



SEAXE NEWS

Editor: Glen Birkwood

Web site: www.seaxeclub.co.uk
e-mail: inquiries@seaxeclub.co.uk

Spring 2022

THE SEAXE CLUB - ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I wrote this time last year that I was optimistic we would see some live county cricket at Lord's, and so it transpired. Albeit only for the final two home games of the season, but nevertheless a welcome reprieve from the monotony of lockdown. Thanks to the efforts of Lorraine Fletcher (nee Poole), members of the Seaxe Club were able to enjoy watching the games from the comfort of boxes A&B in the Tavern Stand.

Since last year's annual review, Middlesex CCC has a new CEO, Andrew Cornish who has wholeheartedly embraced the Seaxe Club, its members and ethos, for which we thank him. We look forward to his continued support over the coming seasons. Our Head Coach Stuart Law has gone and we've seen Alan Coleman promoted up through the ranks. We wish him well and every success in his new role, reflected we hope, with success in the field, promotion being the ultimate objective. It saddens me when hear and read disparaging and sometimes vitriolic comments about Middlesex CCC. Such negativity achieves little, if anything. It is our support the Club needs, so we should acknowledge these changes and give them our backing.

You will already know of the continued support from the Seaxe Club for the All Stars and Dynamo programmes, and as such we have already committed £4500 for the coming season with a possible review being made later in the year, dependent upon funds. Following a request from Rory Coutts, we have also provided £500 towards Atharva Prasad's trip to India to improve his cricketing skills. This amount was matched by Middlesex CCC and we look forward to a full report for the Seaxe News upon his return, and hopefully, his impact on the field of play. If the name rings a bell, he was the recipient of 2 awards at the recent Seaxe Awards evening. A star in the making. We have received



Glen Birkwood

SEAXE NEWS

a bursary request for a young and talented player currently performing well at Sunbury CC. More on this from Les Rowland's report.

Back in late October, I, together with Jane Saxton attended the Colts Indoor Finals held in the Indoor School at Lord's, an occasion so ably organised by Pete Hollman. It had been a difficult time for Pete as he had to combine two seasons worth of finals because of Covid restrictions. These finals have been the grounding for a number of Middlesex players, Luke Hollman, Toby Roland-Jones among them. The quality of the bowling and stroke play from both the boys and girls was excellent, all credit to the coaches. There were definitely some balls I wouldn't have fancied facing. I am pleased to say that the Seaxe Club has played its part in supporting the Colts and will continue to do so as and when requested. Details of this year's finals are within the pages of this edition, it would be nice to see a few Seaxe members there supporting the future of our game.

Our website is about to be rebuilt from scratch; therefore, the current site will not be updated but eventually closed down; in the immediate future any relevant Seaxe information will be available to view on the Middlesex website, with my thanks to Fletch. It is vital that we have a good member's website in order that we can reduce the amount of mailing that we currently do, which not only eats into our funds as costs increase and thereby reduces the amount of support we can give to those who need it. The new website will improve our efficiency making it much easier for members to complete any necessary forms, and to keep up to date with any developments etc., it will also hopefully, reduce the amount of paperwork, printing and posting currently being undertaken. Whilst this is being rebuilt, we are looking to send far more information to our members via email. In order for us to achieve this Nirvana of efficiency it is vital we have your email address and that it is kept up to date. If you do have an email address but have yet to inform us, please do so. If you've changed it recently and not sure if you've informed us, then please confirm it. Should you still wish to receive your Seaxe News as a hard copy please let us know, because that may well be posted on the website or emailed in the future.

The committee and I thank you for your continued support throughout this past year, and we hope and trust that with the new fixture list a number of past members who had left us will return to the fold so we may continue supporting cricket throughout the county of Middlesex. We really look forward to your company in the box throughout the coming season.

Glen Birkwood
Chairman Seaxe Club

SEAXE CLUB ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

TREASURER`S REPORT

I start my second report as Treasurer, as I did with my first, thanking Peter Jackson for his ongoing assistance, especially his overseeing the not inconsiderable effort of having the trophies and medals engraved and getting them to the awards ceremony in time. (And polishing them!)

Whilst it was a slow start to the year, we managed to fit in an AGM, the aforementioned awards evening, a drinks evening and Christmas lunch. The Seaxe Box reopened for business for the last two LVCC Championship matches and Brian Cahill did his usual sterling job of raising funds through sales of tea, cake and memorabilia.

A draft set of the accounts for 2021 is included in this issue. This is still subject to an independent check but shows that the club has net assets of £22,086 (2020: £25,514) after total expenditure of £12,919 over income of £9,740.

INCOME:

This total income of £9,740 compared with £6,831 in 2020. Members' subscriptions were 5% down and lottery income 15% down which are both due to the lack of face-to-face opportunities to meet early in the season. This is normally when members who pay by cheque are prompted to renew.

As the Chairman has written, we are, like many clubs, trying to move to an online method of renewing both subscriptions and lottery through the forthcoming rebuilt website. I join the Chairman in urging all Members to ensure we have an up-to-date email address for you.

