**Groundsman’s Report**

**As with this year we had a lot of rain pre season and we wondered if we were ever going to start pre season rolling. When we eventually did ~ Thanks to the support of Mike we managed to get the square ready in time.**

**Thanks also to TJ for cleaning the Artificial Wicket and to Pagey for sorting out the bumps in the matting ~ which we have every year.**

**Fawley Parish repaired the outfield (minus football pitch) its not cheap to do each year.**

**After the rain (which disappeared the second week of May) we ended up having a drought. The square dried out too quickly (unavoidable) and cracks appeared on every wicket.**

**Yes I was concerned ~ so on the off chance emailed Karl McDermott Head Groundsman at Lords who ive met when he was Head Groundsman at The Rose Bowl. I never thought he’d reply but 20 minutes later he did.**

**His most crucial advise was to keep more grass on our playing wickets. By doing this you won’t put the grass under stress in the heat so we started cutting the wickets at 8mm instead of 4mm which John Carrington and the Overseas approved of. ‘Don’t be put off by green wickets Karl said’. July’s rain then helped the cracks disappear.**

**With several scores of 250-300 I was pleased with how the wickets played. QE2 the wickets remain decent and with all the colts now playing ~ they are safe. The problem at QE2 is the wickets stay uncovered so you think you’ve prepared a very good wicket then Friday it pours down with rain.**

**Covers wouldn’t last 2 weeks up there unfortunately.**

**With the two older colts sides ending up playing on grass, cup competitions and the Slam games ~ it does put a lot of strain on our small square. (and the groundsman ~ more so the amount of repairs)**

**I thought i would be ok letting the seniors train on grass but we just damage the square too much and it’s more to repair.**

**For 5 years now we have borrowed a Dennis Mower from work.**

**Half way through the season we sent it to Hampshire Garden Machinery for a service. They took it apart and said it has a problem and wouldn’t see the season out. We asked them to put it back together ~ we collected and managed to use it for the rest of the season.**

**However we don’t think it will see out 2024 so I have been raising grants to purchase a new mower. I need £3990 for a middle of the range mower that will last 10 plus years if looked after.**

**We currently have £1400 raised. Hoping for another £1000 this week but still someway short.**

**Biggest frustration for me is players wanting to use the net on a Friday Afternoon when you have the whole square to get ready for the weekend (4 hours work).**

**Also Match days ~ Bowlers warming up on the square**

**At the end of this season we will need to get the square verti drained.**

**Hasn’t been done for 3 years.**

**Before Cricket can get underway at Hythe this season ~ Jobs to do**

**The square needs it’s 40 hours rolling.**

**Need to seed under and around netting**

**The batting ends and bare patches need over seeding.**

**Blow remaining leaves off the outfield**

**Scarify the square**

**Repair the damage to the outfield at the bottom end.**

**Artificial needs cleaning and stretched.**

**Let’s hope the rain stops**