



SEAXE NEWS

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Summer 2015

NEW CHAIRMAN AT THE HELM



David Killick with Mike O'Farrell

It was a rather poignant AGM for the Seaxe Club in the Middlesex Room at the end of March, *writes Alan Ashton*, as we said good-bye to our retiring chairman David Killick, but then welcomed his successor, Mike O'Farrell.

David, the club's former treasurer, took up the mantle left by the almost impossible to follow Jane Saxton, but said he would do it for three years – and those three years were up.

In his last address, he spoke of his pride in serving Seaxe in both posts and how much he had enjoyed the special Seaxe lunch to celebrate Middlesex CCC's 150th anniversary in the committee dining room at Lord's last October. Later in the meeting he expressed his thanks to all the committee, mentioning them individually and describing his old friend Geoff Norris as being a true legend at Middlesex.

The new chairman, Mike O'Farrell, when it was his turn to speak, also mentioned Geoff Norris who had persuaded him several years ago to join the Middlesex finance committee. (He is now treasurer of the county club),

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He had played for Stanmore and the Middlesex's seconds and had seen the grassroots support evolve and develop over the years. He was pleased that Seaxe played a part in this, quietly and unobtrusively, seeing those they had helped going on to better things, such as Max Holden who had opened the batting for the England under 17s in Pakistan and was now with the under 19s in Australia. In a lighter moment, he assured members he had never worked for Barclays! (Messrs Norris, Killick and Jackson are all past employees).

Earlier in the meeting, Peter Jackson in his financial report said the finances remained sound and he thanked Richard Goatley for his auditing of the accounts at a time when he was busy with his Middlesex responsibilities.

Seaxe drew some reserves for the £7,000 for the Disability Cricket initiative, the balance sheet reducing to £17,828.

He went into detail about subscriptions being up slightly, donations of £1,522 and the £582 raised by teas etc in the box at Lord's.

In view of the healthy state, it wasn't thought necessary to increase subscriptions this year.

The following were elected unopposed: president: Alan Ashton; vice presidents: Mike Brearley; Geoff Norris; Charles Robins; Isidore and Dorothy Rynhold and Jane Saxton.

The officers of the club were then elected:

Chairman: Mike O'Farrell

Treasurer: Peter Jackson

Secretary: Elaine Knight

Coach organiser: Steve Baldwin

Members of the committee: Barbara Buxton; Anne Craig; John Mackie; Geoff Norris and Les Rowland.

The meeting was followed by the usual forum. A report on this appears later in Seaxe News.

SEAXE PAST AND ITS FUTURE

*Seaxe new chairman **Mike O'Farrell** outlines his first thoughts on Seaxe and the part he intends to play in it*

When I was asked to take on the role of chairman of Seaxe, my mind went back to an AGM that I attended where various members were quite forthright in their questions about the club, its relationship with the county and the "office", and what the future held for Seaxe. I immediately felt that members of any group that cared so much about this great game were kindred spirits.

It is clear to me that the commitment made, particularly to young players, is something that should be nurtured and perhaps even expanded and wearing my other hat as treasurer of Middlesex CCC, it is certainly something that I see as an integral part of our collective long-term investment. As I have started to learn about the detailed involvement that many of you have in the cricket throughout the county and the recognition you give young players, I have come to realise just how much the county game is dependent upon the willingness of volunteers to give of their time at so many different levels.....perhaps not always recognised.

My goal in this role will be to try and understand the many different activities that engage Seaxe members in their continuous support of cricket in the county and to try to ensure that, where possible, the administrative side of the county also knows what is happening so that we can continue to work closely together for the common good and also create a wider appreciation of all that Seaxe members do.

I will also ensure that, as the Partnership Agreement with the MCC develops, the interests of the Seaxe Club will continue to be recognised and served, something which has already been flagged. To my mind, Seaxe is not just a supporters club which, as its objects state, is there "to foster the interest of the county club and its promotion of cricket within Middlesex"...it is also a group of people who seem to believe in the youth of the county and the value that cricket can bring to all. I will do all that I can to help support the achievements of these objects and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the season.

I try to attend most home games and do not usually lunch in the committee dining room so can be seen walking around the ground or be in the Middlesex Room at some stage during the day -as well, of course, as enjoying tea and cake in the Box ! I am happy to talk to anyone at any time and if you want to contact me and don't see me, my tel.nos are (h) 01494866443 and (m) 07711730673.

