



SEAXE NEWS

Editor: Glen Birkwood

Web site: www.middlesexccc.com/page/seaxe-club-home

Summer 2026

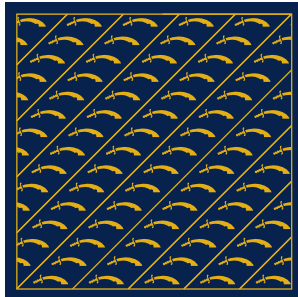
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SUMMER 2026

I should like to remind you that the reason we email copies of the News is because of the excessive cost of postage which eats into our funds. Funds that should be used for a more beneficial purpose. The Middlesex office used to cover the cost of our postage, but that is no longer the case. BUT, if hard copies are required, then there are always copies of past and current editions available to pick up in the Seaxe Box.

Our investments so far, apart from the earlier £500 transport costs for a young member of the Pathway, are £1500 into SCAM (unfortunate name), more details within this issue. Purchasing a new gazebo for the disability squad, the last one having been destroyed by the high winds. It is an important piece of equipment for them as it is often the only place they have available to shelter from the sun or rain. A couple of other projects are in the pipeline, but we await further details before committing.

The Seaxe website is being kept up to date by Danny in the office for which we thank him. The form on the website for joining the Seaxe Club is simple, effective and proving to be popular. Encourage your friends, it is only £20 / annum and can help youth cricket in so many ways.

We are looking to extend our range of merchandise; as well as the shirts and caps, we need more ties and we have enquired about introducing ladies' scarves. Whether we go ahead with the scarves will depend on the level of enthusiasm we receive.



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Our Annual Seaxe Awards evening was held in the Father Time Bar on Friday 10th April at the close of play. We are extremely grateful to Grace for arranging the venue. It was well attended by friends and family together with the senior players and coaches. Full report and photos can be found inside.

On Sunday August 2nd there is a 50 over one day match against Yorkshire. I have put in a request for the Seaxe Club to have access to a box on that day. I await the outcome and will let you all know.

The Seaxe Lottery was drawn during the game against Derbyshire; the result is on the back page and our congratulations go to the lucky winners.

I've included details of a new cricketing book about the Middlesex CCC stalwart, Patsy Hendren with a precis from the author Jeremy Lonsdale, which I am confident you will enjoy.

There's an interesting interview with Leus du Plooy conducted by Gary Ford.

This is a poor season for County cricket matches being played at Lord's, but I hope to meet a number of you at some of the away games or out grounds.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of the News.

Glen Birkwood
Chair Seaxe Club



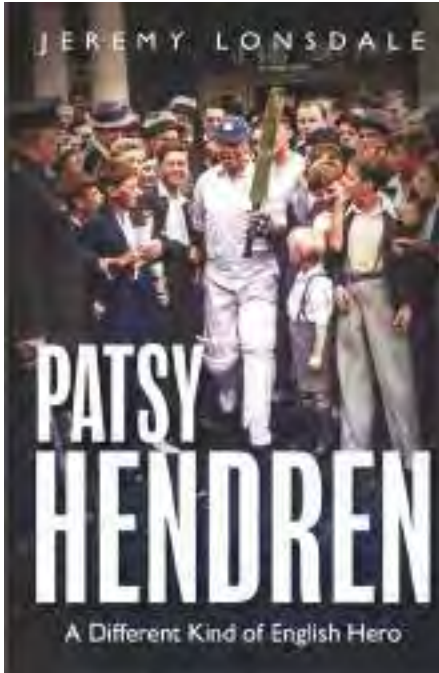
Glen Birkwood

New Book - Patsy Hendren: A Different Kind of English Hero. **Jeremy Lonsdale**

The great Middlesex and England cricketer and Brentford footballer Patsy Hendren never stopped. And he didn't want to.

On 23 October 1926 he arrived late at Griffin Park but scored four goals in Brentford's 7-3 win over Coventry in Division Three South. A few hours later in central London, he compered a 90-minute programme of music of his own choice on the BBC's 2LO station. Seven years earlier, Hendren had appeared in a September charity cricket match in Twickenham in the morning and, after lunch, was driven to Griffin Park, where he played well against Portsmouth, before returning to score a fifty in the cricket.