Whilst subscriptions and lottery income were down, we received a number of very generous donations over the year - some expressing a desire for a particular use, some for general use. We are very grateful as these funds allow Seaxe Club to provide the support as already reported by the Chairman.

EXPENDITURE:

Seaxe News: Three issues were produced over the year at a cost of £1,900 compared with £2,057 in 2020. The net reduction is due to sending virtual copies out to Members where possible and the generous support of Middlesex for providing photocopying, stationery and postage for the October mailing. Our request for up-to-date email addresses will help us move towards distributing Seaxe News and other information via email, thereby reducing these overhead costs.

SEAXE NEWS

Administration Expenses: £47 (2020: £314) The bulk of the 2020 costs related to non-recurring expense of printing a promotional membership leaflet. Costs in 2021 were therefore significantly reduced.

Social Events: After not being able to meet over 2020, the 2021 costs of £351 covered the drinks at the Player of the Year Awards evening and the Members' social evening at the back end of the season.

Medal and trophy costs: £376 in 2021 covers the costs of the souvenir medals for the awards winners and the engraving of the trophies themselves. The higher figure of £694 in 2020 included the purchase of the new disability award trophy.

Awards: The Club has made provision totalling £1,125 for the cost of the awards for achievements over 2021 that will be awarded in 2022. As it was not possible to arrange the awards ceremony until later in the year, the decision was made to purchase and send out the vouchers for the 2020 season in March so that the recipients could utilise them early in the season.

Middlesex Colts Association (MCA): As was the case in 2020, MCA did not need our help over 2021.

All Stars Cricket and Dynamos: The Chairman has reported on our support for both All Stars Cricket (5 to 8 year-olds) and the new Dynamos (9 to 11 year-olds) programmes. We sponsored 166 places on each programme over 2021 and have already committed to sponsoring another 100 places on each in 2022 with a possible review upwards depending on funds received.

Seaxe Bursaries: The Club invites applications from the Middlesex Cricket Community for assistance. The Chairman has reported that in 2021 we have provided £500 towards Atharva Prasad's trip to India.

SUMMARY: The 2021 deficit of £3,179 arises from the decision to use funds to support the All Stars and Dynamos programmes whilst maintaining a prudent level of reserves for the future. These reserves total £22,086 at the end of December 2021.

As mentioned above, a draft set of accounts has been included with this report. An independent check will take place ahead of the AGM. In recent years, this has been conducted by Michael Wilson but he has decided to hand over to his colleague, and cricket fan, John O'Gorman. We are grateful to Michael for the time he has given to the club and look forward to working with John in the near future.

Stephen Lockwood -Treasurer



Stephen Lockwood

THE SEAXE CLUB - DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2021

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income:		
Members' subscriptions	3,455	3,648
Lottery surplus	1,914	2,237
Teas in the Seaxe Box	225	0
Christmas lunch income	1,295	0
Memorabilia sales	28	0
Interest received	2	15
Donations received	2,271	31
Donations for bursaries	300	650
Transfer from Geoff Norris reserve	250	250
	9,740	6,831
General Expenses:		
Seaxe News (including associated postage)	1,900	2,057
Administration expenses	47	314
Christmas lunch expenditure	1,150	0
Social events	351	0
	3,448	2,371
	6,292	4,480
Net Income After General Expenses:		
Expenditure on awards and support:		
Medal and trophy costs	376	694
Awards	1,125	1,125
Middlesex Colts Association	0	0
Middlesex Cricket Board - All Stars Cricket	4,980	2,660
Middlesex Cricket Board - Dynamos	2,490	0
Bursaries	500	663
	9,471	5,142
	(3,179)	(682)
Deficit for the year:		

Basis of Accounting:

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

THE SEAXE CLUB - DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2021

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Current Assets:		
Bank - Geoff Norris Award Account	1,900	2,149
Bank - High Interest Account	18,000	20,530
Bank - No 1 Account	3,323	4,060
Bank - Lottery Account	426	466
	23,649	27,205
Prepayments:		
Prepaid Expenses	49	20
	23,698	27,225
Total Assets:		
	23,698	27,225
Current Liabilities:		
Accruals	(1,612)	(1,711)
	22,086	25,514
Net Assets:		
Represented by:		
Accumulated fund brought forward	23,365	24,047
Geoff Norris Award Reserve	1,900	2,149
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(3,179)	(682)
Accumulated fund carried forward:	22,087	25,514