Let us hope for a good season of enjoyable and successful cricket. Regards, Mike.

LIVELY POST AGM FORUM

The now traditional and popular panel followed the April AGM in the Middlesex Room at Lords, *writes Elaine Knight*. It consisted of the strength and conditioning coach Andy Mitchell, seam bowler Tim Murtagh in his benefit year and promising young batsman Nick Gubbins. The panel was chaired by Seaxe president Alan Ashton.

Andy Mitchell, who graduated at Loughbrough, worked at Derby County FC for a time before deciding football wasn't for him and joined Somerset before coming to Middlesex. He explained that his job was to keep the players from the Academy

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upwards as fit as possible and prevent injuries. By making players more agile, their fielding would improve and they would make that vital catch and avoid being run out when taking a quick single.

Tim Murtagh explained how disappointed he was not to take part in Ireland's world cup campaign because of the injury to his foot. To laughter, he said his aim for the season was to keep away from Andy's treatment room.

Nick Gubbins said, after finishing his degree at Leeds, he had spent his winter up north training with the MCC youth and was playing for them later that week. He was looking forward to the season with Middlesex.

Answering a question about cold baths, the coach said he would never force players to have them – Tim didn't mind while Harris objected, but he is Welsh (laughter). Things had changed remarkably in the past five years. The players are much fitter and playing days lost through injuries had come down from 700 to 300.

The panel members were a bit reticent on whether they welcomed Kevin Pietersen back to the domestic game although it was good for the second division. Nick Gubbins said he had never met Pietersen, but he had been his hero when he was younger.

On the question of a slow over rate affecting points, Murtagh's view was that Finn and Roland-Jones should not be played in the same team with no spinner to restore the over rate. There were times when Middlesex needed to speed up. It was admitted that Middlesex's one day game had not been good enough. In later answers, Nick Gubbins said he wore the Middlesex colours with pride, especially as he was a Middlesex boy. On the question of Gareth Berg being "let go" – that was a decision agreed by both parties after Middlesex had consulted medical opinion.

The session ended with all the panel suggesting their sporting heroes who ranged from Brian Statham to "Freddy" Flintoff, Strauss, Curtley Ambrose and even Martin Bicknell who Murtagh said had had a great influence on his career.

CRICKET WITHOUT THE BOYZONE

With the necessary support, Seaxe will be running one coach this season, *writes Steve Baldwin*. This will be to the Ageas Bowl for the Royal London Cup match against Hampshire on Saturday August 1st. The start of the match is 10.30 and the coach will leave Lord's from the Grace Gates at 8am. The tickets are £25 and can be purchased from me with my address and phone numbers below.

There will be minor complications as Hampshire have organised a "Boyzone" concert after the match. "Cricket match only" tickets will be available to Middlesex members for £11.

The date for the 11th Seaxe Christmas lunch has been confirmed – Sunday December 13th. After talks with the Metropolitan Bar management, they have assured us that the presentation and service will be at the previous high standard before the “blip” last Christmas. We are now happy to continue the annual event at the usual venue with the usual format and timings.

The Argyll Arms has now been refurbished and, although some may say the work has not improved the establishment, it is certainly still suitable for our winter socials.

If members have any alternative ideas about socials, please let us know.

Steve Baldwin, 07956-439807(m) or 020 8965 2077 (H).

42, Old Oak Lane, London, NW10 6EJ

FANCY THAT

In the low scoring second innings in the Middlesex v Durham county game at Lord's, no batsman lasted more than 27 balls. Only three reached that figure – Dexter and Finn for Middlesex and Stoneman for Durham.

In the T20 match at Lord's v Kent in May, James Franklin twice in his four overs took two wickets in two successive balls, leaving him on possible hat tricks. Not to be out done, Kyle Abbott at Hove the next night also took two wickets in successive balls and repeated the feat during his four overs. Middlesex had big victories in both games.

In the Warwickshire first innings in the county championship match at Lord's, the ball hit the helmet which was behind the wicketkeeper. This “offence” cost Middlesex five extra runs as a penalty. Long standing supporters could not remember when this last happened to Middlesex. The best guess was “some years ago”.

