seaxe representatives. All feedback is listened to

This year, as we promised we would do pre Covid, we invested in better facilities at out-grounds, including providing tiered seating, sheltered areas (from both the sun and rain!).

Following feedback from 2021 games, access to the car park was improved at Radlett and a shuttle bus was arranged to take spectators to and from Radlett station and the ground to improve public transport



*Marilyn Smith*

accessibility. The feedback received in the members survey was that these changes were welcomed, and people had a better experience.

Member surveys also show that members strongly favour more cricket at Lords. We agree with this, and our priority will always to play as many games as possible at Lord's, however there are only so many days available to us. We are currently liaising with the MCC now we have the draft schedule for 2023, and know which International fixtures have to be accommodated, as to what fixtures can be played at Lord's.

But thanks to the survey results, we have evidence to present to MCC that this is the desire of the Middlesex membership.

In terms of membership, retaining the loyalty bonus of the members guest pass for one year following Covid has proved popular, and is likely to be retained in some form moving forwards. The new junior and teen membership, with associated web pages and online offer, has also proved to be very popular

Member events have continued to be well supported. New events were added, such as the Ladies coffee morning. From this, a group of lady members have been introduced, and now can contact other lady members, and meet up in the stands, or at events. If any ladies would like to join this group please send your details to [memcom@middlesexccc.com](mailto:memcom@middlesexccc.com) to be put in touch with like minded Middlesex members

For 2023, we want to work towards setting up a disabled supporters group. This would be a social group to put members with disabilities in touch with other members with disabilities, so that they can meet up, chat and share experiences. Again, contact [memcom@middlesexccc.com](mailto:memcom@middlesexccc.com) if you want to be part of this group, or have any access issues that need to be improved to enhance your membership experience

As members of Middlesex CCC I'm sure we are all celebrating the success of the mens 1<sup>st</sup> XI on the pitch, and look forward to continued success next season. As Membership Committee we want to make your membership of this club worthwhile, so will continue to seek your views, both positive and negative, and will continue to seek improvement in the offer we can give to members

Best wishes

**Marilyn Smith**

**Chair, Membership Committee**

For any general membership enquiries please continue to email [membership@middlesexccc.com](mailto:membership@middlesexccc.com)

### REPORT FROM ANGUS FRASER

'How are you enjoying your new role', is a question I have been regularly asked by Middlesex members this summer. In fact, after a few frosty years – no doubt caused by the 1<sup>st</sup> XI's disappointing performances – it was pleasing to once again be having conversations with members, who for quite a while seemed to have been avoiding me when I walked around the ground.

So, what is my new role? The title – Cricket Development Director – sounds quite grand but I have never really been that bothered with titles. I am more interested in doing what I can to help make things better no matter which area of the club it is.

There are several areas to the role with the principle one being facilities. To an outsider Middlesex are looked upon as one of the most fortunate cricket clubs in the world. This is because we play at Lord's and have this wonderful ground as our home.

As many of us know this is not the true story. The facts are that Middlesex are tenants of the MCC and there are large chunks of the season when together with our professional cricketers we cannot get inside the Home of Cricket. These chunks - with Lord's hosting two Tests, a One Day International, Women's International cricket and The Hundred dominating August – can add up to Lord's being unavailable to Middlesex for as much as 9-10 weeks.

And it is during these periods that Middlesex then become reliant on the relationships it has with institutions like Merchant Taylors' School and Radlett Cricket Club. MTS and Radlett CC work their socks off to provide Middlesex and Sunrisers professional staff with the best facilities they can, to train and play on, but they need help.

The amount of time Middlesex spend away from Lord's is unlikely to reduce so a major part of my role is to help improve the training and match facilities at these and other venues around the country. One project has already started, which is the laying down of a 45 metre grass training block at MTS. Two match pitches at MTS and three extra pitches at one end of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI square have been relayed too. Developments like these take time to bed in before they are ready to play on so it will not be until 2024, at the earliest, that the benefits of these investments will truly be seen.

This is only one of a number of investments we want to make in outgrounds for our professional staff. Other projects include improving the quality of changing facilities for our cricket department and match facilities for our supporters.