THE SEAXE CLUB - DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2021 £	2020 £
1 Lottery surplus		
Subscriptions	2,944	3,437
Prizes paid out (35%)	(1,030)	(1,200)
Surplus for the year	1,914	2,237
2 Teas In The Seaxe Box:		
Income received net of costs	225	0
3 Christmas Lunch:		
Income	1,295	0
Expenditure	(1,150)	0
Surplus	145	0
4 Bursary Donation:		
Specific donations received for bursaries	300	650
5 Administration Expenses:		
Lottery Renewal Fee - Westminster Council	20	20
Sundry	0	40
Middlesex Cricket Board Subscription	9	9
Stationery (Seaxe promotional leaflets)	0	245
Website domain renewal	18	0
	47	314
6 Awards		
Geoff Norris Award	250	250
Elaine Knight Award	125	125
David Newton Award	125	125
Gerry Lilfee Award	125	125
Jack Robertson Award	125	125
John Piddington Award	125	125
Richard Davis Award	125	125
Rynhold Family Award	125	125
	1,125	1,125

THE SEAXE CLUB - DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

	2021 £	2020 £
7 Prepaid Expenses		
Prepaid Lottery Fee (City of Westminster):	20	20
Seaxe News postage bought in advance	29	0
	49	20
8 Accruals		
Prepaid Membership Fees:	37	138
Prepaid Lottery Subscriptions:	300	448
Lottery prizes not cleared	150	0
Accrued awards payments	1,125	1,125
	1,612	1,711
9 Geoff Norris Award Reserve:		
Opening balance	2,149	2,397
Interest Received	1	2
Awards during year	(250)	(250)
Closing balance	1,900	2,149

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed for this year. If you haven't already, we would encourage you to do so if you can. Another difficult year has resulted in a reduction in the number of members at a time when our help is needed more than ever. Sport is so important for mental as well as physical well-being and we would like to continue our programme of investment in youth cricket in Middlesex whether by individual bursaries or sponsoring the All Stars / Dynamos programme. However we need to increase our membership to be able to carry on supporting this work. It was lovely to see those of you that made it to the Box on the few occasions we were able to do so and look forward to being able to see more of you this year.

As quoted by the Chairman, we have this year made a donation to All Stars and Dynamos together with a contribution to Atharva Prasad. We are now also responding to a bursary application for assistance from one of the young members of the Middlesex youth teams; who has been developing successfully through the last few years to the Age 14 teams. As we all know, cricket played at this stage is an expensive exercise, so we are very keen that we are able to help get him through the cricket life cycle, and develop him into a full Middlesex player.

BARBARA BUXTON
Joint Membership Secretary



Barbara Buxton

LES ROWLAND
Joint Membership Secretary



Les Rowland

SOCIAL REPORT SPRING 2022

It comes as no surprise that there is little to report about social activity during 2021 for obvious reasons. Nevertheless we did manage to hold our Christmas lunch in the Tavern on December 12th. We were pleasantly surprised by the large number who attended considering some of the Covid restrictions that were still in place, for which we thank you. There was a selection of dishes to suit all tastes in the two course menu, and, of course not forgetting the obligatory paper hats. The occasion was enjoyed by all present, it being in many cases, the first opportunity for a long time to meet and socialise in convivial surroundings. A number commenting what good value it was for a London pub so close to Christmas, with a free drink as well!

SEAXE NEWS

Unfortunately, one or two members including Jane Saxton, had to cancel at the last moment because of the need to isolate, which was a shame. At the other extreme we had Gordon and Carolyn Figgett travel up from Sidmouth in Devon to be with us. We trust they found the journey worthwhile?

With the continuing relaxation of Covid restrictions, I have started the winter socials again, the first being at the Allsop Arms on February 20th... Depending upon the response for this event, I hope to be arranging a few more before the cricket starts.

STEVE BALDWIN Social Secretary Seaxe Club



Glen and Steve



Lottery draw



Ladies who Xmas Lunch



I think I've put them to sleep



Waiting with bated breath

MIKE O'FARRELL'S REPORT SPRING 2022

So the 2021 season, what did it all mean, on and off the field? Possibly one of the most challenging times at Middlesex that I have ever experienced. Off the field we were confronted by the employer pension contribution issues which I have discussed openly on many occasions. As you will know, thanks to the valiant efforts of David Kendix, our Treasurer we have been able to assess the shortfall and fully compensate all staff, players and former players that were affected.



Mike O'Farrell

It was also an amazingly uplifting experience because we came together as a club with everyone supporting one another at what was a critical moment. Such an issue, even though it does represent “future” money, could have had a very negative effect on all involved, but it did not appear that was the case.

On the field we fared badly although better than in 2020. There were some strong individual performances with many players, young and not so young, showing great strength of character, I will leave it to other contributors to focus on the season in more detail but suffice to say that our men and women are showing the resilience and capacity to develop in a manner, that in my opinion, augers well for the future.

Having employed Andrew Cornish to replace Richard Goatley, we also took the opportunity to recruit a Chief Financial Officer, Illa Bhardwaj to bring further focus and stability. These two appointments, together with a revamping of the senior management team, and a realignment of responsibilities, has enabled us to plan for the future in a very positive way, and I am optimistic about our prospects. (for interest, there is an appendix on “who does what” after this note from me).

We all felt as we moved toward the end of the season that we had accomplished much in setting a new direction BUT there was more to come. We decided that it was time to change how we worked with the 1st Eleven and we said good bye to both Stuart Law and Nick Pothas for different reasons and after a brief respite started the search for a new coach; and then came the events at Yorkshire CCC !

