

ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



Salix have been visiting Islip for over 20 years, and most of our games with them have been evenly balanced. This year, Salix batted first and after 9 overs were 36 without loss, though Ben Crawford was not in wholehearted agreement with the umpire's verdict on a couple of his lbw appeals. Islip's fielding was sharp and a run out broke the opening stand when Lee Price chased down a thick edge and his perfect throw came in just above the bails. Seven runs later, Ben's luck changed and Salix's number three was caught for a duck but Islip had to wait until the 20th over for another wicket to fall. With 13 overs left, Salix were 103-3, and with 5 to go, 135-4 before Ryan Hambridge (3-32) and Harry Brock (3-21) supported by some excellent catching brought Salix's inning to an unexpected early close on 161.

At 35-2 in the 7th over of Islip's reply, the result hung in the balance but a fine innings of 53 from Ben Bollig put Islip back on track. Ben's innings ended in the 20th over with Islip now 104-5 but aggressive hitting from Lee Price (31) took Islip to 140-7 with six overs left. Enter William Goodfellow who, with Jack Leach like focus on defence, batted for five overs without troubling the scorers, leaving Jack Launchbury (29 no) to see Islip home for a fourth win of the season.

The next two weeks were something of a low. Half term holidays and Oxfordshire junior cricket commitments meant that we were unable to put out a side and we had to call off home games against Nomads and Appleton. Normal service was resumed on June 4th, with Eynsham visiting Islip. The pitch, baked by the sun, was not easy to bat on and Islip's innings did not start well with Mike Henderson bowled by the first ball. A mini-recovery followed and after four overs Islip had reached 31-1, but this proved to be something of a false dawn. Eventually Islip fought their way to 89-6 in the 23rd over, helped by a stand between Kevin Crawford (16) and 14 year-old Frankie Weston who resolutely faced 29 balls for his two runs. Frankie's grandfather and former keeper of Islip's village shop Chris Busby was for many years President of Islip Cricket Club and would have been delighted by Frankie's contribution. The less said about the next two overs, the better. Four wickets fell in quick succession and Islip's innings closed on 91.

91 did not look like a winning total, but strange things happen in village cricket. Eynsham started slowly and Kevin Crawford made them work for their runs. Kevin bowled 5 maidens in his 8 over spell, finishing with 4-9, ably supported by Harry Brock (2-31) and soon Eynsham had lost 6 wickets for 24 runs. At 44-9, an Islip win looked on the cards but somehow Eynsham clawed their way back into the game, posting a one wicket win, Islip's first defeat of the season.

Our annual visit to the picture postcard ground at Middleton Stoney is always a pleasure, though we had yet to post a win in three visits. Our fourth match there started rather better than the previous three. Middleton Stoney chose to bat in what will probably be our only timed game of the season, a format in which there are no over limits or restrictions on bowlers, and the side batting second can choose to bat for a draw, facing a maximum of 20 overs after 6pm.

When Middleton Stoney's openers was run out going for a non-existent run and then Kevin Crawford's second over saw their number three batsman caught behind, things had started well. The home side fought back but Ben Crawford came back into the attack and shifted the momentum with 4 wickets for 10 runs in a 4 over burst, giving him overall figures of 5-23 from nine overs. Meanwhile, William Goodfellow (2-31) was bowling his off spin very tidily

from the other end and in his fifth over took two wickets, leaving Middleton Stoney all out for 126.

News of thunderstorms over Fringford seemed hard to believe, but as Islip went out to bat, the sky began to darken and Islip's innings became a race against time. Ryan Hambridge's wicket fell early for 10 but fellow opener Mike Henderson (37 no) got good support from Josh Stothard (21) and Ollie Black (22 no). As light rain began to fall, the game continued but after the first ball of the 14th over, the skies opened and the game ended with Islip on 102-2, 25 runs short of a winning score.

The month covered by this report did not end well. First came the news that two of our juniors discovered that somebody had pulled down the nets. It is not obvious why anyone would want to wantonly damage a popular public facility, but damage it they have. We shall do our best to get the nets repaired and back into action in the next few days. Then, late on Saturday came the news that Appleton could not raise a side and our game was off. If the squad members attending Harry Brock's birthday celebration in the Terrace Room were relieved to hear that they wouldn't have to set their alarm clocks, it certainly didn't show in their reaction.

Meanwhile junior cricket is flourishing. For more information and to join the junior cricket mailing list contact David Goodfellow, davidgoodfell65@hotmail.com.

The senior side does not play at home until the last weekend of July but there is plenty more cricket to come in August and September. As ever, all our fixtures are on Sundays.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 2 nd July | Ascott-u-Wychwood | Away (2:00 PM) |
| 9 th July | Baldons | Away (2:00 PM) |
| 16 th July | Blenheim | Away (1:00 PM) |
| 23 rd July | Chesterton | Away (2:00 PM) |
| 30 th July | Isis | Home (2:00 PM) |

Do consider coming to join us as a spectator or, even if only for the occasional game, as a player. For more information go to the website

(<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/islipcricketclub>) which has the full '23 fixtures or email islipcricketclub@gmail.com.