



# SEAXE NEWS

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**Summer 2022**

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## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SUMMER 2022**

Here we are at last with a full schedule of cricket, good crowds at Lord's and Radlett and not a moment too soon. We've had an excellent start to our County Championship campaign, unfortunately falling short against Derbyshire. Nevertheless, the start has been encouraging with Jono and Alan Coleman working well with the team. Can we dare hope to achieve what we all want – promotion back to the first division? We couldn't have wished for a better start to our campaign.

I wrote in the last issue that the Seaxe Club was supporting the All Stars programme to the tune of £4,500 with a possible review mid-season. We have been approached by the Middlesex Participation team following a cut in funding by the ECB, and I'm delighted to say that the Committee has agreed to increase the level of support to £6,000, thereby enabling even more youngsters to enjoy and experience the fun and social interaction of playing cricket. During the course of the meeting with the Participation team, Les Rowland and I met with Stewart Davison MCCC Head of Youth Cricket who will be arranging for Les and I to meet the Regional Coaches to discuss bursary opportunities. Joining us will be Regional Coaches of the girls' teams together with Sharon Eyers and/or Kari Carswell to discuss the same opportunities for the girls. There has been a recipient of a bursary this year, a young man called Tyrone Visvakula. More about that within these pages. On the subject of bursaries, we have been approached by the Sachin Tendulkar Global Academy requesting bursary support for five potential attendees at one of their camps. I'll keep you posted as to the outcome, but the resultant publicity can only be of benefit. Earlier in the year, together with MCCC, we helped finance Atharva Prasad's trip to India for specialist coaching; a report from Atharva is within these pages.

Dear member, our funds are not bottomless and those who attended our AGM and or the Box Reception will have heard me say that our annual subscriptions will have to increase next year. We have had the current subscription of £12.50 for over 20 years! Costs have risen dramatically since then, the price



*Glen Birkwood*

## SEAXE NEWS

of kit, coaching, transport etc., are now at such a level that if we are to continue with the excellent work the Seaxe Club does to further cricket within the county of Middlesex, an increase in subs is inevitable.

The Seaxe Club needs a Secretary to manage the day to day business of the Club. It's not too onerous a task but will require commitment and attendance at the meetings which are only 5/6 times a year. If you are interested and feel you could fulfil this position, please contact Les Rowland (leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com) and/or Peter Jackson (pejj@btinternet.com). Thank you.

The lottery was drawn during the Durham game and the winners are listed on the back page. The top prize of £125.00 went to a gentleman who has only just joined us and we hope the cheque put a smile on his face.

Finally, my thanks once again to Fletch and his team for the excellent live coverage from Lord's and Radlett on the occasions I've been unable to attend in person.

The committee and I thank you for your continued support and we look forward to your company in the Box throughout the coming season.

**Glen Birkwood, Seaxe Chair**

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## JUNIOR INDOOR FINALS 2022

Qualifiers began in November 2021 at Gunnersbury Park Hub. 15 MJCA Clubs entered 72 teams across 8 age groups and 92 matches.

### **Under 11s Nth Middlesex v Stanmore**

Nth Middlesex edged Stanmore in a fiercely contested and well balanced final at Lord's. The match went down to the final ball with all three results possible. Nth Mdx. batted steadily setting Stanmore a total of 95. Tight Nth Mdx. bowling contained Stanmore with their final pair needing 4 runs with 5 balls to go. A game played in great spirit with either team capable of being champions.



*Nth Mddx U11's*

### **Under 10s Stanmore v Nth Middlesex**

A Lord's final again and the last one they fought was very close. Last year Stanmore lost chasing the Nth Mdx total and again this year Nth Mdx chose to bat first. With some excellent cricket Stanmore surpassed the Nth Mdx total thereby exacting revenge for last year.



*Stanmore U10's*

**Girls U12s Ealing v Highgate**

Ealing won the toss and decided to field. Their tidy bowling was restricting Highgate's runs until the final pairing, who scored freely leaving Ealing a target of 105 to win. The middle order proved too strong for the Highgate bowling, finally giving Ealing victory by 35 runs.



*Ealing Girls U12's*

**Girls U14s Richmond v Roehampton & Fulham**

Richmond bowled first and restricted the opposition to a beatable total. Richmond achieved this without losing too many wickets. Final total 81 runs – 44 runs.