I will not repeat all that was said and continues to be said, save that by the time you read this, 1 and 3 other Chairs will have given evidence before the Select Committee of the DCMS and you may have read the 40 sec soundbite out of 1 hr and 30 mins of evidence which was very extensively covered by social media, press and broadcast media .What you may not have seen is the transcript of the evidence released by the DCMS 2 days later which in its 47 pages sets the context .

SEAXE NEWS

This was followed by a very positive meeting between the Sports Minister and all 18 First Class County Chairs and the MCC where he recognised how much is being done by the game at many different levels.

So, to the present, we are looking forward to the season with more games at Lord's, a young squad with experience mixed in and, having spoken to them, there is no doubting their commitment. Above all we look forward to success on the field and stability off it.

Finally, my thanks to Seaxe, the club within a club, for its continued support through difficult times and a personal thanks from me to those who sent those messages of support.

MIKE O'FARRELL
Chairman MCCC

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES

Dear Colleagues, at the end of a challenging period both on and off the pitch for our Club, we are now hopefully moving in the right direction and planning for a stronger and brighter future together as one Club, one team and 'Winning Together'. In order to achieve our goals I am making some organisational changes that should provide clarity and accountability of roles. The main changes are as follows:

Angus Fraser has stepped down from his role as MD of Cricket and he will not be replaced. Angus takes up a new role as Director of Cricket Development which will encompass cricket facilities, player acquisition/retention and contracts, key partner relationships with national counties, Clubs, partners/sponsors and past players. Angus will also continue in his role as a Board member of London Spirit.

Alan Coleman has been appointed into the role of Head of Men's Professional Performance and will lead the strategy for men's elite cricket at the Club. We are currently in the process of recruiting a new Men's First Team Coach and hope to announce this early in January. Both Alan and the First Team Coach will report to me.

Lorraine Poole, currently Head of Events and Operations will become Operations Director, responsible for all Club operations including match day and facilities delivery, cricket operations, events and membership delivery.



Andrew Cornish

Laura Angus, currently Head of Commercial, is appointed Commercial Director responsible for sponsorships and commercial partnerships, marketing and brand, membership strategy.

Steven Fletcher currently Head of Communications and Marketing, is appointed Communications Director responsible for external and internal communications, marketing assets and importantly our strategically important live streams which have grown so significantly and successfully in the past two years.

Simon Shepard who has been working with the men's professional playing group and the Senior Management Team (SMT), on Club culture and 'Winning Together' will now formally join the SMT as Director of Organisational Development, responsible for Club cultural and people development, wellbeing, training and effectiveness.

Katie Berry, Head of Participation, is appointed Director of Participation with the additional responsibilities for EDI club wide and the new MC Foundation combined with her current broad ranging remit over participation, recreation and critically, safeguarding.

As previously announced, Illa Bhardwaj has joined the Club in the new role of Chief Financial Officer. As well as being responsible for all financial matters relating to the Club, Illa will also oversee IT and Board governance matters. James Keightley in his finance role reports directly to Illa.

Hannah Baxter, Business Support Manager, is appointed Executive Assistant to the CEO, providing administrative support to the efficient running of the Lord's office, the Board and SMT.

Danni Warren, Regional Director of Women's Cricket and Kari Carswell, Head of Women's Cricket for Middlesex and MCC, are also members of the SMT and their current roles remain broadly unchanged.

An additional Committee focused on a Cricket Facilities Strategy will be formed and chaired by Board member Sasha White QC. The terms of reference for which will be circulated in due course.

The D & I Committee will be renamed the E, D & I (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) and will be jointly chaired by Edward Lord OBE and Ankit Shah.

These are exciting times for the Club and I look forward to continuing our journey of Winning Together.

Regards

ANDREW CORNISH
Middlesex CEO

SEAXE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (MEMCOM) 2021

The Middlesex Board has a number of Sub Committees working for it. Membership Committee (MemCom) is one of them. Members of this Committee are the 3 Directors elected by the membership, the Chair and Treasurer of the Club, The Chief Executive, and the Directors of Operations, Communication and Participation. Towards the end of last year it expanded to include a representative of Seaxe Club (Glen Birkwood) and a member of the Members Communication Group (Martin Hadland), to broaden the direct input of members on to the committee

The committee is a place to discuss ideas and set strategy for all issues concerning the members of the club. It provides support and ideas to the leadership teams of the Directors of Operations, Communication and Participation. The main focus is to develop and expand the membership, in diversity as well as numbers, and to provide events that give value for membership.

The committee meets 8 times a year, and also has focus groups and informal meetings /conversations to continue discussions on an ongoing basis.

In 2020, when Covid came and at first no cricket was played, then it was played behind closed doors, the main emphasis was on retaining membership when there was no live cricket to watch, and a package of loyalty benefits for members was brought in.