The same month, after a hugely successful 1919 season with Middlesex, he finished a charity cricket match in Wembley in the evening and appeared for Brentford in Exeter the following afternoon. In 1928, on successive days, he turned out in the Scarborough and Folkestone cricket festivals, three rail journeys and 250 miles apart.



Nothing stopped Hendren. Two days after returning from the unsuccessful six-month MCC tour of Australia in April 1921, he trained with Brentford as they prepared for a crucial Football League relegation match and played a few days after landing. During the First World War, when deployed in a munitions factory in Acton, he was hard at work within an hour of turning out for Brentford.

For Hendren, many energy-sapping summers with Middlesex bled into winters on muddy football fields, Septembers a mix of early season professional football and charity cricket matches, April a wrapping up of one sport and preparation for another. Ignoring wartime, between 1911 and 1927 there were only four months when he did not play either first-class cricket or professional football or both, and that

was because he was on the ship to or from Australia.

Never one to rest, in 1924 Hendren established the West London Indoor Cricket and Sports Club, providing cricket coaching with Middlesex and Brentford colleague, Jack Durston, to professional and recreational cricketers alike during the winter months.

After he had retired from football, he spent the next four winters abroad, travelling to South Australia with his wife to coach in 1927/28, returning with MCC the following year, triumphantly visiting the West Indies with MCC in 1929/30 and touring South Africa by train and ship in 1930/31 with Percy Chapman's side. Not bad for a man who was a terrible traveller and was hospitalised in Colombo on the way to Australia in 1927. The following winter was the first in more than 20 years when he had no sporting obligations.

Hendren's extensive support for charitable causes added to his relentless timetable, frequently playing a full day for Middlesex at Lord's before attending local sports finals to award prizes or tell a few stories. In the 1920s and 1930s, he took part in fundraising initiatives in aid of Catholic church building or debt clearance, always willing to speak at an event, compere a show or donate a signed bat to raffle. After playing in his Brentford benefit match in March 1927, he went straight to Westminster Cathedral Hall in central London, where he was

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MC for a charity concert to raise funds for a financially troubled church in Edgware.

Hendren was involved with numerous organisations. When a charity concert was organised by several theatrical celebrities to mark his retirement from football in 1927, there was considerable controversy about it taking place on a Sunday, the only day West End actors were free. Hendren's supportive (and thankfully sports-loving) wife, Minnie, reminded the local paper that her husband had been 'the means of raising large sums of money for local charitable institutions ... and that for his work outside Ealing, the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, St. John's Hospital, Twickenham and the Hounslow Hospital have made him an honorary life governor.'

Patsy Hendren was deeply committed to his sports, his faith and to his local community. He was devoted to Middlesex and Brentford, juggling his obligations to both until he was 38. By the time he retired from cricket in 1937, aged 48, he had scored over 57,000 first-class runs (the third highest of all time) and 170 centuries (the second highest). He made 833 first-class appearances, the fifth highest ever. For Brentford, he made over 400 professional appearances and was inducted into their 'Hall of Fame' in 2015. When he retired, he coached at Harrow School and Sussex CCC for some years, and even spent the summer of 1952 coaching at Butlin's holiday camp in Filey, North Yorkshire, where he showed the same delight in the progress of a youngster as he did in more usual surroundings. He was then Middlesex scorer until a couple of years before his death in 1962.

The full story of Patsy Hendren is told in 'Patsy Hendren: A Different Kind of English Hero' which explores:

- The remarkable story of one of the most popular sporting personalities of the inter-war years.
- The career of the third-highest run scorer in cricket history and one of the finest fielders of his day.
- The demanding life of an all-year-round sportsman.
- Hendren, the unorthodox batsman, who got better with age and whose fame spread well beyond the sports fields.
- The highs and lows of a man who appeared 51 times in Tests but who was rarely sure of his place and sometimes considered to lack a 'big match temperament'.
- Hendren, the natural entertainer, celebrated at home and abroad as one of sport's great comedians.
- His role as a trusted mentor, guiding future stars Denis Compton and Bill Edrich during the 1930s.

