

RLTCC Grounds Maintenance report for 2019 AGM

As we have done for the last eight years we continue with the Soil and Turf Institute's recommended plan for the grassed areas of our grounds. The contractor carries out work we cannot do ourselves such as Verticutting, weed killing which requires a professional licence, deep spiking and other specialised jobs.

Last year because of financial uncertainty, wetting agent was not applied as frequently as would have been ideal and along with the very dry prolonged spell, the lawns suffered badly. We will be doing some extra work in March to help to rectify some poor areas by further seeding and top dressing.

Jan Collins once again provided a lovely display with her work on the flower beds and pots, making changes throughout the year.

Our Toro mower which has served us well for many years was requiring frequent repair and a decision was made in conjunction with the groundsman and the Croquet committee, to replace it. After researching a number of different makes and suppliers we came to the conclusion that we would stay with Toro and their Island agents, particularly as they offered the best price. The old machine will be kept as a back up and we have therefore sold the Atco mower.

Our "Adopt a Job" request was most successful and we now have member volunteers who will keep the car park clean, water the tubs, and weed and edge the paths and along the sides of the tennis courts. The car park is already being cleaned and during March this group will get together to see what else is required.

At the end of October, John and Lesley Ball organised a final clear up and bonfire on ground adjacent to the Clockhouse ready for the winter.

Further work on cutting back vegetation and overhanging trees throughout the grounds was carried out by Steve Simmonds, the groundsman with the help of John Sim at the end of December. Left over items from constructing the Clockhouse and paved area, such as aggregate, timber and general debris, have now been cleared away and anything that will be of use in the future has been stored behind the fence of Roma House where we now keep our stockpile.

We were fortunate that Andrew Sheppard had some excess turf which he gave to us and this has been used to enlarge the grassed area beside the Clocktower which has made a vast improvement. I anticipate that we will now be able to mow this grass to further improve its condition.

I am planning to use some of the old surplus sand from the refurbishment of tennis courts 4, 5 and 6 to level and extend this grassed area into the undergrowth.

As usual I would like to thank our volunteers who do so much unrecognised back ground work on the grounds and also our Groundsman Steve who works reliably and flexibly during the year.

John Sim

Maintenance Chair

February 2019