2021 started with a members focus group, to get feedback on what members felt. This desire to interact with members developed throughout the year to putting out surveys through Fly Research, so that we can ask questions of the membership at different stages of the season. This feedback from members, both as part of a focus group, from ongoing conversations at events, to discussions with members groups, has enabled the Operations team to widen the offer of events and have a direction to aim for to increase member satisfaction.

Bringing representatives of Seaxe Club and Members Communication Group into the Committee has widened the feedback and discussion around how members feel, and what they would like. There are ongoing discussions with MCC on the shop, retail offer, dress code in the Middlesex Room and the amount of Middlesex CCC promotion material that we can have around Lord's, all of which have been brought to the Committee through the Seaxe Club and Members Communication Group.

Another theme that continued throughout the year was getting as many members as possible to have access to matches. Both by being able to attend in person,



Marilyn Smith

but also to develop streaming so members can watch at home. The surveys that have been undertaken for us by Fly Research have clearly shown that members prefer matches to be played at Lord's, so the team have done all they can to maximise the playing time at Lord's, and have been able to produce the survey results as evidence to MCC, in their negotiations.

Work on developing new members, and new membership offers took a back seat whilst the team concentrated on getting the best offer for members available under Covid restrictions. However, these will come to the fore during 2022. A new junior membership was introduced this year, with membership free to under 8's.

Key matters to be developed in 2022 include :

- Increase numbers of membership (including through promotion at non Middlesex cricket matches at Lord's)
- Increase diversity of membership
- Increase membership through the recreational game
- Improve satisfaction
- Expand the offer of events for all categories of membership
- Keep engaging with members
- Develop new ways of engaging with different categories of membership (eg teenagers)
- Work with MCC to strengthen the Middlesex brand at Lord's
- Develop the retail offer more

Membership Committee exists to develop and support the membership. To do this, we need input from the members. Having representatives from Seaxe Club and MCG on the Committee helps to bring members views forward, and the results to the surveys carried out by Fly Research have resulted in a large proposition of the membership putting their views forward.

If anyone has any comment to make, idea they 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

For any general membership enquiries please continue to email membership@middlesexccc.com

MARILYN SMITH
Chair Membership Committee

ALL STARS AND DYNAMO'S 2021

There is a line in Joni Mitchell's 1970's hit Big Yellow Taxi, 'That you don't know what you've got til it's gone'. I hadn't ever really given the line a lot of thought when I heard it on the radio, but looking back at 2020 when Middlesex were only able to offer a very small number of community All Star Cricket centres as we emerged from the first lockdown, I really missed All Stars and Dynamo's cricket. I missed travelling around the county seeing lots of young people running around in the blue All Star shirts and the yellow Dynamo cricket shirts. As it turned out, Joni Mitchell was spot on.

Fast forward to the summer of 2021, we emerged from another lockdown, with a renewed sense of purpose to get young people active, getting a bat and ball into their hands and feel that sense of achievement of hitting the ball as hard as they can and throwing the ball as far as possible. We were very aware that Covid 19 had been very tough on families across the county. Parents were desperate to get their children active in the summer but for some of these families we were also very aware that the pandemic had an effect on their personal circumstances, that any spare money that families would have access to, to pay for 'extracurricular activities' for their children, would be very difficult to find.

The support we received from Seaxe this summer has been unbelievable. With their generous support, we have been able to give young people in Middlesex the following number of free places at our community All Star and Dynamos Cricket centres across the county:

All Stars Cricket - 166

Dynamos Cricket - 166

Working with colleagues in schools, community settings, local authorities, and charities, they helped us to identify the families that they thought needed the support the most. The families face numerous financial challenges daily, these challenges were made worse during the pandemic. Talking to the parents at sessions, they were so grateful that we were able to provide them with free places. One family had 3 children, the mother was so grateful that they could attend for free, as the £120 (£40 per place) was way beyond their means. She was really worried as a few of her children's friends were attending other All Star Cricket centres and they had seen the equipment and t shirts they received and really wanted her children to take part but knew that she would have to disappoint them as she couldn't afford the programme, by being given some free places it allowed her children to look and feel the same as their friends.

Despite the challenges of the weather in May and parts of June, where it tended to rain on the days that we were running All Star and Dynamos centres, the

programme was successful. This summer we ran programmes in the May and August school holidays, which the parents were very appreciative of. The amount of positive feedback we received from them about finding activities for their children to do in the school holidays, as they didn't want to be indoors, to quote one parent 'we have had a 3 month school holiday at the start of the year, I want the kids running around outside having fun!'.

Middlesex cricket really appreciate and value the support provided by Seaxe this year and in previous years. Without your support in 2021 we would not have been able to give 332 free places to young people in Middlesex giving them opportunity to start their cricket journey and growing a love of the game. Coming out of the pandemic, the support was invaluable, but we face challenges every year. We have recently seen the cost of living rise sharply with the increase in energy and food prices; I fear that 2022 will have very similar challenges to 2021. Families will still face the same challenges of wanting their children to take part in a programme but not being able to afford for them to do so. Any support that Seaxe could provide next year would be greatly appreciated and will make a huge difference to the young people and their families across the county.