Jeremy Lonsdale's biography 'Patsy Hendren: A Different Kind of English Hero' is published in June 2026 by Pitch Publishing (www.pitchpublishing.co.uk). His previous book 'An Unusual Celebrity: The Many Cricketing Lives of Bill Bowes' (Pitch Publishing) was shortlisted for the Cricket Writers' Club Derek Hodgson Book of the Year Award in 2024.

SEAXE CLUB NOTES

The Schools Cricket Association of Middlesex (SCAM) is the vehicle through which Middlesex in the Community (MITC) organises the vast majority of its secondary school cricket offering across Middlesex. These county competitions are for boys (6 Competitions) and girls (3 Competitions) and run from Under 12s (year 7) to Under 19 (Sixth formers).

The winners of four of the boys competitions enter national competitions, which are run by the English Schools Cricket Association (ESCA). Here Middlesex schools will represent the county by playing against schools from other counties.

This year we had 154 teams enter across the competitions of which around 90 are from state schools. Thirty Five of the teams were from girls schools, which is a rise from 26 in 2025, showing the positive affect of MITC's and schools continued work to promote girls cricket in Middlesex.

We thank The SEAXE Clubs for their role in supporting SCAM this year. The support you give is vital, as it will assist the growth of cricket across state schools and, specifically, girls cricket. The competitions have traditionally been completely self-funded by the schools themselves. On a small budget we have run the finals and tried to make the competitions run as smoothly as possible.

Costs, however, continue to rise, whether it be for balls, facilities and umpires, and the last thing we want is for schools to withdraw from the competitions. This is why The SEAXE Club's involvement is vital. We want to grow the competitions and your support will help us do just this.

Over the next month all the finals will be taking place and the tournaments will reach an exciting crescendo. The first is the Under 15 T20 Final on Tuesday 9 June. The winners of this go straight into a national competition. The last Final is the Girls Under 19s final on the 30 June.

We look forward to updating the SEAXE clubs members on the results and any notable performances and events that take place!

Once again Thank You for your valuable support.

Thomas Pegler
Partnership Manager (Chance to Shine)

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LEUS DU PLOOY INTERVIEW

On Friday the 5th of June I sat down with our Captain, Leus Du Plooy for an interview for the Seaxe News, he came across as a very focused and humble Individual who's determined to do well for Middlesex Cricket.

Gary Ford
Seaxe Club Comitee / Social Secretary



GF: Good Afternoon Leus, we're here at Merchant Taylors, where you've just finished in the nets to have a quick interview that you very kindly agreed to do for The Seaxe News, so I just wanted to start off with where you started your career? You were born in Pretoria and played the most of your early career in South Africa, so what was it like growing-up and did you come from a sporting family?

LDP: Yeah, I think it's a good question, everyone has very different stories about where it all started, for me it was always coming from a Rugby family, my Dad was a Rugby player up until University, and my uncle played a little for The Springboks Sevens and The Kats in the Super 12 back then which was pretty cool to follow, so I've always grown up wanting to play sport and got involved in many different sports and my earliest memory of cricket is on The Farm, doing holidays, and my two uncles gave me a short-handed bat, like a maze bat and started chucking loads of balls at me and I pretty much fell in love with the game there and then, remembering that one particular Easter Holiday, so I've got my uncles to thank for that.

GF: So did you go through School playing Cricket or was it more Rugby?

LDP: I enjoyed Rugby a lot more if I'm honest, until I realised I'd stop growing! So I knew then it probably wasn't for me and I came to the realisation that I was pretty good at cricket, I'd say from the age of 12 and started playing for the provincial side, and as you get older, you're sort of forced to leave behind the other sports and focus on cricket going forward.

GF: You had to make a choice, that's understandable. So in your early career you played for Free State, Knight, Northerns and Titans, so how did the move to Derbyshire come about in 2019?

LDP: So I played an Old Boys game, actually against my little brother, and our Captain for that game was Jacques Rudolph, who was also an ex-pupil at

"Affies" (Afrikaanse Hoer Seunskool) where I went to school in Pretoria and him being a left-hand batter, and someone I've always looked up to, obviously, having played a lot of cricket for South Africa, I just wanted to have a chat with him the following week with regards to batting and all that, and during the conversation he caught wind that I had a European Passport, and he was giving me the idea to give County Cricket in England a try and that it wouldn't do me any harm and if I didn't like it, I could come back and I'd still be in the same position as I was at the time.

