

## ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



At last, some cricket to report on. Our first game of 2022 was played on April 24<sup>th</sup> against Isis CC under sunny skies at Queens College ground, an idyllic setting. Things did not start well with David Goodfellow falling on 9, caught behind off opening bowler Nick Wyatt and perhaps distracted by a series of wides that preceded his dismissal. Happily for Islip, the score was 151-3 before Nick struck again, and Islip opener and debutant Jacob Adams was by then 79 not out, getting there through partnerships of 62 with Jamie Stothard (32) and 80 with Ben Crawford (23). With the score on 161 in the 31<sup>st</sup> over there was a brief mini-collapse, Jack Launchbury and Richard Dumbleton failing to trouble the scorer. A 10 run cameo from Kamran Ramzan took the score to 177-5 before he became the last of Nick's 3 clean bowled victims with Jacob 5 runs short of a maiden century. Former Islip CC player of the year Lee Price, now back in the village and making his first appearance for the cricket club for several years, came to the crease with 5 balls left. Lee hit the second ball to the boundary before a single put Jacob on strike with two balls to go. A boundary followed by a single saw Jacob home to a well-deserved not out century from the last ball of the innings, Islip's innings closing at 187-6 from 35 overs.

Lee Price and Kamran Ramzan opened the bowling for Islip and some athletic fielding had the Isis batsmen under pressure immediately. Lee's 5 overs went for just 8 runs, and Kamran took 1-14 in his 7 overs. After 10 overs, Isis were 20-1 and victory was very definitely in sight. The Isis run rate did improve with Jack Launchbury (6 overs, 0-40) and Ben Crawford (5 overs, 1-21) in the attack, but the ever economical Kevin Crawford (6 overs, 3-18) and Jacob Adams (6 overs, 2-32) saw Islip home to a win by 39 runs.

Having a functioning roller may make Islip's pitches a little less bumpy than they would otherwise be, but getting a team out early in the season when many of the younger members of the squad have exams on their minds is never easy; Team Secretary Ben Crawford has had a bumpy ride getting the team out for our early season matches. The Bank Holiday weekend made it all the harder as the post-pandemic appetite for travel saw both Islip and opponents Iffley Village struggle to raise a side. When the game was called off, we imagine that the inhabitants of the caravan at the Abingdon Vale CC ground whose window was shattered by a steeppling 6 in last year's game breathed a collective sigh of relief.

Normal service was resumed the following week when Oxenford visited us for Islip's first home game of the season. On a sunny day with the Terrace Bar open, Islip batted first. This week, it was Jack Launchbury's turn to dominate the batting figures with 72 not out in a total of 157-8, 37 of the runs coming from the last five overs.

Lee Price and Kevin Crawford opened Islip's bowling and after 4 overs Oxenford were 4-3, victims of some over optimistic running between the wickets and a stupendous slip catch off Kevin Crawford's bowling by Tony Launchbury, father of Jack. After 10 overs, Oxenford were 22-3 (Lee Price 0-11, Kevin Crawford 1-8). From there, the result was not in doubt and Oxenford were all out for 118 in the 33<sup>rd</sup> over (Ben Crawford 2-22, Jacob Adams 2-16).

With our equipment problems now behind us, our second home game of the season against Salix very nearly took place. It was only at 12.30 that our keenness to play was finally washed away by the weather and the game was called off.

It has been an encouraging month for junior cricket at our partner club Bletchington - the under 11s and under 13s, each with a healthy contingent of players with an Islip connection, remain unbeaten this season. The icing on the cake was a dramatic one wicket win over Bicester, played at Islip just as this edition went to press. Will Goodfellow and George Roper have won representative honours playing for state school teams Oxfordshire Bulls and Oxford MCC foundation and hope to both be playing some matches in the coming weeks for the Islip senior side (an even more elevated honour, surely).

Off the field, there has been progress too. Islip CC branded cricket clothes and accessories (including a club mug) are now available from a newly established online club store. Do take a look at <https://seriouscricket.co.uk/teamwear/stores/islip-cc/> or click the link on the club website. More locally, on the playing fields, we shall be working on renewing the village's cricket nets over the next few weeks. The parish council has kindly agreed to fund the replacement of the netting which has large holes in it and an order has been placed. We are also going to do some work on cleaning the surface. Apparently a sprinkling of washing powder left on the astroturf for a couple of weeks cleans it and kills the moss at the same time. What it will look like if and when it rains we have yet to discover.

There is plenty of cricket to come in June with four games in prospect:

5 <sup>th</sup> June	Osler CC	Home (2:00 PM)
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Middleton Stoney CC	Away (2:00 PM)
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Appleton CC	Home (2:00 PM)
27 <sup>th</sup> June	RUASCC	Home (2:00 PM)

Now that the season is underway, do come and join the club's supporters on the Village Hall terrace to enjoy the British summer and some frank assessments of the club's performance. Players (no previous experience required) and spectators alike are always welcome. For more information go to the website (<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/islipcricketclub>) or email [islipcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:islipcricketclub@gmail.com).