



# SEAXE NEWS

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Editor: Glen Birkwood

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Winter 2021

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, at last, some proper cricket being played at Lord's in front of the supporters, and what a spell it's been! A spate of wins under the captaincy of Tim Murtagh, and some very notable achievements. Robbie White's maiden century against Derbyshire at Lord's, an Ethan Bamber 5 for followed by Toby Roland-Jones getting the same in the next innings. An opening stand of 376 between Sam Robson and Mark Stoneman against Sussex down at Hove. Luke Hollman twice getting 5 for in the same match. All of these are outstanding results and yet, despite this late season success, there were still negative comments being made. When someone starts a comment with "I don't want to put a dampener on things" you know that's exactly what they are going to do! Comments such as "we're only playing the weakest teams in the country" etc.. From my point of view a win is a win, success breeds success! So well done to the boys for an excellent finish to the season – shame about the Kent game! If you were unable to attend any of the matches, the online coverage from Fletch and his team was excellent.

On the subject of well done, you will see within these pages the results of the Seaxe Awards evening, which after a long delay was an evening enjoyed by all present. Also you will find within this mailing the voting form for our various Players of the Year together with the player statistics. Please give this your attention and return your replies to me.

The interference of the Hundred during the summer months continues to be of concern, thereby reducing the amount of County cricket being available to watch at Lord's, as well as reducing the Royal London to a virtual sideshow. Talking to members it is this which appears to be the main bone of contention rather than rebates / discounts etc... It will be interesting to see the 2022 fixture list and where Lord's will fit in. A good alternative and an enjoyable day out, is to watch some of our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI games. They are invariably worth catching,



*Glen Birkwood*

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seeing our youngsters competing alongside established players, and they are generally very entertaining.

For the final two games at Lord's, the Seaxe Club had access to boxes A&B in the Tavern Stand as opposed to our usual G&H (thank you Lorraine). The comments I received would indicate that A&B are preferred because of ease of access and the view. I hope we are able to utilise these boxes next year. Even though we only had the boxes for two matches, we managed to generate some much needed income and we thank Brian Cahill for his efforts.

I'm sorry to say, that because of family commitments, David Marsh has had to stand down as Secretary of the Seaxe Club, so once again we are looking to fill that position. Anybody interested in doing so should either contact me or Les Rowland. In the meantime I would like to thank Peter Jackson who has agreed to step into the role; albeit on a temporary basis.

Thank you for your continued support of the Seaxe Club, it is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to receiving your completed forms in due course.

As Editor, I hope you enjoy reading this edition and to remind you that I am always happy to receive articles, photos etc., for inclusion where possible.

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

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### ANDREW CORNISH – CEO MIDDLESEX CCC

When Glen invited me to write an article for Seaxe news his 'brief' to me was rather vague, 'just write whatever comes into your head' Being relatively new to Middlesex and Seaxe this probably wasn't wise and a better course of action would be to look at previous Seaxe News. I read with interest Angus' article on what format the County Championship (CC) should take and the various pro's and con's for two Divisions versus a conference structure. Perhaps of little surprise to many readers this same question is currently the 'hot topic' between the First Class Counties (FCC's) and the ECB.



*Andrew Cornish*

It seems clear that the CC will return to a two divisional structure with 10 counties in Div 1 and 8 in Div 2. When this happens, how it's decided which county is in which division and then ultimately how many teams are relegated and promoted are still the sources of considerable debate. My personal view (stress personal

view) is that the conference structure is likely to continue for the 2022 season and a return to 2 divisions for the 2023 season.

Whatever the format for the CC the draft schedule for next summer looks to offer a significant improvement over 2021. It's well understood that the majority of Middlesex members want to see as much CC cricket as possible, at Lord's, in the peak summer months. The challenge over recent years and now with the advent of the 100 has been squaring the last two points; peak summer at Lord's! 2022 does have some cause for cautious optimism, it's likely there will be 2 or 3 rounds of CC cricket in July/early August. The Blast will be played in one continuous block with Finals Day pencilled in for the end of July. This is still a draft schedule but should represent a significant improvement for most members in 2022. The ECB have committed to a more thorough detailed review of the structure with the FCC this winter and hopefully further progress will be made for future years.