And news of ex-Middlesex players doing well – Joe Denly with 117 not out led Kent to victory over Gloucestershire. It was his first championship century since 2012. Steve Crook, who scored his maiden hundred last year against his old team mates at Lord's, scored his second against Lancashire to “save” the match. His unbeaten 102 came in 95 balls and included a six and a dozen fours.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday August 1st - Coach trip to the Ageas Bowl London Cup match v Hampshire. Grace Gates, 8am.

Sunday 9th August - Seaxe Box party

Sunday December 13th – Seaxe Christmas lunch at the Metropolitan Bar, Baker Street tube station.

YOUNG WINNERS CAME FIRST

The format of the annual Seaxe awards evening in the Middlesex Room was changed, *writes Alan Ashton*, because the Seaxe player of the year, Toby Roland-Jones, had gone for an injection into his injured shoulder so he arrived later. He was eventually presented with his shield by the president of Middlesex CCC, Harry Latchman. He also received two bottles of champagne, presented by Jane Saxton, for his 12 wicket haul (6-55 and 6-50) in the home match last season against Northamptonshire. There were also 3 bottles of champagne for Tim Murtagh – 6-60 against Lancashire, 6-93 against Nottinghamshire and a total of 10-191 – five in each innings against Durham, all home fixtures.



Toby Roland-Jones with his player of the year shield and Harry Latchman, Middlesex CCC president, who presented it.

The other awards for last season – for Steve Finn, Chris Rogers and Neil Dexter – had already been presented.

The second eleven player of the year chosen by the head of youth cricket, Alan Coleman, was Ryan Higgins. He scored 1,121 runs in 24 innings at an average of 53.4. It included four centuries and seven 50s.

The evening had begun with a presentation of a gift from the Seaxe committee to the retired chairman of Seaxe, David Killick, for his sterling work for the club over the past seven years first as treasurer then as chairman.

The following awards were chosen by Alan Coleman assisted by other members of the coaching staff. They were presented by Steve Finn and Sam Robson.

Geoff Norris Award for most promising young player: Thilan Walallawita

Thilan's consistent performances with his left arm spin earned him a regular spot as lead spin bowler for both the Under 17s and Under 19s teams. He was selected for the Academy 2015. His commitment to cricket is truly outstanding. He attends up to four sessions a week at Finchley, training for 15 hours alongside his college course. All this is achieved through public transport which makes him thoroughly deserving of this award.

Jack Robertson Bat: Charlie Thurston

In only its second year for the highest youth score. Charlie recorded a phenomenal 224 not out against Yorkshire Under 19s as part of a partnership of

370 with Cameron Steel who made 170. It is a score which will probably not be beaten for a very long time.

David Newton Batting: Joe Cracknell

Joe scored 699 runs in his U14 season in a team which struggled for consistency. He made three centuries – two in one week at the U14 Taunton festival. He also continued to shine as a wicketkeeper.

John Piddington all rounder: Rahul Wijeratne

In a very successful season for the U15s, reaching the national final, Rahul stood out with both bat and ball. He scored 317 runs including a hundred in the national semi-final against Derbyshire. He also took 13 wickets and bowled with accuracy and consistency in the middle period of the 50 overs games. He lived in Sri Lanka until he was seven, but was introduced to Eastcote CC on his arrival in England and now plays in their first eleven.

Gerry Lillie Bowling: Ethan Bamber

Ethan consistently led the attack for the U15s where his performances led to him being called up for the U17s. His aggressive, hit the pitch hard mentality, makes him a handful to face for any young cricketer. He has been selected for the MCCC's emerging player programme 2015, a tier below the full Academy and quite a progression for a player in just two years.

Rynhold Family wicketkeeper/fielder award: Andrew Thomas

Andrew was again the stand out wicketkeeper in Middlesex youth cricket. He was a huge contributor to the U15s reaching the national final. He was chosen to represent England U17s in a winter series against Pakistan U17s despite being under 16. A wicketkeeper who scores runs is a major factor in this modern age cricket and Andrew was the highest run scorer at the U15 Bunbury Festival.

Richard Davis award: Josh De Caires

In most years it is usually the older players who record big scores in longer format matches. U12 Josh de Caires broke this tradition by making 155 not out against Northamptonshire U12s at Merchant Taylors' school. Not since Toby Roland-Jones (a former winner of the David Newton batting prize) has a player of this age recorded such a high score in a 40 over match.



