

Good for the Rec?

YOUR report entitled Sports clubs set to take control of Victoria Rec (October 11), was of particular interest to me. Having moved away from Reading 20 years ago my parents keep me up to date with periodic newsclippings.

Along with many of the lads in Tilehurst who grew up in the 50s and 60s, many hours were spent at Victoria Rec playing football and cricket.

Having visited the rec once or twice during the past year I was rather amazed at the deterioration in the condition of both the football and cricket pitches and also dismayed at seeing youngsters vandalising the sports pavilion in broad daylight unchallenged by any authority.

The Victoria Rec used to be the pride of the town with the ground maintenance second to none. The park-keepers in those days, Messrs Robbins and Stephens if I remember correctly, were constantly chasing us lads away to prevent us damaging the pitches. Although they proved unpopular at times it did ensure that the playing surfaces were kept at a good standard.

It seems that now very little supervision or care is afforded to the facilities and it is little wonder that plans are being put forward by the various clubs who after all want good facilities. I hope that they are successful!

I can, however, also sympathise with the sentiments expressed by Janet Bond in a recent edition. One hopes that improving the facilities will be a benefit to all, for what is and should be a first class amenity to the area.

NIGEL BONE.

Address supplied.