I mentioned Angus earlier and as many of you know he has moved to a new role at the Club. Since I joined the Club earlier in the year, Angus has been an incredible support and really helped me understand the culture and considerable heritage of Middlesex and the Seaxe Club. Angus' new role will see him taking a leading role in developing our Elite and Academy training facilities for both the men's and women's teams. He will also be growing our relationships with Clubs, Leagues, National Counties (Bucks, Berks and Herts), working with our sponsors and partners, and ex-players. Importantly he will work closely with me on ensuring the Head Coaches have the players contracted they need to deliver on field success, be that through developing home grown talent, at the heart of what Seaxe is about or where necessary bringing in external talent to the Club from home and abroad.

It's the home grown talent that I'd like to conclude with. I was lucky enough to join the Seaxe awards a few weeks ago, in a semi covid restricted environment. Looking at the names on the trophies and then at the current men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI (quarantined at the end of the room) they were almost all present. In this case, young men who had won awards supported by Seaxe over the years now at the pinnacle of Middlesex cricket. It made me not just excited for that group who clearly have a tight bond having grown up playing together, but also for the younger players receiving awards on the night, knowing that if they continue with their dedication (and that of their parents!) then the probability is they will make it too. Hopefully covid restrictions will be behind us next year and we can have a more interactive event. Let's also have the event on a day when the women's and girls teams can have a greater presence and make a truly united Seaxe event.

Our Club within a Club was something I couldn't initially get my head around, but now I understand it a bit better and have met some of the inspiring people that

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drive it forwards I know that the we are very fortunate to have the Seaxe Club and I hope it continues to go from strength to strength.

I look forward to meeting more Seaxe members over the winter and next summer at various events and games. Once again thank you for everything you do for our Club(s) and in particular the young people who benefit from your kindness, wisdom and generosity.

**Andrew Cornish - CEO Middlesex Cricket**

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### **AWARDS EVENING AUGUST 2021**

At long last, after a number of postponements, we have final managed to hold our Seaxe Awards Evening! It was held in the Father Time Bar on Monday August 30<sup>th</sup>., scheduled to start half an hour after close of play at approximately 6.30pm, but when play was called off early because of bad light, would our winners be ready? Would there be that awful period of waiting to see who turned up? We needn't have worried, so keen were they that the room soon filled up!

We were presenting awards to both the 2019 winners as well as the 2020 winners, so there was quite a turnout, with the recipients bringing their parents, siblings etc. to make it a truly family affair. Rightly so, because without the support and encouragement of family, achieving success is that much harder, no matter how talented you are. It is for that reason we are always happy to welcome their family.

It was good to see our entire first team squad there fresh from witnessing Robbie White's outstanding century, which had obviously put them in a good mood, that or the thought of a free beer! Because of Covid restrictions, the team are in a "bubble" and had to stay down the end of the room by the bar (no great hardship there!), whilst the remainder of our guests filled the rest of the room. As a consequence, a number of the photographs involving the team members have the players in the background.

It's surprising how many of the younger award recipients are now playing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket. I'm sure you will recognise their names, what a wonderful reflection this is of the success of our youth and Academy programmes.

My personal thanks to Angus Fraser, Mike Selvey, Clive Radley, Mike Gatting and Rory Coutts who assisted with the presentations giving the youngsters an evening to remember.

**Glen Birkwood**

2019 WINNERS



*Tim Murtagh receiving the 2019 Player of the Year Award from Mike Selvey*



*Lucy Porter receiving the Geoff Norris Award from Gus Fraser*



*Thilan Walallawita receiving the 2nd XI Player of the Year Award from Gus Fraser*



*Jaidev Charon receiving the Disability Player of the Year Award from Mike Gattling*



*Nathan Sowter receiving the Mike Gattling Award for One Day Player of the Year*

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*Josh DeCaires receiving the Jack Robertson Award from Clive Radley*



*Riva Pindoria receiving the John Piddington Award from Clive Radley*



*Josh DeCaires receiving the David Newton Award from Steve Eskinazi*



*Steve Eskinazi receiving the Rynhold Family Award on behalf of Matt McGowan from John Simpson*