All Star and Dynamo centres supported by Seaxe in 2021:

Wray Crescent, Islington-All Stars and Dynamos

Paddington Recreation ground, Westminster-All Stars

Lisson Grove, Westminster, All Stars and Dynamos

Lordship Lane , Haringey,-All Stars

Wormwood Scrubs, Hammersmith and Fulham- All Stars

Beavers Field, Hounslow-All Stars

One Tree Hill Park, Brent- All Stars and Dynamos

Middlesex Cricket Academy, Barnet – All Stars and Dynamos

Lampton Park, Hounslow – All Stars and Dynamo's

Inwood Park – All Stars and Dynamos

Lyon Park Primary School – All Stars

Westway Sports Centre – All Stars & Dynamos

Lillie Road Recreation Ground – Dynamos

Little Ealing School -All Stars

Total Number of Young people engaged in national programmes run by the club network and Middlesex Cricket in 2021:

All Star Cricket – 2780

Dynamos Cricket - 1124

PETE JONES, Middlesex CCC Participation Team

SEAXE NEWS

INDOOR CRICKET 2019/20 & 2020/21 FINALS DAY

March 2020 were when the 2019/20 finals were scheduled for, so I was very keen & pleased that we were able to reschedule on the back of what had already been a truncated season of qualifiers at The Bridge Academy in Hackney. Due thanks to Duncan Holden of Stoke Newington for brokering that, but limited access meant competitions could only be held for U10s U11s & Girls U13s. It seemed unfair to those teams who'd been through their qualifiers to then scrap them, so their finals matches were duly re-scheduled.

The same was also the case for the 2020/21 qualifiers. Due to Covid-19 restrictions these had to be played outdoors for ventilation purposes, but with a roof. My thanks to Katie Berry of MCCC for suggesting Westway. It was such a shame that the older age groups never got started before the last lockdown kiboshed all the scheduling. But for the ones who did get going, we returned to Westway on the 10th October & whittled down our teams to go to Lord's.



Teams returned to Westway on October 10th 2021 to complete the qualifying matches. All the indoor matches were arranged here due to COVID access restrictions to regular indoor venues.

The day at Lord's was an early start. Again, my deepest thanks to Matt Cracknell who umpired & scored throughout, and to Glen Birkwood, Chairman of Seaxe Club, who headed every presentation as well as Jane Saxton from Seaxe who's been to every finals day prior to my time.

The day began early for the girls U12s with 2 semi finals to complete followed by the final but Richmond ran out deserved winners & their report is below along with all the others.

Girls U12s (20/21)

Richmond played 2 games beating Ealing in the first semi while Highgate beat Stoke Newington in the game immediately afterwards. Richmond then comprehensively beat Highgate in the final. Requests for their own report & pics have yet to be received.

Boys U10s (20/21)

Match Report by Aarav Joshi

After winning our semi-finals against North London – Highgate got the opportunity to play in the U10 Indoor Cup finals at Lord's against Stanmore on October 17th.

Highgate lost the toss and Stanmore chose to bowl first. Frank and I opened the batting. Their opening bowler, Eshan, who subsequently was made Man of the Match, bowled me out with a lovely inswinging yorker. Even though we saw off their best bowler, we were still below par and the pressure was on us.



Indoor school at Lord's

Our next pair did well not to lose any wickets and kept the scoreboard ticking over. Izzy and Arthur came next and scored quickly. Izzy played very well with the bat.

Our final pair, Freddie and Finlay got rapid runs with Freddie hitting the shot of the match. We finished with 74 from our 12 overs.

Stanmore got off to a good start as we struggled to bowl a tight line. I got their first wicket, Arthur taking a good catch. Stanmore were ahead of the required rate

Although George, Arthur and Frank bowled well, Stanmore had 38 runs after half their innings. Finlay, Rudy and Izzy kept it tight. Although Stanmore scored at a good pace, we kept taking wickets. Finally we had to defend a target of 20 from the last 3 overs.

Frank bowled well and they needed 14 from 12.



Highgate winning team

SEAXE NEWS

Last over they scored 8 from 3, now needing 6 from 2. I had gone deep expecting a slog and took a tricky catch. We had won by 6 runs! We then had our photo taken by the Lord's main ground.

MVP was Eshan Chauhan (Stanmore CC)

Boys U10s (19/20)

Victory at Lord's in long awaited Final.

Way back in the 2019/20 Indoor Season, our current Under 12s made it through to the Final of the County Under 10s Indoor Competition! Because of Covid, the Final was postponed until yesterday when our Boys played and beat Stanmore. The cover picture shows our winning Team with their Trophy.

Coach Tair Hussain reports -

“The boys produced a solid and very competent display against a well organised Stanmore side. A strong team performance in which the boys showed great game management skills meant they ran out comfortable winners without needing to produce anything spectacular.”



