



Hampshire Cricket Board

Association of Cricket Groundsmen

Newsletter No 1 - August 2012

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for joining our newly-formed Association. We hope that the following information will be helpful to you.

1. End of Season work and HCB Bulk Buying Group

As usual prices have been agreed with BHGS Ltd and Surrey Loams Ltd for clubs to purchase loam, seed and fertiliser at advantageous prices. The details are on the HCB and League websites – www.hampshirecb.com, <http://www.hantscl.co.uk>, <http://www.southernpremierleague.com>.

The terrible weather we have suffered this year may have changed your plans for the end of season work on the square. Firstly your club may be suffering financial problems as a result of the wholesale cancellation of matches, while outgoings remain more or less the same; funds may therefore be short for your normal level of supplies, particularly loam for top-dressing.

On the other hand you may not have used all of the pitches on your square, and as a result the build-up of thatch and algae on the square may have increased. It's also worth bearing in mind the possible effect of heavy rainfall on any areas of the square that may have received major renovations at the end of last season and did not have time to settle, so creating low areas on the playing surface that will have to be addressed at the end of the season.

Other effects of the rain may be that nutrients have been washed out and will need to be replaced, and lack of root growth, thinning of grass coverage and an increase in weeds.

Advice from our County and Regional Pitch Advisers is that it is worth remembering that it can take one year to create problems for the future, so if funds are limited this year the minimum renovation should be:

- thoroughly scarify the entire square, with *extra attention to unused pitches*
- over seed and fertilise the entire square.
- repair worn pitch ends and restore levels
- top dress using one of the following methods (if funds allow):

- a) apply a light dressing of your normal cricket loam (3 x 20/25kg bags per pitch) to repair, level and bed in the seed.
- b) apply a full dressing of your normal cricket loam using 8 x 20/25kg bags per pitch
- c) top dress only the used pitches, if practical (i.e. if you can locate them after scarifying!), as long as this does not affect the surface levels between the used and unused pitches

Should you need any further help or clarification of the above, please contact our County Pitch Adviser, Chris Westbrook – wetwicketa@aol.com, 02380 254500

2. Training

There is an IOG Foundation (**Level 1**), **Part B** - Autumn Renovation and Winter Maintenance – course at Hursley Park CC on Tuesday 11 September, 09.00 – 16.30. The Course fee is £90 for IOG members and £180 for non-members.

The Hampshire Cricket Board will once again assist with course fees for members of clubs affiliated to the ACG. HCB will refund £90 for each part, and suggest that those attending the course should join IOG for an annual subscription of £47.

More information is available on the IOG website - on membership at <http://www.iog.org/membership-ben>, and on the courses and to book places at <http://www.iog.org/train-education>.

Alternatively you can call IOG on 01908 312511 to book a place.

To claim a refund of the course fee, please **send a copy of the paid invoice** to Colin Savage, Development Office, Ageas Bowl, Botley Road, Southampton, SO30 3XH, **after the course**.

Many of you mentioned other training needs on your membership forms, and we are looking at ways of meeting these – either by special events arranged by us or through new Short Training Modules developed by IOG. We will be in touch about these as soon as we can.

ECB Places Team

The ECB Places Team website - www.ecb.co.uk/places has information on Grants and Funding, advice on ground maintenance, rolling guidelines, and the Pitch Doctor facility.

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