*Ishaan Kaushal receiving the Gerry Lillee Award from Tim Murtagh*

2020 WINNERS



*Nathan Fernandes receiving the Geoff Norris Award from Gus Fraser*



*Tim Murtagh receiving the 2020 Player of the Year Award from Mike Selvey*



*Atharva Prasad receiving the Jack Robertson Award from Mike Selvey*



*Samuel Kumar receiving the Disability Player of the Year Award from Mike Gatting*

*Luke Hollman receiving the Mike Gatting Award for One Day Player of the Year from Mike Gatting*



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*Atharva Prasad receiving the David Newton Award from Steve Eskinazi*



*Rhodri Lewis receiving the Gerry Lilee Award from Gus Fraser*



*Josh DeCaires receiving the John Piddington Award from Clive Radley*



*Daniel O'Driscoll receiving the Rynhold Family Award from John Simpson*



*Lucy Porter receiving the Richard Davis award from Rory Coutts*



**A PRESENTATION TO STEVEN FINN AND JAMES HARRIS**

At lunch on day two of the Middlesex match against Worcestershire, a presentation was made to Steven Finn and James Harris in front of the Pavilion, to acknowledge their outstanding careers with the Club.

Chairman Mike O'Farrell and President Mike Selvey presented both players with a framed collage of their most memorable moments as Middlesex players, ahead of Finn's departure to Sussex and Harris's departure to Glamorgan.

Prior to the presentation being made, the following announcement was read out over the in-ground PA system...

"Steven Finn is the first Middlesex cricketer to move through the Club's entire player pathway.

"Steven was 16 and on Middlesex's Academy when he made his first-class debut in 2005 and during the following four years his hard work and determination allowed him to develop into a bowler that was opening the bowling for England.

"During Steven's Test career he played a prominent role in England winning three Ashes series; he also performed at both 50 over and T20 World Cups.

"At a personal level his highlights in Test cricket would have been two six wicket hauls against Australia in Perth and Edgbaston. In ODI cricket his best performance was a five-wicket haul, which included a hat-trick, against Australia in 2015. Steven has taken more wickets for England than any other Middlesex bowler.

"With Middlesex he has helped the Club win the T20 Cup in 2008, Division Two of the County Championship in 2011 and the County Championship in 2016. His 16 year career has seen him play more than 260 games and take 587 wickets, with his finest performance being 9-37 against Worcestershire in 2010!

"In nine seasons with Middlesex James Harris took 316 wickets and scored almost 2500 runs. With the ball his highlight being a nine wicket haul against Durham in 2015.

"With the bat, a defiant unbeaten 41 against Lancashire in 2014 that kept the Club in Division 1, a superb 78 against Somerset in 2016 that set up a remarkable victory were the equal of his hundred against Lancashire in a Lord's RL50 Quarter Final.

"James is a respected figure in County cricket, resulting in him becoming Chair of the PCA.

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Steven and James have been an enormous credit to themselves and their families, and we are proud to have had them represent the great Club that is Middlesex CCC”

On behalf of the Seaxe Club, I have thanked them both and wished them every success in their new ventures.

### Glen Birkwood



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## STEVEN FINN

### BY HUW NATHAN

Steven Thomas Finn was born in Watford, Hertfordshire on 4th April 1989. He is a tall right-arm fast bowler and right-handed batsman who graduated from the Middlesex Academy. He became the youngest first-class debutant for Middlesex versus Cambridge UCCE at Fenner’s in June 2005. At 16 years and 58 days, he broke the existing record of 16 years and 152 days, which had been held by F J Titmus since 1949.

A popular cricketer throughout his career, he was awarded his county cap in 2009.

He represented England in 36 Tests (2009/10-2016/17), taking 125 wickets at an average of 30.40. His versatility was proved across the various formats, as he also took 102 wickets in 69 ODIs (2010/11-2017) and 27 wickets in 21 T20 internationals (2011-2015).

We wish him well as he continues his career with Sussex during the 2022 season.

