



# Wiltshire Cricket

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## **CRICKET SQUARE RENOVATIONS A GUIDE FOR BOTH CLUB AND TRAILER OPERATOR**

**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, I suggest that the pitch mower is adjusted as low as it can go, or at least as low as it can and still mow across the square.**

The square needs to be mown in at least four directions, both diagonals, across the line of play and with 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.

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 pass should be between 4mm to 6mm, the second pass 6mm to 8mm with the third pass in the line of play achieving a depth of 8mm to 10mm. If soil conditions allow a depth of 12mm will be beneficial. A 20p piece will be a useful guide as to the depth being achieved, the coin 20mm across, so at least half the coin should be able to enter the final groove.

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.

**If conditions have been very dry and the square is rock hard, it is the clubs responsibility to water the square a few days before the renovations are due to begin so that maximum benefit can be achieved with the scarifier.**

Once this has been completed the square should be over sown with a grass seed suitable for cricket at the rate of 5kg per pitch, one 20kg bag to every four pitches.

When seeded the clay loam top dressing can be applied, should there be worn out foot holes, these should be attended to first by levelling and firming. Once done, the loam can be spread evenly across the surface and dragged in using the drag mat leaving a tidy and level surface to the square. Finally apply an appropriate pre seed fertiliser, 20kg to eight pitches.

Should dry weather prevail then it is the clubs responsibility to keep the square watered to allow germination of the seed to take place.



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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 19mm, never longer, this may mean mowing at fortnightly intervals at first with a monthly trim through the depths of winter. Autumn/winter fertiliser will need applying every six to eight weeks depending on the grass growth, 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 clubs responsibility to provide both fuel and a minimum of one mans labour on the day. No man, no fuel, no renovations.