



# SEAXE NEWS

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Summer 2014

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## THE HISTORIC RUN CHASE



*Rogers and Dexter leave the field after their winning unbeaten stand of 145 against Yorkshire. Photograph: Alvan Seth-Smith*

Some of us have still not got over the sensational victory and record run chase against Yorkshire in the county championship, *writes Alan Ashton*. The part played by Chris Rogers over the final two days of the match was immeasurable and as he said later, it was the stuff that cricketers dream of and probably his finest ever innings.

Facing a pace attack which is/was fancied to take the championship title “up north”, the captain told his team in the second innings to “forget about winning and go out and play without fear” which he and Robson promptly did with the opening stand of 181.

The managing director cricket, Angus Fraser, described Rogers’ unbeaten 241 over six and a half hours as the greatest Middlesex innings he had seen and I have no need to remind you he saw others played by Mike Gatting, Desmond Haynes, Andrew Strauss and Mark Ramprakash.

No wonder there were queues of Middlesex supporters waiting for souvenir scorecards after the match ended – and don’t let us forget the parts played by Malan, Morgan, Dexter (72\*) and Finn – the latter, as a keen supporter remarked, made sure we weren’t chasing 600! It was also the game in which Murtagh reached 500 wickets.

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It was the third highest run chase in the championship's history and - because Middlesex only lost three wickets - arguably the greatest. The other two, curiously enough, involved either Middlesex or Yorkshire. The biggest total was 502-6 by Middlesex against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1925. The next was 479-6 by Somerset at Taunton against Yorkshire (again!) in June 2009.

Well done Middlesex lads - keep up the good work.



*Steve Finn embracing his captain in the Long Room as he returns in triumph after the unlikely victory over Yorkshire. Photograph; Alvan Seth-Smith.*

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### DEDICATED SMALL TEAM

There was a respectable turn-out of members at the Seaxe AGM in the Middlesex Room at Lord's at the beginning of April, especially considering that it was only three days after the county club's AGM.

All the main officers were re-elected unopposed as was the committee including one newcomer, Anne Craig. For the record, they are - president: Alan Ashton; chairman: David Killick; secretary: Elaine Knight; treasurer; Peter Jackson.

Committee - Steve Baldwin; Barbara Buxton; Anne Craig; John Mackie; Geoff Norris; Les Rowland.

David Killick, in his opening address, praised each one individually and outlined the work they did while the treasurer, after going through the accounts and reporting a healthy balance sheet, noted that individual expenses were virtually unknown in the club.

This only told half the story, however. One key member of the committee was present despite having a close family bereavement the day before and was travelling to the north of England the following morning. Another turned up for the meeting from Bristol where he had been engaged in outside charity work the previous two days. At least two others have on-going health problems, but are still active in Seaxe work and duties. Dedication indeed.

It was decided that those members who would prefer to have Seaxe News and other club documents sent by e-mail will be able to do so. They just need to let

the joint membership secretary Leslie Rowland (e-mail – leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com) know their e-mail address. This will save the club some printing costs, but more importantly postage. Two members who share the same address will be only sent one copy of Seaxe News in future unless they specifically ask for two. This again will save the club money. Of course, the vast majority of members will receive printed copies of Seaxe News in the usual way.

One amusing moment at the meeting was the latest lottery draw when the treasurer said it was nice when the winning numbers belonged to the members present as happened at the Christmas lunch. The first number out of the hat was his own and a later prize went to Les Rowland! A full list of the draw winners appears later in Seaxe News.

**Alan Ashton**

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### LIVELY FORUM FOLLOWED AGM

This year's now traditional panel consisted of managing director cricket Angus Fraser, batting coach Mark Ramprakash and promising young player Ryan Higgins, *writes Elaine Knight*, with Seaxe president Alan Ashton in the chair.

Angus first of all outlined what had been happening during the winter with the training beginning soon after Christmas. All the players were fit apart from Gareth Berg having a "few niggles", but nothing serious and he was reasonably optimistic about a successful season. Chris Rogers was the first team captain and Eoin Morgan the "white ball" (limited overs) skipper. Dexter wanted to stand down and concentrate on his batting while Eoin had decided against joining the IPL.