### **Middlesex career statistics**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

FC (2005-2021) **M** 109 | 140 **NO** 41 **Runs** 962 **HS** 56 100 – 50 1 **Ave** 9.71 **Ct** 38

LA (2007-2019) **M** 59 | 24 **NO** 12 **Runs** 231 **HS** 42\* **Ave** 19.25 100 – 50 - **Ct** 16

T20 (2008-2021) **M** 93 | 23 **NO** 16 **Runs** 53 **HS** 8 **Ave** 7.57 100 – 50 - **Ct** 30

#### **Bowling**

FC **B** 19236 **M** 557 **Runs** 11086 **W** 394 **BB** 9/37 **Ave** 28.13 **5wl** 9 **10wM** 1

LA **B** 2518 **M** 25 **Runs** 2167 **W** 77 **BB** 5/33 **Ave** 28.14 **4wl** 2 **5wl** 1

T20 **B** 1875 **M** 2 **Runs** 2581 **W** 116 **BB** 5/16 **Ave** 22.25 **4wl** 3 **5wl** 1

### **9 YEARS AT THE 'MIDDLE'**

I can only look back on my time with Middlesex with fondness. When I sat in a box in the Tavern Stand with Angus and Richard Johnson in the September of 2012 looking for a new county, it didn't take me long to realise that this was the place.

Now I sit here 9 years on, looking back on my time at the club and some of the fondest memories spent at Lord's, representing one of the most prestigious clubs in the land. There have been some ups and downs along the way for sure, but I can't say that I would change anything about my time in North London. The championship win in 2016 being an obvious highlight, there are many more less obvious ones. Being able to take the field with some of Middlesex's finest ever cricketers. Being out in the middle with Toby when he struck his maiden hundred at Lord's against Yorkshire, then to watch him come out the next day and knock them over in the way that he did. To be in the middle when Simmo hit the winning runs in an epic encounter down at Taunton, and to be sat in the physio room listening on the radio to Chris Rogers' innings of 241\* to win the

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game against Yorkshire at Lord's in 2014. I was there purely because that's the location I started in, and I couldn't move whilst we were going that well. I was in at number 8 and didn't even have to put my whites on as we chased that one down.

Ask any player, and some of their most enjoyable times would be spent in Murts' corner of the dressing room enjoying a beer, reflecting after a hard fought 4 day win, before, whilst still in whites, heading down to the 'Bowlers Bar' to enjoy a drink with some of the supporters. Ideally all before lunch so that you could enjoy the biggest meal imaginable. They are the real great days.



That just leaves me to say a massive *James Harris* thank you. To everyone involved with this great club. It has been an honour and a massive privilege to call Middlesex home for the past 9 seasons. As a sportsman you very rarely get to bow out on your own terms but this seems as positive as any I could think of. I've still got a few years in the tank to come and I very much hope to be back in the away dressing room at Lord's over the next few years. Thank you all for your support and I wish you all well.

Kind Regards, **James Harris**

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## REPORT FROM MARILYN SMITH



*Marilyn Smith*

For those who don't know me, I was elected on to the Middlesex Board at the AGM in 2019, as one of the representatives elected by the membership. I was asked to chair the Membership Sub Committee (MemCom), and tasked with finding ways to enhance the membership offer to existing members, and finding

ways to grow membership. Before we could really get in to this, Covid happened, so the focus switched to what we could do to keep members involved with no cricket on, how we could retain members, what we could offer. We held a few focus groups on Zoom to get feedback from members, and this has now been greatly enhanced by the offer from Fly Research to carry out surveys of the membership for us. Two such surveys have now been carried out, and we are really happy with the response rate. Its only by telling us how you feel that we can effect any change. Or keep things the way they are! Filling in these surveys is one way that you can put your views across directly. A member of the Seaxe committee sits on MemCom, as does a member of the Members Communication Group, so there is direct involvement of members

Another way is to email directly. A new email address has been set up for member comments. [memcom@middlesexccc.com](mailto:memcom@middlesexccc.com) Please feel free to send any comments that you have, suggestions for events, comments on membership etc. Middlesex CCC is your club and we want to know what you think.

You are probably wondering who I am, and what do I know about cricket. I started playing cricket when I left university, and my first club was Dukesmead WCC, a women's club playing in Chiswick. I played for Middlesex women, and captained the side for 3 years. I also played in the very first MCC ladies match in 2019! I still play for MCC ladies, and Actonians Ladies in the Middlesex League. This year I played Middlesex Seniors (mens) as well.

Administratively, in the past I was Chair of Middlesex WCA, and sat on the old Middlesex Cricket Board. At Actonians CC, I have been ladies secretary, coached juniors and currently am scorer for the mens 1<sup>st</sup> XI. As my playing days draw to a close I am hoping to develop scoring more, especially for Middlesex women and Sunrisers.

