

ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



To some, cricket may seem a game over-burdened by ritual. The obsessive polishing of a small red ball, the periodic changing of ends by the bowlers, the manner in which statistics are pored over, and above all the dressing up in white before dispersing to all parts of the field for long periods of lone meditation (punctuated by occasional moments of activity to the sound of cries of “catch it”) combine to provide a spectacle which must to many seem more like an arcane Druidic ritual than a sport.

The Spring Solstice celebrations will bring crowds to Stonehenge on March 20th to greet the dawn at around 5.37 am. In Islip, the nearest the club gets to a comparable tribal gathering is the club’s AGM. To avoid a clash and with most members unlikely to contemplate getting up to see the dawn whatever the date, this year our Zoom-based get together took place on March 12th at the more reasonable time of 7pm and – we hope a propitious omen for the season ahead – ran without a hitch. Stan Nelson chaired the meeting masterfully, retrospectively electing Kevin Crawford as Clubman of the Year for 2019 by Presidential Decree and ensuring that the club’s officials were all re-elected. Harry Brock, top wicket taker in 2020, was the 2020 Player of the Year, scraping home ahead of top run-scorer Tejas Anand, while the Johnny Higgs Young Player of the Year Trophy went to Tejas’s younger brother Shreyas.

BOWLING	Appearances	Overs	Runs	Wickets	Econ	Average
Harry Brock	9	54.1	203	23	3.7	8.8
Jack Launchbury	9	56.0	160	16	2.9	10.0
Andy Epton	3	9.0	37	3	4.1	12.3
Ben Crawford	7	44.0	114	8	2.6	14.3
Shreyas Anand	6	29.1	100	7	3.4	14.3
Kevin Crawford	9	41.0	104	7	2.5	14.9

BATTING	Appearances	Innings	Not out	Runs	50s	Average
Tejas Anand	7	7	2	206	2	41.2
Faizaan Abbas	3	3	0	106	1	35.3
Shreyas Anand	6	5	2	91		30.3
Andy Epton	3	2	1	29		29.0
Ollie Black	4	4	0	75	1	18.8
Brian Deeley	5	5	0	71		14.2
Jack Launchbury	9	7	2	61		12.2
Ben Crawford	7	4	0	40		10.0
Harry Brock	9	6	0	56		9.3

The 2020 Clubman of the Year award went to Nigel Mason, stuck in a traffic jam on the M40 and unable to attend even a virtual meeting. A carefully prepared electronic voting system

was not needed; the verdict was unanimous, recognising Nigel's donations to the club over the years, his willingness to help out, his in-play one liners and – in April 2020 - the introduction of the virtual cricket tea which raised everyone's spirits in lockdown.



Nigel Mason, April 2020

Preparations are in hand for the season ahead, although the ECB has yet to issue formal guidance as it did when cricket restarted in 2020; there could be some last minute adjustment to arrangements. The club's equipment has been serviced and is ready to go. Particular thanks go to Leigh Rogers at Islip Motors who serviced, renovated and revived the club's ageing roller and refused to bill us for his work. Work on the ground will begin in the next few weeks, and there are even rumours that there will be some evening nets once the clocks go forward.

The juniors will start their season with a first coaching session at Bletchington CC on Monday April 19th at 5.30pm under the watchful eye of Harry Brock's cousin, Joe Thomas. Thereafter, sessions will be on Mondays but the start time may change as the nights get lighter – email islipcricketclub@gmail.com for more information. We are hoping to run two mixed sides – an under 11 team who will play matches on Sundays, and an under 13 side with mid-week games.

We are all looking forward to our first senior game on April 11th, the first of a series of away games before we first play at Islip on May 16th

Sunday	11th April	Kempsford	Away (1:30 PM)
Sunday	18th April	Enstone	Away (1:30 PM)
Sunday	25th April	Isis	Away (1:30 PM)
Sunday	2nd May	Iffley Village	Away (2:00 PM)

The full 2021 fixtures are on the club website at <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/islipcricketclub>. The club can be contacted via islipcricketclub@gmail.com. Do get in touch if you'd like to know more – we welcome players of all ages, abilities and experience – or if you'd just like to get involved.