Mark Ramprakash was also optimistic about the batting with plenty of hard work to get the best out of them. It was a real challenge with more expected of the more mature players – Denly, Malan, Dexter and Simpson.

Ryan Higgins recounted his experiences of playing for England's under 19s during the winter. He said there was a lot of pressure to do well and a few players were very nervous, but he himself had enjoyed the experience.

A questioner wanted to know if he would turn out like – Roland-Jones, whom Seaxe knew as a promising batsman, but now a bowler. Angus said to laughter – and there was plenty of that – to be a T. R-J., he would have to grow another 10 inches!

A questioner wanted to know who would get the runs after the openers and Mark outlined the difficulties players faced with playing in the two forms of the games. He pointed out that Hales had performed well for England in the one-dayers, but found it difficult last season to get into the Notts. county side – the

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difference between playing with the white ball and the red were tremendous. Whatever the training, it ultimately was down to them. Middlesex had always promoted youngsters and that policy would continue.

Former Seaxe chairman Jane Saxton said that Seaxe had always supported the Colts and this year she had seen a very promising six year old in action. What was the procedure for bringing youngsters on? Mark replied that it was much more structured these days and they were followed from a very early beginning. More and better training for the coaches was needed. In former days, it only started with under 13s, now there were under10s teams. The quality of coaching in the county had to improve.

After about an hour as the questions gradually dried up, the forum came to its natural conclusion with most of the members present, if not all, satisfied that the county club was in good and capable hands.

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### 1864 AND ALL THAT

*The Middlesex CCC web site has published a scorecard of Middlesex's first county match in June 1864. **Alan Ashton** has been taking a lighthearted look at the details.....*

It was played at the quaintly named Cattle Market ground in Islington (no remarks about cow shots please) and was scheduled to last three days, but was over in two, Middlesex winning by an innings and 52 runs.

Middlesex won the toss and batted. T Hearne at four and Cooper at five both scored exactly 50 with Cooper being run out. James Lillywhite junior took four wickets and two catches.

When Sussex went in, VE Walker took five wickets by the close when Sussex were in trouble at 91-6, the other wicket being a run out.

Next morning Walker polished off the tail, finishing with 9-63 off 40 four ball overs. The only other bowler used was T Hearne and Sussex were all out for 111. I wonder if either Messrs. James or Thoms, the umpires, did a little jig as a more recent one used to do whenever Nelson was on the scoreboard? Perhaps it wasn't an unlucky number in those days.

Following on Walker was again quickly among the wickets, dismissing one, two and three in the order, but this time round he had to share the final total with Hearne – five wickets each and again the only two bowlers used. Walker's match analysis was 14 for 111 (that figure again).

The Middlesex wicketkeeper incidentally was one EW Pooley (an ancestor perhaps of a more recent batsman?). He had five victims in the match – three stumpings and two catches.

Sussex, possibly starting a family tradition, had two Lillywhites playing – the other one was John Lillywhite who opened the batting in the first innings and made only three. He was relegated to six in the second innings and fared even worse, being bowled by Hearne for a duck.

An oddity about the Sussex batting order – in the second innings they opened with numbers ten and eleven from the first innings' order!

One other strange event noted on the scorecard. It says Sussex were allowed to field GF Browne as a substitute for H Stubberfield who “retired ill at dinner”. Obviously the catering was not up to the standard of Lord’s in the present day.

The move was of no help to Sussex as Browne scored a paltry 11 (stumped by Pooley) in the first innings and was out for a duck caught off Walker in the second. I wonder if Mr. Stubberfield recovered quickly – nothing to do with mad cow disease at the Cattle Market ground?

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### YOUNGSTERS HAD EXCITING FINALS

The Middlesex Colts Association indoor finals, supported once again by Seaxe, culminated in a wonderful & exciting weekend of cricket at a new venue, the Play On centre in Canary Wharf on the final weekend of March, *writes David Killick*.

