



MIDDLESEX JUNIOR  
CRICKET ASSOCIATION

*President: Peter Lowrey Esq.*

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

The 2023 season saw a healthy increase in the number of fixtures that took place under the MJCA auspices – over 2,500 fixtures – very much a tribute to work being done in the clubs fostering the development of our young cricketers the county. Whilst the absolute vast majority of games were played in a good spirit unfortunately we are seeing a small increase of games where the conduct of adults, especially those spectating, leaves something to be desired.

I was reminded recently of a photo of a sign that did the rounds many years ago in grassroots rugby and I think it's contains a message (which I have tweaked) that we could all take on board

**“Please remember, these are kids. This is a game, the coaches and managers are volunteers; the umpires are human. This is not the Ashes”.**

It appears that some (and it is a few) adults lose sight of what really matters – fun and enjoyment. Yes, winning (and dealing with losing) is important but at a junior level it should be about fun and enjoyment, skill development and keeping participation levels high. We want our young players to fall in love with the game not fear a net session or not look forward to a match for fear of the consequences of a poor performance.

Whilst I've got the grumpy hat on something we are also experiencing is an increase in problems with matches where coaches/manager are either not aware of or not applying the rules and/or bring in their own variations which has led to an increase in disputes between officials and clubs – again not a great example to give our young players – please make sure that as many adults involved in junior cricket are aware of the rules/playing conditions.

Grumpy hat off and back to the positives of which there are many and far outnumber any 'local difficulties'. We are seeing great progress with the Girls Committee with an increase in number of teams entering our girls' competitions; increased number of matches across all competitions; strong finances; a hardworking and conscientious group of volunteers who serve on the Cricket and Executive Committees.

John Ventham after 16 years of service on MJCA main committees (and since 2017 as Chairman of the Cricket Committee) is stepping down at the AGM. John always ensured that the integrity and standing of MJCA would be held in the highest regard and I am very grateful for his contributions in moving the Cricket Committee forward and for his support during my time as Chairman. Also Hillary Jackson after over 20 wonderful years' service is stepping down as an Area Chair. As well as her Area responsibilities Hillary has acted as Secretary to the Cricket Committee a role she has carried out most diligently.

I am grateful to Peter Lowrey, our President, who continues to offer such wonderful support and encouragement; Simon Mollett, our Treasurer, who ensures that our accounts are in good order. We are also lucky to have Robert Tripp who continues to do great work with the



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website and the contributions from the Middlesex Cricket Participation Team who also provide support and guidance to all of our committees.

As we look forward to the coming weeks - hopefully the 2024 season will be a good one – plenty of sunshine and lots of cricket. I look forward to hearing stories of some wonderful cricketing exploits on the field but most importantly – children falling in love with the game.

Clifford Pile  
Chairman  
Middlesex Junior Cricket Association