Over the years I have played or scored at most of the clubs throughout the county, so I consider myself to have a broad knowledge of recreational cricket in Middlesex. I hope that this reassures people who wonder who I am and what I know about cricket!

I'm hoping that in 2022 we will have a full season of cricket, and that I will meet many of you at matches and social events. I am a fan of all formats of the game, so you are as likely to see me at a T20 as you are at a red ball game. And you will also catch me at Sunrisers matches, whether at Essex CC or Merchant Taylors School, so if you do, stop me for a chat.

### **Marilyn Smith**

Chair Membership Committee, Middlesex Board

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### A POSER

Do you recognise the two people in this photograph from 2002?

A clue: the young man was receiving an award as the captain of the under 13 National Champions.

Answer on the back page:



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### THE LADY OF THE CAKE

The Knights of the Round Table had their Lady of the Lake, a myth and a legend! The members of the Seaxe Club have their Lady of the Cake, no myth but certainly a legend!! Marilyn Storer!

Those of you who have taken the trouble to visit the Seaxe Box in the afternoon tea break, will most likely have enjoyed a slice of cake baked by Marilyn and presented to the Box. Such is the quality of the cakes, that a member had previously recorded his memorable moment of the year as a slice of double chocolate cake. In conversation with Marilyn recently, I commented upon this remark only to discover that she doesn't have the recipe and in fact what we get are the results of her vivid imagination! We are apparently, guineapigs for her experimentations. This year alone we have enjoyed, carrot cake, fruit cake, Guinness and chocolate cake, clementine and blueberry cake, cherry and



*Marilyn Storer*

almond. If being a guineapig means getting cakes like these, then I for one am more than happy to be used.

Marilyn, can I simply say on behalf of the Seaxe Club, thank you very much for your continued support. Your ability to ruin any calorie controlled diet is truly legendary!!

**Glen Birkwood**

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### **THE SEAXE BOX TAVERN STAND A&B**

For the final two home county games, the Seaxe Club had use of boxes A&B in the Tavern Stand. These proved to be quite popular as they afforded the members a slightly better view of the game. The support of the box blows hot and cold, some teatimes one can barely move and yet, sometimes watching the game, barely a dozen members! I should point out that tea / coffee and biscuits are available all day long, not just at teatime.

Despite there only being two county games, the box generated £225 of income for which we thank Brian Cahill, and of course the Lady of the Cake! An excellent result.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank the members who were present on the day I took my cricket obsessed 7 year old grandson to Lord's for the day, and helped make it a day for him to remember. His words when he got home were "the Seaxe people were really nice and friendly!", as indeed we are!

You will be updated about the availability of the box next season, once the fixture list has been released and I receive confirmation from the office.

**Glen Birkwood**

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### **SOCIAL REPORT**

We have very little to report other than our popular Christmas luncheon, to be held in the Tavern on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December. You will find all the booking details, menu etc., within this mailing. Numbers are limited, so if you wish to attend, please return your form without delay. If you have a specific request to sit with certain friends, please notify me and we'll do our best to accommodate you .

The final Seaxe lottery draw will take place during the course of the afternoon, could be your lucky day!!

With regards to next year, if sufficient interest is shown, I'll endeavour to arrange for some winter socials.

**Steve Baldwin**, Social Secretary

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### **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 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)

To receive Seaxe News by email, please send your email address to our joint membership secretary Les Rowland - [leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com](mailto:leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com)

### **Lottery result Sept. 2021**

<b>Prize</b>	<b>Name</b>
1st £125	Keith Loveday
2nd £75	Dr Jane Orr MB
3rd £50	Bill Page
4th £25	John Tunnicliffe
5th £25	Mrs. Kathy Richman

Congratulations to them all. The next Lottery draw will at the Seaxe Christmas luncheon, December 12<sup>th</sup>..

The answer to the Poser – Toby Roland-Jones receiving the award from Jane Saxton

Finally, don't forget to keep an eye on our website for general information: [www.seaxeclub.co.uk](http://www.seaxeclub.co.uk)

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

**Glen Birkwood**  
**Editor Seaxe News**