GF: Of Course, Yeah

LDP: Luckily it worked out and he had a contact in Dave Houghton who was at Middlesex before and happened to take over as the Head Coach at Derbyshire in 2019 so he gave me the opportunity and it was right before Brexit too, so I had to make the call, right there and then and luckily it worked out pretty well.

GF: I had many chats with Houts when he was at Middlesex, really engaging and a good coach, and also another Middlesex connection, you worked with a fan-favourite there in Billy Godleman, (who I met a lot over the years and is a Top Man) but you took over from him when he stepped down as captain, how long were you at Derbyshire for before you became Captain?

LDP: I was at Derbyshire nearly 4 years when I took over and was Skipper for a year, so I spent 5 years in all at Derbyshire.

GF: Was it something that you wanted to do? Had you Captained teams before that?

LDP: I had captained pretty much all the way through my School years as a lot of Professional Cricketers have done, if your one of the strongest individuals in the School team, you will probably end up in a Leadership role at some point I guess but it was never the plan, I guess it just happened.

GF: Sometimes you just need to be in the right place at the right time

LDP: Or in the wrong place at the right time! (Laughs)

GF: You then get the Opportunity to play in The HUNDRED with the Welsh Fire and in my Interview with Higgs, he said that in some ways he preferred it to the T20 Competition, what are your feelings on the Competition?

LDP: Yeah, I think the whole point of it was to attract different age groups into the game and its certainly done that, as players it is different, I can't 100% say I prefer it to the T20 because as a batter it's definitely a lot tougher I think as you don't play it as much, and even after the 4 or 5 years it's been running it always takes you by surprise, but from a fielding point of view it's lovely because you're on the field for an hour or so and you tend to stand in one place for a lot longer than you do in T20 Cricket, so you get less tired and for the fans you can be in

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and out of the ground in two, two and a half hours which can also be a very beneficial thing for some of them,

GF: What do you think of the Plans for The Hundred to become a T20 Competition in the next few years, many of the individuals/companies that have bought into the respective franchises have almost insisted this as part of their investment to be implemented by '28 or '29?

LDP: Well, they must do what they need to do, I can see a world where it does go back to a T20 Comp, as they would make more money and for that reason it makes sense yeah.

GF: How do you think that would impact the Domestic T20 because some would argue that you can't have two T20 Competitions running alongside each other in the same Country.

LDP: I think pretty much every country has got it that way, South Africa has it that way, I think it's just Australia that don't have it that way.

GF: Oh okay, I wasn't aware of that

LDP: Yeah, you can do it, you've probably have just got to be a little bit smarter in the way you go about it, in terms of the amount of games, so if you want to do that, you have got to get a block in the season that is suitable for players to produce a quality amount of Cricket I think, that's probably the thing if you play too much Class Cricket and you have a Hundred It's quite an elongated thing, I mean, it's not great for County Cricket because you still want the fans to enjoy first class cricket, but in saying that I don't think it's fair to the players also to have 12 games and then another 10 Hundred games, so whether it's maybe 9 games and you play every team in the South Group once, or a Similar style to the Hundred, play everyone once and your local Derby in Surrey twice.

GF: The Hundred has already had an effect on the Domestic T20 as crowd's, not just at Lord's but all over the country are down because the parents are saving their money and taking their children to the Hundred games in the School Holiday's, rather than the T20 in Term-Time, and if that were to happen then the Domestic T20 would effectively become almost a second XI Competition, a bit like The 50 Over Format has become.

LDP: I can't see it ever becoming a second XI Competition, it's not as simple as, this one should stay, and this one should go, with all the comps that run throughout the calendar year, it's very tough to attract the best players in the world, for a long time the Blast was able to do that, you had your Keiron Pollard's, Chris Gayle, AB Devilliers and so on but nowadays the attraction is not really there to do it, because the amount of money firstly and then also the

time, because the Blast runs over 2 months, with the 4 day comp squeezed in there as well, it's very tough to get those players onboard.

