



SEAXE NEWS

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Summer 2021

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Despite there having been a lack of County cricket at which we could spectate and the general apathy that ensued, the Seaxe Club has continued in its objectives to support youth cricket at varying levels throughout the county of Middlesex. This support is not dependent upon cricket being played at Lord's but is dependent upon support from its members. The need to support today's youth has rarely been greater because of lockdown, resulting in the lack of social wellbeing, physical exercise etc... So, it is to that end the Seaxe Club has supported the All Stars and Dynamo programmes for 2021 (more within these pages). Our disappointment has been the number of members who have failed this year and, in some cases, last year to renew both their Seaxe membership as well as entry into the Seaxe Lottery. As mentioned, we rely upon your continued support, what we don't rely on is cricket being played at Lord's to fulfil our objectives! Please reconsider if this applies to you.

It has been a disappointing season for the lover of county cricket spectating at the Home of Cricket; but God, Covid and weather permitting, we should see at least 2 home games at Lord's in late August, early September. Which brings me to mention our Awards Evening and Seaxe drinks reception, both being held at the end of August – details within the Social Report. Taking into account the same 3 factors permitting, it is our intention to hold our long overdue AGM – details within this mailing.

Like a lot of groups, we have held our committee meetings via Zoom thus enabling the Seaxe Club to keep active. My thanks go to David Marsh our Club Secretary for setting these up, even though it has resulted in me having to buy a new laptop!!

As Editor, I hope you enjoy reading this edition and can see how the Seaxe Club is managing to bring cricket to a great number of disadvantaged children, but only with your continued support can we maintain this!!

Thank you, **Glen Birkwood, Chairman Seaxe Club**



Glen Birkwood

REPORT FROM ANGUS FRASER

Whilst contemplating which of the two County Championship formats – Two Division or Conference – would best serve domestic cricket my mind wondered into how we actually judge or should judge the health of cricket in England. To many it will be the performance of the England side that gives the ultimate reflection. For others it would be the number of people participating in or following the game.

Since around 2000 most decisions on the structure and fixtures of domestic cricket have been made with the performance of the England team at heart, and the results have been extremely positive. A survey of England results shows that the teams win ratio has increased considerably since 2000. And these performances culminated in England unforgettably winning the World Cup in 2019.

From this everything should be fine in the game but unfortunately this is not the case. Although there have been many positive stories on the number of people playing cricket during the coronavirus pandemic, the figures on participation and people with an interest in the game have been concerning. And it is these figures that have led to the creation of The Hundred, a tournament that has and will no doubt continue to receive a lot of criticism from followers of county cricket. It is, however, a tournament the English game needs to succeed.

Of equal if not greater importance are the All Stars and Dynamos cricket programmes the ECB have unrolled. Nothing can be more important for cricket than inspiring the next generation of participators and followers because without them the game would come to an abrupt and sad end. The ECB will be hoping The Hundred will encourage youngsters and their parents to give cricket a go and that is where the All Stars and Dynamos cricket programmes come in.

These programmes rely on support from all sorts of areas, so it is brilliant to see the contributions the Seaxe Club have and continue to make. This is just another example of the fantastic support the Seaxe Club continues to give the game of cricket. We, as the professional side of the game, have received support in the form of contributions to young players, career enhancing trips to the other side of the world, and it is lovely to see even younger cricketers getting opportunities even earlier in their careers.

Middlesex's teams are having a challenging time at present and watching the 1st XI can be quite a stressful experience, but nothing does more to lift the spirits than watching young people enjoying playing and being involved in this wonderful game. Seaxe, thank you for the role you play in allowing this to happen.

Angus Fraser - Managing Director, Middlesex Cricket



Angus Fraser

ALL STARS UPDATE

As we come towards the end of phase 1 of All stars and Dynamos across the county, it's a good time to reflect on some of the great work that has taken place over the last few weeks.

