



MIDDLESEX JUNIOR
CRICKET ASSOCIATION

President: Peter Lowrey Esq.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

Junior Cricket in Middlesex continues to flourish with nearly 3,000 MJCA fixtures organised during the year. The Girls Committee, under Laura de Silva has managed an impressive growth in the number of girl's teams and matches in the last year and with record entries for the coming season all bodes well. Indoor Cricket under Peter Hollman continues to grow at pace and the fact that we now need 3 indoor centres to run all of the competitions shows tremendous growth in this vital area of our work i.e. keeping our young players thinking about cricket during the winter.

We saw a welcome reduction in the number of games where the conduct of adults, especially those spectating, left something to be desired and hopefully we can keep spreading the word - what really matters is that our young players enjoy themselves when playing cricket and whilst winning (and losing!!) are important in a players development it should really be about enjoying the game and developing skills – if we don't foster that feeling then participation levels will fall. With that in mind we are looking how MJCA clubs engage with their young players regarding feedback on training, matches etc. and would welcome any examples of best practice including use of technology to record satisfaction levels. Remember 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.

We have brought in a number of rules changes for the coming season and we have worked with Middlesex Cricket to merge our Under 17s competitions – please make sure your coaches/managers are aware of all of our rules/playing conditions and please stick to them. If we can also encourage parents to know the rules as well then hopefully the number of disputes will be kept to a minimum. There is nothing worse than seeing adults arguing in an aggressive or hostile manner, in front of children, about rules/playing conditions when all the players just want to do is to get on with the game.

After 11 years' service Simon Mollett is stepping down as MJCA Treasurer; Simon always conducted himself professionally in managing MJCA's finances and we benefited from his prudent advice on financial matters and reporting over the years including the annual preparation of the Trustees' Annual Report for the Charity Commissioners. We are grateful for Simon for working with Salin Talavdekar, our new Treasurer, during the last few months to ensure a smooth transition.

I would also like to pay tribute to James Grigg for his sterling work with the Cricket Committee in his first full year in the role – guiding us through a number of rules changes and as mentioned previously changes to our Under 17's competition.

Our President, Peter Lowrey continues to provide wonderful support and wise words to the Executive. Robert Tripp's work with the website and management reports ensures that we have as much up to date information on our activities as possible. Also many thanks to the MITC Participation team who continue to support all of our work.



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A big thank you to Ralph Mayer, who is stepping down this year, for his work chairing the South Area and for his contributions to the work of the Cricket Committee; as well as helping with the Rules sub-group Ralph has also supported the girls area especially in relation to fixture organisation.

So in summary we are seeing welcome growth in Girls and Indoor Cricket; an increase in the number of matches played during the summer; we continue to have a strong financial base and have a hardworking and conscientious group of volunteers who serve on the Cricket and Executive Committees.

However, we are not complacent and recognise that we always need 'fresh minds' to ensure that everything we do is always geared towards providing cricketing opportunities to as many of our young players as possible. We always look to widen that base and anyone who is interested supporting our work is encouraged to come forward; Lucas Janssen did just that last autumn and has settled in well supporting the MJCA Committees in his role of Secretary.

Hopefully the 2025 season will be a good one – plenty of sunshine and lots of cricket and I look forward to hearing stories of some wonderful cricketing exploits on the field.

Clifford Pile
Chairman
Middlesex Junior Cricket Association