GF: So, returning to your time at Derbyshire, when you agreed to join Middlesex in July 2023, for the 2024 Season, I know many of the Derbyshire Members and they are good people and some I spoke to were disappointed that you were going, was it difficult in those last few months, knowing you were leaving?

LDP: I wouldn't say it was difficult, at the end of the day, you're doing a job and you are contracted to do a job and deliver your skills and I've always had a lot of appreciation and love for Derby because that's where I had my first opportunity over in the UK as a County Cricketer and I'll forever be grateful for that, so I wouldn't say it was difficult in that regard, or that I was worrying about people being cross with me, at the end of the day you have got to make decisions that are the best for your career, and I would like to believe that I left there on a really good note and that I gave everything I had to the Club for 5 years; it's not like I played for a couple of seasons and left, I'm very proud of my time there, it was obviously tough to leave good friends behind and a coach in Micky Arthur who I respect highly and really enjoyed playing under, and finishing the season with one club while knowing your joining another is quite normal these days.

GF: Did you know much about County Cricket before you came over?

LDP: To be honest with you, no, I knew of probably 5 out of the 18 counties if you had to ask me at school because in South Africa, were not really exposed to The Blast even, it's only been the last 4-5 years, only now are schoolkids able to see County Cricket being streamed live on TV, so I was pretty oblivious to it all and I didn't know about the county of Derbyshire, I knew about Middlesex because there were School Tours to Lord's.

GF: What was your first experience of Lord's and what did you think?

LDP: It was pretty cool, it helped that I scored 100* that game, that certainly helped, it was pretty surreal because I think I've told this story to

GF: Fletch, maybe?

LDP: Yeah, Fletch probably it was, I meant to go on a School Tour of the Ground and I ended-up not making the Tour because I cut my toe open on the escalator at St John's Wood Station, and it bled so much on the way to the ground that I ended-up having to go to the Hospital around the corner, so I never actually made the Tour so it was pretty cool that I entered the Pavillion for the first time as a player, rather than an outsider, and Houts (Dave Houghton) took it upon himself to give me the guided tour and took me to all the secreted little rooms and the stories behind them, I think it was written in the stars in a way to not make the School Tour and come back as a player and it was pretty special.

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GF: Excellent, So I was up at Leicestershire that day when you stood in for Toby who was injured (as you had done previously) when they were at the Top of the League and I remember speaking to you that day and you were not very well with a sore throat/chest infection and it was the first time I started to really watch what you did as a Captain, when Jono was here, he actually told me that it was the long-term plan to make you captain, so I was intrigued to see how you would fair going forward, moving the field placings, rotating the bowlers, etc, obviously Toby did those things, but every Captain is different, how have you found the transition from player to Captain?

LDP: I had Captained the team at Bristol but yeah, it has been pretty cool to be able to do it, especially at a club like Middlesex, with the history and the traditions, so to be able to lead a club like this is a great honour for me. As for player to Captain, I don't think there is loads different, probably the biggest difference is just checking in with the players more off the field than anything else and just trying to stay ahead of the game, as a player you can afford to switch off a bit, which is needed sometimes but I now need to keep one step ahead and it is more time consuming but I actually quite enjoy it, I enjoy the responsibility of it, so I don't think there is much change there.

GF: Talking of traditions, as you are aware I spoke to both The Chairman (Richard Sykes) and Coley (Alan Coleman) last season, about why when we do the toss at Lord's why does the Captain not wear a Blazer? It particularly struck me when we played Leicestershire, when Peter Hanscomb came down in his Green Blazer and Toby I believe it was, in his Club Sweater, and a lot of other Counties, do the same, I asked Toby and he said he'd be okay with it and the Chairman talked to Coley and apparently it's been approved and hopefully you will get to wear it for the last couple of games at Lord's this season, when I talked to you about it and we've both seen the proposed Blazers, you too seemed to like the idea, do you like things like that? Are you a traditionalist?

LDP: Yeah, I'd say in many ways I am, I've always enjoyed that part of it and especially playing at Lord's and it is a shame sometimes that we seem to be the only team that rocks up without a Blazer and I defiantly think it looks better, so I'm all for it.