Despite the challenges thrown at us by the great British weather, resulting in a number of our Friday and Monday sessions being cancelled, although we will be attempting to make them up so that the young people don't miss out, we are on track to complete the following centres:

Wray Crescent, Islington - All Stars and Dynamos*

Highbury Fields, Islington - All Stars

Holland Park, Kensington & Chelsea - All Stars and Dynamos

Paddington Recreation ground, Westminster - All Stars*

Lisson Grove, Westminster, All Stars and Dynamos *

Millfields, Hackney All Stars and Dynamos*

Millwall Park, Tower Hamlets - All Stars and Dynamos

***Centres that received support via Seaxe**

In the May half term, we used the week to run the following Programmes.

Lordship Lane , Haringey, - All Stars*

Kobi Nazrul Primary school - Dynamos

Wormwood Scrubs, Hammersmith and Fulham - All Stars*

Beavers Field, Hounslow - All Stars*

One Tree Hill Park, Brent - All Stars and Dynamos*

Southall Park, Ealing - All Stars

***Centres that received support via Seaxe**

These sessions ran for 4 days, although the final day was disrupted by our friend the weather, the young people had a great time. I think 3 days of 25 degree plus weather helped prior to the rain, but talking with parents at the sessions they were really pleased that the programmes were taking place during the May school holidays as it gave their children something to do for four days of the week, got them outside running around and allowed them to get their siblings out in the sun, a number who were either too young or old to take part but it allowed them the opportunity to spend time with their parents and meet new people. People who live in the same area but they had never interacted with. It continues to amaze me how the power of sport brings people together. The parents were incredibly grateful to Seaxe for providing the bursary's for their children to take part in the programme.

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We have had new centres started in June, these include:

*Barnet - Middlesex Cricket Academy - All Stars and Dynamos

*Hounslow - Lampton Park - All Stars and Dynamos

Tower Hamlets - Hague Primary School - All Stars and Dynamos

Tower Hamlets - Kobi Nazrul Primary School - All Stars and Dynamos

***Supported by Seaxe**

We have new centres across the county starting in July and a number of holiday programmes running during the school summer holidays.

To date the following bursaries from Seaxe have been distributed:

All Stars: 140 Dynamos: 100

Here are some pictures from the Islington All Stars and Dynamos sessions at Wray Crescent in Islington, the Barnet session at the Middlesex Cricket Academy and a very wet Dynamos session at Kobi Nazrul School in May half term.



Oliver Wilson upon receiving his All Stars pack





Total Numbers of participants involved in All Stars and Dynamos programmes across Middlesex:

All Stars - 2054 Male - 1497 Female - 557

Dynamos - 693 Male - 543 Female - 150

Thanks again to Seaxe for their amazing support of All Stars and Dynamos across the County.

Pete Jones
Participation Manager, Middlesex Cricket

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH SHARON EYERS

I have been in Middlesex now for seven years as a Cricket Participation Manager and have had many roles during that time. I joined Middlesex from a long 19-year career in Surrey and it soon became very apparent how different these two Counties are and how much more we have to think outside the box for delivery in Middlesex.

Middlesex is home to over four million people so the scope for development is huge, however the ongoing challenge is the lack of traditional cricket settings, with many Boroughs having no traditional clubs or very few. Travel is so difficult in the city so not as easy to host a course or an event in an evening as it can take up to one and a half hours to travel just 3-5 miles and that is tough after a long day at work.



Sharon Eyers

Over the last four years I have been so happy to lead on the National Programmes

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of All Stars Cricket and Dynamos which is ECB's National Programme. All Stars is for 5-8 year olds and aimed at giving young people a first great experience of cricket and Dynamos is aimed at 9-11 year olds and partnered to The Hundred where young children will learn skills and play Countdown cricket (60 balls) and emulate their male and female heroes from this summer's competition. In year one it became very apparent that many children could not attend this programme due to two very key areas:

1. Lack of traditional cricket clubs across Middlesex
2. Finances – Many young people in London do not have the funds to sign up for the programme

Katie Berry, Director of Participation and the Seaxe Club worked up a plan to start a fund to offer bursaries to many young people enabling them to access cricket and enjoy a sport that many of us take for granted. Four years later the funding The Seaxe club has given us has allowed us to access other funding and grow our bursary programme, which is needed more than ever after Covid-19 as many more families across London are living below the poverty line.

