

# Isis Cricket Club

## Chair's Report - 2024 Season

### Chair's Report Isis AGM, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

It is easy to focus on statistics these days. All around us we are bombarded by numbers that are meant to make things clearer but actually only serve to distract. It is the interpretation of these numbers that is important. After all, do I believe in expected goals scored or Alan Shearer stating clearly that 'he should score there' anytime anyone is vaguely near the goalposts.

The numbers: Lost 22 won 12 (35% win ratio). By the end of July it was won 10 lost 9 (52%). And we were victorious in the last game of the season. Interpretation: If you close your eyes through August and early September - what a wonderful and successful season. So, let's just do that from now on. Every time we have a run of defeats we just close our eyes, think of warm sun on green fields and wait for it to end.

Numbers can prove anything if the analysis is correct. For example, season 2022/23 - Lost 21 won 8 (27% win ratio). We wanted improvement and we certainly accomplished it. We managed an 8% increase in wins this year. Some may say that is insignificant but, to put that in perspective, if I was 8% taller I would be 6 feet two and if Alex had taken 8% more wickets he would still have taken 1 wicket. Interpretation: What a successful season for the club and what a short-arse I am.

I do, however, want to focus on something else. The club itself. If I really want to know what Isis CC stands for then I refer you to the club day in July.

We raised £1500 towards MNDA and the My Name's Doddie Foundation on behalf of Luke Hames-Brown. More than that the event embodied what the club is about. Players, families, ex-players, hangers-on all came together.

That Sunday we spent eight hours playing an assortment of ludicrous games, eating and drinking to excess and engaging in endless waffle. The gods smiled down on us. The sun shone. So many people turned up to support the event. There were games, food, drinks, a raffle, and something resembling a game of cricket broke out. There were matches for the young, old, those new to the game and those who should be able to perform better after so many years of playing.

What do we want our cricket club to be? A bit of escapism once or twice a week? Yet another thing to be consumed? A £5 direct debit because cash no longer exists? Or can it be something more? Can it bring people together, give us a stake in something larger? You don't have to be an Isis member or even like cricket very much to recognise this is a view of sport that is important.

This club relies on everyone doing their bit. In any one year some do more than others. This year a special mention to a few people: to Nick Wyatt and family for organising the fixtures and all the arrangements; to Keith Ponsford for organising the golf, sorting trophies, contacting past members, managing the safeguarding and the many other extras that he does; to Keith Whiter for looking after the club accounts, collecting subs, organising insurance, keeping the web-site in order, regularly writing biased match reports and keeping everyone on their toes; to Alex Beavan, household for all the correspondence, putting together agendas, sorting minutes and doing most of the day to day jobs that we generate through the year. And doing it at the last minute with such good-natured unflappability.

Most of all though, thanks to everyone who has helped in so many ways. To Harry, Rich and Keith for stepping in as vice captains. To Ravi for the Fantasy League, despite my team living up to their

nickname of The Shit. To Jakey and Jon for all their work on the committee (organising an awards venue when you weren't even going to be there, for example). And to all of you, the club members, for the things you do to make the club a success. I think back to that charity day as an example of who and what we are as a club. Without nagging, so many of you helped set up, clear up, remove rubbish, carry chairs, make cakes (and in Rich's case many cakes), donate prizes and the hundreds of other bits that made the day what it was. If I haven't mentioned you specifically I apologise. If I didn't mention the part you played in the club this year, I apologise. Hopefully, you know you are appreciated.

I do also want to say a special thank you to our outgoing captain I am sorry he can't make the AGM tonight.

He has obviously thought hard about the captaincy for the coming season before deciding to hand over the reins. I think Joe's time in charge has been a great success. Results haven't been as good as he might have wanted but that has been in no small part due to the flux at the club. Joe was able to manage the arrival of a large number of new faces, deal with the real challenges of picking teams fairly and keeping everyone engaged especially when there were often 14 or 15 available for every game. The fact that we have a thriving club with a much younger profile is down, in no small part to Joe's captaincy.

I do hope he thinks of his time as captain as one of wonderful achievement. To have dealt with the loss in the availability of a number of regular players and the integration of so many new faces to the club took a huge amount of hard work and planning. There are many here tonight who are already an important part of the club that Joe has helped to nurture. Thank you, Joe.

Allan East