GF: I'm assured Coley is on the case. So just touching on your early days, I know you said your father played Rugby but what Sporting Role Models did you have?

LDP: I think from a Rugby point of view it would probably be De Beer, George Gregan and Justin Marshall and purely from a cricketing point of view someone like AB de Villiers was massive for me and I was fortunate enough to get to know him growing up and I've never really met anyone as warm and as a greater role model than him really and as my Professional career started, I was also

fortunate to get to know a lot of people that I look up to today like Jack Rudolph, Faf du Plessis and Albie Morkel and feel really fortunate to have shared the bill with them.

GF: So, do you see yourself as a role model? Because there is a young lad that we both know called Zack Orton, who is just starting out on his cricket journey and is currently at the Rahul Dravid Academy and hopes to attend The Gary Kirsten Academy, his dream is to play for Middlesex and has even had some coaching by your team mate Adam Rossington, I know he values your advice and input, so is there any message you have for people like him and the younger generation hoping to make a career in Professional Cricket?

LDP: I think the first thing is, and this is something you can't teach, is the love for the game, that really carries you through all the ups and downs I think, and having met Zack he definitely seems to have that, always remember why you play the game, and I would urge any young player to really watch as much cricket as they can and never be afraid to ask questions, that's the only way you learn.

GF: You are eligible to play for England; do you harbour any ambitions on that score?

LDP: I think it's one of those things that would be lovely to happen, but it's not something I'm going to dwell on and think too far ahead, the most important thing is the next game and that's for Middlesex, if you string a few good performances together, you never know, do I still have ambitions to play International Cricket? Absolutely, and until the day I retire that will be the same case.

GF: What was The Hungarian side of things, cricket wise? You played for The Hungarian Cricket team and did quite well in that game, scoring 90 odd and taking 3 wickets

LDP: It was a T10 and I got the chance to play with my brother and it was good fun, I enjoyed it, it was right after the cricket season and a lot of the guys who played in that team were actually seeking asylum, it was a very humbling experience and just made me realise, just how lucky I am to do what I do for a living, especially in County Cricket, we can find a lot of ways to complain about certain things that are actually not that big of a problem in life, there are much more serious things that go on and playing that little stint in T10 made me more aware, and it was pretty cool just because of that, and that life and cricket are two very different things.

GF: When your career ends, is that something you would like to re-visit? Or maybe get into coaching at all?

LDP: I would love to give back to the game, I mean coaching, I'm not so sure,

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but I'm defiantly not against the idea, if you had asked me 5 years ago I would have said absolutely not but I would like to give back and if that is in coaching or some other form then it's something I'd like to do.

GF: How do you think the season has gone so far?

LDP: I think it's been a bit hit and miss, but yeah, there is still a LOT of Cricket ahead, so still positive that we can get to a very solid place towards the back end of the season and getting promoted is obviously the goal that we set for ourselves at the beginning of the season and getting to a Knock-Out Stage of a Cup Competition, we need to obviously play some very good cricket, we've not quite done that yet consistently but I've got no doubt that as a squad we can do that.

GF : And Finally Leus, just a word on The Seaxe Club for whom you have been doing this interview for, we always appreciate the players and coaching staff coming to our awards night when, as I understand it, you are not contractually obliged to do so as you are with other events, and it was a real honour for me to do the Cap Presentation earlier this season and see you all wearing the personalised caps and get the picture in front of The Pavillion, are the players aware of what we do in Supporting Middlesex Cricket going Forward?

LDP: I mean we are probably not as aware as we should be, but I thought it was a lovely gesture presenting the players with their Seaxe Caps and we as a team really appreciate the work you guys put in and are more than happy to support you and your members.

GF: That's brilliant, thanks ever so much for doing this and I think we can wrap it up there

LDP: Cheers Fordy

REFLECTIONS FROM THE SEAXE BOX

Past Players' Day - 15 May 2026

The annual day when Middlesex welcomes back to Lord's its past players is always a happy occasion. This year it was on the first day of the Middlesex v Derbyshire match and held in the Harris Garden.