With National Programmes being headed up by my colleague Pete Jones now, I will be focussing on Women and Girls Cricket working towards making our sport gender balanced and ensuring that clubs have a genuine offer. The women's and girls game has grown in recent years with huge investment into the game. We have eight centres across the Country with full time contracted female players now backed up by performance squads in each County. This is great news and will raise the profile, however we still have our challenges at grass roots cricket with only 8% of coaches being female and far less than being officials and volunteers in clubs. Female volunteers and coaches are crucial in the development of the game as young girls need to see themselves in what they can aspire to. I am looking forward to the challenge of raising our numbers all through the pathway from All Stars to England and increasing female role models across all facets of the game.

Sharon Eyers
Middlesex Cricket Participation Team

DISABILITY SEASON REVIEW

This season has been a challenging time for a lot of the county teams across the country, and Middlesex is no exception, but we have tried our hardest to ensure that we bring as much normality into the county season. At this point in time we have had 3 games cancelled for bad weather and 1 rescheduled for later in the year.

1st XI squad

The first XI squad have played 4 games, we have won 2 and lost 1 with the 4th game abandoned due to a flooded pitch; this has meant that half way through the season we are top of the league, but others have a couple of games in hand so we will have a better picture when all teams are on the same amount of played games.

2nd XI squad

The second XI squad have played 4 games, we have won 1, lost 2 and had one abandoned for bad weather. This league hasn't had a lot of games rescheduled so all teams have played the same number of games and we are currently 2nd in the league table

Super 9s

The super 9s have played 3 games and have won 1, lost 1 and had 1 abandoned. This league is probably the closest league we are involved in this season with only 1 win being the difference between top and bottom of the league; we have a game in hand over the team above us, that if we can win will put us 2nd and only one point from the top of the league with only two games remaining.

Overall

This season has seen players across all three squads really step up and perform at a very high level, we have seen two bowlers take 5 wicket hauls in games this season, we have seen players reaching batting milestones with 6 players reaching new high scores for the county, this season has also seen 8 new players join the county and make their debut, and the biggest thing amongst them is the average age of those players is 16/17 so really looks good for the future of the county program.



Michael Wilson

Michael Wilson

Head of Disability Cricket Middlesex

SEAXE CLUB MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

It has been a very difficult year for all of us with cricket not being available for us to watch at Lord's, which also means the Tavern Stand box is not able to be used. But this has not stopped us being able to continue with our support for youth cricket in its various formats. We have made a donation to the All Stars and Dynamos programmes for the last two years.

Unfortunately however, a substantial number of members have not seen fit to renew their membership this year, and some also not for last year, additionally a

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number have not renewed their Seaxe Lottery membership. Support of both of these help us to raise the funds to enable us to continue with the support.

During this year sadly we have lost a number of members due to their passing away and age taking the toll on others. We have also had a number of members who have resigned because of the lack of cricket to support.

Despite the reminder letter send to all members there are still 54 who have not yet sent their membership subscriptions so please, to enable us to continue with the support for our objective, please do your best to submit the necessary finances.



Les Rowland

Les Rowland, Seaxe Membership Secretary

SOCIAL REPORT – SUMMER 2021

As I write this report, we are awaiting confirmation from the Government that Covid restrictions will be lifted on the 19th July. Should this be the case, then I can confirm the following social activities:

Monday 30th August – Seaxe Awards Evening to be held in the Father Time Bar ½ hour after close of play. As previously stated, it is our intention to present awards to both the 2019 winners as well as the 2020 winners, so it should be quite an evening.

Tuesday 31st August – Seaxe End of Season drink to be held in the Middlesex room ½ hour after close of play. The drinks voucher can be obtained by visiting the Seaxe Box during the day (if open), or at the door of the Middlesex Room during the evening and presenting your Seaxe membership card (in this mailing).

Seaxe Christmas luncheon – Sunday December 12th in the Tavern Inn. The format will be as per 2019 i.e., a 2 course festive meal. Further details including menu choices will provided later in the year.

Winter social gatherings – details to follow.

It has been a frustrating time for everybody socially, so we really hope to see a number of you at the above events.