*Angus Fraser*

The professional cricketers of Middlesex and Sunrisers are not the only cricketers that want and deserve better facilities. During the summer I spent most of my Saturday's visiting clubs in the Middlesex County Cricket League. The aim is to bring the clubs and Middlesex Cricket closer together.

In the conversations I had with the Chairs, Treasurers, cricket contacts and players of clubs many topics were discussed. The most constant word was facilities. Middlesex is extremely fortunate to contain so many people who want to play this wonderful game but the quality of facilities available to these cricketers varies beyond belief.

At one end we have established, wealthy and successful clubs whose players change in a modern £1million plus pavilion and play on good surfaces. At the other end we have cricketers at recently formed clubs that are trying to make their way, whose players sit on the grass at the side of the ground, which is an unloved and unprepared council pitch. Witnessing their love for the game was extremely humbling but, at times, it was heartbreaking to see the lack of facilities available to them. Helping these teams, along with those that have real issues finding a second ground for their 3<sup>rd</sup> XI is something I want to help too.

Middlesex and Sunrisers Players Association is an area I have taken responsibility for too. Hundreds of fantastic people have represented these two teams and we want to create a family feel to the organization. We want to create a little community in which we can meet and have fun but, more importantly, help each other and Middlesex Cricket out.

These, I suppose, are the main areas of my new role, but Middlesex Cricket is a small organization where everybody puts in when help is needed. And on the back of this there are lots of other things that I inevitably get involved in as issues arise during the year.

In finishing I would just like to congratulate Alan Coleman, Richard Johnson, Rory Coutts and the players and support staff at Middlesex. We are all chuffed they have gained promotion to Division 1 of the County Championship, which is something they deserve after an excellent season of red ball cricket.

Some people will say; 'we are back where we belong'. I don't agree with that statement. In fact I think it is pretty arrogant. We do not deserve something more than any other county. We are in Division 1 because we deserve to be there and we will only remain there through playing better cricket than the teams we are competing against.

With the group of players and support staff we have, and, hopefully, the facilities we can develop I believe we have every reason to look forward to 2023 and see the team compete positively in Division 1.

**Angus Fraser**  
**Cricket Development Director**

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### WOMEN'S CRICKET UPDATE WINTER 2022

**U11's** – At U11 level we run 2 squads. Between the squads they have had 22 days of cricket, this includes internal games and practices as well as games against other counties. To date the U11s have won 15 and lost 6 games. Emily Metcalfe has scored 3 50's, Lana Gandhi has recorded 2 scores of 40+. Stuti and Emily recorded a partnership of 106 for the 4<sup>th</sup> wicket v Surrey. Ellie Shaw and Bella Robson have both taken 4 wickets in a game, and on another 9 occasions we've had bowlers take 3 wickets.



*Kari Carswell*

**U13's** - At U13 level we run 2 squads. Between the squads we have 18 days of cricket. We've won 50% of all games played. Paloma Wright scored 132 v Berkshire, Emma Weel scored 91 v Norfolk, Aditi Sahoo scored 53 v Hampshire. We've also had 2 players score 49, Olivia Klein and Charlotte Bernstein. The U13's have also recorded 6 partnerships of over 50, with our biggest partnership being 98. Siya Nanavati and Lucienne Mercier have both picked up 5 wicket hauls, Winnie Jewell, Charlotte Bernstein & Dia Nair have all picked up 3 wickets in a game. The emphasis with both the u13 squads is rotating players throughout batting orders and giving players different roles with the ball. The teams play a combination of 20 over games and 35 over games.

**U15's** – The U15 age group compete in the ECB T20 and 40 Over leagues as well as a number of friendlies. Played 21 games, won 12 and lost 9. In the ECB T20 league we've played 8, won 5 and lost 3. In the ECB 40 over league, we played 6, won 3, lost 2 and won 1 by opposition conceding the game. Vani Dhanuka has scored 350 runs with a highest score of 82, Francesca Poulton has scored 223 runs with a top score of 89. Catherine Stobbart has also contributed 212 runs throughout the season. We've had 10 fifties scored throughout the squad this season, from 6 different players. Riya Patadia has returned 17 wickets, with a best of 4/26 at an average of 11.59. Ash Surenkumar has also picked up 13 wickets with a best of 3/52. Six players have picked up 3 wickets or more in a game. We 3 partnerships over 100.