Nth Middx winning team

The same team also featured in the 2020/21 Under 11s Final played immediately after the Stanmore match. This time our opponents were local rivals North London. Here is Tair's report on the second final which ended in defeat for our boys -

“After a strong start to the match taking wickets in the first couple of overs, the boys looked well set to dominate the match. However, North London fought back very well to put on a challenging total of around 77. On past performances the chase was within reach. Unfortunately it wasn't to be this time. A bad start meant we were well behind and always chasing. The pressure told and the boys fell short. Nth London were the better side and deserved their victory.”

For many years, the Junior Indoor Leagues have been brilliantly organised and run by the Middx's own Pete Hollman. He deserves a massive vote of thanks for keeping indoor cricket going in very difficult times when suitable venues are in such short supply. Well done Pete!

Boys U11s (20/21)

U11 Indoor Final 17th October 2021

North London CC U11B boys beat North Middlesex CC U11 boys in the indoor final at Lord's.

Despite only ever having played one game in this format North London showed considerable skill against their old enemy North Middx. Turning the fabled MCC indoor school from a socially distanced murmur into a full throated roar.

NLCC batted first ending on 76 for the loss of only 4 wickets.

North Middx came to the crease confident that they could overhaul a competitive but not unbeatable target. However, through some excellent bowling and fielding, North Middx were left 44 runs adrift at the end of the game.

NLCC coach Martyn Clark said "I could not be prouder of the boys today. They played with the intensity and enjoyment that befitted the occasion. Every single player had a great game and this reflected in the margin of their victory."

North London CC 76-4

North Middlesex CC 44-13 North London won by 32 runs.

Player of the match was Seth (NLCC U11B)



Nth London winning team

Girls U13s (19/20)

This match was arranged by North London CC as an exhibition match to replace the final following the withdrawal of one of the finalists. Result shown below.

Boys U11s (19/20)

To the delight of players and coaches, the U11 Final had been arranged to be played at the home of cricket. The final was between both Stanmore teams, with cricket always going to be the winner!

Stanmore B won the toss and elected to bat first. Some solid batting performances from Stanmore B, though some quick wickets pegged them back.

Our star performer Shaurya Tanna, who was awarded the most valued player, bowled fantastically well, and fully



Shaurya Tanna

SEAXE NEWS

deserved his award. His line and length, troubled the batsman and he took 4 quick wickets. Though Stanmore B scored 35, it was a total that required full focus by Stanmore A's.

Stanmore A's started off well, our openers batsman Josh and Shaurya scoring a solid partnership of 29. Each batting partnership contributed and helped build a winning total of 97. Well played Stanmore A !

Congratulations to both Stanmore teams, who competed in the spirit of the game.



Stanmore A winning team

And finally, a huge thank you to the organizers, Peter, Seaxe, Glen and Matt, for all their hard work and organization in making this finals day possible, which our club, boys and parents will remember for years to come.

Thank you, Raaks / Stephanie

Date	Age Group					Lords
Lords						
17th October 2021	8:00 arrive					Result
08:30	GU12s	Semi Final 1	Richmond	v	Ealing	Richmond
09:30	GU12s	Semi Final 2	Highgate	v	Stoke Newington	Highgate
10:30	GU12s	FINAL	Richmond	v	Highgate	Richmond won by 71 runs (4-0)
11:45	U10s	FINAL	Highgate	v	Stanmore C	Highgate won by 7 runs (3-1)
13:00	2019/20 U10s Final		North Middlesex	v	Stanmore A	Nth Midd won by 25 runs (3-1)
14:15	U11s	FINAL	North Middlesex	v	North London B	Nth Lon by 32 runs (4-0)
15:30	2019/20 G U13s Final	Exhibition Match	North London girls	v	North London women	Women won by 11 runs (3-1)
16:45	2019/20 U11s Final		Stanmore A	v	Stanmore B	A won by 39 runs (3-1)
	6:00 End					

Summary

Deepest thanks to Matt Cracknell - umpire, scorer, administrator. Roger Rebelo, Simon Mollett, Kieran Cooke, Anish Patel & AICE, MJCA volunteers, the MCC Indoor Academy, Westway, the Seaxe Club especially Glen Birkwood & Jane Saxton & the Middlesex CCC participation team. But especially the clubs, coaches, volunteers & parents. 2021-22 we reconvene at Gunnersbury but hopefully one day we'll have our own centre again & if you can help, please contact me.

