

ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



There is something sad and a little forlorn about the sight of the Islip cricket square, newly scarified, sitting in the gloom waiting for seed to germinate in anticipation of the season to come. The marks of the 2023 season, now ended, remain, yet to be covered by 2024's green shoots which should be with us very soon.

We finish this season's reporting with our final two games. The first, a visit from Stone CC on a weekend tour from Hampshire, was a brief affair. Islip lost the toss and Stone chose to bat first. Rapidly reduced to 4-2 and 23-4, the decision did not seem to be paying off, but a mini-recovery to 48-5 gave the visitors some hope before, in the 20th over rain swept in at 77-7 to bring a premature end to the day's proceedings (Kieran Matthews 3-33, Harry Brock 2-6). The restaurant of the Red Lion beckoned, and our visitors were last seen giving their undivided attention to platefuls of curry.

The following week, the last match of the season was at home to Oxford University Hospitals CC. It was a chilly but dry day with a little sun, a good afternoon to end the season and a good game of cricket. Again Ollie Black had no luck with the coin toss and OUH invited Islip to bat first. When Harry Brock departed for 2 in the sixth over leaving Islip 12-1, things did not look good. Ollie Black joined Tejas Anand in the middle and by the end of the 15th over the score had moved on to 72-1. A single from the first ball of the next over took Tejas to his fifty but four balls later he was gone, out caught for 54. 77-2. With support from Ben Crawford (13) and Will Goodfellow, Ollie kept the scoreboard turning over until he fell for 64 from 53 balls in the 27th over. 145-5 and thirteen overs left. With wickets falling around him, Jack Launchbury set about the bowling, hitting 33 (30 in boundaries) before he was bowled, closing 10 man Islip's innings on 190-9 from 35.4 overs.

16 year old Kieran Matthews opened the bowling for Islip and struck with his sixth delivery, out caught behind by Tejas Anand. 1-1. After a tidy over from Ben Crawford from the other end it was Kieran's turn again; this time he bowled the other opener with his fifth ball. 6-2 (Kieran Matthews 2-2). After 7 overs, UOH had fought their way back to 33-2 before Ben Crawford broke through with a fine caught and bowled and a wicket maiden. With the score at 33-3 after 8 overs, things were tilting back Islip's way. When Kevin Crawford replaced Kieran, bowling in tandem with his son Ben, runs began to dry up for UOH. Ben finished with 1-16 from his 8 overs, while Kevin went for 20 runs for his 2 wickets. At the centre of UOH's effort was their no 4, Tapan Chowdhry who kept hope alive. Harry Brock and Jack Launchbury came into the attack and ran through the rest of the UOH batting; Harry bowled two batsmen and Jack one before Tapan was ninth out for 68, caught behind off Jack Launchbury (2-18), the only UOH batsman to get more than 8 runs. Harry took the last wicket (3-32 in 7.1 overs), again clean bowled, and the innings ended with UOH on 124.

So there we have it, in 2023 we played (or at least started) 17 games plus a T20. Of our Sunday games, we won nine and lost six with two drawn after rain intervened with Islip in a winning position. In 2022, we won 13 and lost 8. The big difference is in the number of cancellations, 7 this year against 3 in 2022, some because of the weather, some because one or other side could not raise a team. Above all, we have had another very strong winning season. Meanwhile, as ever, we start work to prepare for the 2024 season and we welcome

anyone who would like to get involved, whether as player, supporter, or just as a helper with day to day tasks for both junior and senior sides.

For more information go to the website (<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/islipcricketclub>) which has the 2023 results (thank you Rick Green) and will soon have the 2024 fixtures for the senior side, or email islipcricketclub@gmail.com.