#### Partnerships

116\* Hannah Taylor-Yeates & Amelie Bishop v Cambridgeshire (T20)

112 Molly Barbour-Smith & Catherine Stobbart v Norfolk (T20)

110 Eva Seymour & Vani Dhanuka v Isle of Wight (30 overs)

**U18's** – The U18's have had a good season, despite the challenges of getting the same team out consistently. They have reached the finals of ECB T20

National competition. A number of players from the U15s have stepped up on a number of occasions. At the time of writing the U18's have played 10, winning 8 and losing 2. They still have 2 T20 games to go. Georgia Irving has scored 250 runs, with a top score of 103\*, Amelie Munday and Hannah Taylor-Yeates have both scored 160 runs for the U18's, Hannah still qualifies for the U15 age group. Sarah Pearson has picked up 13 wickets, at an average of 6.69, while Riva Pindoria and Artemis Downer have picked up 8 wickets.

### Partnerships

118 Georgia Irving & Amelie Munday v Surrey (40 Overs)

91\* Issy Routledge & Amelie Munday v Buckinghamshire (T20)

88 Georgia Irving & Amelie Munday v Surrey (T20)

**Debuts** – there has been 10 players make their Middlesex 1<sup>st</sup> XI debuts this season. A combination of factors meaning we now have a much younger 1<sup>st</sup> XI women's team.

**Seniors** – The 1<sup>st</sup> XI went through the ECB T20 competition undefeated, a good achievement although our group was not the strongest. We played against Huntingdonshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The London Cup v Surrey at the Oval was very one-sided and not in Middlesex's favour, unfortunately we couldn't field our strongest team due to our regional players not being available. The London Championship followed a similar theme, we did struggle with availability and on occasions were calling up U15 players to play in games. Although they are all talented players in their own right, playing at the Senior Women's level may have been a step too far for some. We beat Sussex convincingly, lost to Surrey in a close game at Mill Hill and lost convincingly to Essex. The game v Kent was abandoned due to rain.

In terms of on field performances Issy Routledge was the top run scorer with 435 runs at an average of 27.19, Tash Miles scored 379 at an average of 37.9. Issy top scored with 85 v Sussex, Tash Miles 81 v Sunrisers XI at Felstead, Saskia 82 v Sussex. Emily Thorpe picked up 16 wickets at an average 15.38, Bhavika Gajipara 14 wickets at 16.79, Saskia Horley 13 wickets at 10.08, Katie Green 12 wickets at 10.42, Kate Coppack 12 wickets at 14.08.

13 50's across the Senior team this year. Tash Miles (4), Issy & Naomi Dattani (2), Lucy Porter, Gemma Marriott, Saskia Horley, Amelie Munday & Sonali Patel (1).

Saskia 4/36 v Surrey (London Championship)

Emily T 3/12 v Buckinghamshire (ECB T20)

Katie G 3/4 v Huntingdonshire (ECB T20)

Kate C 3/0 v Berkshire (Friendly)

Gemma 3/10 v Buckinghamshire (ECB T20)

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Iqraa Hussain collected 18 victims behind the stumps. 9 catches, 6 stumpings, 3 run outs.

The arrival of Australian Saskia Horley for part of the season was an exciting addition and she certainly added to our group. Saskia is a contracted player for New South Wales and has previously represented Sydney Thunder in the Women's Big Bash League.

Porter & Saskia – 114 v Sussex

Issy & Sonali – 148 v Sussex

Naomi & Tash – 119 v Buckinghamshire (T20)

Issy & Gemma – 118 v Huntingdonshire (T20)

Tash & Issy – 112 v Huntingdonshire (T20)

Issy & Tash – 100 v Sunrisers XI (T20 @ Felstead)

All the coaches involved have done a sterling job at running all the teams and giving players opportunities to thrive in the Middlesex environment. The highlights above have shown a good season across the board and one that we should all be proud of.

**Kari Carswell**

**Head of Women's Cricket**

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### DISABILITY SQUAD REVIEW 2022 SEASON.

This season has proven to be the most successful season to date with so many individual and team successes.