Kindest Regards

Peter Hollman

Indoor & Winter Cricket Officer

peter.hollman@icloud.com www.mccaricket.org

MEMORABLE MOMENTS – 2021 SEASON

An excellent response in this category which include:

Eskinazi batting to try and save the game at Cheltenham

Taking one's grandson to Lord's for the first time to see a county game

The live coverage when unable to get to games

Simply being able to get back to Lord's

Socialising in the Seaxe Box again

Martin Andersson – 50 over inspired batting

Ryan Higgin's controversial 6 off the last ball at Radlett

Simpson's performance for England, especially the catch off a reverse sweep

The long grass at Radlett car park – discouraging

Luke Hollman's double 5 for at Hove

SEAXE AWARDS 2021

First of all, my grateful thanks to all of you who took the trouble to send in your nominations, and there were a great number of you this year which came as a pleasant surprise considering the lack of cricket to spectate. The awards have been broken down to simply Player of the Year – red ball. The Mike Gatting Award – white ball

SEAXE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

This category was very very closely fought this year with the eventual winner succeeding by a mere 2 votes. A special mention was made of our young opening bowler Ethan Bamber who has proven to be an excellent partner to Tim Murtagh in opening the bowling, and as the 2nd highest wicket taker it cannot be long before he becomes the recipient of this award. This year's award, by narrowly beating Sam Robson, goes to a man who leads from the front, whose captaincy late in the season brought a number of victories, whose commitment to Middlesex is never in doubt. Of course, for the 3rd year in a row it goes to Tim Murtagh.

THE MIKE GATTING AWARD – WHITE BALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

This category was dominated by one name although mention was made of Blake Cullen for his economical rate when taking wickets. The clear winner because of his overall batting performances is Steve Eskinazi

SEAXE NEWS

WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2021 - CORDELIA GRIFFITH.

Cordelia averaged 45.57 with the bat despite missing some games due to a finger injury in the earlier part of the season. She played 7 games with top scores of 73 v Hampshire in a T20, 60 v Kent in a T20, 86 v Surrey at the Oval. Cordelia was the standout batter in the Middlesex ranks this year and continues to develop her skills and we hope to see many more match winning performances in 2022 for Middlesex but also in a Sunrisers shirt.

Her enthusiasm and energy in the field also set a fine example to those around her covering many miles per game! Never shy to encourage the youngsters in the group, Cordelia is a fantastic role model within the Middlesex pathway.

DISABILITY PLAYER OF THE YEAR - JAMES NORDIN

James has been the vice-captain for the disability 1st XI and has stood up as captain on numerous occasions, and to date has a perfect 100% winning ratio. For the 2022 season he has been given the captaincy of the 1st XI squad.

James has shown a high level of commitment to Middlesex and the development of the game in the whole county. He has travelled from university in Worcester to regularly attend training. On the pitch he is proven to be one of the most versatile seamers we have. He can bowl anywhere in the innings, and has been the go to bowler in some of the most crucial moments during the season.

James is one of the best all rounders in disability cricket which has seen him selected for the England physical disability squad on a regular basis. He has also played in the disability premier league, where he was one of the stand out players. He is currently one of the bowling coaches for the Kent women's team, and is doing his level 3 coaching badge. This is why he deserves the accolade of the Seaxe Disability Player of the Year.

JUNIOR AWARDS

Geoff Norris Award - Pansilu Wijesinghe

Jack Robertson Award - Rhys Lewis

David Newton Award - Daniel O'Driscoll

John Piddington Award - Riva Pindoria

Gerry Lillie Award - Noah Cornwell

Rynhold Family Award - Alessia Soso

Richard Davis Award - Dylan Rawal

SEAXE TROPHIES UPDATE



Since the Middlesex Room was reconfigured a couple of years back, the Seaxe Trophies have led a peripatetic life in the homes and attics of various Committee Members.

This is not ideal for a number of reasons, so the Committee were very pleased when the Committee of MCC Heritage & Collections discussed our request and agreed to take them into safekeeping.

Collections Officer, Heather Lomas has not only catalogued the trophies but asked if we minded if some were put on display in the MCC Museum. We had no hesitation in agreeing!

Visitors to the Museum can now view five Seaxe Trophies on display in a case immediately to the right of the entrance. Upstairs, the Gerry Lillee Bowling Award is on display, sharing a case with notable trophies from around the world (and a replica of THE urn!)

We are very grateful to Neil Robinson, Head of Heritage & Collections, and Heather for agreeing to look after, and display, these trophies. They receive many similar requests each year and are unable to say yes to each one. We are also grateful to photographer Clare Adams for taking the excellent photographs of the trophies that are on display.

STEPHEN LOCKWOOD



SEAXE NEWS

SPRING 2022

OPINIONS / IDEAS ALWAYS WELCOME

As previously stated, I would be delighted to receive your comments (good or bad), any articles etc., for inclusion in the Seaxe News and possibly for placing on the MCCC website and eventually the new Seaxe site.

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

Thank you.

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

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

If you would prefer to receive Seaxe News by email, please send your email address to our joint membership secretary Les Rowland - leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com

Lottery result Dec. 2021 6 prizes were awarded at the Seaxe Christmas luncheon, the lucky winners are:

Prize	Name
1st £150	John Stiller
2nd £100	Les Rowland
3rd £75	Ian Murray
4th £50	Rev. W. Wilby
5th £ 30	Richard Hersey
6 th £ 25	Ian Murray

Congratulations to the above, and if you've not got your lottery ticket yet, then please have a go. It's only £12 / number / year. As many numbers as you are prepared to buy.

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

Thank you.

GLEN BIRKWOOD
Editor Seaxe News