**Girls U16s Nth London v Roehampton & Fulham**

Nth London elected to bat first with everyone contributing to a final score of 116. A combination of tight bowling and sharp fielding gave Nth London victory by 70 runs in what was a match played in the right spirit.



*Stoke Newington U15's*

**U15s Stanmore v Stoke Newington**

Stanmore put Stoke Newington in to bat and despite losing wickets reached a respectable 95 runs. Accurate bowling meant the match went to the last ball with Stanmore needing 4 to win. A direct hit run-out gave Stoke Newington a very hard fought victory.

**U17s Nth Middlesex v Roehampton & Fulham**

R & F won the toss and decided to bat. The Nth Mdx bowling and fielding were excellent and restricted R&F to 84 runs. Nth Mdx was consistent with all pairs contributing, finally getting home with a total of 112 and a well deserved victory.



*Nth Mdx U17's*

**U13s Stanmore v Sth. Hampstead**

Stanmore won the toss and elected to bat first. Each pair played their part and gave Stanmore a total of 61. Sth Hampstead started well but with the introduction

## SEAXE NEWS

of spinners, they lost a number of wickets which brought Stanmore back into the match.

A lot goes into making a day like this a success, so thanks must go to the umpire, the scorers, to Jane Saxton who represented the Seaxe Club and helped with the presentations but mostly to Pete Hollman who puts all this together – no mean feat. Congratulations Pete.



*Stanmore U13's*

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## ATHARVA PRASAD – INDIA TRIP

I went to India to play cricket in early November and returned in late February. With much uncertainty about how the trip would unfold as India is not the most common destination for young cricketers, it turned out to be the most fulfilling and eye opening experience of my life. After a few weeks of training with the renowned DY Patil team in Mumbai (facilitated by Josh Knappett and his contacts within DY Patil and the Tendulkar Middlesex Global Cricket Academy), I moved to Delhi in search of more match practice. During my three month stint in Delhi I was able to play 27 high quality games for “Push Academy” (effectively a club). The quality of spin bowling was expectedly very high but the scary depth of batting talent led to very competitive and high scoring games. Most matches were 40 overs per side and no score downwards of 300 was truly safe. I was able to gain exposure in matches to multiple players who play State cricket and even one who played in the IPL (Mayank Dagar). In addition to this I was able to have training sessions with India legends such as Mohammed Kaif and Vijay Dahiya (current Lucknow Super Giants assistant coach) all of which were rich learning experiences. With over 1200 runs at an average of 50, I felt it was very good preparation for the English summer and I am excited to see what this summer will bring.

My experiences away from the field were as valuable as those on them. In Delhi I had the opportunity to live in a flat by myself, which forced me to learn how to cook, clean and generally run a household (dealing with plumbing issues, electrical issues etc). I returned with a new found appreciation for the need to keep the sink clean and the value of an organised room – the greatest achievement of the trip according to my mother. Being in India my Hindi improved tenfold to the point where I was able to converse fluently with the locals and make friends within my apartment complex.



*Atharva Prasad*

Finally I must thank the Seaxe Club for their continued support and without whom this wonderful experience would not have been possible. It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip and one I am very grateful for the role the Seaxe Club has played in it.

**Atharv Prasad,  
Middlesex CCC Academy**

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### **SEAXE BURSARY RECIPIENT 2022**

As I mentioned in my report, we have a recipient of a Seaxe bursary, namely Tyrone Visvakula, a 14 year old player brought to our attention by Rory Coutts and Mark Lane. This young man plays for Sunbury CC and at the tender age of 14 plays in one of the senior sides. He has scored numerous 100's and 50+'s, and we are delighted to report that he has now been selected to play for Middlesex CCC in his age group. When I met Tyrone and his father at Sunbury CC to discuss their needs, he told me that his ambition was to play professional cricket for Middlesex. Unfortunately due to the pandemic and a change in the family finances, they found it difficult to provide new kit for a growing teenager. The Seaxe committee unanimously agreed to provide Tyrone with a new helmet, boots, shirt and whites. We have also agreed to finance his one to one coaching sessions on an ongoing basis, but reviewed regularly. All those who have seen this young man play say he has a great future as a batsman. Watch this space.



*Tyrone receiving bursary kit*

**Glen Birkwood**

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### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE SUMMER 2022**

Since the beginning of this calendar year, we have lost 6 members of the Club. However, during this time we have successfully signed up 16 Full members and 1 Junior member, which is a positive situation.

