

Groundsmans Report for season 2005

Well another season has drawn to an end and the Groundo gets older and grumpier with each passing year.

He nearly got exceedingly grumpy when the 2nd X1 nearly got relegated but Bells men nobbled the Pyrford players in the last game.

Well done to both Andy and DJ in keeping their respective X1s in their leagues in what can only be said to be a trying run in to the end of the season.

Through the assistance of the hard working committee the ground has continued to flourish so much so that even the Groundo is "Happy" with it.

Some of you may be aware that we purchased another second hand roller towards the end of the season, this one is almost twice the weight of our existing one. (It therefore does not need Arms to sit on it to raise its optimum weight!)

Since the end of the season all Autumnising work and reseeding has taken place and the square is almost fully grassed.

I have also undertaken to construct a second square consisting of three wickets for the exclusive use of our Colts Academy. This is located between the existing square and the pavilion giving a better vantage point for parents. (It's also closer to the bar for their refreshments!)

This square is well grown and will be an additional benefit to the Colts.

Work continues throughout the winter months slitting and spiking the square to assist with root development.

The outfield has been sprayed for moss and weed prevention and the spiking on the "Hill"(The ground not Benny) continues to give good results and this is being backed up by fertilization. (That could be Benny).

I have acquired another set of "Gang" mowers, which hopefully will allow the cuts on the outfield to be in straight lines, so enhancing the outfield appearance!

Throughout the year the wickets have provided a good true surface albeit slightly on the slow side. Hopefully the incidence of high bounce experienced this year will have been eradicated by the extensive spiking.

The equipment still poses a problem because all of it is very old and a really big investment is needed to replace the worn out mowers and scarifier.

All in all however I believe I have achieved what I set out to do to make the Avorians the best ground in the league. (Groundos biased opinion!)

Lets all look forward with optimism to the 2006 season and give Andy Bell support in trying to recruit younger talented cricketers to the club.

John Lane-Groundsman (Aging rapidly)