

## ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



Travelling to our first game of the season through snow and showers and an outside temperature of 6 degrees, we knew that it would be a difficult start to the season. An early season logistics failure meant that we had only 9 men, and after 12 overs we had just 26 runs on the board with our first four batsmen back in the pavilion. One of Kempsford's opening bowlers (Beachy) did all the damage, finishing his seven over spell with five Islip wickets for 17 runs. Amid all of this, Jack Launchbury (44) stood firm and when he was joined by Kevin Crawford (25), things improved. The Islip innings eventually closed on 131, not a bad early season total but Kempsford made short work of it, and won by eight wickets (Ludo Bennet-Jones 2-33).

In warmer weather (a heady 10 degrees), we headed to Enstone the following week. The team included two father and son pairings (later a third as Neil Brock appeared as substitute), with Sam and Shreyas Anand and Matt and Kaito Bremner. Matt was making his first ever appearance - not just for Islip, but on a cricket pitch – and Kaito turned out for Islip for the second time. After bowling just one ball off which Kempsford scored their winning runs the previous week, Kaito turned in the day's best bowling figures, taking three wickets for 49 in 6.4 overs, closely followed by Harry Brock with 3-52.

Enstone's innings started slowly, with Shreyas Anand bowling his seven overs for just 14 runs and having the misfortune to see your correspondent miss the simplest of catches. Both Shreyas and Jack Launchbury opened with maidens and after 10 overs, when the first wicket fell to a fine yorker from Kevin Crawford, Enstone were on 30.

It turned out that taking that first wicket was a huge mistake. The Enstone no 3, Chaminda, is a man who believes in hitting the ball very hard. After a few shots missed with an extra loud swishing sound, he set about his task with gusto, hitting the ball out of the ground as a matter of routine before retiring on 112 not out (nineteen boundaries including seven sixes), registering more than half of Enstone's total of 205-8.

So Islip were chasing a total higher than any that they made in 2020. It looked a tall order but positive batting by openers Shreyas Anand (25) and Harry Brock (23) took us to 58 before Harry was caught in the deep in the eighth over. Ollie Black had kept wicket impeccably, taking two catches and not conceding any byes, but it was not to be his day with the bat, out caught attempting a big hit. Shreyas and Kaito followed shortly afterwards and at 75-4 in the 14<sup>th</sup> over, things did not look rosy. That was when Sam Anand joined Jack Launchbury. The two of them added 44 runs in quick time before Sam was the first of three wickets to fall to Chaminda. Kevin Crawford kept Jack company for a while but three quick wickets took Islip to 152-8 with five overs to go. Sixes from both Jack and Neil Brock (kindly standing in for Rick Green who had left to deal with a family emergency) shifted the balance a little as the 31<sup>st</sup> over went for 17. Three overs to go, 30 needed, then the 9<sup>th</sup> wicket, 2.4 overs left, Jack Launchbury on 74 joined at the crease by your correspondent. Six off the over, nine off the next, six balls left and 15 needed, Jack on strike, now nine off three balls, then three off one and a hit towards the boundary, your correspondent turns and heads back to the bowler's end for the second run that will tie the match but, too late, the bails are off and he is a yard short. 204 all out chasing 205-8, Jack Launchbury 100 not out. What a fine game of cricket.

The excitement of the day was however tempered by some sad news. Mohammed Abbas, father of Faizaan, came to Islip with his son many times. Sadly, he died of Covid-19 a fortnight or so ago while visiting Pakistan with his son. Cricket was his passion. He will be greatly missed.

2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Iffley Village	Away
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Moreton	Away
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Salix	Home
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Ampney Crucis Nomads	Home
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Osler CC	Home
6 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Baldons	Away

Cricket – and a 2pm start to games - returns to Islip in May, by when we hope that temperatures will have risen a little. The full 2021 fixtures are on the club website at <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/islipcricketclub>. and the club can be contacted via [islipcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto: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.