Unfortunately, we have a total of 54 members who have yet to pay their 2022 subscriptions. This means a total shortfall of £647.50 off our due subscription income for this year.

Regrettably, if these members do not make payment of their subscriptions by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, they will be removed from the membership list.

**Les Rowland  
Membership Secretary**



## SEAXE NEWS

### DON SHELLEY MIDDLESEX CCC SCORER

My introduction to club cricket was as a twelve-year-old watching Shepherds Bush CC and taking a small scorebook along with me and doing my best to keep up with the play! I got the names of the players involved by asking the official scorers whenever there was a change in bowling or when a wicket fell and a new batsman came in. The following season (1961), I became the official scorer for the Bush first team scoring their matches at home and away – they were of course all friendly matches, half-day on Saturdays with a number of all-day matches on Sundays.

I continued to score for the Bush until 1965 when I heard that Ealing CC were looking for a scorer and I joined Ealing, acting as second team scorer until 1973 when Norman Springall retired. It was just before the 1973 season started that Ealing captain Bob Fisher (who was on the MCCL committee at the time) asked whether or not I would be interested in making a few phone calls on a Saturday night to get in the other results and details of any outstanding individual performances at first team level.

I continued to score for Ealing CC until the end of the 1985 season when, with my late wife Jean, we decided to switch from administrative jobs in the NHS to working in the licensed trade. We ran The Windmill public house in Chiswick High Road for 7½ years before running bar and catering operations at various sports' clubs (including Old Deer Park)

I still carried on my Saturday night task on getting in all the results at first, second and third team level whilst running the pub and typed-out updated league tables and scores from all of the matches to send out to clubs and press. During the period of running the Windmill, the MCCL Executive Committee used the pub for their meetings!

I continued to undertake the MCCL results job and also prepared the MCCL fixtures for publication at the MCCL Annual Presentation Dinner. With all of the results now being generated automatically at the end of the 2018 season, I decided that was the right time to finish. I also had the privilege of scoring the majority of the MCCL representative matches from 1973 until accepting the post as scorer for Middlesex CCC

It was on the morning of my leaving bar stocktake at Ealing CC in early July 2003 that fate showed its hand



*Don with Glen Birkwood at Chesterfield*

when I received a phone call saying that Middlesex Youth under 17s & 19s were looking for a scorer and would I be interested? I started with a two-day match at Bristol University against Gloucestershire Under 17s and I scored all of the Middlesex U17 and U19 matches in 2003 and again in 2004

Sadly, Middlesex CCC lost first-team scorer Mike Smith in October 2004 and in January 2005, I applied for the post of scorer for Middlesex CCC and I was appointed to the position following an interview with John Emburey and Vinny Codrington. I have been very fortunate to act as scorer for Middlesex CCC since then, travelling with the team for all forms of cricket but at the age of seventy-four, I have decided to retire at the end of 2022.

My time as scorer has not been particularly successful for Middlesex with sadly just the 2016 County Championship win and the Club's only success in Twenty20 cricket at the 2008 finals day. Those are obviously the high spots during my career but I have also been fortunate to accompany the team on overseas tours to Antigua for the 2008 Stanford series and also two trips to Abu Dhabi (one of which was for the Champion County match in 2017).

I have been lucky to have seen many wonderful Middlesex players during my time with the Club and it is too difficult to pick out particular favourites. Despite finishing as scorer at the end of 2022, I intend to follow the county both at home and away matches and I look forward to seeing friends outside the confines of the scoreboard!

Sadly, with the Coronavirus pandemic starting in the UK in March 2020, I decided that it was the right time to start on the task of writing a history of the MCCL to celebrate fifty seasons of the Middlesex County Cricket League using all of the data I had at my disposal. Copies of the 288-page A4 size book are available at £10.00 per copy (including postage & packing) – for details, please contact me at donshelley48@virginmedia.com.

**Don Shelley**

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### SEAXE AWARDS EVENING 2021 WINNERS

Our Seaxe Awards evening returned to its usual slot, namely the Friday evening of the first home County match, but not in its usual venue. We were unable to use the Father Time Bar, so we were moved to the Middlesex Room which proved to be quite popular and may well be used again. With the bar being open it didn't take too much to entice the first team in.

My thanks to Mike Gatting, Clive Radley, Jono, Kari Carswell and the first team for their assistance with the presentations thereby making it an evening the young award winners will not forget.

