

Cobham Avorians Cricket Club  
Groundsmans Report 2007

*What a dreadful summer the 2007 season heaped upon us  
overworked Groundsman!*

*This was particularly difficult with wet slow and sometimes  
unpredictable wickets which despite meticulous preparation were  
changed dramatically by the prevalent wet weather.*

*One wicket in particular when the 1<sup>st</sup> XI played Guildford at home  
was an absolute nightmare to prepare at was even worse to play  
on!*

*Unfortunately our great British weather had the last say in a lot of  
league games and the toss was always very crucial. History now  
tells us that our 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain was not very successful in that  
department.*

*This meant the boys were usually fighting a rearguard action and  
all the more credit for maintaining our Premier Division status  
especially having lost 23 points for playing an unregistered player!*

*That having been said there was a lot to get excited about and the  
2008 season will be greatly anticipated.*

*Hopefully with kinder weather and the prospect of having all  
weather netting facilities installed at the ground before the start of  
the season the future looks bright.*

*A special mention of Darren Talbot's efforts in trying to secure  
funding for the nets.*

*Well done Darren!*

*Also a special mention for the Colts Academy who have been ably mustered and administered by an ever enthusiastic Darren Talbot and Peter Worth.*

*This takes me to my wish list for 2008 and first on the list is a cry to get rid of our old cumbersome covers to be replaced by a triple flat sheet.*

*To compliment this there needs to be an additional purchase of a Water Hog to remove latent water prior to the sheet being removed.*

*The advent of all weather practice facilities will also greatly reduce the need for non stop production of practice wickets on the square although quite clearly early season they will still be needed.*

*It will also allow flexibility for seniors and Colts alike to carry out necessary practices and coaching sessions when use of the square is restricted by adverse weather.*

*I will repeat the need to replace some of the older equipment including a wicket mower, square mower, scarifier and deep spiker in the immediate future as like the groundo they are all past their sell by date.*

*That's all the bad news the good news is that the square is well grown and the outfield continues to prosper from heavy spiking, scarifying and littimising.*

*There is now deep well established good quality rye grasses on the square which will provide consistent wickets throughout 2008.*

*A Spiking and spraying programme is ongoing to compliment this good growth and I believe I can honestly say ours is one of the best grounds in the Championship.*

*With improvements planned for the internal decoration of the clubhouse and the ever growing Colts Academy there is a lot to look forward to for the season 2008.*

*No doubt additions to the playing strength will become a reality and I hope the playing conditions assist in attracting new members.*

*John Lane-Grumpier Groundo  
6<sup>th</sup> November 2007*