#### **D40 1<sup>ST</sup> XI – Quest League**

This season saw the 1<sup>st</sup> XI finish runners up in the Quest league for the second consecutive season and only losing one game to eventual winners Hampshire; this season also saw the first draw in a fixture in the last game of the year against local rivals Surrey -197 each from our 40 overs. There was also the new highest score in a league fixture 310-7 against Lancashire.

Captain James Nordin finishing the season as the leading run scorer for Middlesex recording 138 runs with a top score of 78 and also picked up 12 wickets from his bowling

#### **D40 2<sup>nd</sup> XI – Pursuit League**

This season saw the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI squad win the group stage of the league only losing one game to Essex but going on to win all other fixtures during the league campaign. They went on to win the league, a comfortable 48 points ahead of second place Essex, this meant that the squad qualified



*Michael Wilson*

for the national final to be played in Nottingham against Yorkshire 1<sup>st</sup> XI where they were beaten by 81 runs Yorkshire 1<sup>st</sup> XI 250 -7 and Middlesex 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 169 all out in reply.

Sue Benson finished the season as leading run scorer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI group stage with 131 runs across the 4 innings; she finished not out in 3 of them.

4 out of the top 5 bowlers in this league also came from the Middlesex team. William Beerling finished top with 7 wickets, Ben Mason with 6, Sunil Sagar with 5 and Raam Lacmane finishing with 3

### **Super 9s – South East regional division.**

The super 9s had a mixed year where 5 wins and 4 losses meant they had gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the regional league table only 10 points behind winners Essex and 70 points in front of 3<sup>rd</sup> place Hampshire. Middlesex then went onto face Essex in the regional final. Having lost both league fixtures against the Essex squad the team would really have to play at their best to have any chance of becoming champions for the first time in this league,

Essex were put into bat by Middlesex and were bowled out for 118 in just 20.2 overs

Middlesex bowlers – Waris Baharami 31-3, Zac Belchamber 15-3 and Stefan McKenzie 16-2

Middlesex then went into bat and although they lost regular wickets Rakim Richmond (22), Abhey Sharma (31no) and Waris Baharami (38) they were able to chase the score set in just 23.1 overs out of the 30 overs they had .

This season also saw 12 players selected to play in the Disability Premier League which was 20% of the total players included in this tournament. The only player included in the winning team this season from Middlesex was Elliot Brown but we also had Mohammed Farooq, Umesh Valjee and Jake Oakes in the other team in the final.

### **International players.**

Middlesex had 5 players in the England deaf squad and 1 player in the England learning disability squad that went to Australia in June to play in their respective Ashes series. Both of the squads were successful and brought the Ashes back to England with comprehensive wins across all formats.

Deaf squad players: George Greenway (Captain), Umesh Valjee, Mohammed Farooq, Moazzam Rashid, Jake Oakes.

LD squad player: Martin Henderson

**Michael Wilson**  
**Head of Disability Cricket**

## **SEAXE NEWS**

### **MIDDLESEX CCC AWARDS**

For those of you who do not have or visit a website, you may be interested in the following information. This is how Middlesex CCC voted for their player awards which were presented at the recent End of Season Dinner.

#### **BATTING PERFORMANCE – STEVE ESKINAZI**

Presented by: Mike Gatting

#### **BOWLING PERFORMANCE – TOBY ROLAND-JONES**

Presented by: John Emburey

#### **WHITE BALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR – STEVE ESKINAZI**

Presented by: Tom Broad - iShare

#### **RED BALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR – JOHN SIMPSON**

Presented by: Michael Finlay - Ark Build PLC

#### **MCCC'S MEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR – TOBY ROLAND-JONES**

Presented by: Mike O'Farrell

#### **MCCC'S WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR – NATASHA MILES**

Presented by: Mike O'Farrell

Please don't let this influence your decision when choosing the Seaxe Player Awards. You only have to decide the red ball player and white ball players of the year. The other awards are nominated by the relevant coaches. I personally think it is a close run thing this year.