Joe Cracknell proudly presents his David Newton shield, flanked by Steve Finn and Sam Robson, who presented him with it.

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Geoff Norris, Steve Finn, Norris award winner Thilan Walallawita and Sam Robson



The player of the year again with the champagne he won presented by Jane Saxton, Seaxe vice-president and former chairman.



All rounder winner, Rahul Wijeratne, with his John Piddington award.



The award winners and the Middlesex players at the end of the presentations in the Middlesex Room.

Photographs by Elaine Knight.

YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT

The lottery is progressing well once again this year. While we have lost a few key contributors who did not renew, it is good to report that a steady flow of new members has emerged to fill the gaps. We have 252 numbers issued and available for prizes.

We made the first draw of the year at the AGM. The first ticket drawn out for a prize of £80 turned out to be a discontinued number from someone who had not renewed (and I had overlooked removing it from the draw). However, I had to check my records which I did not have at the AGM and the first prize was subsequently redrawn at the awards evening, when all current participants had another chance to win that first prize. Carolyn Figgett was the winner and congratulations go to the full list of winners:

Carolyn Figgett	£80
Janet Smith	£60
Juan de La Fuente	£50
David Snaddon	£40

Thank you again for your support and good luck in the remaining 2015 draws to all participants.

Peter Jackson

Lottery administrator and treasurer

DISABILITY INCLUSION TRAINING

Middlesex Cricket had first delivery of the new ECB Disability Inclusion Training (DIT) course on Saturday 21st March at the Academy, *writes Khushali Patel, development officer.*

The course was open to all qualified Level 2 coaches who wanted to increase their knowledge and understanding of inclusive coaching practices. It was attended by 20 coaches from across the county, with a range of different backgrounds, coaching experiences and current roles within our game. A number of these coaches are involved with our developing disability sections and for those that were not, the course provided a great platform from which we could promote the programme and our partnership with the Seaxe Club.

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The first half of the course, which was more theoretical, took coaches through a journey of self-awareness and discovery. Information on impairment groups, the pathways that exist in disability cricket and Middlesex Disability Cricket programmes was provided to increase the group's knowledge of disability, following which there were opportunities for individuals to explore and challenge their own and their fellow coaches' perceptions and attitudes towards disability and inclusion. The second half of the course was practical and allowed coaches to have a go at the planning and implementation of inclusive coaching practices during given training scenarios, using the player-centred approach.

As attendees now go back into their coaching environments, whether that be in schools or clubs, we hope they feel the course has equipped them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to be able to provide quality inclusive cricket opportunities that will help to recruit & retain disabled young people at our Seaxe Junior Disability Sections.

PLAYERS AND TEAMS FOR THE FUTURE

*The MCA indoor finals, sponsored by Seaxe, took place in late March and **Jane Saxton** was there on behalf of your club*

The matches took place at the Play on Sports Centre indoor arena, Canary Wharf for the final time as the building is due to be demolished shortly. The venue will move to Whitechapel next year. The two days were organised by the MCA in particular Peter Holman whose son Luke is well known to Seaxe members.

The Under 11's started the first day's play, the group included Stoke Newington, Eastcote, North Middlesex and Stanmore. Eastcote were runners up which was very creditable as all their players were under 10, a team to watch! Stoke Newington were keen to retain the trophy after last year's win which was the club's first ever county title. They did this in style in their final game with excellent fielding, good team work and a sparkling display of batting from Ted Walker who scored 41 runs off 11 balls.

The Under 13's - taking part in this group were Stanmore, Stoke Newington, Winchmore Hill and Harrow St. Mary's. These matches started with a "light warm up" - stretching, fielding, batting and bowling drills; excitement was high! It was mainly due to their disciplined bowling that Stanmore won their first three games to be in the final against Stoke Newington. Because of a flurry of run outs Stanmore only managed to get 27 off their allocated twelve overs. Playing their strongest bowlers Stanmore managed to reduce their opponents to minus 9 after six overs. Eventually Stanmore won by 10 runs. It was a low scoring match but very exciting to watch!