This was a new format, spread over two days, with 6 clubs represented at each of the Under11, Under13 and Under15 levels, playing a new and exciting brand of indoor cricket that the youngsters obviously much enjoyed. For the first time 6 teams qualified for each of the age group finals, the 3 winners of each of their areas & the runners up. As only the Central & East Area teams had played

at the venue before, the clubs from the other areas were all invited to make use of the facilities the weekend prior and it seems that this really helped the clubs from other areas who took up the opportunity. Vice-President Jane Saxton and I were most impressed by the facilities as well as the considerable ability displayed by the young cricketers. We watched



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all of the Under 11 matches, with the final won by the Stoke Newington team (pictured on previous page). Their squad was Stan Greenleaf, Joe Kingsley-Smith, William Holden, Remy Mitchell, Adam Gordon-Boyle, Theo Bannister, Jameel Mulla, Lewis Walcott and Henry Sewell, with three of the team under 10 years old. Batting first they scored 84 before bowling out the holders of the trophy, Eastcote, to win by 18 runs. I took great pleasure in presenting the cup to the winners. This was the first Middlesex title in their young history as a club. Harrow St Mary secured 3rd place. Both Jane and I were particularly impressed by one member of the Harrow St Mary team who was under 7 years old. He looked a most talented and promising young cricketer. We shall watch his development with keen interest.

In the afternoon, Stoke Newington were again finalists, this time in the Under 13s competition, but on this occasion they had to settle with being the runners-up. They batted first and reached a total of 48. This proved to be not quite enough, as Lohana Cricket Club achieved this target in style to become the Under 13s Champions 2014. Osterley finished in 3rd place.

On the Sunday, teams from Eastcote, Harrow St Mary, Hornsey, North Middlesex, Osterley and Wembley competed in the Under 15 competition. After several close matches, Eastcote and Hornsey reached the final, with Eastcote recording a fine win by 6 runs, in an extremely close match, to retain the Len Smith's of Twickenham shield for a remarkable 10th consecutive year. Osterley again finished in 3rd place.

The revamped competition was considered a great success, with Seaxe receiving appreciation and thanks for our continued support from the officials of the Middlesex Colts Association and from the club coaches, players and their families, who were there in considerable numbers watching their children. The introduction of new teams, clubs and competitions at under 17 and Girls under 13 and over 13 levels are under discussion. There is potential for further growth in the future and I hope that Seaxe can continue to contribute.

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## MIDDLESEX MATTERS – THEN AND NOW

*The advent of a new Middlesex CCC publication, Middlesex Matters, first issue April 2014, gave **Alan Ashton** the excuse to wallow in a little nostalgia.....*

Neither of the joint editors realized that the title they had chosen, Middlesex Matters, was the original county newsletter which I had the privilege of editing from 1993 until its demise in November 1998 (17 editions – three a year similar to Seaxe News). It was replaced by first the Crusader and then the Panther.

I was surprised that neither Steve Fletcher nor Rebecca Hart knew they were resurrecting an old title, but chief executive Vinny Codrington wasn't. As he said to me – “they were seven at the time!” Probably not quite true, but you get his drift.

Of course, the two magazines are very different. The new one is glossy, lots of photographs (now known as images), adverts, and more than fifty pages compared with the old one of 16 pages.

The old one reported in its final edition on a disastrous season – second from bottom in the county championship (one division in those days); a “dismal” performance, as I described it, in the AXA league and early exits from the cup competitions. The only bright spot –with a picture on the front page – was a record first wicket stand of 372 at Southgate against Essex between the soon to be retired Mike Gatting and the overseas player Justin Langer.

There were calls for an extraordinary general meeting and the “heads” of the cricket committee chairman, Bob Gale, who was retiring from the post anyway and the coach John Buchanan, who went on to a successful career with the Australian Test side. No wonder the captain, Mark Ramprakash described it as a stressful season and the secretary, Vinny Codrington, (no chief executive back then), wrote that his first season in office felt like ten!

There was some good news in that edition – for instance, the new membership committee chairman, Chris Lowe, after the sudden death of Ivan Alter, reported that women would be allowed into the pavilion for the first time. The bad news was that their subscription would now be the same as for the men.

Seaxe had a column of its own and the chairman, Isidore Rynhold, said the club was optimistic about the future – with membership up and the lottery doing well.

There was no farewell as the Crusader had not yet been thought of and of course, this old newsletter doesn't bear comparison with its slick, handsome namesake, but it also had another good feature – it was mailed free to all Middlesex members while the new one costs £2.50p and £3 to non members. Please try it if you haven't already done so and then tell us what you think.