Thank you

Steve Baldwin
Seaxe Social Secretary

**A REMINDER OF THE SEAXE AWARD WINNERS
2019 AND 2020**

Seaxe Player of the Year 2019 + 2020 – Tim Murtagh

Mike Gatting One Day Player 2019 – Nathan Sowter
2020 – Luke Hollman

Seaxe 2nd XI Player of the Year 2019 – Thilan Walallawita
2020 – N/A

Seaxe Women's Player of the Year 2019 – Sophia Dunkley
2020 – Gayatri Gole

Seaxe Disability Player of the Year 2019 – Jaidev Charan
2020 – Samuel Kumar

Geoff Norris Award 2019 – Lucy Porter
2020 – Nathan Fernandes

Jack Robertson Award 2019 – Josh DeCaires
2020 – Atharva Prasad

David Newton Batting Award 2019 – Josh DeCaires
2020 – Atharva Prasad

John Piddington Allrounder Award 2019 – Riva Pindoria
2020 – Josh DeCaires

Gerry Lillee Bowling Award 2019 – Ishaan Kaushal
2020 – Rhodri Lewis

Rynhold Family Award (Keeper or Fielder) 2019 – Matt McGowan
2020 – Daniel O'Driscoll

Richard Davis Award 2019 – Katie Wolfe
2020 – Lucy Porter

For those of you who have missed seeing our boys in cricket whites



Forward defensive



Team talk before the game



Taking the field

Photos supplied by Pete Hollman

CRICKET SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION SURVEY

I've recently received the results of a survey conducted by the Cricket Supporters' Association which makes for interesting reading. The survey was completed by over 3000 people of all ages.

The Hundred:

63% of cricket fans feel negatively about the Hundred with only 20% showing a positive response. It was the younger fans who were keener on the format with 37% of 16-24 year olds being positive with a further 33% undecided.

50% of cricket fans believe the Hundred will impact on the existing County structure.

County cricket:

98% of cricket fans think the County Championship is the breeding ground for future England Test players

94% of cricket fans think the lack of priority for County Championship will impact Test cricket.

Coverage:

93% of cricket fans would like to see all ICC Tournaments have some element of free to air, either TV (Channel 4 was the most popular), or online.

68% believe that cricket still needs the revenue from the likes of Sky TV.

Finally:

Only 22% of cricket fans believe the ECB considers fans when making decisions!

I don't think there is anything too startling by way of revelations in this survey, in the ECB's drive to attract younger players by introducing the Hundred, they have alienated a large proportion of the older supporter. I believe the Vitality Blast, IPL etc., has already attracted a younger audience; maybe if more County and Test cricket was shown on free to air, it's very possible even more youngsters would be attracted to all the formats of this wonderful game.

Glen Birkwood

Editor Seaxe News

A WORD OF THANKS

It has been said before, but Fletch, Lorraine and their teams deserve our grateful thanks for all their efforts in bringing us live cricket.

Whilst it is a poor substitute for being at Lord's for a County match, it is nevertheless an excellent means of keeping up with the game. The fact that at times it makes for distressing viewing is neither here nor there! What is concerning though, will this become the norm for watching County games for those unable or unwilling to travel to out grounds instead of sitting at Lord's? It's possible that a number of County games will be played at out grounds in the short term due to the Hundred and T20 commitments.

One benefit of watching on the laptop is when I hear "if you've got a minute could you.... Oh, you're watching cricket. Sorry" – Magic!

Thanks guys,

Glen Birkwood, Editor

SEAXE BOX

Not only have we missed County cricket at Lord's but also the camaraderie of the Seaxe Box. Whilst we cannot guarantee we will have the Box for the final 2 games at Lord's, we are fairly confident that it will be available for the best tea and cake in the ground and a good old-fashioned catch up.

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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 by email: glen.birkwood@hotmail.com - or by post to: 86 Edgell Road Staines upon Thames Middx TW18 2EL

Thank you.

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

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

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

Lottery result June 2021

Draw	Name
1st £125	Alvan Seth-Smith
2nd £75	Mark Zeffertt
3rd £50	Shirley Harrop
4th £25	Jeffrey Calvert
5th £25	R Scrope-Howe

Congratulations to them all. The next Lottery draw will be late August, and the final one at the Seaxe Christmas luncheon

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

Let's hope we can meet later this season and see some County cricket at Lord's

Glen Birkwood
Editor Seaxe News