

The Cobham Avorians Cricket Club

Groundsmans Report for season 2006

Well another season has drawn to a close and what a memorable one it was with the 1st XI gaining promotion back to the Premier League and the 2nd XI winning Division 3.

My congratulations to captains, players, committee, supporters and Andy Bell the cricket chairman for the 2006 achievements.

I would like to think that in some small way that I also contributed to that success by providing consistent wickets on which they could perform successfully.

The wickets have been of consistent bounce and pace throughout the year albeit that they still remain on the slow side.

I managed to eliminate the steeping bounce that was experienced on some occasions last season at the far end of the ground and hopefully we have seen the end of such vagaries.

The wickets were all autumnised at the end of the season and at the time of writing this report I am glad to say that the square has almost fully grown in.

The purchase during the season of a micro spiker has assisted greatly not only to the wicket repairs but has enabled pre match spiking to non-playing areas. This in times of wet conditions has allowed otherwise unplayable games to go ahead.

The club however needs to continue a purchase plan for the coming seasons to replace old and worn out equipment to allow further wicket improvement.

I am also beginning to become “worn out” and we need to identify someone to become my assistant to learn the “ropes” and take over from me in the next couple of seasons.

The outfield has provided a good fielding surface throughout the season and although it burnt off in the summer has recovered fully as good root systems exist.

The whole outfield has been spiked to assist with further “cross hatching” and will be in good shape by 2007.

The colts square has also been autumnised and has regrown well and will no doubt provide good playing surfaces for the under 11s.

All other older colts’ games will be accommodated on the main square in 2007.

Moss control of the whole ground will be undertaken by spraying with soluble iron in March 2007.

The wicket covers have had the jackets and wheels removed however we need to consider whether the club can fund the purchase of a triple sheet for better wicket coverage.

All in all I believe we can look forward to good consistent wickets for 2007 and “COME ON YOU AVOS”.

John Lane-Groundsman (Still “Grumpy)