

Isis Cricket Club – AGM 2012
Chairman's Report

It is an absolute honour for me to submit my first Chairman's report to the members. The 2012 season has certainly been an interesting one, albeit with a number of challenges and not all on the field of play. The bottom line though is that we played 34 enjoyable fixtures in a rain-affected season and recorded another winning campaign. Of that we can be proud.

As a club, we aspire to nothing more than to offer a hospitable environment to our members and guests, to enjoy the camaraderie of friendly sport and to give of our best on the field. As I reflect on the 2012 season I hope you agree that we have again succeeded on all of those fronts. And that, I think, is what makes Isis Cricket Club so special. That is why I have had a long association with this club. I am very proud of who we are, what we do and how we do it. It is people that make a club, and the other thing that makes Isis so special are the people within it.

So, let me firstly start by extending my thanks to everybody who has given something to the club this season, not only on the field but off it too. To those that have stepped up to umpire when asked, to those that have scored, to those that have pulled the covers off of the wicket or pushed them back on, to those that have given lifts to players who would otherwise not have been able to play, to all of you, I say thank you. And on behalf of the members, may I also in turn thank the outgoing committee for their efforts this season.

Special thanks go to Olly Walter, who this season steps down after three seasons in his second spell as captain. Olly has been a great figurehead for the club, and I hope and trust that he returns next season with a little less responsibility to make another hatful of runs. Thanks also to his brother Joe, who stepped in during the season to take on the majority of match fee administration. Thanks to Roy Blatchford for his generous sponsorship of pre-season nets. Thanks to Nick Hardy, who coordinated the order for shorts and caps. And very special thanks to all of the vice captains, who thanklessly worked tirelessly to raise sides, especially tough when so much rain spoiled arrangements, games were cancelled and teams had also to be let down again.

Not only the weather marred the 2012 season: we have also had administrative difficulties and our financial circumstances are not fully clear at the time of writing. On behalf of the club I am working through the bureaucracy with Lloyds TSB to gain both access to and control of the club's bank account. I am pleased to report that I have now obtained a current bank statement and have compiled an interim finance statement to the members for review later this evening.

From this experience we must learn some lessons. In the first instance we must take a more responsible approach to administering membership and recording appropriate personal details. I therefore recommend that for the 2013 season and onwards we use a simple membership form to record member details and reconfirm those details each year with every membership renewal. This administration, I think, should lie with the Secretary and records be kept with all other club correspondence. We should also ensure that the committee meet more regularly, and that we minute each meeting, to include a financial statement. If re-elected as Chairman I commit to put appropriate procedures in place to safeguard the Club's assets.

Keith Whiter – October 26th, 2012

In the meantime, I remain optimistic that our financial position is sound and that simple administrative procedures will prevent a recurrence of such an unfortunate situation.

I would, at this time, ask all members who wrote membership cheques in 2012 and that have not seen them cashed to resubmit your 2012 subscription fees to myself or the new treasurer so that we can reduce the inevitable deficit that we face this season. I can do no more than rely on your good faith and fair play to honour your subscriptions for the year in these unusual and difficult circumstances. I promise that your original cheques will be destroyed if we are able to recover them.

To end on what I hope is a more positive note I want to share a little philosophy and my aspirations for Isis Cricket Club. I often use my association with sport in my business life, especially when motivating colleagues to high performance. The context I give is how a team is nothing more than a diverse set of talents, skills and abilities which complement each other, brought together to succeed. A team's aim is to be successful, to do the very best they can to achieve their goals, with everybody playing their part, learning from mistakes, and continually improving as they take on the next challenge. When all the parts work together well, then the team is capable of achieving feats which might otherwise seem unobtainable. In 2012 our win rate for the season was 62% of matches finished. In 2013 it was 54%. My challenge to the new captain and the club in 2013 is to achieve a 67% or better win rate. To achieve that we will need to be consistent, both in terms of making ourselves available regularly and in the way we play the game. And above all we must remain a team, both on and off the playing field.

Thank you for making my first season as Chairman so enjoyable, and with your support I very much look forward to taking the chair for a further term of office.

Kind Regards,

Keith Whiter