

## ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



Fresh from the rigours of the annual dinner and AGM, and fortified by the arrival of the club's first Personalised Teamwear (as it is apparently described) for some years, this month saw the senior side's first outing of 2023. While the weather forecast was for a warm day on April 16<sup>th</sup>, for Islip grey skies were the order of the day. Most of the country enjoyed sunshine, but the weather radar showed a slow moving five mile wide strip of rain that lingered over Oxford and Islip, bringing a very English authenticity to the opening of the 2023 cricket season.

Ollie Black's first toss of the season went his way and Islip chose to bat first under a fine drizzle. Kevin Crawford's efforts at preparing a wicket and judicious use of our covers had produced a surprisingly playable if somewhat slow surface which was surrounded by a recently cut grassy outfield that put boundaries at a premium. It was a day for watchful batting and quick singles. Tejas Anand, in his LSE Cricket Club sweater, showed the way with a watchful display, partnered by 2022's player of the year Mike Henderson. Careful batting saw Islip to 27 without loss after 10 overs before Mike eventually lost patience and, claiming to be fed up with all the running, played a wild shot. 28-1. Tejas' fine innings ended in the 18<sup>th</sup> over when he edged to the 'keeper, his 26 (and the inning's top score) worth at least 50 on another day, leaving Islip on 40-2. The run rate then went up as Ollie Black (21) and Jamie Stothard (17) kept the scoreboard ticking over, taking Islip to 75-3 (29 overs). It fell to Lee Price to hit the first boundary of the innings with the last scoring shot of an aggressive 24 run ten over cameo. Lee departed with the Islip score on 117 and a few balls later the innings closed on 122-6.

Like most sports, cricket has been touched by technology. It will be some time before umpires at Islip start to wear bodycams, but at the first cricket tea of the year we were joined by the club's new card reader. Joining the cashless society has allowed the club to increase senior match fees from £10 to £12 without handling a large volume of pound coins. Mention of the reader brought a glint to William Goodfellow's eye and a claim that father David had spent most of the past 24 hours on familiarisation. It was a good investment of time which has propelled the club into a world of itemised statements and instant refunds.

Since the pandemic, cricket teas have been the exception rather than the rule, with the OCA yet to reintroduce teas at Saturday league games. Like the economy, post-pandemic appetites have not recovered fully and unconsumed sandwiches abound. Is it a form of long covid, or perhaps the diet and finely honed athleticism of the modern village cricket player that is the cause? Either way, Brian Deeley's influence is missed, not just on the pitch where he scored enormous numbers of runs and reportedly ran out more partners than any batsman in Islip's history, but also in the tea room where he kept the washing up simple by clearing pretty much every plate.

Kempsford's innings did not start well and never recovered. Opening bowlers George Draper and newly elected vice-captain Ryan Hambridge shared 2 wickets for 5 runs; 14 year old George, 2022 junior player of the year, finished his 4 over spell with figures of 1-6 while Ryan bowled 4 maidens in an 8 over spell, taking 2-14. Intensive pre-season preparation pike fishing in the Cherwell paid off for Lee Price (3-28) and Ben Crawford (1-12), both bowling off short run ups in the damp conditions. Will Goodfellow chipped in with 2-12 before Kevin Crawford (1-1) bowled 4 balls to finish the innings and see Islip home to a win by 38 runs.

The day after, and blessed by rather better weather, the junior scheme moved outdoors. Monday evening training sessions started on the 17th April at 6pm at Bletchington's ground. For more information about any of these and to join the junior cricket mailing list contact David Goodfellow, [davidgoodfell65@hotmail.com](mailto:davidgoodfell65@hotmail.com).

The senior side has three home games in May and there is plenty more cricket to come this year. As ever, all our fixtures are on Sundays – apart from a T20 on a Friday in June.

7th May	Enstone	Away (1:00 PM)
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Salix	Home (2:00 PM)
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Nomads	Home (2:00 PM)
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Appleton	Home (2.00 PM)
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Eynsham	Home (2:00 PM)

Do consider coming to join us as a spectator or, even if only for the occasional game, as a player. For more information go to the website (<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/islipcricketclub>) which has the full '23 fixtures, including the recently announced T20 on Friday June 23rd, or email [islipcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:islipcricketclub@gmail.com).