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### FANCY THAT

Making his first class debut at Lord's (against Nottinghamshire), Rossington's first scoring shot was a six. We scoured the record books, but think this was a first by a debutant. Unfortunately he was out a few balls later, adding only a further two.

The Warwickshire wicketkeeper Ambrose scored 167 for his team against Middlesex. This was the same as the Middlesex total in their first innings on the previous day.

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### TREASURER IN THE (LOTTERY) MONEY

After the first four months of the year, the lottery was making good progress. There are a number of our magnificent supporters who normally pay by cheque or cash who have not yet sent in their payments for the year and there are a few standing orders that trickle in over the next few months. Perhaps if you are someone who has not paid you would kindly forward a cheque. I have put my address below.

Using our recently acquired new counters, we held the first draw of the year at the Annual General Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Lord's. It is somewhat embarrassing to record that your treasurer was among the winners:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize.	Ticket No 180 – Peter Jackson	£80
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize.	Ticket No 219 – Tom Slack	£60
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize.	Ticket No 108 – Ian Murray	£50
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize.	Ticket No 4 – Les Rowland	£40

There are 246 numbers issued and once again I would like to thank everyone for their fabulous support.

#### **GENERAL FUNDS:**

Early in the year we made a significant donation of £7,000 to assist in the funding of Middlesex Disability Cricket. A condition of our contribution was that we received a quarterly progress report to enable us to ensure that the Seaxe Club funds were being used effectively. It appears to have got off to a good start with six clubs involved.

Subscription income is lower than we might have wished as there would appear to be a number of our members who have chosen not to renew this year. We are working hard to replace those members. We have `invested` in the prizes, engraving and awards and it was a pity that the awards evening had to be postponed due to the Underground strike, but hopefully a report and pictures were still in time for this issue.

We produce monthly income and expenditure reports and balance sheets that show our financial position continues to be sound.

**Peter Jackson**

*Lottery Administrator and Treasurer*

(E-Mail: [pejj@btinternet.com](mailto:pejj@btinternet.com))

*Lanesend, The Lagger,*

*Chalfont St Giles,*

*Buckinghamshire, HP8 4DG*

## SEAXE TRIPS NEED SUPPORT

This season's coach programme consists of two visits to Royal London 50 overs matches. The first is to Cardiff on a Saturday and the second is a day/night game at Hove on a Friday (details below).

To ensure these trips go ahead, we do need more support from members. The trips are run as a facility for members to visit other grounds and support the team when they away from home. The Seaxe committee are more than willing to provide this service, but not at the cost to club funds as a subsidy because of poor support. In short, we need more Seaxe members and friends to fill the coaches.

Later in the year, we are planning our usual social programme. This will begin in November and include the 10<sup>th</sup> Seaxe Christmas lunch. There will also be a social in January and another in February. Apart from the Christmas lunch, if you have a preferred venue for the others, please let us know.

Coach details – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July to Cardiff, cost £24 depart Lord's 0745

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August to Hove, cost £21, depart Lord's 1230.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Lunch.

Metropolitan Bar, Baker Street, above underground station.

Menu and details later in the year.

For booking and more information: Steve Baldwin, 07956-439807 (m).

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## THREE CHEERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

To... **Angus Fraser** on being appointed an England selector,  
**Andrew Strauss** on joining the Middlesex executive board.  
**Chris Rogers** selected as one of Wisden's cricketers of the year.

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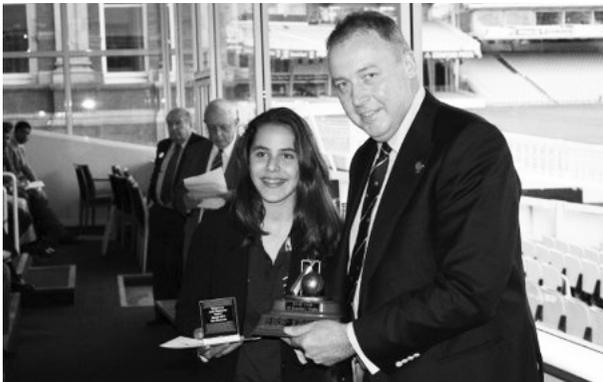
## DATES FOR THE DIARY.