The Under 15's - North Middlesex, Eastcote, Osterley and Finchley. This was an interesting session. Unusually, because of the scoring system, the teams playing

the third league game knew they would face each other in the final. Eastcote and North Middlesex had faced each other several times before since the under 11 stage; usually Eastcote won. Eastcote won the game comfortably. It looked as though the final would be a foregone conclusion. Whilst North Middlesex had a post match talk I made a tactful withdrawal and had a cup of tea! It certainly was a different team (same players) playing in the final beating Eastcote by 38 runs. Shortly before the finals Joe Cracknell broke his arm leaving North Middlesex without their skipper and highest scoring batsman. I was pleased to present Joe with the Most Valued Player for the entire competition. By the time of the Seaxe awards evening, Joe had had his plaster removed and was looking forward to playing cricket again.

The Under 17's - North Middlesex, Osterley, Stanmore, Tower Hamlets. North Middlesex won all their qualifying games and played Osterley. In the final Osterley got off to a flying start with some excellent pace bowling which reduced North Middlesex to a total - that seemed on paper - insufficient to win. However after really exciting play North Middlesex triumphed in the final overs; this was a good all round team effort.

I enjoyed watching this competition and presenting the cups, area shields and individual medals. Because of the wonderful spirit of the games it was impossible not to get really involved and in consequence my voice suffered! Speaking to the boys' parents, club coaches and managers it was evident that they were all grateful to Seaxe for us continuing to sponsor this winter competition which has enabled it to continue. "Now" - as one mother said - "it is time to wash out grass stains from trousers!" We wish the boys well in the summer when playing club and county cricket.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Adam Voges on becoming the oldest Test debutant to score a century. It happened on the second day of the first Test in the West Indies. He made an unbeaten 130 with 13 fours and one six to give Australia a first innings lead of 170. We wish him well – but not too well – in the Ashes series later this summer.

To Andrew Strauss on becoming director England cricket and commiserations to his predecessor Paul Downton. Both are honorary Seaxe members.

To Andrew West and Alvan Seth-Smith, two more Seaxe members, on being elected to the Middlesex Executive Board. Commiserations to two other Seaxe members, Simon Shepard and Keith Mein, who were also candidates.

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CRISIS IN THE BOX

As many members, particularly regulars in the Seaxe Box at Lord's, will know the long serving box organiser John Mackie is retiring at the end of the season. No one is irreplaceable, but after more than a decade in the post, John is as near as we – at Seaxe get – to it. He has been present on most days when Middlesex are playing at Lord's and we – the Seaxe committee – have been trying all season to find a replacement or replacements. His helpers and stand ins have included Jane Saxton, who also would like to spend less time in the Box, and we will probably have to have a series of helpers. Would you be willing to take on the job for at least some days during the season? Les Rowland has agreed to co-ordinate and draw up the list of volunteers for the rest of the season and particularly for 2016. His e-mail address is leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com. His phone numbers are: 01799-521192 and mobile – 07890-990059 in case you don't come across him in the box at Lord's.

PLEASE put your name (and dates for this year) forward if you possibly can. You will be shown show the ropes and guided through the procedures including meeting the Lord's stewards, who are all very willing and conscious of Seaxe needs.

Just another reminder – we are always pleased to hear from Seaxe members and any articles, letters or comments about Middlesex, Seaxe or cricket in general are always welcome for Seaxe News,. Send any contributions to the editor by post to 186, Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2AR or fax to 01279-652669 or – better still – e-mail as an attachment if possible to alan422ashton@btinternet.com. You don't have to be a Seaxe member to contribute.

Please note however, that anonymous articles will not be published and that opinions expressed in the news are not necessarily the views of the Seaxe Club or its officials and committee.

Any inquiries about membership should be addressed to Barbara Buxton, 1, Croft Court, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 6UQ e-mail: buxtonb@hotmail.com

If you would prefer to receive Seaxe News by e-mail rather than the printed version in the post, please send your e-mail address to our joint membership secretary, Les Rowland. His e-mail address is leslie.rowland@ntlworld.com He will also keep you in touch with upcoming events such as the AGM, Box party etc.

The secretary of the Seaxe Club for other matters is Elaine Knight, 319 Bath Road, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5PR. The e-mail for all of the above can also go to – inquiries@seaxeclub.co.uk

Finally, to know more about what is going on in the Seaxe Club, visit the web site www.seaxeclub.co.uk