

MJCA CRICKET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

In recent seasons, we have seen an expansion of both the number of teams entered by Clubs and the number of Leagues that MJCA has provided for these teams to play matches in. This reflected the upsurge of interest in cricket, and indeed in other sports, during the COVID pandemic. So, while we did not see any real change in the number of teams entered and leagues provided, it is encouraging that these levels were maintained in 2024. The positive trend in 2024 was that, despite the number of teams and leagues being broadly unchanged, we did see more matches played and fewer matches conceded. And this trend can be seen in both Boys and Girls cricket. So, for now at least, Junior Cricket in Middlesex continues to thrive.

The highlight of the 2024 outdoor season was Richmond's U13 Boys winning the U13 National Cup. Well done to Richmond – an outstanding performance!

In our own County wide outdoor competitions, Ealing were again the dominant Club and won the Victor Ludorum trophy as the Champion Junior club in Middlesex in 2024. Ealing won 2 Boys and 1 Girls County Cups and 2 Boys and 1 Girls County League Knockout Cups and also finished as runners up in 6 other County competitions. Other Boys County winners were O.M.T. (2), Richmond, Stanmore, Sunbury, Teddington and Wycombe House. And other Girls County winners were Highgate (2), Richmond (2), North London and Shepherd's Bush.

A full list of winners and runners up can be found on the MJCA website.

Thanks go to Bushy Park, Ealing, Highgate, North London, Old Camdenians, Sunbury and Teddington for hosting our County Finals and to Callum Millar of Middlesex Cricket for his work in organising umpires for our Boys County Finals.

The interest in our winter indoor leagues has grown dramatically in recent years with many more entries in both Boys and Girls competitions. In the season that is currently underway, we now have 38 Clubs entering 161 teams, which compares 21 teams entering 115 teams in 2023/24. We have now expanded to 3 sites to accommodate the number of matches that are being played.

In terms of the winners of the indoor competitions, Stanmore were again winners of Victor Ludorum trophy as the Champion Indoor Club in 2023/24, winning 4 of the 5 Boys competitions and also finishing runners up in 2 of the competitions. Richmond won the only Boys competition not won by Stanmore. The Girls' winners were Highgate (2), Ealing and Richmond.

The success of the indoor competitions is overwhelmingly due to the efforts and hard work of Peter Hollman, who we all thank for his valuable contribution. I should also mention the support he has received from Ashish Lakhani, who managed all the umpires and scoring and assisted Peter with the Indoor rules

Details of the indoor competitions can be found on the MJCA website.

We are continuing our planning for the 2025 Outdoor season.

Over recent months, we have reviewed our Outdoor Competition rules, in consultation with our Clubs, and the updated rules for the coming season will be published in the coming weeks.

In 2025, we are also introducing new U17 Boys competitions, merging our own existing competitions with the Middlesex Youth Cup, previously run by Middlesex Cricket. This will see new Premier League and Championship League competitions, each with knockout stages on a County wide basis once the Group stages have been completed. And we are also continuing with the U17 Chairman's Cup, which will also be organised on a County wide basis. The excellent number of entries from Clubs reflects the positive feedback received when our proposals were published for consultation. I would like to thank Raj Nath and Callum Millar at Middlesex Cricket for their assistance in developing and implementing the proposals for our new competitions.

And last, but very much not least, I would like to thank Clifford Pile and Peter Lowrey and all the members of the MJCA Cricket committee for all of their hard work and support over the past year. And I should pay tribute to my predecessor, John Ventham, who has continued to provide me with invaluable support, despite retiring at last year's AGM.

Finally, I wish all clubs an enjoyable season in 2025.

James Grigg
MJCA Cricket Committee Chairman