During the tea interval Angus Fraser hosted the handing out of celebratory caps to Middlesex cricketers in men's, women's and disability teams, the caps numbered according to the player's first appearance. It was splendid to see

players from my childhood honoured including John Price and Ted Clark. I lost count of the caps being handed out. Some cricketers played just once or twice; others had played hundreds of times.

The event owes so much to Angus' hard work and was watched by a large crowd, including Middlesex Chairman Richard Sykes and MCC Chief Executive Rob Lawson.



Clive Radley Cap Presentation

New Allen Stand

It was good to walk round the three levels of the rebuilt Allen Stand during the Middlesex v Surrey T20 match on 24th May. The structure is still a shell with completion expected in Spring 2027. The seats are there - comfortable and with good spacing. I particularly liked the view from the first floor. The roof is not in place, nor a walkway to connect the top floor of the stand to the top floor of the Pavilion.



New Allen Stand view



New Allen Stand seating

Many Seaxe Members will have very happy memories of the old stand and the Middlesex Room there. Let's hope the new Middlesex Room in the Allen Stand lives up to expectations when we can use it next year.

Doppelganger ??

Twice last year I was greeted by strangers assuming I was Jim Carter, the esteemed actor best known as the butler Carson in Downton Abbey. Jim is a Past Chairman of Hampstead CC and our Seaxe Box Host Brian Cahill knows him from attending matches at the Hampstead ground.

Brian recently celebrated his birthday and kindly invited me and other cricket friends

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to supper in the Argyll Arms opposite the London Palladium. Jim was there and readily agreed to a photo!! What do you think? Should I expect an Equity Card and an invitation to appear in a Downton sequel?



Jim Carter and Alvan



Jim Carter with Brian for Birthday celebrations

Seaxe Box

Thank you Brian for continuing to look after the Seaxe Box every County Championship day. A haven for good fellowship and cricket conversation. Tea and cakes too !

Alvan Seth-Smith
President, Seaxe Club

PERSONALISED CAP PRESENTATION

On Friday the 10th of April, the first Day of our County Championship game against Worcestershire, I invited Tony Marks, the founder of Product Zone (who produced the Caps for The Seaxe Club) to attend the game for a presentation of Personalised Caps to the first team squad and members of the Coaching Staff, the players went through their paces in the pre-match warm-up wearing their Caps. Alan Coleman our Director of Cricket then asked the players and staff to sign their respective Caps and they will be available to our Members to purchase for £30 (Standard Cap Price is £20) as soon as I get the remaining Caps signed by the players who were not present on the day.

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Also in attendance was our Chairman Glen Birkwood and President Alvan Seth-Smith, who along with my Son Adam Ford all continue to provide support to me in my role during various events throughout the season, support that is always extremely appreciated.

Gary Ford **Seaxe Club Committee / Social Secretary**



Alan Coleman



Leus du Plooy



Pavilion

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Players and Coaches



Sam Robson

Training



**SEAXE CLUB AWARDS EVENING
FRIDAY 10TH APRIL 2026**

On Friday 10th April we held the Annual Seaxe Club Awards in the Father Time Bar after close of play.

Firstly, I would like to thank Grace from the Middlesex office for arranging this venue for us.

It was a well attended event with the award recipients having their friends and family there as our guests. My thanks to the senior squad, the coaches and Clive Radley for their assistance in presenting the awards.

This is a look at the players who may well be representing Middlesex at senior level in the future. It is a pleasant surprise when I see players in the first XI that I was presenting junior awards to but a few seasons ago. Girls now playing in the women's senior squad and doing extremely well. The Disability squad having a very successful season. Credit must go to all the junior coaches. We have representatives in the England U19 squad, England Lions and the Disability squad have lost 9 of their players to International duty. An excellent reflection on their coaching abilities. And why Saskia Horley hasn't been snatched up for England duty is beyond me, an outstanding player.



