

## ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



Unsurprisingly, there has been no cricket in Islip this last month. Looking at the 50 over World Cup results, one does wonder whether England would have been well advised to follow Islip's example and simply not play any games. The England squad is mature – perhaps now a little over ripe - and has failed to match Islip's heady mix of the youthful enthusiasm of a Will Goodfellow or a George Draper with the experience of septuagenarian Stan Nelson and of all in between.

England's World Cup track record does not compare well with previous seasons. But what of Islip? In '23, we played 17 games (two abandoned) while in '22 we played 21. Probably the only fair comparison is the season's averages. In 2022, Mike Henderson played 11 games and, with two not out innings, finished the season averaging a little over 72, an almost freakish outcome that was not likely to be repeated. Mike's 2023 season was a little less glorious but others stepped in to provide the extra runs. Ollie Black increased his average by just over 3 runs to 35.6, but whereas last year only Mike and Ollie had averages above 30, this year Ollie was joined by Tejas Anand and Ben Crawford.

When it came to bowling, it was Kevin Crawford, back to his metronomic best, who led the way with 22 wickets at an average of 11.9 and a best of four wickets for five runs, just ahead of Harry Brock who took 21 wickets at an average of 19.3. The return of Lee Price to the Islip side made an impact as well; 11 wickets at an average of 15.9. With Ben Crawford, Ryan Hambridge and Jack Launchbury also chipping in, not to mention contributions from William Goodfellow and Stan Nelson, the Islip bowling attack has more depth than in many past years. Increasingly, like England, we have a team of all-rounders. Unlike England, we have had another very strong winning season. Long may it continue.

As ever, we are preparing for the 2024 season and we welcome anyone who would like to get involved, whether as player, supporter, or just as a helper with day to day tasks for both junior and senior sides. For those who like to plan ahead, some notes for your diary: the first three games of the 2024 season will be played at Islip.

Sunday	14 Apr 24	Kempston	Home (1:30 PM)
Sunday	21 Apr 24	Isis	Home (1:30 PM)
Sunday	28 Apr 24	Chesterton	Home (2:00 PM)

For more information go to the website (<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/islipcricketclub> ) which has the 2023 results (thank you Rick Green) and will soon have the 2024 fixtures for the senior side, or email [islipcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:islipcricketclub@gmail.com).