

## ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



Cricket has always been a ritualistic game. Why do we dress up in white to stand on a large expanse of grass and chase a small red ball around? I'm not sure that anyone really knows the answer to the question "why white?". Suggestions that it is because white is the best colour to wear in heat, or that white was worn because white materials were readily available in the 18th century seem lame and even the MCC's research team are a little vague on the subject, saying that "In the 18th-century cricketers would wear everyday clothing; short jackets, waistcoats and top hats. The colour white evolved with the evolution of professional cricket teams in the late 19th century, with the initial get-up consisting of a formal white shirt emblazoned with red polka dots, paired with a shirt and woollen cap.....It seems to have just evolved that way". With the wearing of both waistcoat and top hat now deprecated, perhaps something has been lost. Sunday afternoons in Islip could have looked very different.

Perhaps perversely, September is a month of renewal for cricket clubs across the land. Every year at the end of September cricket squares are torn to pieces, their battered surfaces replaced with a loam dressing and plenty of grass seed, and the cracks and craters brought about by the past season's deeds are removed, albeit in anticipation of their return the following year. But before that, the season must reach its conclusion.

Our last two games of the season were both at Islip and neither ended well. The club went into them with a W13 L6 record for the season, and plenty of optimism. Ibstone scratched for the second year in succession and the Oxford University Club's cricket side visited us on September 17<sup>th</sup>, winning the toss and batting first. Wickets and runs were initially hard to come by but 123 runs in the last 15 overs with 93 not out from their number 5 batsman Div saw OUCC's total reach 227-9 despite a late collapse. William Goodfellow, bowling late in the innings, returned a creditable 2-22 with opening bowlers Lee Price and Ben Crawford both going wicketless.

The Islip innings got off to a bad start and went downhill from there. After 10 overs the score stood at 66-7 and the innings ended in the 17<sup>th</sup> over with the score on 78, an innings of 35 from debutant Tom Lydford- Brace the only redeeming feature of a poor batting display.

So very much 1-0 to the University and on September 24<sup>th</sup> it was the turn of Oxford University Hospitals CC to visit Islip and try their luck. Once again Islip lost the toss and this time were invited to bat. At 25-2, things rather hung in the balance before 2 wickets fell with the score on 31 and the Islip innings never really recovered. Ollie Black (14), Mike Henderson (20) and Ben Crawford (15) all looked set but got out without making a big score and it was left to Ryan Hambridge, batting at number 10, to take the score to 120 in the 35<sup>th</sup> over with a swashbuckling 33 no. In reply, OUHCC struggled to 35-4 in their first 9 overs (Ben Crawford 3-31) before their number 5 and 6 made batting look easy, taking them to 124-4 and a win with an unbroken stand of 89.

So 13 games won, 8 games lost and traces of those last two defeats obliterated by Robbie Eason's work on the Islip square. If the weather and the rabbits are kind it will be ready for our first game of 2023, at home, on April 16<sup>th</sup> when Kempston will be the first visitors of the season. As our thoughts turn to the '23 season, do consider coming to join us, even if only for

the occasional game. For more information go to the website  
(<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/islipcricketclub> ) or email [islipcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:islipcricketclub@gmail.com).