## SEAXE NEWS



*Tim Murtagh receiving Player of the Year from Richard Johnson*



*Steve Eskinazi receiving the Mike Gatting Award*



*Kari Carswell receiving the Seaxe Women's Player of the Year on behalf of Cordelia Griffith from Clive Radley*



*James Nordin receiving the Seaxe Disability Player of the Year from Michael Wilson*



*Pansilu Wijesinghe receiving the Geoff Norris Award from Stevie Eskinazi*



*Rhys Lewis receiving the Jack Robertson Award from Mike Gatting*





*Daniel O'Driscoll receiving the David Newton Award from John Simpson*



*Noah Cornwell receiving the Gerry Lilee Award from Tim Murtagh*



*Dylan Rawal receiving the Richard Davis Award from Robbie White*



*Riva Pindoria receiving the John Piddington Award from Kari Carswell*



*Kari Carswell receiving the Rynhold Family Award on behalf of Alessia Soso from Andrew Cornish*



*Les Rowland presenting to Luke Hollman - 10 wickets in a match v Sussex*

## SEAXE NEWS



*Les Rowland presenting to Robbie White – Maiden first class century for Middlesex v Derbyshire*



*Les Rowland presenting to Mark Stoneman – Maiden first class century for Middlesex v Sussex*

### I AM NOT THAT CLEVER !

In the last edition of Seaxe News Glen kindly wrote a piece about my cakes. I feel that I ought to clear up a slight misunderstanding. When I told Glen that I couldn't remember what went into the cakes that was true but it didn't mean that I do not follow a recipe, I do – well sort of.

I am an impulse cake baker. If I have a spare couple of hours I may get the notion to do some baking. I sort out a recipe and start getting the ingredients together. This is where the confusion comes in. I do not drive and we live half a mile from the shops and walking there would eat into my baking time. So when I find out that I do not have a specific ingredient I look for a suitable alternative in my store cupboard.

Substituting butter for margarine is easy but if I have run out of honey you might get syrup. Similarly I could exchange cocoa powder for chocolate powder or, if the recipe asks for dried fruit (usually raisins, sultanas, currants and cherries) I may decide to use our breakfast mix of chopped apricots, dates and pineapple.

So my apologies if your favourite cake doesn't taste the same the second time round but I hope you enjoy the adventure!

**Marilyn Storer**



*Marilyn Storer*

**SEAXE BOX RECEPTION MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2022**

The Seaxe Club held its annual Box Reception on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May, coinciding with day 3 of the game against Durham.

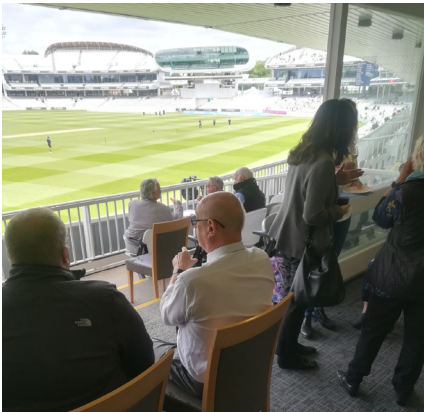
An excellent cold buffet was laid on for the members, washed down with a selection of wines or soft drinks, compliments of the Seaxe Committee. We had a goodly number of members attending, although we would have liked to have seen more. Having mentioned the occasion in the Seaxe News together with notification in our mailing and finally emailing all those who have given us their email address I cannot see what more we could have done to notify the members of the event.

The conversation flowed along with the wine, the sun shone and Middlesex had a good day in the field which enabled them to achieve victory on the last day. All in all, a successful and enjoyable day.

As Chairman, my thanks go to all of the Committee members who helped to make the day go smoothly; not forgetting Brian of course for his help.

**Glen Birkwood**

**Seaxe Chair.**



## SEAXE NEWS

SUMMER 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](mailto:glen.birkwood@hotmail.com) - or by post to:  
86 Edgell Road, Staines, Middx. TW18 2EL

Thank you.

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

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

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

Lottery result: The Lottery draw was done during the home game against Durham, and the winners are:

<b>Prize</b>	<b>Name</b>
1st £125	Barry Wills
2nd £75	Ian Sands
3rd £50	Rev.W. Wilby
4th £25	Marilyn Storer
5th £25	Christopher Shiels

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**