

## R.L.T.C.C. Grounds Maintenance Report for 2021 AGM

Notwithstanding this year's unusual circumstances, we have managed to achieve some notable changes and continued with regular essential maintenance.

Our thanks to all our merry volunteers who have helped with weeding, sweeping, refurbishing, unloading and general clearing up and shifting about. Particular thanks to Jan and Simon.

The fence to the southern boundary and hedging to the lawns have been admired by many and I believe will enhance the club for many years. We continue our programme of refurbishment which currently involves stripping, renewing and painting the "heritage" green benches.

Due to a number of factors the lawns this year have not been up to their usual standard.

The combination of a series of very wet winters, dry periods and financial constraints exacerbated by the uncertainty regarding the COVID 19 situation in the Spring, have meant that the lawns have deteriorated this year. Irrigation was not carried out sufficiently in the dry hot Spring in 2020 and the lawns have never fully recovered. The lack of irrigation was due to the uncertainty at the time of the club's financial position, but this has had an effect on the lawns. Successive wet winters have also affected the ability of the grass to recover.

A reduced maintenance regime was carried out during the year and due to the continuing uncertainty the maintenance regime planned for this year has again had to be considerably scaled back. It is hoped that by concentrating on the basics and any necessary irrigation that the position can at least be stabilised and if hopefully finances permit, additional works can be carried out during this coming year.

Most of the above comments can be similarly applied to the two lawn tennis courts. Due to the uncertainty regarding the conversion of the grass courts to all weather, it was decided to try to improve the quality of the courts, but for all the previous reasons there has been little progress to date.

If we wish to maximise all efforts in improving the lawns/tennis courts we may need to look to volunteers to assist in some of the work to keep costs down and increase the scope of works that can be undertaken.

The machinery we have is now being serviced on a regular basis and we have replaced the Echo rotary mower due to damage it suffered. This mower is used on the grass banks and the grassed areas to the north of the tennis courts. The second Torro mower has had its engine repaired and all equipment has been serviced.