

# ISLIP CRICKET CLUB



## Wirf-einen-Ball-und-schlag-ihn-mit-einem-Schläger

Islip CCs period of masterly inactivity has continued throughout the month of May, punctuated only by occasional visits to the sacred turf where David (and William) Goodfellow's efforts with a rotary mower have kept the grass at bay. We are hoping that the club's aging Allett cylinder mower, carefully adjusted by Kevin Crawford, can now take over and, as well as cutting the grass, make a start on flattening out the myriad lumps and bumps that make one think that it is probably just as well that we are not trying to play cricket on the Islip square at present. Twenty years ago things were different and some readers may remember Steve Petty's article from the Parish Magazine of June 2000:

"After four weeks of postponements, mainly due to rain, the cricket season began well for Islip with a victory in the sunshine against Beckley.

Our limited pre-season training nearly cost us dear, however. Islip batted first, and at one stage the innings stood at 20 for 4, with even Deeley back in the pavilion; sulking rather than strutting after a disappointing 3 runs. This leaves him with another 4997 runs to get in order to achieve his personal target for the season.

Fortunately, Parry revived our fortunes with a typically attacking 45, and he was well supported by Captain Nelson. Nelson began his innings like a man being given a series of low-voltage electric shocks, but once he began to realise that his new glasses enabled him to actually see the ball for the first time in years, he began to assume rock-like stability. He went on to score 25 runs, and with a useful innings too from Mason and the newly-helmeted Kershaw, the innings eventually closed on 125.

The Beckley innings never really got going, thanks to tight bowling and wickets from Burrough and Parry. Butler and Fellows then continued the good work. When Captain Nelson spotted something of a recovery in our opponents' innings, he brought on Petty. You could almost hear the sound of all those Beckley hearts breaking. It was as if the Beckley transmitter had come crashing down on them as he ripped through the remainder of the batting, took a stunning caught and bowled, and finished with 3 wickets for 2 runs.

To confirm the freakish nature of the above bowling figures, a huge armada of balloons then descended on Islip, and the head of a huge Bertie Bassett could be seen shrinking slowly beyond the church tower."

As then, the cricketing world is still full of surprises. We have (until recently) lived in a world of daily international comparisons and have invoked the spirit of World War 2 to bolster morale when needed. May 8<sup>th</sup> brought with it, alongside reminiscences and poignant pictures of 75 years ago, a different kind of first. For the first time ever, Germany celebrated the end of WW2 in Europe. And now, hot on its heels, comes what must be another first. Cricket (or rather Kricket) is resuming in Germany. Could there be any stronger sign that the world has been turned upside down? Players for Germany's 370 teams are celebrating the announcement that they can return to practice, while here in England this week's statement

from the ECB says “all recreational cricket **remains suspended until further notice**“. Some German States may allow friendlies very soon, with the national competition pencilled in for next month. In the UK meanwhile we debate whether members of the same family can use a cricket net together.



The past has always been an essential part of cricket culture and never more so than now. In the UK we have been able to gorge ourselves on Sky repeats of cricket’s great moments, often repackaged to focus on an individual player in a “greatest hits”-type format and sometimes featuring bewilderingly unheralded switches of date, venue and competition after commercial breaks. Those capable of a longer attention span have been treated to reruns of commentary on all five days of some Ashes Tests. For added verisimilitude, some replays have in play alerts

just as they did when the game was actually played. Now, for those who would like to watch cricket but are not prepared to sit once again through the umpteenth rerun of Panesar and Anderson’s 2009 Cardiff heroics, help is at hand. There are plans to show live cricket from Germany on YouTube via the European Cricket Network.

However, it does sound as though not everything in German cricket will be familiar. Players must stand at least five metres apart, giving wicketkeepers some interesting new challenges, and the umpire must stand three metres back from the stumps. Glove sharing is out; CV-19 has sounded the death knell for the team kitbag. Any kind of socialising during or after the match is banned. While in England that would mean no sandwiches and cake, in Germany there will be no biriyani on offer. We hope it does not turn out to be first glimpse of the new normal, with its emphasis on function rather than celebration.



Islip’s cricket tea has continued (with one cancellation due to bad weather) but here too sandwiches and cake are off the menu with photos of cricket-themed mugs the latest trend. May’s “mug of the month” award goes to Nigel Mason.

Finally, the publication of the long awaited and audited official statistics for 2019 should not go unmentioned. They confirm that the stand-out contribution to the club’s on-field performances came from skipper Ollie Black. He made 18 appearances in Sunday games, a tally equalled only by Harry Brock, scoring 548 runs (including two 100s and two 50s), and finishing with an average of 39.14. Adeel Rehman followed close behind in the batting averages, scoring 333 runs in 11 appearances and averaging 37, but also topped the bowling averages with 23 wickets at a cost of 9.35 runs each. More of that next month but while video replays of Islip’s 2019 season are in short supply, at least we are now able to relive last season’s exploits through lively discussion of statistics and their significance.