

Avorians Cricket Club

Ground Report for season 2004/5

The cricket square continued to provide good wickets throughout the summer of 2004 however the end of season league wicket used for the first XI league match against Guildford has proved difficult to get to recover fully.

This was due to the fact that the match was played on what was basically an unplayably wet surface. However continued spiking and seeding has seen considerable improvement over the past few weeks.

The square has in general terms recovered well from the rigours of 2004 and continues to improve in quality.

Grass coverage is full and the general root zones are deep and well established.

This has however been a difficult Autumn/Winter to manage the square in terms of controlling Fusarium Patch, Dollar Spot and Snowy Mould and Anthracnose caused by the unusually warm and wet conditions.

I was fortunate to secure a Pedestrian Power Sprayer, which has been invaluable in allowing both preventative and reactive spraying on the square in order to control these fungi.

The use of this sprayer is ongoing and will be utilised also to control weed infestation and moss growth within the Cricket Square.

Continued spiking and slitting throughout the close season continues but it must be said that no amount of work will increase the pace in the wickets as this is dictated by the sand base on which the square was built.

The square will unfortunately remain only of moderate pace.

The use of the recently purchased germination sheets has also benefited the re growth of the square, which did not undergo full autumnisation.

I am confident that the square will provide even better wickets in the season 2005 than in 2004.

The outfield continues to take considerable efforts to improve and this is endemic of the fact that the soil is basically sand and has little or no organic matter in its structure.

This means that the grass has no natural source of goodness unlike clay base loam.

It therefore needs help by spreading chemical fertilizers, which I continue to apply.

“The Hill” on the outfield is the biggest difficulty due to the speed that it dries out and extensive spiking and seeding throughout the close season now sees that area fully grassed.

This is the first time in my memory that this has been achieved.

All in all the outfield shows vast improvement on 2004 and with the Rabbit and Crow population being controlled will hopefully provide the best fielding surface possible.

I wish the First XI the best of luck in trying to get back to the Premier Division and hopefully the Second XI may also get promoted in 2005!

John Lane-Groundsman

5th January 2005