Please note that there will be NO Seaxe Box on July 31st (v Surrey) and on August 22nd (v Indian tourists).

August 31st - Seaxe Box party.

October 14th – Seaxe members' lunch in the committee dining room, Pavilion, Lord's. see enclosed leaflet.

SPECIAL FIRST AT AWARDS EVENING



*Maia Bouchier receives her John Piddington all rounder award from Angus Fraser for her outstanding performances for Middlesex under 15 girls while Seaxe chairman, David Killick and president Alan Ashton look on.*

A tube strike led to a late postponement of the awards evening from its original date until after play on Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup>. We apologise to those who didn't receive either the postponement or the new date. A full list of the now seven winners (Jack Robertson award for top scorer is the new trophy) was given in the spring edition of Seaxe News, but the night was an historic occasion as among the winners was Maia Bouchier – the first girl to be honoured in this way. She received her award as did the other six from managing director cricket, Angus Fraser.

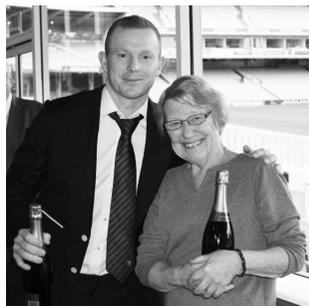
Sam Robson was voted player of the year by Seaxe members and received his trophy while the second eleven player of the year, Adam Rossington, was selected by Middlesex coach Richard Johnson.

Bottles of champagne – including a magnum to Ollie Rayner for his 15 wickets at the Oval last season



*Sam Rossington receives his second eleven player of the year trophy from Seaxe chairman, David Killick.*

– were presented to various players for their achievements during last season and the start of this by the chairman, David Killick, who hosted the evening, Jane Saxton, life vice-president and myself, Alan Ashton as president.



*Jane Saxton presents the Middlesex skipper with his two bottles of champagne.*

Jane Saxton, when presenting Neil Dexter with his champagne, also included a Middlesex bib for the new baby in his family, Holly.

Tim Murtagh, who was awarded two bottles from last season, next day had a six wicket haul in the defeat of Warwickshire and so qualified for another bottle, I am afraid he has to wait until next year to receive it!



*The young achievers with their trophies from the left are – Abdullah Nazir (Lillee bowling ); Nikhil Rawal (Rynhold wicketkeeping); Don Manuwelge (Norris young player of the year); Robbie White (top scorer with Robertson bat); Maia Bouchier (Piddington all rounder); Thilan Walallawita Davis spin bowler); Max Holden (Newton shield batting). photograph: Elaine Knight*

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### **A REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS.....**

*If you think you can help your Seaxe club in any way, i.e.stewarding at out grounds, helping at tea time in the box, please make yourselves known to any of the committee as your help will be much appreciated.*

*Any articles , letters or even comments about Middlesex, Seaxe, cricket in general are always welcome for inclusion in the next issue of Seaxe News. Send your contributions to the editor by post to 186, Stansted road, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2AR or e-mail – as an attachment if possible – to [alan422ashton@btinternet.com](mailto:alan422ashton@btinternet.com). Contributions are accepted from non members, but anonymous articles are not acceptable. The views expressed in the news are not necessarily the views of the Seaxe club or its officials or committee.*

*If you prefer to receive Seaxe News and other information by e-mail, please let Les Rowland, joint membership secretary know, His e-mail is [leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com](mailto:leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com) Your e-mail address is also useful if we want to get a message out quickly to members.*

*Other enquiries about membership should go to the other joint membership secretary, Barbara Buxton, 117, Robin Way, Chelmsford, CM2 8AU.*

*The secretary of the Seaxe Club for other matters is Elaine Knight, 319, Bath Road, Cippenham, Slough, SL1 5PR. The e-mail for both Elaine and Barbara can also go to [inquiries@seaxeclub.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@seaxeclub.co.uk)*

*Finally, keep your eye on the Seaxe web site - [wwwseaxeclub.co.uk](http://wwwseaxeclub.co.uk).*

THE DOUBLE CENTURY PARTNERS



*Robson on his way against Nottinghamshire to Middlesex's first century of the season.*



*Morgan with a typical aggressive shot during the partnership which put on 203, Morgan making 85.*

*Photographs by: Allan Love*