

Grounds Report 2024 Season

Last Season a total of 56 matches were played on grass wickets at Jones Lane ~ with another 7 prepared but rained off.

10 were played on the two ends (Colts Wickets) leaving 50 matches played on the other 7.

My concern with the 17s playing at Hythe as well it could take us to near 7 games per pitch when ideally 5 is the norm.

Spring was wet last year and we didn't start rolling til the 23rd March which was late. However with the help of Mike we were able to roll every 2 days in 3 and get it done.

The square was helped by being fertilized every 8 weeks and Hampshire Groundstaff came down early April to give it a boost and weed kill.

May the square looked really good then it got hit by a Meadow Weed Grass (thick weed stems that the mower wouldn't cut) however we were able to treat it. July we again had cracks appear on the wickets which is where the square dries out too quickly. Also tells me we are not getting enough water on the square.

Something i need to rectify this year. How !! difficult when Wednesday is the only evening with nothing on.

I was advised by Tom Cowley (Hampshire's Assistant Head Groundsman) to keep grass on my wickets to aid them from cracking. He also said it would aid our fast bowlers. Example when we were in the SPL I was cutting them at 5mm last season at 9mm.

I had two first team opponents make comments about it. Funny though that those games Burridge & Tichbourne Prk we dominated.

The high scores weren't really there from previous seasons but that's as much the teams performance as the pitches.

The outfield we repaired ourselves early season. Thanks to the Froggett's, Steve Taylor and Jonjo ~ Great help. It was very hard work not something I would recommend. (Doing it yourselves)

IF we get the outfield done by a company this year it would need to be done before the Easter Holidays when the park will be packed with kids.

I would suggest next year we get the square verti drained where by it is spiked to a foot down. This will help drainage. Not been done for 3 years and probably a reason why we don't drain so well. The outfield should really be done but we would need a council grant for that.

Friday Afternoons til at least 4pm must be no nets so that the grounds team can prepare for the weekend.

We need to encourage bowlers to use bowlers marks and not scratch the buggery out of the grass.

Same with wicket keepers standing up. They scratch the buggery out of the grass behind the stumps. 2 foots from the stumps.

Thanks to the Prentices for all their support over the winter keeping the net upright and collecting over 30 ton bags of leaves.

Sunday Cricket

Well done to Fraser in his first season as Captain. Reports from the opposition were good even though we didn't do teas. Over 90% of games were enjoyed. We lost two fixtures by being too strong on the day.

Friendly fixtures and Sunday Cricket is really dying and Its hard to find fixtures. Teams don't want to travel (like us) so where I use to complete the Fixture Calendar by end of December nowadays we are still looking for fixtures now.

A lot of this is there's less touring sides than 10 years ago.

So it's just 11 Weeks til the first games at Jones Lane ~ Loads to do and think about.