**Glen Birkwood**

**ALL STARS AND DYNAMOS UPDATE WINTER 2022**

It has been a busy summer of National programme delivery in Middlesex. Through the generous support of Seaxe, we were able to offer 265 free places on National programmes this summer. As I mentioned in the last update, with the cost-of-living increase affecting everyone, not just those families who live in areas of high deprivation, we spread the bursaries across the county this year to give the greatest impact for families who would be struggling to pay for places for their children on the programmes.

I included this quote in my last report; One parent, who had 2 children at one of the centres in Tower Hamlets said that without the free place she never would have been able to afford the £40 per child cost of All stars. She said that with the cost of living continuously rising as a family they are having to make difficult choices about what leisure activities they can do and trying to find £80 at the moment would have been extremely difficult and her children probably wouldn't have been able to attend. They were so pleased that their children could take part alongside their friends from school and didn't miss out on playing cricket.

This message was just one of 37 we received this summer. Our staff on the ground were continuously thanked by the parents for providing places for their children. We could not have done this without the incredible support of the Seaxe Club.

Below is a breakdown of all the centres we delivered in this year and how the bursaries were split via gender.

**All Stars**

Hague Primary School- Tower Hamlets

Kobi Nazrul Primary- Tower Hamlets

Christ Church Bentinck -Westminster

Church Lane Rec- Brent

Cowley Hall Rec ground - Hillingdon

Millfields Park- Hackney

**Dynamos**

Church Lane Rec- Brent

Paddington Rec- Westminster

Middlesex Indoor Cricket School - Barnet

Stepney Green Park – Tower Hamlets

Centenary Park - Harrow



## **SEAXE NEWS**

Heathfield Rec- Richmond

Millfields park- Hackney

Inwood park- Hounslow

Chiswick House- Hounslow

Breakdown of bursaries in 2022:

All Stars: 135 – 64 Girls & 71 Boys

Dynamos: 130 – 56 Girls & 74 Boys

If you need anything else, please let me know.

**Pete Jones, Participation Manager**

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### **PROGRESS UPDATE ON BURSARY RECIPIENT TYRONE VISVAKULA**

So Tyrone has had a decent season without quite kicking on like I would have hoped , I have quite high expectations of him.

He opened the batting for our third XI in a good strong premier league and was 3 runs off being our top run scorer, he ended with 390 runs at 30 with 4 half centuries.

For Middx Tyrone scored 377 runs at 29 with 3 half centuries. The numbers are ok without being where I'd like him to be. One area for improvement would be his conversion rate as you can see x7 50s without passing 75 once or making a ton, he made a few elsewhere I know but I'm judging him on the best two standards he was playing , county and men's Saturday premier league cricket. I've spoken to Tyrone regarding this and we will sit down and talk in more detail about this season and plans for next.

During Tyrone's sessions we have been working on his position on point of release making sure his weight distribution is good so he can move quickly forward and back and he is balanced.

He can sometimes get caught in the crease and not get his weight into the ball so we have been working on this and doing lots of repetition so this happens more consistently, his back foot often stays flat rather than coming up on the inside of the toe.

Also playing high pace is something Tyrone will be dealing with as he continues to climb the ladder, so I've been preparing him for this using various drills and looking to give him options such as attacking ones, pulling and deflecting the ball as well as taking evasive action when needing to.

We have also been developing his game against the turning ball and expanding his game with the various sweeps and hitting into the spin with good precise footwork and interception points.

General decision making and shot selection along with game scenarios is something we do with the sidearm and he benefits greatly from this. I very much hope to continue to work with Tyrone leading up to next season and have very much enjoyed working with him this season, thank you for your help as I know Tyrone and his dad Shane are super grateful and appreciative. Tyrone has lots of potential as a cricketer and we at Sunbury look forward to seeing his progress and him pushing for a place in the second XI next year and 100% view him as a first team star of the future and hopefully beyond.

He has a good work ethic and is a very likeable lad with inner strength and self belief, naturally very introverted but you can't tell on a cricket field.

**John Maunders, Sunbury CC Coach**

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### **UPDATE FROM MCCC ON TYRONE VISVAKULA**

Tyrone had a poor start to the season through May and June, but really impressed through July and August. Dan Housego our U14 coach had a couple of conversations with him that really sparked some positive change. We went from being concerned at this lack of progress to pleased with how he finished the season. We rank their performances using an impact score which the coaches give after each game. By our scoring system, he was the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked player in his age group in terms of his impact on game, and made a match winning contribution 8 times through the year.

