

ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



The month of March each year sees the emergence from hibernation of Islip Cricket Club, this year, after Storm Darcy, something of a phoenix rising from the icicles. Along with most other social activities, the club's plans are in danger of being stifled at birth, smothered by the blanket of pandemic paralysis. Like everybody else, the cricketing fraternity is waiting for the first indications of what the 2021 season may hold and when it may start. By the time you read this, we may know a little more, but it seems more than likely that once we are again blessed with amateur cricket, it will be played against a backdrop of cries of "sanitise" every six overs. At the end of last season, we had hoped that things would by now have moved a little closer to some kind of new normal, perhaps a world in which the bar is open in the Village Hall and the use of a shared teapot is no longer proscribed, but that still looks some way off.

If what one club secretary recently referred to as "socially distracted cricket" starts on time, our first game of the season will be away at Kempsford on April 11th. 25 games later our season is scheduled to finish with a home game against Oxford University Hospitals CC on September 26th. Cricket should make a return to Islip with our first 2021 home game against Salix CC on May 16th, or perhaps the week before if our one vacant Sunday on the 9th is filled by a home game.

In March 2020, the first casualty of the Islip season was the AGM and dinner, due to take place on March 27th. A few brief discussions on the club's WhatsApp group served as a substitute for the AGM, but the dinner was abandoned. This year we have avoided having to cancel the dinner by simply not arranging it in the first place, but do hope that it can go ahead later in the year. Before that, there will be a digital AGM of some kind, and doubtless plenty of debate about last year's batting and bowling figures once they are published.

Youth cricket was also hit hard last year, but some cricket was possible once the season opened for business. Thanks in part to continued support from the Village Shop, this year the Bletchington-based scheme is raring to go just as soon as it is allowed. Outdoor coaching and practice sessions on a Monday evening are planned for April and the club will be running under-11 and under-13 sides as usual in the coming season with some games hosted at Islip. All new players - boys and girls - are very welcome, regardless of whether they have played cricket before. More details next month, by which time we hope to have firmer plans for the 2021 season.

This year's senior 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.