

ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



It was on Tuesday April 10th that Islip CC saw its first white smoke of the season. While it signalled nothing as august as the end of the deliberations of the conclave of cardinals, it was met with just as much joy, as the club roller rumbled into life. Whatever else the repair work had achieved, it had changed the colour of the exhaust smoke.

Those readers who study these things will know that the conclave resorts to a mixture of potassium chlorate, lactose and a pine resin, also known as Greek pitch, to produce white smoke. Our joy at having managed to get the roller to start and at having changed the colour of the smoke without resorting to the use of chemical additives was short lived. The celebrations were cut short when after a little less than a minute the Village Hall fire alarm began to sound. It seems that allowing the roller engine to run inside the groundsman's hut for any length of time is not a good idea. After a number of phone calls and a few moments of consternation in the Village Shop, Phil Jackson appeared, announcing with a grin that the call out charge was £250 before vouchsafing that he would not be charging us on this occasion.

The roller has spent a good few weeks in intensive care, and we have our fingers crossed that it won't be going back there any time soon. Our thanks go to all of those who helped bring it back to life, and to those who offered to help. The journey back to the resumption of normal service was not smooth. When the magazine went to press a month or so ago, recommendations and some smart Companies House sleuthing by Nigel Mason had led us to Roy Newman who kindly said he would help us as soon as his workload allowed.

Then, unexpectedly, an Islip Info request for help that had been submitted some weeks earlier was sent out and advice and offers of help flooded in. One of these (via Antz Dandridge) came from Paul Barney, of the Barney family who owned the local quarry. Paul was able to come out the next day and made an impact immediately, working in shorts in freezing temperatures and systematically cleaning up the fuel system. Eventually, fitting a new fuel pump did the trick and, apart from the hit on the club's finances, all was well.

The club's thanks go to all of those who offered help and support, and our apologies go to all those whose offers we did not take up. Both are very much appreciated and we are now optimistic that the April 10th home game against Kempsford will be the only home game to be cancelled not by the weather but by recalcitrant machinery – roller stopped play, as it were.

It will be next month before we have any 2022 cricket to review in this column so for now we shall content ourselves with a few words about the club dinner, held in the Abingdon Arms on the evening of April 1st. When it came to awards for last season, the Crawford family dominated proceedings. Ollie Black was awarded Player of the Year for his 686 runs, nearly 24% of Islip's runs in 2021. Ben Crawford took Young Player of the Year for his performances with both bat and ball, while father (and vice-captain) Kevin was voted Clubman of the Year in recognition not only of his efforts on and off the field, but also of his commitment, the only team member to appear in all 24 of our games. In 2022, Kevin will

take on an additional role as the club's Social Secretary, taking over from Pete Desmond after 11 years in the job. Our thanks go to Pete for all his work.

As I write these notes, Team Secretary Ben Crawford is working on organising our first match of the season against Isis on April 24th. Here are our fixtures for the month of May:

1 st May	Iffley Village	Away (2:00 PM)
8 th May	Oxford	Home (2:00 PM)
15 th May	Salix	Home (2:00 PM)
22 nd May	Baldons	Away (2:00 PM)
29 th May	Nomads	Home (2:00 PM)

Some games have been rearranged to avoid playing at home on the weekend of the Big Bike Ride and to give us a home game on the Jubilee weekend. If there are any more changes the club website at www.pitchero.com/clubs/islipcricketclub will be updated with fixture information as soon as it is available.

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 or email islipcricketclub@gmail.com .