Thank you for all your support of Tyrone.

**Mark Lane / Stewart Davison, Middlesex Youth Cricket**

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### **BETTER THAN HE KNEW THE GRAHAM BARLOW STORY**

Better than he knew – The Graham Barlow story is my first book and was conceived, unbeknown to both author and subject, following a chance meeting way back in 1981 at the County Ground, Northampton. I was thirteen at the time and playing an impromptu game of cricket with two friends on the outfield before play when Graham approached us and asked if we would bowl some balls at him before resuming his overnight innings. At this stage, I knew nothing about his brief international career of three Test matches, six one day internationals and a tour to India in 1976/77 following his breakthrough season, when Middlesex secured their first outright Championship win since 1947. Graham had opened the innings in Mike Brearley's absence on Test duty. It was also the early days of what would become a formidable opening partnership with Wilf Slack. After watching Graham score a typically punchy half century

## SEAXE NEWS

and being an aspiring opening bat myself, I tracked his scores and collected anything I could on my new hero, until his sudden playing retirement in 1986.

In 2015 The Cricketer magazine published an article that I wrote on Graham. It was at this point that I thought a book could be a possibility and I started to track my subject down, which led me to New Zealand where he had enjoyed some coaching success with Central Districts.

When I finally reached Graham, he was now teaching English in Whangerau and in the process of retiring and relocating to Queensland. Once his move was settled, which was delayed by Covid, the writing process started late in 2020. Graham would meet regularly using Zoom to talk about his life both on and off the field. Graham is an excellent talker, and the text in the book is laid out so the reader knows when it is Graham's spoken word. Numerous former players, colleagues and friends were contacted to offer their perspective. All of them

being generous with their time and their thoughts on the naturally gifted sportsman and fitness fanatic.

By February 2022, the written part of the book was complete and the publishers, Pitch Publishing, who were so helpful throughout, brought the book together with final edits and the addition of photograph blocks, some of which I had taken as a teenager. It has been a privilege to complete this book and have my childhood cricketing hero share his life with me in the way that he has. Before the project, I only knew Graham Barlow the cricketer, there is so



*Graham Barlow in action.*



*Graham Barlow receiving copies of the book.*

much more to him than just that. Both Graham and I hope that people have as much fun reading it, as we did writing it.

**James Hawkins, Author**

For anyone interested in purchasing a copy it is available in larger Waterstones stores or online direct from the publisher [www.pitchpublishing.co.uk/shop/better-he-knew](http://www.pitchpublishing.co.uk/shop/better-he-knew) Priced at £19.99, it would make an excellent Christmas gift.

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**SOCIAL REPORT WINTER 2022**

The cricket season gone, summer over and winter on its way. With winter there should be a Seaxe winter programme. We will make a second attempt to make this happen. The first in March was ended before it drew breath as a consequence of extreme weather and the resulting transport difficulties.

Good news, there is a scheduled social / lunch being organised

**SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**ALLSOP ARMS**

**137 GLOUCESTER PLACE NW1 5AL**

Mid-way between Baker St and Marylebone tube stations.

Midday onwards

Lunch is not compulsory, but for those wishing to eat, booking is essential via the number listed below.

Included in this mailing are the menu, full details and booking form for the ever popular Seaxe Christmas lunch. Once again being held in the Lord's Tavern.

**SEAXE CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

These events are not exclusive to members only; guests / friends are very welcome to join us.

**Steve Baldwin**  
**07956 439807**



*Steve Baldwin*

## **SEAXE NEWS**

**WINTER 2022**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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@ntl-world.com](mailto:leslie.rowland@ntl-world.com)

### **Lottery result    Sept. 2022**

<b>Prize</b>	<b>Name</b>
1st £125	Don Shelley
2nd £75	Mark Zeffert
3rd £50	Dr Jane Orr
4th £25	Andrew Dowlen
5th £25	Phil Catchpole

Congratulations to them all. The next Lottery draw will at the Seaxe Christmas luncheon, December 4<sup>th</sup>..

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**