

Prior to the trailer operator turning up on site on the agreed booking date, it is the responsibility of the club to have mown the cricket square grass down on the square surface. This is very important to achieve the required results. To achieve this, it is suggest that the pitch mower is adjusted as low as it can go.

The square needs to be mown in both directions in the line of play and across the line of play to remove as much grass vegetation as possible. This is best carried out a couple of days before the trailer and operator are due to arrive.

If conditions have been very dry and the square is rock hard, it is the club's responsibility to water the square a few days before the renovations are due to take place so that maximum benefit can be achieved with the scarifier. Conversely, if the weather is wet the day before, the square should be covered if possible to ensure it is not muddy.

Clubs must provide a minimum of one, preferably two able bodied helpers (*more is great!*) The operative is NOT slave labour! Small squares (5 to 7 pitches) may mean two people can cope but three is best, more if loam needs moving (see below.) The club is also responsible for supplying sufficient petrol for the renovating machinery and their mower (not the operator's car!) This is likely to be between 5 and 10 litres.

The operator will be expected to scarify the square in at least three directions, both diagonals and with the line of play. The depth achieved is critical in removing as much surface and buried vegetation as possible. The first two passes should be between 4mm to 6mm, the third pass 6mm to 8mm with the third pass in the line of play. As the operator completes a pass it is recommended that the club helper mows at the lowest level behind him, removing further vegetation. Not only will the square have been scarified in three directions but the square will have been mown a further three times as well.

The 'South' trailer scarifier picks up arisings as it goes. These need to be either put into trailer or barrows to be disposed of on site. The 'North' trailer scarifier does not pick up so a powered brush machine (supplied) has to be used to pick up behind the scarifier and the arisings disposed of as above.

Any hollows from worn out foot holes should be attended to next by brushing out, scratching with a fork or similar then levelling with loam and firming. Once this has been completed the square should be over sown with a grass seed suitable for cricket at the rate of a minimum of one 20kg bag to every five pitches. This does not allow for extra seed to repair bare ends if not repaired during the season. (Clubs should always keep some seed for such repairs or for damage during the season, accidental or otherwise!) After seeding, an appropriate pre seed fertiliser is to be applied, approx. 20kg to eight pitches. This is done using the spreader on the trailer unless the club has its own to speed things up. All seed and fertiliser is to be supplied by the Club. (Seed which is coated with fertiliser does not require pre-seed fert.)

When seeded and fertilised, the clay loam top dressing can be applied using the loam spreader on the Trailer. This loam is supplied by the Club. **The type of loam should be compatible with the current surface, any change should only be made after consultation with the Groundsman's Association. The loam should be in 20 or 25 kg bags and must be available alongside the square or sufficient manpower provided to move it for spreading.** After foothole levelling between 4 and 6 25kg bags per pitch is required to provide soil to seed contact and cover the majority of the seed. More *can* be added but this is where any monetary saving can be made rather than with seed. Once done, the loam can be distributed evenly and dragged in using the drag mat leaving a tidy and level surface to the square. Depending on the size of square and number of helpers, work should take between 4 and 6 hours.

Should dry weather subsequently prevail for more than a couple of weeks then it is the club's responsibility to keep the square watered to allow germination of the seed to take place.

Once germinated please do not run away and hide for the winter, the grass will need to be kept to a height of approx. 15mm to 20mm, never longer, (ie less than an inch.) This may mean mowing at fortnightly intervals at first with a monthly trim through the depths of winter. Autumn/winter fertiliser will need applying depending on the grass growth and colour, particularly in wet winters. Please do not spend valuable money on these renovations, the best seed and then let the grass go yellow and sick through the winter.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT FINAL REMINDER.

It is the cricket club's responsibility to provide both fuel and a minimum of one fit man's labour on the day. No man / men, no fuel, no renovations!