Awards display

*Clive Radley presenting
Player of the Year to
Leus du Plooy*



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Clive Radley presenting the White Ball Player of the Year to Luke Hollman



Rory Coutts presenting the 2nd XI Player of the Year to Josh de Caires



Alan Coleman presenting the Women's Player of the Year to Charlie Hobday on behalf of Saskia Horley

*Max Holden presenting the
Disability Player of the Year to
Fraser Church*



*Tim Murtagh presenting
the Geoff Norris Award to
Sulayman Tahir*

*Sam Robson presenting
David Newton Award to
Jack Nelson*



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*Joe Cracknell presenting
John Piddington Award to
Lana Gandhi*

*Toby Roland-Jones
presenting Gerry Lillie
Award to Roman Razik*



*Peter Fulton presenting
the Rynhold Family Award
to Rishane Wijeratne*



*Luke Hollman
champagne award
103 v Kent*



*Joe Cracknell
champagne award
112 v N/hants*



*Ben Geddes
champagne award
137 v Leicestershire*

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*Leus du Plooy
champagne award
263* v Gloucestershire*



*Leus du Plooy
presenting the Jack
Robertson Award to
Sulayman Tahir*

MIDDLESEX JUNIOR CRICKET FINALS

On Saturday March 21st I had the pleasure of attending the Middlesex Junior Cricket Finals in the Lord's Indoor School to assist with the prizegiving.

The day starts early at 8.15 am and continues until 5.30pm. The teams are well supported by family and friends making it a fairly noisy affair. Whilst the runners up are somewhat despondent, I remind them that they are winners simply by reaching the finals and playing at Lord's.

RESULTS:

Ealing U10's beat Roehampton & Fulham – their bowling was controlled and restricted Roehampton's score. They then batted sensibly to victory.

Sth Hampstead Girls U11's beat Stoke Newington – Their collective batting effort left Stoke Newington a formidable target which they were unable to reach.

Old Merchant Taylors (OMT) U11A defeated Stanmore U11A – a tightly fought match with the late partnership moving the game back in OMT's favour.

Ealing U13's Girls beat Old Camdenians – in another closely fought match that could have gone either way, Ealing managed to edge it.

OMT Titans U13's defeated Stanmore C – OMT's batting showing composure in amassing a good score and despite a great effort from Stanmore, had done enough to win.

Ealing U15's Girls beat Old Camdenians in an eagerly anticipated match between the two rivals, and it lived up to expectations. A combination of excellent fielding and tidy batting edging the game in Ealing's favour.

OMT Titans U15's v Winchmore Hill – OMT winning this final with a bowling display that restricted Winchmore, leaving OMT an achievable target.

North London U17's Girls beat Old Camdenians – Old Camdenians arrived as favourites having been undefeated on the way to the finals. After a tightly fought match, they lost by only 6 runs.

Highgate U17's defeated Stanmore - defending an impressive score of 128, Highgate's bowling and fielding kept the lid on Stanmore's chase.

Thanks must go to Pete Hollman who puts all this together throughout the winter, no mean feat I can assure you –

WELL DONE PETE

Glen Birkwood
Chair Seaxe Club

SEAXE NEWS

SUMMER 2026

OPINIONS / IDEAS ALWAYS WELCOME

I would be delighted to receive your comments (good or bad), any articles etc., for inclusion in the Seaxe News and possibly for placing on the Seaxe / MCCC websites.

All correspondence either by email: glen.birkwood@hotmail.com - or by post to: 86 Edgell Road, Staines, Middx. TW18 2EL

Thank you.

If you have yet to do so, could you please forward your email address to Barbara Buxton- see below. This makes communication so much easier and efficient.

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to Barbara Buxton, 1 Croft Court, Chelmsford, CM1 6UQ - email: buxtonb@hotmail.com

If you would prefer to receive Seaxe News by email, please send your email address to buxtonb@hotmail.com Thank you

Lottery result: May 16th 2026

Prize	Name
1st £120	Mary Quinn
2nd £80	Marilyn Storer
3rd £50	Brian Livingston
4th £25	Des O'Callaghan
5th £25	John Haskell

Congratulations to them all.

Lottery tickets cost £12 ea. and are valid for the year. Numerous tickets may be purchased via;

Barclays Bank

Ref: The Seaxe 100 Club A/C No: 60831956 Sort: 20 74 63

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.

Thank you for your support.

Enjoy your cricket.

Glen Birkwood
Editor Seaxe News
Chair Seaxe Club