

Captain's Report – AGM 2024

Joe Walter

It was a season of two halves. By the end of June we had won 10, lost 9 and the captain's dashboard was briefly in the green. But then came a catastrophic loss of form and a run of ten defeats in a row and only 2 wins in the whole of the second half of the season to put paid to any hopes of a successful season results wise. No doubt injuries to star batter Rich Stephenson and star bowler Nick Wyatt was a major factor, so I feel the team have been a little unlucky in this regard.

34 games were completed, with 12 wins and 22 defeats. The win % was 9% up on last season which is a positive. There was no difference in success rate between midweek and weekend games, both we won 6 and lost 11 of completed games.

Membership was healthy with 30 members, though several only made themselves available for very few games, all were given the opportunity for matches. It was never a problem getting full sides out and I did not have to disappoint players on many occasions. Welcome to new members Hugh Rees, Ravi Trundle and Tom Wells, and it was nice to see Seamus Gregan come back into the fold. However it was a shame to see some regulars of last season and previous seasons not appear much. Perhaps effort should be made to enquire about the reasons why?

Several matches stick in my mind as favorites this season:.

- A 116 run win in a timed game on a sunny day against Greys Green, with Roy Blatchford taking the final wicket with a couple of balls to spare has Isismen leaping with joy. A one run victory against
- Stoner on their beautiful ground with Abi making his first 50 for the club. A 10 wicket midweek thrashing of Appleton, with Isis near perfect in the field and William Wyatt bagging three wickets in no time.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognise some outstanding individual performances throughout the season:

- **Individual performances - batting**
 - There were 5 centuries scored and 14 50's
 - 2 hundreds from Rich Stephenson, one to set up the Greys Green victory
 - Maiden hundred from Jon Ponsford - lovely to see, against FFMCC
 - 1 hundred by Olly against Clapham Inn after a tough start to the season for him
 - 1 hundred by Luke Bowles against Astons
- **Individual performances - bowling**
 - There were no 5-fors this season and only one 4-for, Keith Whiter's effort in the season finale to nick the top bowling award from Nick Wyatt.
 - Special mention to William Wyatt, his progress as a bowler was pleasing, with some excellent spells in the Stoner and Appleton wins.

I have decided not to stand for captain again, to be honest I have found the number of defeats a little demoralising, though I do feel I have been fair in selection and ensuring wherever possible everyone gets a chance to participate on most occasions. I feel it's time for some fresh ideas, however I'll always be grateful to have had the opportunity to captain Isis cricket club.